

**A STUDY IN THE PSYCHOLOGY OF  
RITUALISM: A DISSERTATION,  
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND  
LITERATURE IN CANDIDACY FOR THE  
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760577636

A study in the psychology of ritualism: A dissertation, submitted to the faculty of the graduate school of arts and literature in candidacy for the degree of doctor of philosophy by Frederick Goodrich Henke

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**FREDERICK GOODRICH HENKE**

**A STUDY IN THE PSYCHOLOGY OF  
RITUALISM: A DISSERTATION,  
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND  
LITERATURE IN CANDIDACY FOR THE  
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Agents

THE BAKER & TAYLOR COMPANY  
NEW YORK

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
LONDON AND EDINBURGH

15401  
H512

The University of Chicago  
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

A STUDY IN THE PSYCHOLOGY  
OF RITUALISM

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND  
LITERATURE IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

(DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY)

---

BY

FREDERICK GOODRICH HENKE

---

157637  
13.12.20.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

COPYRIGHT 1910 BY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

—  
All Rights Reserved

—  
Published October 1910

Composed and Printed By  
The University of Chicago Press  
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.





## PART I

### THE CEREMONY

"L'ordre du monde depend de l'ordre des rites qu'on observe."

—RENAN, *Le Prêtre de Nemi*.



## CHAPTER I

### DESCRIPTION OF THE CEREMONY

Religious and moral problems have never been more assiduously and faithfully studied than they are today. On the one hand are the conservative theologians who are bending every effort to keep intact the dogmas and traditions of Christianity. The welfare of humanity, they think, depends upon doing this. On the other hand are the scientists, motivated not by a spirit of opposition but by an earnest desire to get hold of the truth. Truth, they hold, cannot permanently injure humanity. Any light that anthropology, psychology, archaeology, or any other line of research can throw on questions of religion and morality should be welcomed. Scientific research should be encouraged.

A central problem of religion and morality, and one to which comparatively little attention has been given, is ritualism. The object of the present undertaking is a critical study from the point of view of the psychology of religion and social psychology of this type of reaction, for the purpose of describing the laws of its origin, development, and survival. The thesis which we shall defend is that the type of reaction designated as ritualism is always social, that it is performed to mediate practical control, and that it has a natural history in accordance with well-known psychological laws. It is, of course, impossible to examine every ceremony past and present, nor is it necessary, for we are interested less in morphological classification than in psychological function. Modern scholars now generally recognize that all available historical and contemporary data point to the fact that, notwithstanding the differences in the stages of culture among men, the structure of mind and the laws of mental development are essentially the same wherever man is found. The similarity in rituals and objects of worship among primitive peoples separated far in time and space has long been one of the conspicuous phenomena of the history of religion and is in striking confirmation of the above.

In view of this now generally recognized law, we can find no better starting-point for our study than the description of a few typical ceremonies. The monumental works of Spencer and Gil-