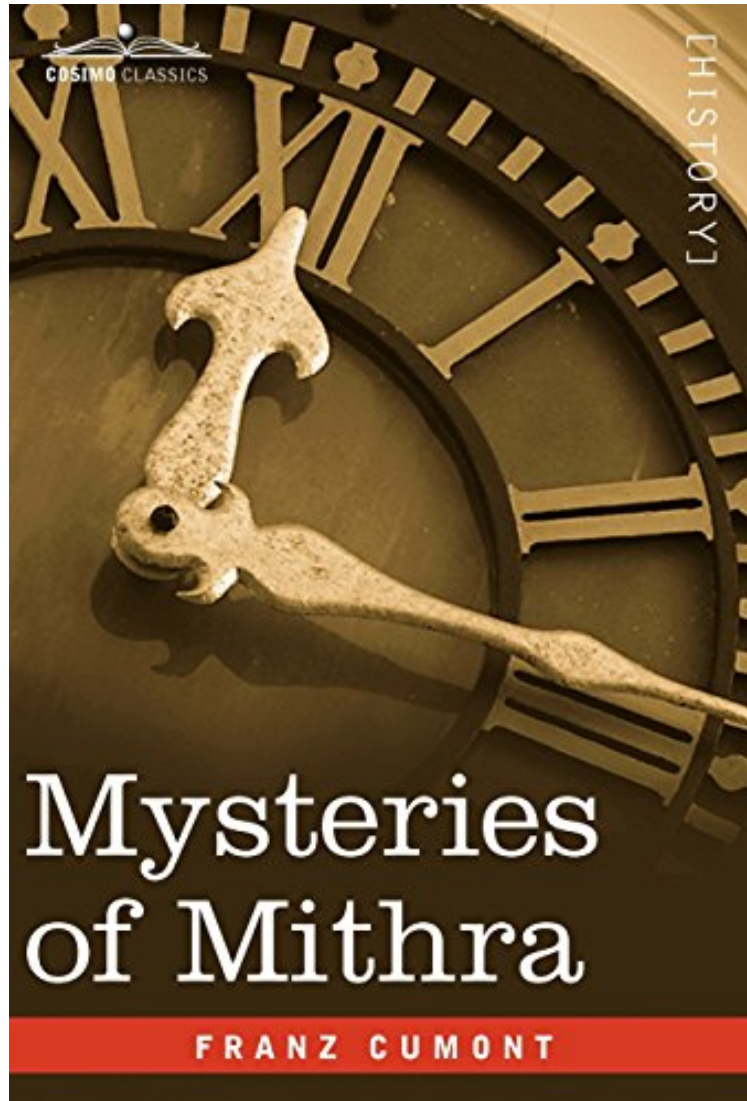


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## Mysteries of Mithra

*Franz Valery Marie Cumont*

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**Franz Valery Marie Cumont : Mysteries of Mithra** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mysteries of Mithra:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great ResearchBy Worthless ClockA great academic coverage of this early religion. Great for general knowledge and for research puposes. Well footnoted and documented. One needs to focus when reading it, but it is easily understood. Highly recommend it to scholars and anyone who is interested in the evolution of religion thprughout the world.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. interesting...and enlightingBy TLNi ordered and read this book after hearing my girlfriend discuss the mithra mythin her university of

phoenix class. if you read this, it will definitely make you rethink your whole idea of structured religion. it's very easy to see why our world is a mess. our religious ideas are very fractured and imperfect. it's a reprint of an older version, as you can tell by writing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mixed Bag By James Thomas Stokes Great content; however, this book was translated from another language. Therefore, it is very difficult to understand the idioms and syntax used throughout.

Mithraism was a Roman mystery cult that drew upon the mythology of Mithras from the Persian Zoroastrian religion. In this unique book, first published in 1903, Cumont explains how the Roman version differed from the original worship of Mithras and then identifies those rituals that have some historical accuracy. Often, the Roman rituals preserved only the external trappings of Zoroastrian worship, such as using animal skins during rites and designating caves as holy places. Cumont also shows his readers how Mithraism adopted beliefs and rituals from other sources as well, creating the cult in its fully realized form. He then goes on to show how the cult fell from favor and was finally overwhelmed by Christianity. Students of history and religion, as well as anyone interested in cult religions, will find this book an intriguing journey through an obscure era. Belgian archaeologist and historian FRANZ-VALÉRY-MARIE CUMONT (1869-1947) wrote numerous books, often making use of his interest in philology and the study of inscriptions. Among his books is *Life After Roman Paganism* (1922).

From the Publisher Kessinger Publishing reprints over 1,500 similar titles all available through [www.kessingerpublishing.com](http://www.kessingerpublishing.com). About the Author About the Author: "Franz-Valéry-Marie Cumont (Aalst, Belgium, January 3, 1868 Brussels, August 25, 1947) was a Belgian archaeologist and historian, a philologist and student of epigraphy, who brought these often isolated specialties to bear on the syncretic mystery religions of Late Antiquity, notably Mithraism. Cumont was a graduate of the University of Ghent (PhD, 1887). After receiving royal travelling fellowships, he undertook archaeology in Pontus and Armenia (published in 1906) and in Syria, but he is best known for his studies on the impact of Eastern mystery religions, particularly Mithraism, on the Roman Empire. Cumont's international credentials were brilliant, but his public circumsppection was not enough. In 1910, Baron Edouard Descamps, the Catholic Minister of Sciences and Arts at the University of Ghent, refused to approve the faculty's unanimous recommendation of Cumont for the chair in Roman History, Cumont having been a professor there since 1906. There was a vigorous press campaign and student agitation in Cumont's favor, because the refusal was seen as blatant religious interference in the University's life. When another candidate was named, in 1912, Cumont resigned his positions at the University and at the Royal Museum in Brussels, left Belgium and henceforth divided his time between Paris and Rome. He contributed to many standard encyclopedias, published voluminously and in 1922, under stressful political conditions, conducted digs on the shore of the Euphrates at the previously unknown site of Dura-Europos; he published his research there in 1926. He was a member of most of the European academies. In 1936 Franz Cumont was awarded the Francqui Prize on Human Sciences. In 1947, Franz Cumont donated his library and papers to the Academia Belgica in Rome, where they are accessible to researchers." (Quote from wikipedia.org)