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Finding Elen: The Quest For Elen Of The Ways



Synopsis

This is a remarkable quest for the elusive deer goddess led by Caroline Wise with contributions from Caitlin Matthews, Andrew Collins and others. With its rich harvest of words and ideas, it brings the figure of Elen into focus more than ever before. And what a dazzling figure she is; part goddess, part dream, part saint, a green lady and a water nymph, primordial mother and patroness of deer, and guardian of the Old Straight Tracks and solar alignments. Her name is remembered even in healing plants. If this book does nothing more (and it will surely do much more) it will encourage people to dig deeper into the loam of tradition to follow the footsteps of the divine Elen of the Ways. Elen is as real as the roads named after her, as solid as the ancient paths that carry her presence and story across vast tracts of Britain and the European continent and beyond. What an intriguing and exhilarating journey it is.

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Customer Reviews

My husband and I have just finished reading "Finding Elen: The Quest for Elen of the Ways" . This unique and extremely well researched book - historically, culturally, geographically and etymologically - takes the reader on a quest for the ancient "Horned Goddess", Elen, who was, and is, known in many lands by many diverse names. Since prehistoric times Reindeer have followed tracks of migrations of countless generations of their kind, later to be followed by human travelers through vast wildernesses and many civilizations. The essays here examine the numerous mythologies that independently hint at the cultural underpinnings of her cults and veneration across Europe and beyond. The author and her contributors were set upon the pathways of Elen by a series of dreams and visions. A fascinating read! Rowena Whaling, Author of "Voices of the Stars".

Currently still reading this book. I love it so far. Elen is one of my Patrons, so having this book has been invaluable.

A luminous book, shining with the Light of Elen! I have been waiting to read this book for a long time. Now that it is finally published I am happy that it has not disappointed in the slightest. I have been interested in Elen of the Ways ever since reading about her in Andrew Collins's "The Seventh Sword" and know that her revival is almost entirely due to the work of Caroline Wise and Chesca Potter back in the 80s. That was a long time ago, however, like plants some books need time to grow and develop and that is totally the case here. This is the definitive book on Elen. "Finding Elen" is an edited book with essays from other fine writers too. It is broken into 4 main sections; Elen of the Ways, The Deer Mother, The Green Lady, and The Sun Path and the Waters at the Shaman's gate. Caroline has an essay in each section; each exploring a different aspect of this Goddess; written in her own wonderful and contacted way which pulls in different associations as they become relevant. The book however is very much a fine weave of words and the voices of other luminaries such as Andrew Collins, John and Caitlin Matthews, Maria Teresa-Harmer and John Merron add richness and authority to the text making it into a fine distillation of learning and insight into the ways of this beautiful Goddess and her associated lore and legends. Each essay was a wonder and a delight to read and this is a book which I will keep and I feel frequently return to. As someone who has worked with Elen for many years now I have found that I have learned a lot and I am sure will learn a lot more upon re-reading. This is really a great book which incorporates a wide range of experience and insight from many practitioners who have worked with her mysteries over many years. Very highly Recommended as a book of learning and a wonderful and enjoyable read.

This is a well-researched book. No doubt about it, many years have been spent gathering the data and supporting evidence to the main themes. However, it lacked spirit, mystery, and story, as each part of the book was told as tho it were being recited for a dissertation--which definitely has an appropriate time and place (aside from the many typos). But, I wanted to hear the stories that ignite my imagination, and senses of awe and wonder, not be overcome with boredom due to an overloading of historical data and analysis devoid of soul. While the author does speak to some personal experiences, they come across detached, and I fail to make a connection with her presentation of the material. I enjoy history, and when appropriate, will read a textbook. Maybe that's what the author's intent is here? However, not what I was looking for or expecting. 3 stars for effort.

Lots of typos and grammatical errors. Needed better proof reading. Historical and archaeological background very helpful in making a case for Elen across time and cultures. Unfortunately the story flow is somewhat disjointed and the train of thought wanders a bit too much for my taste. Overall glad for the information I learned.

Informative and helpful text.

Thanks

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