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## The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya: An Illustrated Dictionary of Mesoamerican Religion

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**Mary Ellen Miller, Karl A. Taube : The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya: An Illustrated Dictionary of Mesoamerican Religion** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya: An Illustrated Dictionary of Mesoamerican Religion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy MichaelWell organized and edited addition to understanding Mesoamerica0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerGood resource book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Decent Dictionary for AmateursBy Stanley C. SargentThis is an interesting reference book. It tries to combine the religious and other symbolism of a number of Mesoamerican civilizations, which can be frustrating and confusing at times. It's a very basic reference collection meant to inform and entertain amateur historians. And it is set up like a dictionary (with lots of small bxw photos and drawings), so the text consists entries only. It's a bit overly general in its categories, and it is difficult at times to figure out what to look up to find the info you are looking for as it might be included in a block of subjects combined into one entry.It's fun to look through and is pretty much accurate. If you're researching a subject and need in-depth info, however, you'll probably become frustrated in a short time.

How did the hummingbird become the symbol of the chief Aztec god? Who were the Hero Twins? Why was Venus the planet of war? Did the Maya practise human sacrifice? And did they eat their victims? Who played the ancient ball game? Who were the first consumers of chocolate? What was a war of flowers? The legends and beliefs of the great pre-Columbian civilizations of Mesoamerica have baffled and fascinated outsiders ever since the Spanish Conquest. Yet, until now, no single-volume introduction has existed to act as a guide to this labyrinthine symbolic world. This book is the first-ever English-language dictionary of Mesoamerican mythology and religion. Nearly 300 entries, from "accession" to "yoke", describe the main deities, motifs and practices of the Olmecs, Zapotecs, Maya, Teotihuacanos, Mixtecs, Toltecs and Aztecs. Introductory essays provide succinct accounts of Mesoamerican history and religion, while a substantial bibliography details original sources and recent discussions. Entries are illustrated with photographs and newly commissioned line drawings. Mary Miller is Professor of History of Art at Yale University. She is the author of "The Art of Mesoamerica" (1986) and co-author, with Linda Schele, of "The Blood of Kings" (1992), both published by Thames and Hudson. Karl Taube is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of California at Riverside.