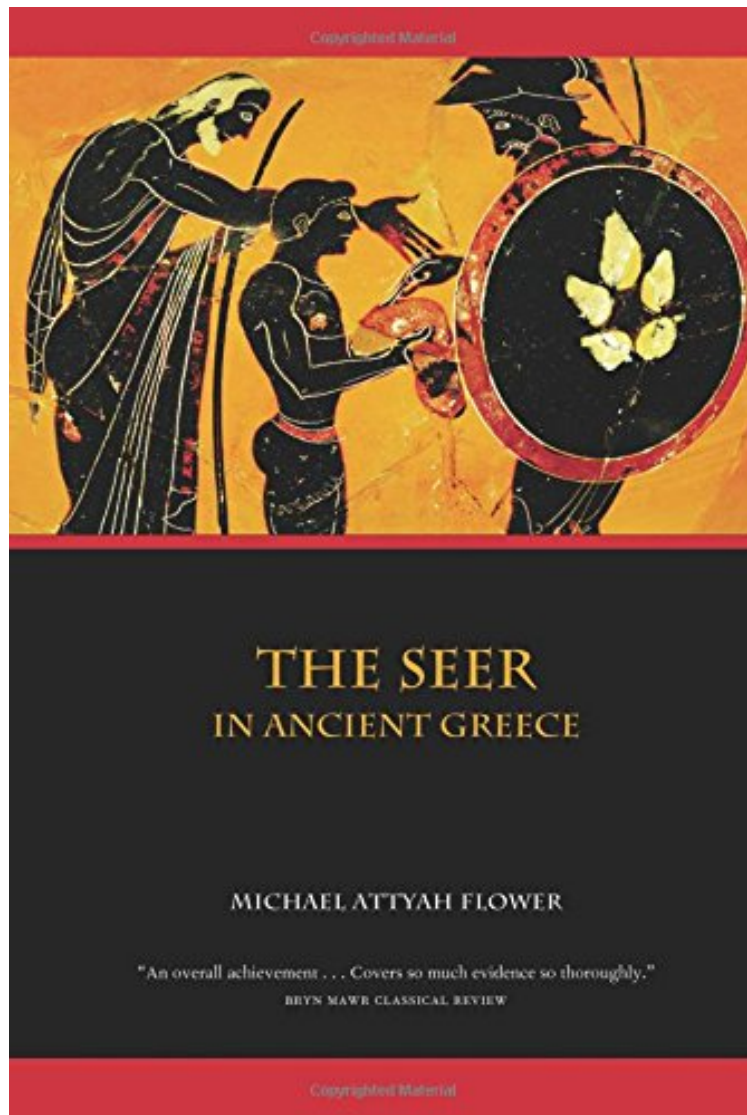


(Download free pdf) The Seer in Ancient Greece

## The Seer in Ancient Greece

*Michl Flower*

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#899148 in Books Michael Flower 2008-01-07 2009-03-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.80 x .82 x 5.90l, 1.05 #File Name: 0520259939326 pages The Seer in Ancient Greece | File size: 50.Mb

**Michl Flower : The Seer in Ancient Greece** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Seer in Ancient Greece:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. At last, "The Seers" are getting justice By terje gerotti simonsen Very good and important book, underscoring the importance and integration of "the Seers" - and thereby also what we probably often would call ESP (extra-sensory perception) - in ancient Greek culture. As E.R. Dodds in his classic work *The Greeks and the Irrational* (1951) once demonstrated the Greek openness towards, - and embracing of the non-rational aspects of human life and experience, this book does some of the same with respect to phenomena and

practices that within our world-view (but not necessarily within the ancient Greek's) would best be described as "paranormal". Due to the overwhelmingly strong Greek philosophical tradition, constituting also the starting-point of modern European rationalism, both these aspects - i.g. different phenomena of "irrational" and "paranormal" types (to use our terms, not necessarily fully fitting for the Greek experience) - all too often have had a tendency to be underestimated or forgotten (or right out repressed) when modern, post-Enlightenment "rational" academics are dealing with ancient Greek culture and mentality. Thereby there is acute danger of losing out some of the culture's very essence. E.g. Socrates, the archetypical Greek philosopher, was not at all the die-hard rationalist as some philosophy-courses are fond of portraying. This can clearly be seen by the esteem in which he held the "irrational" and "paranormal" divination of the Oracle in Delphi. This book is providing a much longed-for justice to the importance of the institution of "The Seers", and being a historian of ideas by education myself, I consider it a must-read for anyone interested in an in-depth understanding of the ancient Greeks' mentality and perception of reality.

The seer (mantis), an expert in the art of divination, operated in ancient Greek society through a combination of charismatic inspiration and diverse skills ranging from examining the livers of sacrificed animals to spirit possession. Unlike the palm readers and mediums who exist on the fringe of modern society, many seers were highly paid, well respected, educated members of the elite who played an essential role in the conduct of daily life, political decisions, and military campaigns. Armies, for example, never went anywhere without one. This engaging book, the only comprehensive study of this fascinating figure, enters into the socioreligious world of ancient Greece to explore what seers did, why they were so widely employed, and how their craft served as a viable and useful social practice.

A very important book.