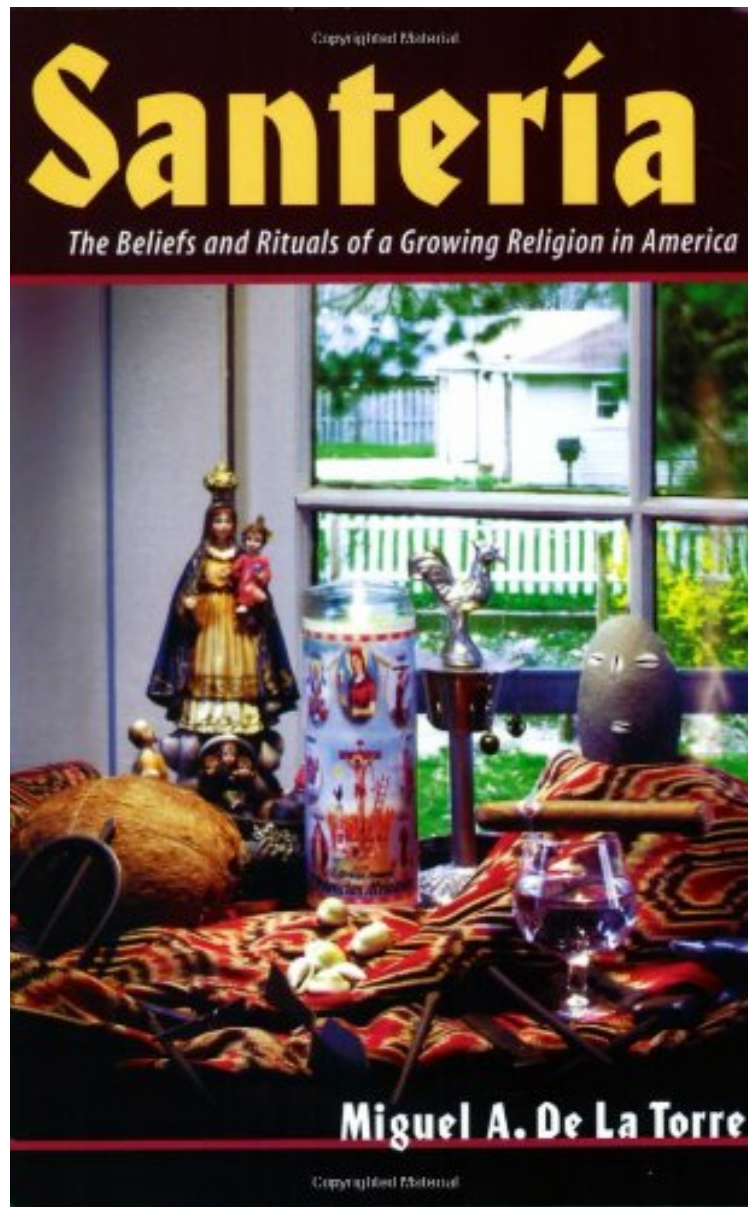


(Download free pdf) Santeria: The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America

Santeria: The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America

Miguel A. De La Torre

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Miguel A. De La Torre : Santeria: The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Santeria: The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great Reference book By A. Esquerre Although I'm not a Santera, I

do practice Santeria. I have a great respect for the religion and many of my friends are Santeras and Santeros. I picked up this book along with a few others to have a more clear understanding about the practice of this amazing religion. This book I loved. Although I've practiced some of it there was a lot I did not know or really understood. I found this book very informative. The way the author breaks down the information with charts is very helpful. It makes going back for any type of reference very easy. I recommend this book to anyone who is serious about understanding the practice and the religion. Now always keep in mind that there are several traditions depending on where you live and the culture. So there may be some rituals that seem different. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Tammy Davis This is also a great book I could not put this down I read this twice already. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clear, accurate information By Kitty LaRose Great book on the religion. Very clear. I come from a family with several Lucumi, but as a first-generation Cuban-American this book was invaluable as I began my path.

This book by Miguel De La Torre offers a fascinating guide to the history, beliefs, rituals, and culture of Santera a religious tradition that, despite persecution, suppression, and its own secretive nature, has close to a million adherents in the United States alone. Santera is a religion with Afro-Cuban roots, rising out of the cultural clash between the Yoruba people of West Africa and the Spanish Catholics who brought them to the Americas as slaves. As a faith of the marginalized and persecuted, it gave oppressed men and women strength and the will to survive. With the exile of thousands of Cubans in the wake of Castro's revolution in 1959, Santera came to the United States, where it is gradually coming to be recognized as a legitimate faith tradition. Apart from vague suspicions that Santera's rituals include animal sacrifice and notions that it is a syncretistic form of Catholicism, most people in America's cultural and religious mainstream know very little about this rich faith tradition in fact, many have never heard of it at all. De La Torre, who was reared in Santera, sets out in this book to provide a basic understanding of its inner workings. He clearly explains the particular worldview, myths, rituals, and practices of Santera, and he discusses what role the religion typically plays in the life of its practitioners as well as the cultural influence it continues to exert in Latin American communities today. In offering a balanced, informed survey of Santera from his unique insider-outsider perspective, De La Torre also provides insight into how Christianity and Santera can enter into dialogue a dialogue that will challenge Christians to consider what this emerging faith tradition can teach them about their own. Enhanced with illustrations, tables, and a glossary, De La Torre's Santera sheds light on a religion all too often shrouded in mystery and misunderstanding.

From Booklist In Cuba, the Yoruba religion of the orishas melded with saint-rich Catholicism to create Santeria, one of the primary Afro-Caribbean religions and an increasingly significant part of American culture. Brought up in a New York family that practiced Santeria--both his parents are santeros, or priests--De La Torre no longer considers himself a believer but remains deeply affected by his childhood experiences. Writing as both an academic outsider and a privileged former insider, he retells Yoruba myths clearly and expressively, and his analysis of religious syncretism is both scholarly and accessible. Detailed descriptions of the various manifestations of each orisha make this one of the most comprehensive books on the subject, while the complex issue of Santeria ritual, which can include animal sacrifice, is handled unsensationally but vividly. This book should be part of any collection intended to represent the breadth of American religious experience. Patricia Monaghan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Awards, Finalist, Religion (2004) Choice Magazine, Outstanding Academic Book (2005) South Florida Sun-Sentinel "The author, who grew up in the Santeria faith, provides insight into the myths, rituals, worldview, history and cultural influence of the Afro-Cuban religion. Neither condemning nor condoning, he seeks to provide the information and context necessary to prompt discussion and understanding between Santeria believers and Christians." Booklist "Writing as both an academic outsider and a privileged former insider, De La Torre retells Yoruba myths clearly and expressively, and his analysis of religious syncretism is both scholarly and accessible. Detailed descriptions of the various manifestations of each orishamake this one of the most comprehensive books on the subject, while the complex issue of Santeria ritual, which can include animal sacrifice, is handled unsensationally but vividly. This book should be part of any collection intended to represent the breadth of American religious experience." Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo "Miguel De La Torre has performed the almost magical academic feat of balancing the objectivity of a trained observer with the insights of an insider. He leads his readers on a historical, theological, and cultural journey that goes to the heart of this rich religious tradition unfolding within a rapidly changing American society." Library Journal "De La Torre succeeds fully in giving us the best general introduction to Santera, an Afro-Cuban folk religion brought to the United States by Cuban refugees after Castro's 1959 revolution. . . He draws on both lived experience (having grown up in the religion) and scholarly expertise . . . to strike just the right balance between the personal perspectives of the faithful and the distance of a non-believing scholar. . . Strongly recommended." Religious Studies "A well-balanced presentation of a complex religious system that is continually growing and beginning to attract educated middle-class Euro-Americans."