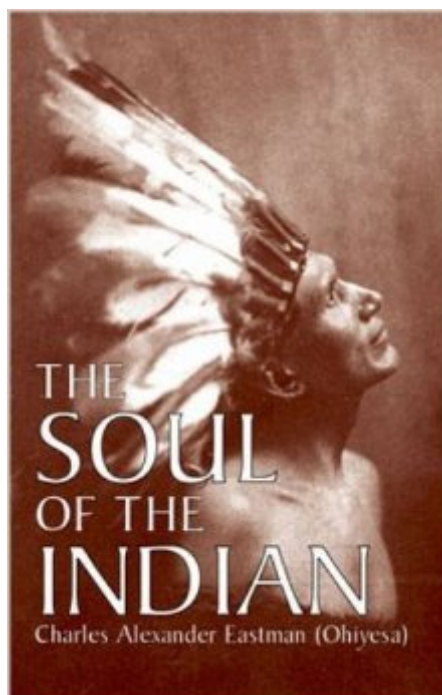


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The Soul Of The Indian (Native American)



Synopsis

Raised among the Sioux until the age of 15, Charles Alexander Eastman (1858â€“1939) resolved to become a physician in order to be of the greatest service to his people. Upon completing his education at Boston University School of Medicine, he accepted an appointment to a South Dakota Indian reservation, where he was the only doctor available to the victims of the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee. With the encouragement of his wife, he further distinguished himself both as a writer and as a uniquely qualified interpreter of Native American ways. His writings offer authentic, sometimes stirring views of a world that has forever changed. In *The Soul of the Indian*, Eastman brings to life the rich spirituality and morality of the Native Americans as they existed before contact with missionaries and other whites. This is a rare firsthand expression of native religion, without the filters imposed by translators or anthropologists. Rather than a scientific treatise, Eastman has written a book, "as true as I can make it to my childhood teaching and ancestral ideals, but from the human, not the ethnological standpoint." His discussions of the forms of ceremonial and symbolic worship, the unwritten scriptures, and the spirit world emphasize the universal quality and personal appeal of Native American religion.

Book Information

Series: Native American

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; 1st Edition edition (July 2, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486430898

ISBN-13: 978-0486430898

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (62 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #41,430 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Â Books > History > World > Religious > Ethnic & Tribal #6 in Â Books > History > World > Religious > New Age, Mythology & Occult #23 in Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Tribal & Ethnic > Native American

Customer Reviews

This is a little book, but so involving and so inspiring. Ohiyesa speaks of his own childhood, of his own life, of the beliefs and values he grew by, and he does it in a very simple, almost candid way.

He doesn't use philosophy, although you may find yourself considering philosophical aspects of life while reading this. He just says what it was taught to him, and why it is valuable to him, with regard to life, to the way people should treat people and the other beings sharing this world, and the world itself. He does speak about misunderstanding regarding his people and especially their more profound beliefs, but never in a polemical way. It's really as if he were saying: "This is what I was handed down by people who came before me. This is why it's important and valuable to me. I'm handing it down to you. You're free to receive it, if you think it's worthy." It's as simple as this.

I highly recommend this very informative little book to anyone wanting to learn the truth of what the native people of the Americas were like before the invasion of Europeans. Clearly and concisely written. A wonderful addition to your library of information on Native American Indians.

This book outlines the Lakota spirituality before the "white man" came. Excellent read although it puts some of it in a rose-colored light.

Charles Eastman was my great uncle so I am a little biased in my opinion. It was great to read of his experiences and to learn a little about my ancestors.

One of the few truly accurate depictions of the Old Ways before Euro influences were introduced. All cultures evolve and this book provides an intimate view of the process as it relates to the American Indian.

A must-have for anyone who is curious or wants to learn about Native American culture and how we, as white men (or women) have changed and shaped their culture to suit ourselves. A wonderful inside look at the way things were, and in my opinion should still be. It will change your way of thinking about our past, and the future of this great nation.

I've now read four Eastman books and this one rates the same as the other three...exceptional. Eastman grew up on a reservation until his teenage years when his father began to teach him the ways of the white man. He became a well educated man who continued his work as a doctor and writer, helping his own race improve. He is an excellent writer who speaks from first hand knowledge of the native American race. There is a nice biography of Eastman in his book *The Indian To-day The Past and Future*....

This book will give you information about the way Indian's feel and think. Great Book.

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