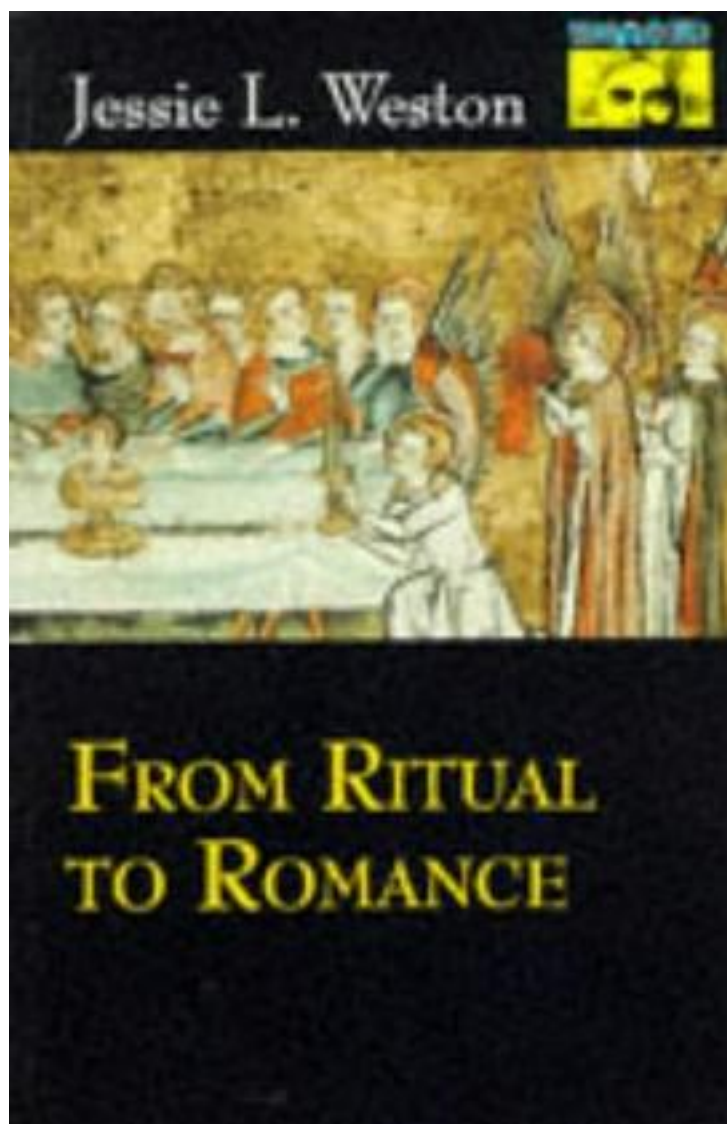


From Ritual to Romance



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著者:Jessie L. Weston

出版者:Waking Lion Press

出版时间:2008-05-27

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9781434102386

In 1920, at the age of seventy, Jessie Laidlay Weston published *From Ritual to Romance*, which examines the roots of the King Arthur legends, exploring the connections between early pagan elements and later Christian influences. Its revolutionary theory holds that the basic elements of the Grail story are remnants of ancient fertility rites designed to heal the "broken land". Poet T. S. Eliot acknowledged the book as crucial to understanding his poem *The Waste Land*, noting, "Not only the title, but the plan and a good deal of the incidental symbolism of the poem were suggested by Miss Jessie L. Weston's book on the Grail legend: *From Ritual to Romance* (Cambridge). Indeed, so deeply am I indebted, Miss Weston's book will elucidate the difficulties of the poem much better than my notes can do; and I recommend it (apart from the great interest of the book itself) to any who think such elucidation of the poem worth the trouble." Drawing on *The Golden Bough*, Sir James George Frazer's seminal work on folklore, magic, and religion, Weston examines the mystical elements of the Quest "the Waste land, the Fisher King, the Chapel Perilous, and the Grail itself" tying them to the symbols and rites of the ancient mystery religions. She writes, "The study and the criticism of the Grail literature will possess an even deeper interest, a more absorbing fascination, when it is definitely recognized that we possess in that literature a unique example of the restatement of an ancient and august Ritual in terms of imperishable Romance." Although her style is formal and academic, the information she presents is riveting mandatory reading for anyone interested in exploring mythology, the Arthurian legend, and the roots of religion.

作者介绍:

JESSIE LAIDLAY WESTON (1850-1928) was an independent scholar and folklorist who specialized in mediaeval Arthurian texts. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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