

The Nightway: A History and a History of Documentation of a Navajo Ceremonial

James C. Faris

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James C. Faris : The Nightway: A History and a History of Documentation of a Navajo Ceremonial before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nightway: A History and a History of Documentation of a Navajo Ceremonial:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Avid Reader Excellent resource 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Even Nightway Singers will sometimes consult this text By A Customer I hope that Dr. Faris will not be put off by me considering this book a masterpiece. It is one of my favorites, the details I'll omit. Very few scholars have grasped the complexity and beauty of Navajo ceremonialism and creation stories as well as the author has in The Nightway (Haile, Matthews, Zolbrod, McNeley). There are small portions of the book which I think some Nightway singers (medicine men) could disagree with but overall it is an excellent resource of information on the most familiar of Navajo ceremonials among non-Navajos. Reading Dr. Faris's text reinforces my convention that good anthropology still exists. His basic postulate that the knowledges of living authorities of local history concerning the healing arts, that is, Navajo Medicine Men and Women, have knowledge which can be accepted as truths, and are as valid as material remains of the deceased, as interpreted by foreign histories, is refreshing, honest, respectful, and badly needed in so many areas of anthropology.

Traces the history and genealogies of Nightway medicine men and the history of the recording and documentation of

this healing ceremonial by non-Navajo observers. Includes the complete Nightway narrative as given by Hosteen Klah in 1928.

"One of the three most significant contributions to the understanding of Navajo religion ever published." -- American Anthropologist
About the Author James C. Faris is professor of anthropology at the University of Connecticut.