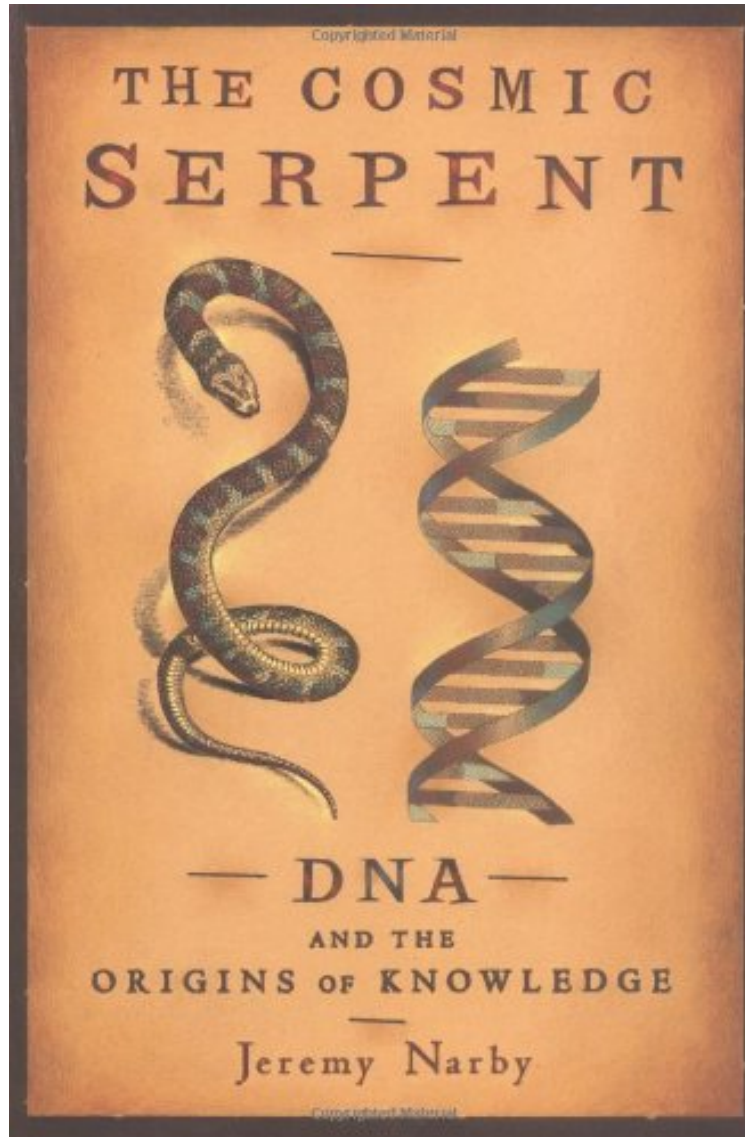


The Cosmic Serpent: DNA and the Origins of Knowledge

Jeremy Narby

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Jeremy Narby : The Cosmic Serpent: DNA and the Origins of Knowledge before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Cosmic Serpent: DNA and the Origins of Knowledge*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Panpsychists, Animists, and Shamans Will All Enjoy This Author By Kindle Customer If you have an interest in panpsychism, animism, shamanism, the question of consciousness, or transpersonal psychology, then this author and his books are for you! *The Cosmic Serpent: DNA and the Origins of Knowledge* is a unique look at the question of consciousness, intelligence and knowledge as seen through the eyes of

an anthropologist who opened himself and his mind to what some would consider "primitive" or radical means of "knowing". The text truly makes one wonder. It is not-as I had supposed by listening to some individuals-a book about hallucinogens and New Age fluff, but rather a truly agnostic inquiry into alternative and very ancient ways of knowing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Knowledge leads to many places By grandpa Excellent reading for the inquisitive mind traveler. His other writings are also informative. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Read By Ofelia Alcazar Minus one star, just because sometimes I felt the author really, desperately tried to make the connections to ancient symbols and hieroglyphs that I had to skim through it to get to his real point. It just got a bit drawn out. All in all its quite informative and a good read :)

This adventure in science and imagination, which the Medical Tribune said might herald "a Copernican revolution for the life sciences," leads the reader through unexplored jungles and uncharted aspects of mind to the heart of knowledge. In a first-person narrative of scientific discovery that opens new perspectives on biology, anthropology, and the limits of rationalism, *The Cosmic Serpent* reveals how startlingly different the world around us appears when we open our minds to it.

From Publishers Weekly Anthropologist Narby's very personal account of his encounters with ian shamanism and his passionately researched syntheses of anthropological, biochemical, neurological and mythological scholarship fascinate but do not convince. His defense of the rights of indigenous peoples against usurpation by capitalist, technological countries is admirable; his methodology is not. Throughout, Narby appears to mistake enthusiasm for evidence and he takes similarities of form (e.g., any helical pattern, hexagon or snakelike figure) to be proof of identity or of casual connection: that the serpent of shamanic lore is DNA. Of his assertion that the ians' specific knowledge of pharmacology derives from hallucinogenic trance (and not from some other more diffuse source), he undertakes no experimental test, offering the typical complaints that the "presuppositions" of science are too narrow to permit the test. Narby does well to question the assumptions of scientists who dismiss all teleology in favor of mechanistic interpretations that are often deeply inadequate, and he does well to inquire into the meaning of the vast commonality of forms between science and world mythologies, but his answers too often come off as groundless invention. He provides an intriguing detective story, wondrous visions and a wealth of fascinating information on genetic science, shamanism, etc., and he also offers some valuable thoughts on the parochial smallness of official science, but, overall, his book's greatest value, perhaps, is as a case study in the excesses of scholarship gone astray. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "[A]n intriguing detective story, wondrous visions and a wealth of fascinating information on genetic science, shamanism, etc.." ---Publishers Weekly Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French