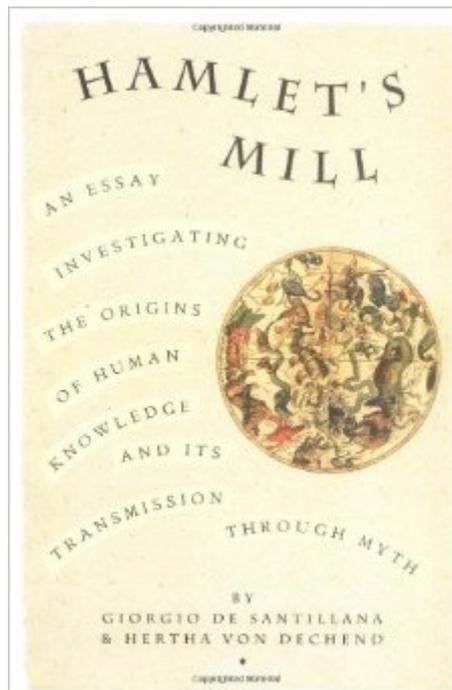


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Hamlet's Mill: An Essay Investigating The Origins Of Human Knowledge And Its Transmission Through Myth



Synopsis

In this classic work of scientific and philosophical inquiry, the authors track world myths to a common origin in early man's descriptions of cosmological activity, arguing that these remnants of ancient astronomy, suppressed by the Greeks and Romans and then forgotten, were really a form of preliterate science. Myth became the synapse by which science was transmitted. Their truly original thesis challenges basic assumptions of Western science and theories about the transmission of knowledge."A book wonderful to read and startling to contemplate. If this theory is correct, both the history of science and the reinterpretation of myths have been enriched immensely." - Washington Post Book World

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Customer Reviews

I found this book to be an amazing analysis of world mythological systems. The authors are two historians of science that make a convincing argument (in my opinion) that myths and mythical stories are, in fact, how archaic astronomy had been passed from generation to generation.

They reinterpret catastrophic mythical events as reference to the precession of the equinoxes. Mythical personage (Gods, Titans, Dragons, Heroes etc.) from China to Ancient Egypt to Greece to Meso-America are shown to be, in fact, referencing constellations and their positions as these changed due to the precession of Earth's axis over centuries. Moreover, the authors discuss myths from linguistically, culturally, temporally distinct societies and show the astonishing commonality of names, events, and motifs. They make a cogent argument that the knowledge base of archaic

people was far deeper and wider; that the archaic people have had empirical knowledge of the precession of equinoxes—a knowledge that requires at least a couple of hundred years of continuous observation to arrive at—and that they encoded their knowledge in the language of myths. This was knowledge for the elect and unlike our contemporary sciences it was not for everyone. In addition, the authors claim that these myths are tatters of an archaic World-View that placed man in an orderly universe of change. A world view whose echoes may still be heard in the Iliad & Odyssey, Shahnameh, Timeaus, Mahabharata, and Nihon-gi. It is remarkable that this book, first published in 1968, has not made any waves in those circles that value such understanding. It is also remarkable that how much more convincing the author's arguments have become in the light of the discoveries chronicled by E. C.

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