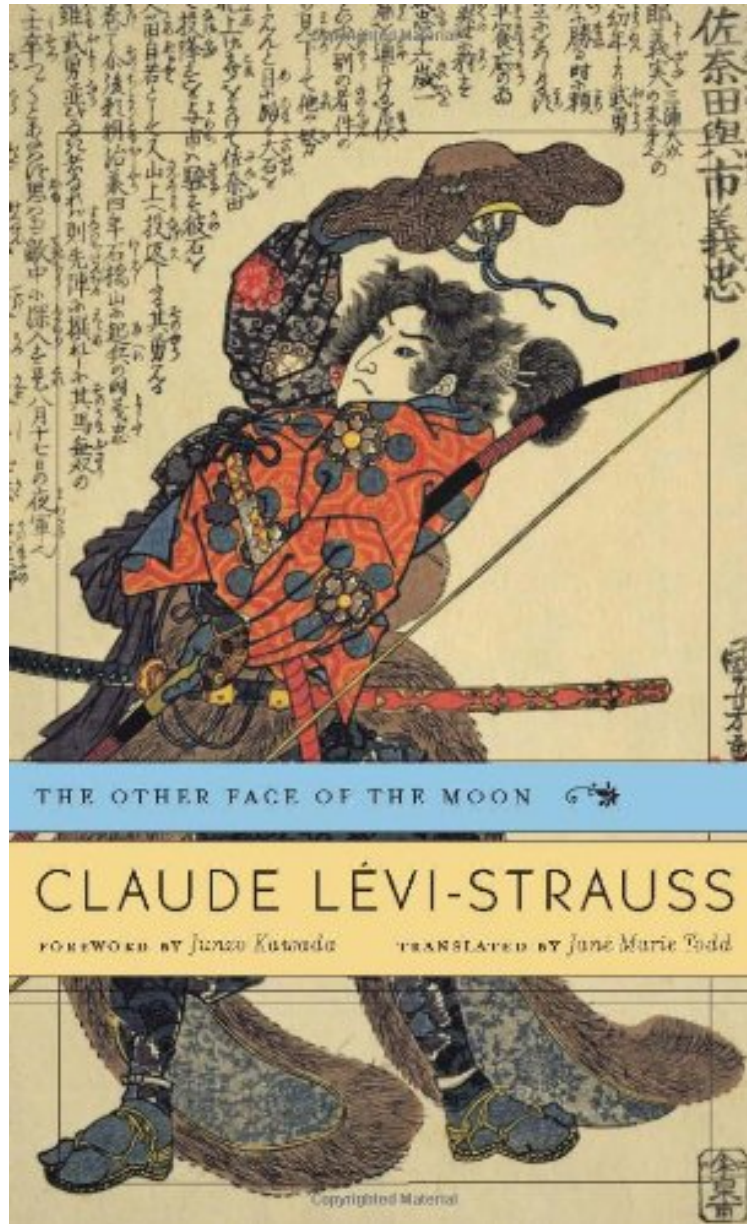


The Other Face of the Moon

Claude Lvi-Strauss

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2364883 in Books Claude Levi Strauss 2013-03-05 Original language: French PDF # 1 7.40 x .79 x 4.671, .54
#File Name: 0674072928192 pages The Other Face of the Moon | File size: 18.Mb

Claude Lvi-Strauss : The Other Face of the Moon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Other Face of the Moon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One side of moon's face by Levi-Strauss By Hung-Tak Lee I am glad

someone has made an effort to translate Levi-Strauss's difficult French original for English readers. This is a piece of work one had better get acquainted with before one gets on that "small island" for a tour or a business trip. True to his anthropological proclivity, the late French scholar made an enormous effort to have us understand what stands in the way of our truer and more objective understanding of things Japanese. He did emphasize cultures are by their very nature incommensurable, and did not hesitate to warn us to escape the magnetic attractions (!) of every culture. Now he says (pp. 7-8) he was more enamored of Mount Kirishima than of the Temple of David, since in the former history and myth or rather legend easily get mixed, but not in the latter, at least for him. I wonder how Strauss would explain the so-called (by the Westerners) one-dimensional language of Hop Indians vis-a-vis French and English. His Eurocentrism appears, in this book of his, has its strong hold in every sentence he had written. He made a Herculean effort to get out of the Eurocentric trap but with little success, despite his continuing emphases on the danger of the cultural magnetism. you cannot get out of that magnetic field, however hard you try. And yet you might still try. On page 41, there is this sentence: "Today in fact, Japanese culture offers the East the model of social health(?), and the West that of a mental hygiene(?), whose lessons it behooves those countries....to take to hearts." Alas, this very sentence has negated outright what Strauss himself had endeavored to emphasize and had tried to stay away from so much. In the book's "Foreword" where J. Kawada quotes part of the preface to the Japanese edition of *Tristes Tropiques*, the translation (p. xi) has been garbled, and readers can make neither head nor tail of it.³ of 16 people found the following review helpful. Shameful! By Albert Reingewirtz Claude Levy Strauss would be very upset that someone took his notes and morphed those into a book. Disappointed! Oy!

Gathering for the first time all of Claude Lvi-Strauss's writings on Japanese civilization, *The Other Face of the Moon* forms a sustained meditation into the French anthropologists dictum that to understand ones own culture, one must regard it from the point of view of another. Exposure to Japanese art was influential in Lvi-Strauss's early intellectual growth, and between 1977 and 1988 he visited the country five times. The essays, lectures, and interviews of this volume, written between 1979 and 2001, are the product of these journeys. They investigate an astonishing range of subjects among them Japans founding myths, Noh and Kabuki theater, the distinctiveness of the Japanese musical scale, the artisanship of Jomon pottery, and the relationship between Japanese graphic arts and cuisine. For Lvi-Strauss, Japan occupied a unique place among world cultures. Molded in the ancient past by Chinese influences, it had more recently incorporated much from Europe and the United States. But the substance of these borrowings was so carefully assimilated that Japanese culture never lost its specificity. As though viewed from the hidden side of the moon, Asia, Europe, and America all find, in Japan, images of themselves profoundly transformed. As in Lvi-Strauss's classic ethnography *Tristes Tropiques*, this new English translation presents the voice of one of Frances most public intellectuals at its most personal.

Lvi-Strauss was certainly not the only French intellectual to develop a fascination for Japan. Indeed, Japan's sculptured landscapes, highly stylized rituals and philosophies of self-denial struck a particular chord with his structuralist contemporaries, Roland Barthes and Michel Foucault. But the impressions gathered here are distinctively his, and indeed sometimes read as if they were lifted straight from the *Mythologiques*... There is much to admire [here]... Still fizzing with ideas as he approached eighty, Claude Lvi-Strauss never relented on his increasingly lonely structuralist quest. His fascination for Japanese traditions, similar to his lifelong obsession with ethnography in general, stemmed in part from his feeling of alienation from modernity. (Patrick Wilcken Times Literary Supplement 2013-07-05) This new slim compendium of eminent anthropologist Lvi-Strauss's lectures, interviews, and musings reflect his adoration and intellectual curiosity about all things Japanese. Interweaving moments of personal and professional significance, Lvi-Strauss recounts the trajectory of an intrigue generated by a childhood fascination with Japanese prints given to him by his father that later evolved into his love of Japanese literature, food, and practices... This collection illuminates the zeal that motivates Lvi-Strauss's anthropological work and is therefore a pleasant read for anyone with an interest in Japan, cultural difference, or anthropological studies. (Publishers Weekly 2013-03-18) About the Author Claude Lvi-Strauss was chair of Social Anthropology at the Collge de France (1959-1982). Junzo Kawada is a cultural anthropologist in Japan.