

david abram the spell of the sensuous

David Abram: The Spell of the Sensuous – An In-Depth Exploration

David Abram: The Spell of the Sensuous is a transformative work that bridges the realms of philosophy, ecology, sensory perception, and spirituality. As a renowned philosopher, ecologist, and cultural ecologist, Abram invites readers into a profound dialogue about our relationship with the natural world through the lens of human perception and consciousness. His work challenges modern Western paradigms that often disconnect humans from their sensory roots and the environment, urging a return to a more embodied, mindful, and reverent engagement with nature.

This article explores the core themes of *The Spell of the Sensuous*, examining Abram's ideas on perception, language, ecology, and the importance of restoring our sensory connection with the Earth. By understanding Abram's insights, readers can deepen their appreciation for the intricate web of life and recognize the vital role of the senses in fostering ecological harmony and spiritual well-being.

Context and Background of David Abram's Work

David Abram emerged as a significant figure in the fields of ecological philosophy and experiential perception in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. His work is rooted in a multidisciplinary approach that combines philosophy, anthropology, ecology, and mysticism. He draws heavily from indigenous traditions, phenomenology, and ecological awareness to critique the alienation caused by modern technological and industrial societies.

The Spell of the Sensuous, published in 1996, is Abram's seminal book that synthesizes these themes. It is widely regarded as a foundational text in environmental philosophy and sensory studies. Abram's unique perspective emphasizes the importance of restoring the human connection to the natural world through heightened sensory awareness and language that honors the Earth's life.

Core Themes of The Spell of the Sensuous

The Embodied Mind and Sensory Perception

At the heart of Abram's philosophy is the idea that human cognition and consciousness are fundamentally embodied. Unlike the Cartesian dualism that separates mind and body, Abram advocates for an understanding that perceives

humans as integral parts of the ecological fabric.

He emphasizes that:

- Sensory experience is primary to human understanding of the world.
- Language and culture have historically been shaped by sensory engagement with the environment.
- Modern disconnection from sensory experience has led to ecological and spiritual crises.

Abram believes that cultivating a mindful awareness of our senses can reconnect us to the natural world and foster ecological responsibility.

The Ecology of Language and Myth

Abram explores how language has historically been rooted in sensory experiences of the natural environment. Indigenous cultures, for example, often have oral traditions and mythologies deeply connected to specific landscapes and ecological phenomena.

He highlights that:

- Language is not merely a tool for communication but a living, sensory-engaged process.
- The loss of natural languages and oral traditions reflects a disconnection from the Earth.
- Revitalizing myth and storytelling rooted in sensory experience can help restore ecological consciousness.

This perspective underscores the importance of respecting and preserving indigenous wisdom and linguistic diversity.

The Spell of Modernity and Technological Alienation

Abram critically examines how modern technology and industrialization have contributed to a sense of alienation from the natural world. He argues that:

- The dominance of visual imagery and screens prioritizes disembodied perception.
- This shift diminishes our sensory engagement with the environment.
- The resulting disconnection fosters ecological apathy and environmental degradation.

He advocates for a conscious re-engagement with the senses—touch, smell, hearing, and sight—to counteract the alienating effects of modern life.

The Power of Ritual, Myth, and Sacredness

Abram emphasizes the importance of ritual and myth in cultivating a sense of sacredness in nature. He suggests that:

- Rituals rooted in sensory experience can awaken a reverence for the Earth.
- Recognizing the sacredness of natural phenomena fosters ecological

responsibility.

- Reclaiming ancient practices can help heal the fractured relationship between humans and nature.

He encourages modern societies to develop new or revitalized rituals that honor the Earth's sensuous qualities.

Implications of Abram's Philosophy in Contemporary Context

Environmental Ethics and Activism

Abram's insights offer a compelling framework for environmental activism. By emphasizing sensory engagement and reverence, activists can foster deeper emotional and spiritual connections to nature, motivating sustainable behaviors.

Key strategies include:

- Participating in nature immersion experiences.
- Practicing mindful observation of natural environments.
- Incorporating ritualistic practices that honor ecological cycles.

These approaches can cultivate a sense of ecological stewardship rooted in embodied experience.

Educational Approaches and Sensory Pedagogy

Integrating Abram's ideas into education can transform how we teach environmental science, philosophy, and cultural studies. Sensory pedagogy emphasizes experiential learning and direct engagement with the environment.

Practical applications involve:

- Outdoor classrooms and field trips.
- Sensory exercises that heighten awareness of natural phenomena.
- Encouraging storytelling and myth-making based on local ecology.

Such methods can inspire a new generation of ecologically conscious and perceptually aware individuals.

Art, Literature, and Cultural Revival

Artists and writers inspired by Abram's work often explore themes of nature, perception, and sacredness. Creative expression becomes a vehicle for reconnecting with the sensuous world and inspiring ecological consciousness.

Examples include:

- Art installations that emphasize sensory engagement.
- Literature that explores ecological myths and stories.
- Cultural festivals celebrating natural cycles and the sacredness of land.

Reviving these cultural practices can help foster a collective reverence for the Earth.

Practical Steps to Embrace the Principles of The Spell of the Sensuous

To incorporate Abram's insights into daily life, consider the following practices:

1. Mindful Sensory Observation

Spend time outdoors observing without distraction—listen to sounds, feel textures, smell scents, and watch natural movements.

2. Engage in Rituals and Ceremonies

Develop personal or community rituals that honor seasonal changes, natural elements, or local landscapes.

3. Reduce Reliance on Screens

Limit time spent on digital devices to re-engage with the physical, sensuous environment.

4. Learn Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Respect and incorporate indigenous stories, practices, and languages into your understanding of nature.

5. Participate in Nature-Based Education

Join outdoor classes or workshops that emphasize sensory learning and ecological awareness.

6. Practice Storytelling and Myth-Making

Create and share stories that celebrate the Earth's sacredness and interconnectedness.

Conclusion: The Transformative Power of the Senses

David Abram's *The Spell of the Sensuous* challenges us to reevaluate our relationship with the natural world through the lens of sensory perception and embodied consciousness. By recognizing that our senses are gateways to experiencing the sacredness of life, we can foster a deeper ecological awareness and spiritual connection.

In an era marked by ecological crises and technological alienation, Abram's work offers a path toward healing—one rooted in mindfulness, reverence, and a renewed appreciation for the Earth's sensuous beauty. Embracing the

principles outlined in his philosophy not only enriches our personal lives but also empowers us to become more responsible and compassionate stewards of the planet.

By awakening our senses and honoring the sacredness of the natural world, we can help restore the ancient spell that binds us to the Earth and each other. The journey toward ecological harmony begins with perception—opening our eyes, ears, and hearts to the living, breathing world around us.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is David Abram and what is 'The Spell of the Sensuous' about?

David Abram is a philosopher and ecologist known for exploring the relationship between humans and the natural world. 'The Spell of the Sensuous' examines how language, perception, and culture influence our connection to nature and advocates for a more sensory-rich, ecological awareness.

What are the main themes discussed in 'The Spell of the Sensuous'?

The book explores themes such as the loss of direct sensory experience, the decline of animism in modern culture, the importance of sensory perception in understanding our environment, and how language shapes our relationship with nature.

How does David Abram connect language and ecology in his book?

Abram argues that language has historically been rooted in direct, embodied experience with the natural world, but modern language often disconnects us from that natural sensuousness, leading to ecological disconnection. Restoring a more sensory-based language can foster better ecological understanding and stewardship.

Why is 'The Spell of the Sensuous' considered influential in environmental philosophy?

The book is influential because it offers a compelling critique of modern Western disconnection from nature and presents a pathway toward a more immersive, respectful relationship with the environment, inspiring environmental thinkers and activists.

In what ways does Abram suggest we can reclaim our sensory engagement with the environment?

Abram recommends practices such as mindful observation, indigenous storytelling, and restoring traditional ecological knowledge to deepen our sensory experience and reconnect with the natural world.

What role does indigenous knowledge play in Abram's philosophy in 'The Spell of the Sensuous'?

Abram highlights indigenous cultures' close relationship with nature and their use of sensory-based storytelling and practices, emphasizing that modern Western culture can learn from these traditions to foster ecological harmony.

How has 'The Spell of the Sensuous' influenced contemporary environmental movements?

The book has inspired movements that emphasize sensory awareness, ecological literacy, and a spiritual connection to nature, influencing environmental education, activism, and eco-psychology.

What criticisms or limitations have been raised regarding Abram's ideas in the book?

Some critics argue that Abram's focus on sensory experience may overlook the complexities of modern society and technological influences, or that his emphasis on indigenous perspectives might idealize certain traditions without addressing broader systemic issues.

How can readers apply the insights from 'The Spell of the Sensuous' in their daily lives?

Readers can practice mindful observation of their surroundings, reduce reliance on technology, engage with local natural environments, and cultivate stories and language that reflect their sensory experiences to foster a deeper ecological connection.

Additional Resources

David Abram: The Spell of the Sensuous is a transformative exploration of human perception, ecology, and the deep interconnectedness between humans and the natural world. In this seminal work, Abram invites readers to reconsider the way they experience their environment, emphasizing the sensory and perceptual dimensions often overlooked in modern, mechanized societies. This book is not just a philosophical treatise; it's a call to awaken a more profound, embodied relationship with the Earth—one rooted in the ancient, elemental magic of sensuous awareness.

Introduction: Reclaiming Our Sensory Heritage

In an age dominated by screens, digital interfaces, and rapid technological advancements, our sensory engagement with the world has become increasingly diminished. David Abram: The Spell of the Sensuous challenges us to reconnect with our primal, embodied experiences, emphasizing that our perception is not merely a passive reception of information but an active, participatory act that shapes our reality.

Abram's work is rooted in phenomenology—the philosophical study of how we

experience the world—drawing heavily on thinkers like Merleau-Ponty and Heidegger. However, he extends these ideas into ecological and cultural realms, arguing that our sensory relationship with nature is fundamental to our sense of self and community. The “spell” in the title refers to the enchantment that once allowed humans to feel a sacred bond with the natural world—an enchantment that has been eroded through modern disconnection.

The Core Themes of The Spell of the Sensuous

1. Sensory Anthropology and Indigenous Knowledge

Abram emphasizes that many indigenous cultures possess a nuanced, sacred relationship with nature, guided by sensory perception and reverence. These cultures perceive the landscape as alive, imbued with spirit, and accessible through direct, sensory engagement.

Key points include:

- Indigenous peoples often experience the environment through all senses—sight, sound, touch, smell, and even taste—forming a holistic perception.
- Their stories, rituals, and language encode ecological knowledge accessible through embodied experience.
- Modern society's reliance on written language and technology has distanced us from this sensory intimacy.

2. The Erosion of Sensory Perception in Modern Life

Abram discusses how industrialization, urbanization, and technological reliance have led to a “sensory numbness,” where sight becomes the dominant sense, often at the expense of others.

Consequences include:

- Reduced ecological awareness and empathy.
- Disconnection from natural rhythms and cycles.
- A mechanized worldview that sees nature as objectified and exploitable.

3. The Enchantment of Nature and the Power of Attunement

The “spell” of the title refers to the enchantment or magic that arises when humans are fully present and attuned to their environment.

Abram suggests that:

- Reclaiming this spell involves cultivating sensory awareness.
- This process can deepen our sense of belonging and responsibility toward the Earth.
- Enchantment is not naive; it's a profound recognition of the sacredness inherent in the natural world.

Deep Dive: The Philosophical Foundations

Phenomenology and Perception

Abram leans on phenomenology to argue that perception is an active, participatory process. Unlike a passive receiver of stimuli, our senses shape our experience of reality.

- Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology: Emphasizes the body as the primary site of knowing the world.
- Embodied Perception: Our sensory faculties are intertwined with our consciousness, shaping how we interpret the environment.

Ecological Consciousness

Abram advocates for an ecological consciousness—an awareness that recognizes humans as part of a larger, interconnected web of life.

- This consciousness involves perceiving the environment not as a backdrop but as a living, breathing entity.
- Such perception fosters empathy and stewardship.

Practical Implications and Applications

The Spell of the Sensuous isn't just theoretical; it offers practical ways to reconnect with our sensory selves and the natural world.

Ways to Cultivate Sensory Awareness

- Mindful Observation: Spend time in nature, observing with full attention—listening to sounds, feeling textures, smelling scents.
- Sensory Exercises: Engage in activities like walking barefoot, tasting local foods, or focusing on ambient sounds.
- Storytelling and Rituals: Incorporate stories, songs, and rituals that emphasize ecological relationships and sensory engagement.
- Reducing Technological Distraction: Limit screen time and digital interactions to enhance direct experiences with nature.

Ecological Action Through Sensory Perception

By attuning to our senses, we develop a more immediate understanding of ecological issues, fostering a sense of urgency and compassion.

- Recognizing the subtle signs of environmental change through sensory cues.
- Developing a visceral connection to endangered species or habitats.
- Acting as stewards rooted in empathy and embodied understanding.

The Cultural and Environmental Significance

Abram's work underscores that cultivating a sensuous relationship with the Earth can lead to:

- Revitalizing Cultural Narratives: Moving away from narratives of domination toward stories of participation and reverence.
- Fostering Sustainability: When humans perceive themselves as part of the ecological fabric, sustainable practices become more intuitive.
- Healing the Wound of Modern Disconnection: Restoring the "spell" can help heal the alienation many feel in contemporary life.

Critical Perspectives and Challenges

While Abram's vision is inspiring, some critics argue that:

- Complete reconnection with nature may be idealistic in densely populated or heavily industrialized areas.
- The notion of enchantment risks romanticizing indigenous perspectives or overlooking contemporary ecological challenges.

However, Abram's emphasis remains on fostering awareness and participation, which can be adapted to diverse contexts.

Conclusion: Embracing the Spell of the Sensuous

David Abram: The Spell of the Sensuous offers a compelling call to reawaken our senses and rekindle the sacred bond with the natural world. It challenges us to move beyond superficial perceptions and into a realm of deep, embodied awareness—where every sight, sound, and sensation becomes a portal to understanding our place within the living Earth.

In doing so, Abram reminds us that the true magic—the spell—lies within our own perceptual capacities. By reclaiming this enchanted perception, we can foster a more harmonious, respectful, and vibrant relationship with everything that surrounds us. The journey toward ecological and spiritual renewal begins with a single, mindful breath—an invitation to see the world anew, through the spell of the sensuous.

David Abram The Spell Of The Sensuous

david abram the spell of the sensuous: The Spell of the Sensuous David Abram, 1996
Animal tracks, word magic, the speech of stones, the power of letters, and the taste of the wind all figure prominently in this intellectual tour de force that returns us to our senses and to the sensuous terrain that sustains us. This is a major work of ecological philosophy that startles the senses out of habitual ways of perception.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Summary of David Abram's The Spell of the Sensuous
Everest Media,, 2022-06-09T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 I was once in a trance while gazing at the stars in eastern Bali. I felt myself falling through space, and between the constellations below and the constellations above drifted countless fireflies, their lights flickering like the stars. #2 I had traveled to Indonesia on a research grant to study magic, and I had been a professional sleight-of-hand magician for five years back in the United States. I had spent some months in London, England, exploring the use of sleight-of-hand magic in psychotherapy. #3 The focus of my research shifted from questions regarding the application of magical techniques in medicine and ritual curing to a deeper consideration of the relation between traditional magic and the animate natural world. I came to recognize that it was through the agency of such rumors that the sorcerers were able to maintain a basic level of privacy. #4 The traditional or tribal shaman acts as an intermediary between the human community and the larger ecological field, ensuring that there is an appropriate flow of nourishment from the landscape to the human inhabitants and back to the local earth.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: *Becoming Animal* David Abram, 2011-09-06 David Abram's first book, *The Spell of the Sensuous* has become a classic of environmental literature. Now he returns with a startling exploration of our human entanglement with the rest of nature. As the climate veers toward catastrophe, the innumerable losses cascading through the biosphere make vividly evident the need for a metamorphosis in our relation to the living land. For too long we've ignored the wild intelligence of our bodies, taking our primary truths from technologies that hold the living world at a distance. Abram's writing subverts this distance, drawing readers ever closer to their animal senses in order to explore, from within, the elemental kinship between the human body and the breathing Earth. The shape-shifting of ravens, the erotic nature of gravity, the eloquence of thunder, the pleasures of being edible: all have their place in this book.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: *Phenomenological Approaches to Popular Culture* Michael Thomas Carroll, Eddie Tafoya, 2000 Within popular culture studies, one finds discussions about quantitative sociology, Marxism, psychoanalysis, myth criticism, feminism, and semiotics, but hardly a word on the usefulness of phenomenology, the branch of philosophy concerned with human experience. In spite of this omission, there is a close relationship between the aims of phenomenology and the aims of popular culture studies, for both movements have attempted to redirect academic study toward everyday lived experience. The fifteen essays in this volume demonstrate the way in which phenomenological approaches can illuminate popular culture studies, and in so doing they take on the entire range of popular culture.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: *Russian Magic* Cherry Gilchrist, 2009-10-13 In the heart of Russia, old ways of perceiving the spirits of home and nature still prevail. Fairy stories, folk art, and calendar customs carry hints of the old gods and offer a now rare way of linking human life to the landscape. This is as true for city dwellers and villagers, for the Russian soul is open to the power of myth and the mysteries of the universe. This book explains how Russia's concept of soul (*dusha*) and sensitivity to the landscape extends to archaeologists, scientists, and doctors in Russia, who retain an open-minded approach and a keen interest in psychic phenomena, along with folk traditions and faith healing. Author Cherry Gilchrist has traveled often to Russia and researched its traditional lore, gaining knowledge she interweaves into this book. She blends that first-hand knowledge with serious research to paint a lively picture of these remarkable magical traditions and their enduring power.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment* Timothy Clark, 2011-01-06 The degrading environment of the planet is something that touches everyone. This 2011 book offers an introductory overview of literary and cultural criticism that concerns environmental crisis in some form. Both as a way of reading texts and as a theoretical approach to culture more generally, 'ecocriticism' is a varied and fast-changing set of practices which challenges inherited thinking and practice in the reading of literature and culture. This introduction defines what ecocriticism is, its methods, arguments and concepts, and will enable students to look at texts in a wholly new way. Boxed sections explain key critical terms and contemporary debates in the field with 'hands-on' examples and comparisons. Timothy Clark's thoughtful approach makes this an ideal first encounter with environmental readings of literature.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: *Zen Ecology* Christopher Ives, 2025-03-11 Discover a way of living that can help you slow down and stay grounded—and at the same time reduce your ecological impact and engage more fully with the climate crisis. It may seem as though living ecologically and engaging in activism sacrifices our own enjoyment and happiness on the altar of doing the right thing. In this book, professor, naturalist, and Buddhist author Christopher Ives offers an alternative: a way of living that can actually be more fulfilling than the modern consumerist lifestyle. Rather than deprivation, it can bring us richness. In *Zen Ecology*, Chris outlines his environmental ethic as a series of concentric circles, beginning with ourselves and then moving outward into our communities, all the while focusing on spaciousness, mindfulness, generosity, and contentment. At the individual level, we deal with distraction, clutter, and ecological harm. Here, Chris offers ways to help us pay attention, simplify our lives, and lower our impact. Then, we explore

how to envision our home as a “place of the Way,” with Zen monastic life as a model for this—without having to be a monk! Next, we realize our embeddedness in nature and emplace ourselves in community with others, including other forms of life. Finally, we build on this basis to engage in activism to create a world that is more supportive of ecological health and spiritual fulfillment. In this way, we avoid the two extremes of apathy and burnout, and uncover a way of living that is simple, joyful, embedded in nature, connected to others in community, and supportive of collective action.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Reinventing Curriculum Linda Laidlaw, 2005-05-06
The premise of this book is that written texts and literacy processes are developed within a complex weave of particular contexts, or ecologies, and the unique particularity of the learner's experiences, histories, memories and interpretations. Laidlaw

david abram the spell of the sensuous: The Love of Nature and the End of the World Shierry Weber NicholSEN, 2003-02-28 A psychological exploration of how the love of nature can coexist in our psyches with apathy toward environmental destruction. Virtually everyone values some aspect of the natural world. Yet many people are surprisingly unconcerned about environmental issues, treating them as the province of special interest groups. Seeking to understand how our appreciation for the beauty of nature and our indifference to its destruction can coexist in us, Shierry Weber NicholSEN explores dimensions of our emotional experience with the natural world that are so deep and painful that they often remain unspoken. The Love of Nature and the End of the World is a gathering of meditations and collages. Its evocations of our emotional attachment to the natural world and the emotional impact of environmental deterioration are meant to encourage individual and collective reflection on a difficult dilemma. NicholSEN draws on work in environmental philosophy and ecopsychology; the writings of psychoanalytic thinkers such as Wilfred Bion, Donald Meltzer, and D. W. Winnicott; and ideas from Buddhist and Sufi traditions. She shows how our emotional responses to the vulnerabilities of the natural world range from intense caring and compassion, through grief and outrage, to diffuse depression. Individual chapters focus on silence and the process whereby we move from the unspoken to the spoken, the love of nature, the perceptual reciprocity with the natural world to which we might mature, beauty in the human and natural realms, the psychological impact of the destruction of the natural world, and reflections on the future.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: The Truth of Ecology Dana Phillips, 2003-03-27 The Truth of Ecology is a wide-ranging, polemical appraisal of contemporary environmental thought. Focusing on the new field of ecocriticism from a thoroughly interdisciplinary perspective, this book explores topics as diverse as the history of ecology in the United States; the distortions of popular environmental thought; the influence of Critical Theory on radical science studies and radical ecology; the need for greater theoretical sophistication in ecocriticism; the contradictions of contemporary American nature writing; and the possibilities for a less devotional, wilder approach to ecocritical and environmental thinking. Taking his cues from Thoreau, Stevens, and Ammons, from Wittgenstein, Barthes and Eco, from Bruno Latour and Michel Serres, from the philosophers Rorty, Hacking, and Dennett, and from the biologists Ernst Mayr and Stephen Jay Gould, author Dana Phillips emphasizes an eclectic but pragmatic approach to a variety of topics. His subject matter includes the doctrine of social construction; the question of what it means to be interdisciplinary; the disparity between scientific and literary versions of realism; the difficulty of resolving the tension between facts and values, or more broadly, between nature and culture; the American obsession with personal experience; and the intellectual challenges posed by natural history. Those challenges range from the near-impossibility of defining ecological concepts with precision to the complications that arise when a birder tries to identify chickadees in poor light on a winter's afternoon in the Poconos.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Yoga - Philosophy for Everyone Fritz Allhoff, Liz Stillwaggon Swan, 2011-09-07 Stimulates thoughts and expands awareness of the philosophical dimensions of yoga in its many forms and practices Yoga — Philosophy for Everyone presents a wide

array of perspectives by people whose lives have been touched by yoga. Addressing myriad aspects of yoga's divergent paths, topics include body image for men and women; the religious and spiritual aspects of yoga; and issues relating to ethics, personal growth, and the teaching of yoga. Written by philosophers and non-philosophers alike, with contributions from professional yoga instructors, lifelong practitioners, and first-timers, *Yoga — Philosophy for Everyone* offers a wealth of material for both enjoyment and deep reflection.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: PaGaian Cosmology Glenys Livingstone, 2005
PaGaian Cosmology brings together a religious practice of seasonal ritual based in a contemporary scientific sense of the cosmos and female imagery for the Sacred. The author situates this original synthesis in her context of being female and white European transplanted to the Southern Hemisphere. Her sense of alienation from her place, which is personal, cultural and cosmic, fires a cosmology that re-stories Goddess metaphor of Virgin-Mother-Crone as a pattern of Creativity, which unfolds the cosmos, manifests in Earth's life, and may be known intimately. PaGaian Cosmology is an ecospirituality grounded in indigenous Western religious celebration of the Earth-Sun annual cycle. By linking to story of the unfolding universe this practice can be deepened, and a sense of the Triple Goddess-central to the cycle and known in ancient cultures-developed as a dynamic innate to all being. The ritual scripts and the process of ritual events presented here, may be a journey into self-knowledge through personal, communal and ecological story: the self to be known is one that is integral with place. PaGaian Cosmology may be used as a resource for individuals or groups seeking new forms of devotional expression and an Earth-based pathway to wisdom within.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Transcripts of the Sacred in Nigeria Nimi Wariboko, 2023-06-20 *Transcripts of the Sacred in Nigeria* explores how the sacred plays itself out in contemporary Africa. It offers a creative analysis of the logics and dynamics of the sacred (understood as the constellation of im/possibility available to a given community) in religion, politics, epistemology, economic development, and reactionary violence. Using the tools of philosophy, postcolonial criticism, political theory, African studies, religious studies, and cultural studies, Wariboko reveals the intricate connections between the sacred and the existential conditions that characterize disorder, terror, trauma, despair, and hope in the postcolonial Africa. The sacred, Wariboko argues, is not about religion or divinity but the set of possibilities opened to a people or denied them, the sum total of possibilities conceivable given their level of social, technological, and economic development. These possibilities profoundly speak to the present political moment in sub-Saharan Africa.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Your Zodiac Soul John Wadsworth, 2018-03-08 *How to use the zodiac to manifest your life the way you were born to live it. Turning The Wheel of Your Zodiac Soul* is the brand new approach and twelve-stage programme from leading astrologer, John Wadsworth. Teaching you how to use the Zodiac as a path to wholeness, John's method will reveal to you 'the revelation of you in the totality of who you are.' Drawing on over two thousand years of astrological tradition, John presents the zodiac soul using a wheel analogy: it is a wheel that is supposed to turn, but will inevitably get stuck and falter during the course of life's many challenges-whether these be around personal relationships, financial issues, health, career pressures or a low sense of self-worth. Through his programme, John reassuringly shows that these challenges all have their place in the wheel, and that our underlying fears and self-defeating behaviour patterns driving them can all be addressed and compassionately transformed. With John's assistance, you will learn to identify where the wheel gets stuck in your own life and get it turning again. *Turning The Wheel of Your Zodiac Soul* will offer you a way of making significant changes, guiding you to manifest the life you were born to live.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Tensional Landscapes Gary Backhaus, John Murungi, 2003-01-01 The contributors to this volume address global, regional, and local landscapes, cosmopolitan and indigenous cultures, and human and more-than-human ecology as they work to reveal place-specific tensional dynamics. Essays discuss Kant's theory of cosmopolitanism versus

Hegel's philosophy of geographical determinism; the tension of cosmopolitanism versus a closer embeddedness in place-scapes; geographical determinism in the colonial practices of Colombia and in the current political rhetoric surrounding the revival of Saxony; preservational policies in Norway; regulation of gated communities in the United States; and the hermeneutics of Ground Zero. This unusual book, which covers such a wide-ranging array of topics, coheres into a work that will be a valuable reference for scholars of geography and the philosophy of place.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: How to Build a Man EC NORMAN, 2010-10-06 God created and from that beginning it was Eve, who is perceived to be the progenitor of women problems. E. C. Norman transforms the story of creation in her new book *How To Build A Man*, Construction on the "Wo." She introduces the five construction tools used by Eve. She examines the differences between Adam and Eve and the interactions in the midst of Satan and Eve and other biblical women that followed Eve's path. This book will transport you through creation and lead you back through the expectations of the "Wo." E. C. Norman expresses how important it is for women to learn from Eve and her construction tools and see how they are still in operation today.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Common Image Dr. Ingrid Hoelzl, Rémi Marie, 2021-11-05 Western humanism has established a reifying and predatory relation to the world. While its collateral visual regime, the perspectival image, is still saturating our screens, this relation has reached a dead end. Rather than desperately turning towards transhumanism and geoengineering, we need to readjust our position within community Earth. Facing this predicament, Ingrid Hoelzl and Rémi Marie develop the notion of the common image - understood as a multisensory perception across species; and common ethics - a comportment that transcends species-bound ways of living. Highlighting the notion of the common as opposed to the immune, the authors ultimately advocate otherness as a common ground for a larger than human communism.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Embodied Liturgy Frank C. Senn, 2016-06-03 Embodied Liturgy marks a return to the body in thinking about Christian liturgy and sacramental practice. Rooted in phenomenology and incarnational theology, the book gives primary focus to the body as it considers the prayer offices and the liturgical calendar, sacrifices and sacraments, initiation and vestments, ritual theory and play, word and meal, fasting and feasting, penance and celebration, rites of passage, cultural perspectives, and the role of art, music, dance, and drama in worship. The author invites readers to return to the experience of their own body through guided yogic exercises. As a text for students and liturgical practitioners, the volume gives fresh voice to the experience and practice of worship as bodily acts. Embodied Liturgy is a dynamic, accessible new resource in liturgical and sacramental theology from one of the premiere scholars in the field. Frank C. Senn distills an established legacy of expertise in an innovative and inviting perspective on bodily acts of worship.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: The Palgrave Handbook of Experimental Cinema Kim Knowles, Jonathan Walley, 2024-09-04 This book is a collection of newly commissioned essays by established and emerging scholars that maps out the current landscape of experimental cinema studies and sets agendas for future work in the field. Introducing new critical methodologies and calling overdue attention to neglected artists, regions, and topics, the contributions to this volume reassess and reassert experimental cinema as a site of formal exploration and interrogation as well as resistance to institutional, political, and social norms. This collection articulates what it means for experimental cinema to be these things in the contemporary moment, staking out new directions in thinking about the subject not only as a growing sub-field of cinema studies, but as an artistic and scholarly tradition in dialogue with art history, visual culture, philosophy, and the sciences. The contributions reflect a diversity of voices and perspectives, weaving together theoretical, poetic, and personal modes of writing and traversing questions of form, emotion, materiality, nationality, postcoloniality, the body, and ecology.

david abram the spell of the sensuous: Psalms Book 2: An Earth Bible Commentary Arthur Walker-Jones, 2019-10-03 Arthur Walker-Jones presents an Earth-focused reading of the second book of Psalms, focusing upon the many nonhuman animals that appear repeatedly within

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