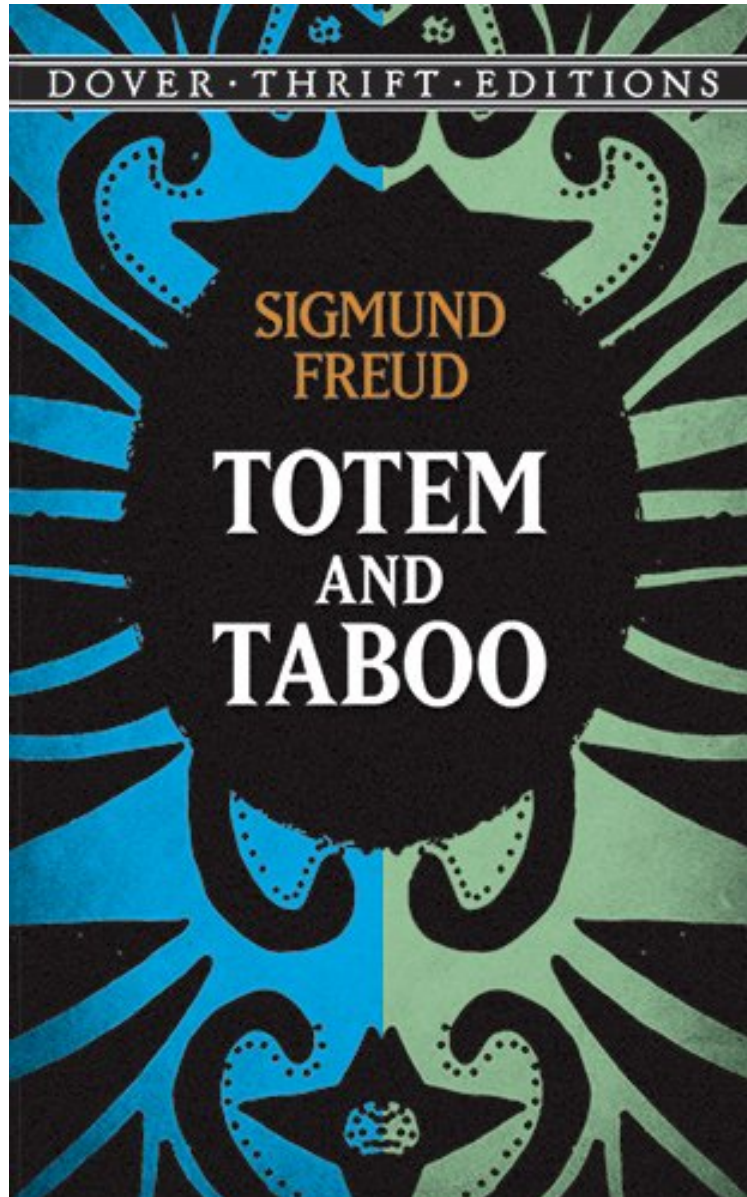


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Totem and Taboo (Dover Thrift Editions)

Sigmund Freud

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Sigmund Freud : Totem and Taboo (Dover Thrift Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Totem and Taboo (Dover Thrift Editions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wish there was more on the pyschological reasons for totem and tabooBy CustomerSo he talks about totemism and taboo while saying straight out that he has no idea where they actually come from, so this is simply his theories based off other researchers at the time. He says totemism is basically

a clan of people worshipping an animal and thinking they get traits from it etc. but doesn't go into much detail as to the psychological reasons why the primitive people did this. He goes in to talk about how taboos were made around the totem animal because the primal people thought that they were protected by said animal, and didn't want harm to come to whatever this animal was as they were afraid if so it would mean trouble for themselves. He goes in to explain how there were rules on who you could have sex with based on totem, and various customs regarding mom/stepson daughter/dad etc relationships while one or the other were in courting (of a non family member) which usually involved avoiding of one another in hopes that they will not perform incestual acts. There is a ton of stuff to think about here so I would suggest it to read, however it does create more questions than the ones it answers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 4 essays on psychology and anthropology. By Sigmund Freud. Totem and Taboo was originally published (from 1912-1913) in the journal *Imago* as four essays. These essays are "The Horror of Incest", "Taboo and Emotional Ambivalence", "Animism, Magic and the Omnipotence of Thoughts", and "The Return of Totemism in Childhood". I am neither a psychologist nor a trained anthropologist. I came to this book after reading Frazer's *The Golden Bough*-- a friend of my suggested that it made a good counterpoint, both in terms of period and subject. As a lay person, I found it clear and interesting to read. I have enough familiarity with Freud's basic theses that I did not find that I was lost. I found the last essay, "The Return of Totemism in Childhood" to be the strongest. At least for me, it was the strongest in that it synthesized the ideas from the earlier essays and drew the broadest ideas and conclusions. The Peter Gay biographical introduction was a nice refresher, particularly for someone who is not a Freud scholar. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By J. Ford nothing less than 5 star for Sig, of course!

In this landmark collection of essays, published as *Totem and Taboo: Resemblances Between the Psychic Lives of Savages and Neurotics* in 1918, the father of psychoanalysis explores the conflict between primitive feelings and the demands of civilization, i.e., the struggle to reconcile unconscious desires with socially acceptable behavior. Totemism, a concept found in societies around the world, involves the belief in a sacred relationship between an object (totem) and a human kinship group. Men and women bearing the same totem are prohibited from marrying each other, this being a form of incest taboo. Freud identifies a strong unconscious inclination as the basis of taboo, and he attempts to define its source by tracing the earliest appearance in childhood development of totemism. After an examination of the incest taboo in primitive societies around the world, Freud discusses taboo and the ambivalence of emotions; animism, magic, and the omnipotence of thought; and the infantile recurrence of totemism. An important work by one of the twentieth century's most influential thinkers, *Totem and Taboo* is essential reading for teachers and students of psychology as well as those with an interest in ethnology and folklore. This inexpensive edition offers all readers access to one of Freud's most penetrating attempts to decipher the mysteries of human behavior.

Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: German From the Back Cover In this brilliant exploratory attempt to extend the analysis of the individual psyche to society and culture, Freud laid the lines for much of his late thought, and made a major contribution to the psychology of religion. Primitive societies and the individual, he found, mutually illuminate each other, and the psychology of primitive races bears marked resemblances to the psychology of neurotics. Basing his investigations on the findings of anthropologists, Freud came to the conclusion that totemism and its accompanying restriction of exogamy derive from the savage's dread of incest, and that taboo customs parallel closely the symptoms of compulsion neurosis. The killing of the 'primal father' and the consequent sense of guilt are seen as determining events both in the misty tribal pre-history of mankind, and in the suppressed wishes of individual men. Both totemism and taboo are thus held to have their roots in the Oedipus complex, which lies at the basis of all neurosis, and, as Freud argues, is also the origin of religion, ethics, society, and art. About the Author Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) is one of the twentieth century's greatest minds and the founder of the psychoanalytic school of psychology. His many works include *The Ego and the Id*; *An Outline of Psycho-Analysis*; *Inhibitions; Symptoms and Anxiety*; *New Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis*; *Civilization and Its Discontent*, and others.