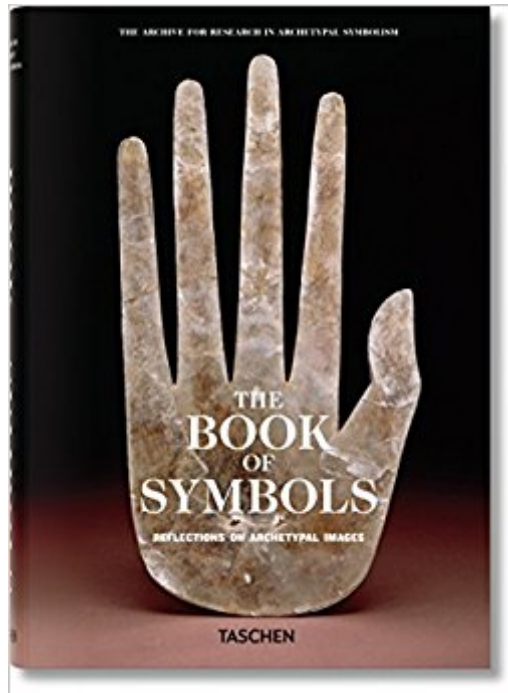




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The Book Of Symbols: Reflections On Archetypal Images



Synopsis

Handbook of visual experience: An exploration of symbols and their meanings throughout history

The Book of Symbols combines original and incisive essays about particular symbols with representative images from all parts of the world and all eras of history. The highly readable texts and over 800 beautiful full-color images come together in a unique way to convey hidden dimensions of meaning. Each of the c. 350 essays examines a given symbol's psychic background, and how it evokes psychic processes and dynamics. Etymological roots, the play of opposites, paradox and shadow, the ways in which diverse cultures have engaged a symbolic image—all these factors are taken into consideration. Authored by writers from the fields of psychology, religion, art, literature, and comparative myth, the essays flow into each other in ways that mirror the psyche's unexpected convergences. There are no pat definitions of the kind that tend to collapse a symbol; a still vital symbol remains partially unknown, compels our attention and unfolds in new meanings and manifestations over time. Rather than merely categorize, The Book of Symbols illuminates how to move from the visual experience of a symbolic image in art, religion, life, or dreams, to directly experiencing its personal and psychological resonance. The Book of Symbols sets new standards for thoughtful exploration of symbols and their meanings, and will appeal to a wide range of readers: artists, designers, dreamers and dream interpreters, psychotherapists, self-helpers, gamers, comic book readers, religious and spiritual searchers, writers, students, and anyone curious about the power of archetypal images.

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Customer Reviews

Drawing upon Carl Gustav Jung's work on the archetype and the collective unconscious, the Archive for Research in Archetypal Symbolism (ARAS) is a pictorial and written archive of mythological, ritualistic, and symbolic images from all over the world and from all epochs of human experience. The collection of 17,000 photographic images, accompanied by commentary on their cultural and historical context, probes the universality of archetypal themes and provides a testament to the deep and abiding connections of all life.

Carl Jung's writings on the unconscious and the power of symbols to impregnate one's psychic landscape led me to pick up this book. And while there are numerous "symbol books" available, Taschen's superlative and exhaustive products have always impressed me (I have an early print-run of THE STANLEY KUBRICK ARCHIVES; endlessly compelling). As a physical book, it is designed thematically and that's part of its charm. As a reservoir of information, it's impressive, insightful and inspired. The evocative essays and image reproductions will have you thinking and re-thinking what so many things in life mean, might mean and were designed to mean. A must for any semiotics fan - casual or compulsive.

This book is well researched and holds a wealth of knowledge concerning archetypal symbols. These symbols are the language of the subconscious mind and can be used to unlock the meaning of our dreams and begin to "Know Ourselves (Thyself)" as Plato enjoined us to. The Book of Symbols contains page after quality page of beautiful color illustrations and photographs of the symbols as they appear in ancient works of art, monuments, architecture, etc. It is a substantial book although not overly weighty and a perfect size to feel comfortable in your hands. Just the look and feel of this book says that it holds something wonderful inside before you ever crack it open. There are multi-colored ribbons, one color for each of the 5 main sections of the book (1-Creation and Cosmos, 2-Plant World, 3-Animal World, 4-Human World, 5-Spirit World) with which you can mark your place if you find something you want to revisit. I simply love this book!!! Well done!

Great reference book. The book is very well printed. Pictures in this book are beautiful. The author is a fan of Egypt I guess

The illustrations in this book are superior, not at all the too frequently used stereotyped prints one has come to expect in books of this type. The explanatory captions are less satisfactory. While they incorporate a respectable range of references, after reading a number of them, the Interpretations

tend to meld into each other rather like the night in which all cats are black, that is, i

Many years ago when in Jungian Studies in New York City I came across ARAS(Archives for Research on Archetypal Symbolism) when it was in its infancy and spend a full day tracking one symbol. I had hoped that one day I would be able to have more time there, but moved to PNW, so it was a true delight to be able to purchase this book and add it to my Symbol Collection of books. It is excellent and the price is a steal. Buy this book if you are interested in Jung and Symbolism. A true necessity for any Analyst or Student!

Gorgeous book. Lots of great information.

As I apply these symbols to the main characters listed in the Book of Hebrews--the honor roll of the FAITHFUL RELATIONSHIPS with GOD--this book will become worn from overuse. "Bible Schools" do not teach the mythological characters that one needs to know to succeed in the interpretation of great literature and college entrance exams. After serving as a reading coach in high schools around the world, for 41 years, I have acquired this knowledge base. Now I want all secondary students to acquire this knowledge base. Reading "Life of Pi" and teaching students to know the need to understand well-written literature at a deeper level, they began to see the need for this excellent view of symbolism! Thank you!

Great book overall, and it is obvious the amount of work that went into this. I only wish some of the symbols could have been explored in more depth, but then again this book is already huge. It is quite incredible to look at and to hold. Divided into section based on symbol type (plant, spiritual, nature, etc) with a ribbon bookmark for each section. If you are looking for great detail, this is not your book. Its focus is breadth, not depth. But if you want a comprehensive summary of symbology as understood in the 21st century, this is the book for you.

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