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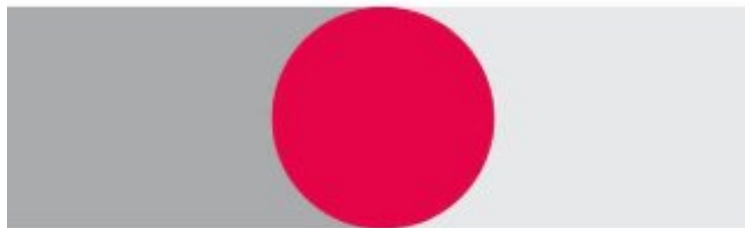
Beyond Sacred Violence: A Comparative Study of Sacrifice

Kathryn McClymond

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Kathryn McClymond : Beyond Sacred Violence: A Comparative Study of Sacrifice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Sacred Violence: A Comparative Study of Sacrifice:

For many Westerners, the term sacrifice is associated with ancient, often primitive ritual practices. It suggests the death of a frequently violent, often bloody animal victim, usually with the aim of atoning for human guilt. Sacrifice is a serious ritual, culminating in a dramatic event. The reality of religious sacrificial acts across the globe and throughout history is, however, more expansive and inclusive. In *Beyond Sacred Violence*, Kathryn McClymond argues that the modern Western world's reductive understanding of sacrifice simplifies an enormously broad and dynamic cluster of religious activities. Drawing on a comparative study of Vedic and Jewish sacrificial practices, she demonstrates not only that sacrifice has no single, essential, identifying characteristic but also that the elements most frequently attributed to such acts—death and violence—are not universal. McClymond reveals that the world of religious sacrifice varies greatly, including grain-based offerings, precious liquids, and complex interdependent activities. Engagingly argued and written, *Beyond Sacred Violence* significantly extends our understanding of religious sacrifice and serves as a timely reminder that the field of religious studies is largely framed by Christianity.

"Excellent monograph." (Choice) "A stimulating and persuasive case for the diversity, fluidity and interdependency of activities comprising sacrifice." (F. Stavropoulou *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*) "Highly recommended." (Nathan Carlin *Religious Studies*) "A thought-provoking examination of sacrifice." (James Getz *Journal of Religion*) "Written in an engaging and informative style, this book would be interesting to both scholars and ordinary readers." (Prabuddha Bharata) About the Author Kathryn McClymond is an associate professor of religious studies at Georgia State University.