

ACCESSING MYSTICAL POWER

magic	ordeal	peyote
ontological	omen	ayahuasca
divination	oracle	

R. Lee: Malay Magic

1. Describe Raymond Lee's experience with Malay magic.
2. Why does he say it has an ontological basis? How is that different from a sociological explanation?
3. How does Lee explain ritual?

Rational Mastery by Man of His Surroundings: Bronislaw Malinowski

1. What are the two categories of thought according to Malinowski? How are they used in Trobriand life? Give concrete examples.
2. What does Malinowski say about whether "primitive" knowledge is scientific.

Gmelch: Baseball Magic

1. When do baseball players use magic? Why do they believe in magic?
2. Why do they treat hitting and pitching differently than fielding? How is this like Trobriand fishermen?

Introduction to Drugs

1. In Lewis Lewin's categories of drugs, which are the ones most commonly used for religious purposes?
2. Why does traditional drug use usually accompany the practice of shamanism?

Slotkin: Peyote Way, Kiyanni: On the Peyote Road

1. How does Slotkin define the Peyote Way?
2. Describe three ways that Peyote teaches. Explain the role of ritual and intention.
3. Discuss the physiological and psychological effects of peyote.

Huxley & de Ropp

1. How does Huxley explain the popularity of drugs in contemporary Western society. How does this differ from drug use among non-Westerners?
2. What is the role of ritual in religious drug use in indigenous societies?

SOURCES OF HARM

1. Describe the difference between sorcery, witchcraft, and wicca. What does it mean to call witchcraft an accusation?
2. Name the positive and negative functions of witchcraft (as anthropologists use the term, not = Wicca).
3. Distinguish between witchcraft among Navajo, Azande, Tswana and Europe.

Burke

1. According to Burke, what kinds of people do Tswana think are most likely to be witches and how do these people work their evil? do they confront witches?
2. What are the main cures for witchcraft?

Brain

1. Who is most commonly accused of witchcraft cross-culturally? Describe Brain's explanation for this? Include the concepts of patriarchy and pollution in your discussion.
2. What are the social functions of witchcraft?
3. Explain the role of "heresy" and the devil in the Medieval European witchcraze.

Freed & Freed - Ghosts

1. Describe the beliefs about soul in Hindu society. Where do ghosts come from?
2. What are the social conditions for women in Indian society? (discuss her responsibility for purity regarding illicit sexual activity, what happens when she marries, etc.)
3. How do the author's explain Sita's ghost possession? How did it serve her?

GLOBAL SOCIETY, RELIGIOUS CHANGE AND REVITALIZATION

Juergensmeyer: The Global Rise of Nationalism

1. What does Jurgensmeyer mean when he refers to ethnic vs. ideological religious nationalism?
2. What is the despair over secular nationalism?
3. What does "religionizing" politics mean?
4. If they are fighting for peace as Jurgensmeyer says, how do religious activists explain their use of violence? What is the "cosmic war?"
5. Considering this article and the one on Waco, what do you think should be done about "terrorists"?

Revitalization Movements: Anthony Wallace

1. Define revitalization movement.
2. Describe the five stages of revitalization.
3. What are the roles of "mazeway resynthesis" and "hysterical conversion"?

The Ghost Dance Religion: Alice Beck Kehoe

1. Why was Wovoka's (Jack Wilson) gospel appealing to both Indians and non-Indians?
2. Why was the name "Ghost Dance" applied to Wilson's religion? What was the expected outcome?

Worsley: Cargo Cults

1. What are cargo cults? When and where did they exist?
2. The author states "...the cults reflect quite logical and rational attempts to make sense out of a social order that appears senseless and chaotic." Explain.

Lewis: Urban Rastas; Video: Soul Rebel

1. What are the fundamental Rastafarian beliefs about language, diet, materialism, spirituality?
2. What is Babylon? What does it symbolize?
3. Describe the revitalization movement of Rastafari in Jamaica.
4. Explain the role of music in the movement. How does Wallace's theory of revitalization illuminate the movement?