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The Forgotten Children Of Maui: Filipino Myths, Tattoos, And Rituals Of A Demigod



Synopsis

When people hear of Maui, they mainly think of the island named after him in the Hawaiian archipelago. In Polynesia, Maui is best known as a superman, a demigod who performed incredible feats of strength like fishing up islands and capturing the sun. His timeless stories are still shared throughout the Pacific Islands as they have been for countless generations. Some islands claim him to be a god, others a semi-divine man, but many count this bold adventurer as an ancestor. For more than two centuries, western scholars have worked to record the tales of this mythic hero from around the Pacific. However, these anthropologists have overlooked and largely ignored the traditions of the Philippine Islands. Yet, hidden within the ancient mythology, extinct tattoos, and dying rituals of the Philippines, lays the powerful impact of a man well known in Polynesia, but nearly forgotten in the Philippines. Lane Wilcken, the author of *Filipino Tattoos: Ancient to Modern*, deciphers the fragments of the Maui tradition of the Philippines and compares them with what is known in the Pacific Islands to restore a holistic understanding of Maui and the traditions surrounding him. In this groundbreaking work he reveals the actual life history of a world changing progenitor hidden in the metaphors of mythic traditions that still affect us today.

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Customer Reviews

I found this book to open new views about how people migrate and it also enforced in me my love of the culture and people of the Pacific.

The connection that we as indigenous bloodline people have is amazing. Our similar believes and traditions that we have needs to be passed down to our generation and our upcoming generation.

Just in many people like you and I when you hear of Maui, you would most likely mainly think of the island named after him in the Hawaiian archipelago. I have found that reading this book is much more than Maui being known as a superman and a demigod. His timeless stories that are shared throughout the Pacific Islands from this book will reveal some very interesting connections and holistic interpretations of how Maui is still alive and well today. This book identifies Maui from an area of the world that previously has not been looked at... Anthropologists have overlooked and largely ignored the traditions of the Philippine Islands. Lane Wilcken, the author of Filipino Tattoos: Ancient to Modern, has some incredible work in this book deciphering the fragments of the Maui tradition of the Philippines and compares them with what is known in the Pacific. After reading this book, you will realize the actual life history of a world changing progenitor hidden in the metaphors of mythic traditions that still affect us today.

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