

**RELIGIOUS ANCIENT AND
MODERN. THE
MYTHOLOGIES OF ANCIENT
MEXICO AND PERU**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649654369

Religious Ancient and Modern. The Mythologies of Ancient Mexico and Peru by Lewis Spence

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

LEWIS SPENCE

**RELIGIOUS ANCIENT AND
MODERN. THE
MYTHOLOGIES OF ANCIENT
MEXICO AND PERU**

RELIGIONS ANCIENT AND MODERN

THE MYTHOLOGIES OF
ANCIENT MEXICO AND PERU

RELIGIONS: ANCIENT AND MODERN.

ANIMISM.

By EDWARD CLODD, Author of *The Story of Creation*.

PANTHEISM.

By JAMES ALLANSON PICTON, Author of *The Religion of the Universe*.

THE RELIGIONS OF ANCIENT CHINA.

By Professor GILES, LL.D., Professor of Chinese in the University of Cambridge.

THE RELIGION OF ANCIENT GREECE.

By JANE HARRISON, Lecturer at Newnham College, Cambridge, Author of *Prolegomena to Study of Greek Religion*.

ISLAM.

By SYED AMEER ALI, M.A., C.I.E., late of H.M.'s High Court of Judicature in Bengal, Author of *The Spirit of Islam* and *The Ethics of Islam*.

MAGIC AND FETISHISM.

By Dr. A. C. HADDON, F.R.S., Lecturer on Ethnology at Cambridge University.

THE RELIGION OF ANCIENT EGYPT.

By Professor W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, F.R.S.

THE RELIGION OF BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA.

By THEOPHILUS G. PINCHES, late of the British Museum.

BUDDHISM. 2 vols.

By Professor RHYS DAVIDS, LL.D., late Secretary of The Royal Asiatic Society.

HINDUISM.

By Dr. L. D. BARNETT, of the Department of Oriental Printed Books and MSS., British Museum.

SCANDINAVIAN RELIGION.

By WILLIAM A. CRAIGIE, Joint Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

CELTIC RELIGION.

By Professor ANWYL, Professor of Welsh at University College, Aberystwyth.

THE MYTHOLOGY OF ANCIENT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

By CHARLES SQUIRE, Author of *The Mythology of the British Islands*.

JUDAISM.

By ISRAEL ABRAHAMS, Lecturer in Talmudic Literature in Cambridge University, Author of *Jewish Life in the Middle Ages*.

SHINTO. By W. G. ASTON, C.M.G.

THE RELIGION OF ANCIENT MEXICO AND PERU.

By LEWIS SPENCE, M.A.

THE RELIGION OF THE HEBREWS.

By Professor YASTROW.

THE MYTHOLOGIES
OF ANCIENT MEXICO
AND PERU

By
LEWIS SPENCE

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

LONDON
ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & CO LTD

1907

J.S.

Checked
May 1913

FOREWORD

It is difficult to understand the neglect into which the study of the Mexican and Peruvian mythologies has fallen. A zealous host of interpreters are engaged in the elucidation of the mythologies of Egypt and Assyria, but, if a few enthusiasts in the United States of America be excepted, the mythologies of the ancient West have no following whatsoever. That this little book may lead many to a fuller examination of those profoundly interesting faiths is the earnest hope of one in whose judgment they are second in importance to no other mythological system. By a comparative study of the American mythologies the student of other systems will reap his reward in the shape of many a parallel and many an elucidation which otherwise would escape his notice; whilst the general reader will introduce himself into a sphere of the most fascinating interest—the interest in the attitude towards the eternal verities of the peoples of a new and isolated world.

L. S.

Stevens

24108

11

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE ORIGIN OF AMERICAN RELIGIONS,	1
II. MEXICAN MYTHOLOGY,	9
III. THE PRIESTHOOD AND RITUAL OF THE ANCIENT MEXICANS,	27
IV. THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT PERUVIANS,	44
V. PERUVIAN RITUAL AND WORSHIP,	58
VI. THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE UPON THE RELIGIONS OF AMERICA,	71
A LIST OF SELECT BOOKS BEARING ON THE SUBJECT,	79

THE MYTHOLOGIES OF ANCIENT MEXICO AND PERU

CHAPTER I

THE ORIGIN OF AMERICAN RELIGIONS

THE question of the origin of the religions of ancient Mexico and Peru is unalterably associated with that of the origin of the native races of America themselves—not that the two questions admit of simultaneous settlement, but that in order to prove the indigenous nature of the American mythologies it is necessary to show the extreme improbability of Asiatic or European influence upon them, and therefore of relatively late foreign immigration into the Western Hemisphere. As regards the vexed question of the origin of the American races it has been thought best to relegate all proof of a purely speculative or legendary character to a chapter at the end of the book, and for the present to deal with data concerning the trustworthiness of which there is little division of opinion.

MYTHOLOGIES OF MEXICO AND PERU

The controversy as to the manner in which the American continent was first peopled is as old as its discovery. For four hundred years historians and antiquarians have disputed as to what race should have the honour of first colonising the New World. To nearly every nation ancient and modern has been credited the glory of peopling the two Americas; and it is only within comparatively recent years that any reasonable theory has been advanced in connection with the subject. It is now generally admitted that the peopling of the American continent must have taken place at a period little distant to the original settlement of man in Europe. The geological epoch generally assumed for the human settlement of America is the Pleistocene (Quaternary) in some of its interglacial conditions; that is, in some of the recurrent periods of mildness during the Great Ice Age. There is, however, a possibility that the continent may have been peopled in Tertiary times. The first inhabitants were, however, not of the Red Man type.

Difficult as is this question, an even more difficult one has to be faced when we come to consider the affinities of the races from whom the Red Man is descended. It must be remembered that at this early epoch in the history of man-