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Based on the Proceedings of a Conference on Sacrifice held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, 23–25 February, 1979

edited by M.F.C. Bourdillon

and Meyer Fortes

August 1980, xxii + 148pp., £7.80 (UK only)/\$18.00

0.12.119040.4

This book has been skilfully compiled by Michael Bourdillon who is both a professional social anthropologist and a Jesuit priest. It consists mainly of papers delivered at a meeting of social anthropologists and Christian theologians in a conference organised by the Royal Anthropological Institute in 1979. Social anthropological interpretations of sacrifice are first analysed by John Beattie. John Rogerson reviews the place of sacrifice in the Old Testament, and Stephen Sykes contributes a theological paper on sacrifice in Christianity. Two ethnographic papers follow: one by Suzanne Campbell-Jones on how the Mass is actually perceived by groups of nuns, and another by Audrey Hayley on a form of offering peculiar to Assamese Vaishnavism. Extensive linking material is supplied by Michael Bourdillon and Simon Barrington-Ward, and there is a full bibliography. Meyer Fortes, the distinguished Jewish social anthropologist, contributes a preface as co-editor.

Published by Academic Press for the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland



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Religious Studies is indexed in the Index of Religious Periodical Literature

Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0034412500012749 Published online by Cambridge University Press