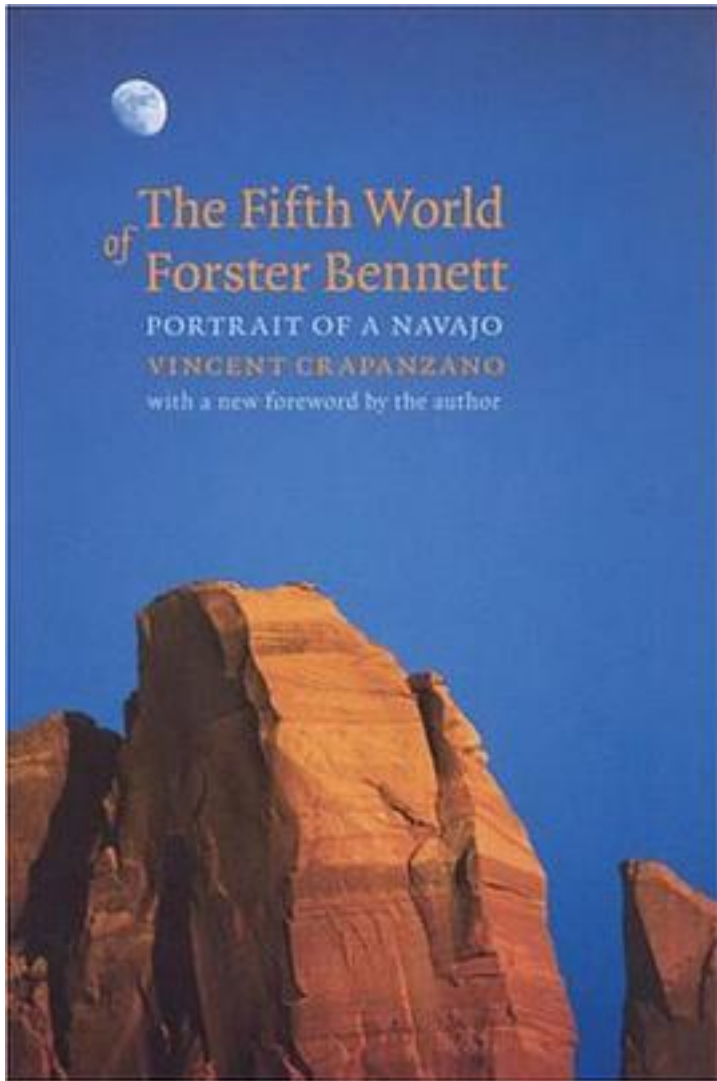


The Fifth World of Forster Bennett



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出版者:Bison Books

出版时间:2003-05-01

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780803264311

It is told that the ancestors of the Navajos journeyed through four worlds to reach the fifth, or present, one. The pressing complexities and underlying wonder of their fifth world of modern reservation life are vividly thrown into relief in this classic ethnographic account by anthropologist Vincent Crapanzano. As a young, inexperienced anthropologist, Crapanzano spent a summer with a Navajo man he calls Forster Bennett. In his early fifties, Bennett was raised during the early reservation years, fought in the South Pacific in the Second World War, and, like many, carries a deep but not always openly expressed resentment against whites. Crapanzano's honest and gritty account of his time with Bennett and his community reveals a stark portrait of the 'flat, slow quality of reservation life', where boredom and poverty coexist with age-old sacred rituals, and the varying ways that Navajos react and adjust to changes in their culture. Vincent Crapanzano is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Comparative Literature at City University of New York Graduate Center. His is the author of several books, including "Serving the Word: Literalism in America from the Pulpit to the Bench" and "Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan".

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