

The Rites of Passage

By Arnold van Gennep, Monika B. Vizedon, Gabrielle L. Caffee



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Birth, puberty, marriage, and death are, in all cultures, marked by ceremonies which may differ but are universal in function. Arnold van Gennep (1873-1957) was the first anthropologist to note the regularity and significance of the rituals attached to the transitional stages in man's life, and his phrase for these, "the rites of passage," has become a part of the language of anthropology and sociology.



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Review

'Van Gennep achieved in this book an enviable reputation by drawing attention to the widespread distribution of a common symbolic structure in transition rites pregnancy, birth, puberty, marriage and death.' - The Times Literary Supplement

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