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Giving Voice To Bear: North American Indian Myths, Rituals, And Images Of The Bear



Synopsis

In this new edition of a classic, David Rockwell describes the captivating and awe-inspiring presence of the bear in Native American rituals. The bear played a central role in shamanic rights, initiation, healing and hunting ceremonies, and new year celebrations. Considered together, these traditions are another way of looking at the world, one in which the mysteries of the universe are revealed through animals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Iâ™ve recently had a few dreams and daytime visions of Bears attacking me, so I found myself looking for books on Bears and Giving Voice to Bear appeared. Within the first few pages I was hooked. The author does a great job of weaving together different bear traditions and beliefs into a seamless and magical story that invites a deeper understanding of Bear energy. The author is very objective in that he does not include himself when talking about Native Traditions, but rather speaks about them as if he were an outside observer even though I could tell he has a deep and respectful relationship with the Bear himself. I love reading from people who not only share their experiences and wisdom, but who inspire and invite us to grow and walk our own Paths. David Rockwell is one of those people. Rockwell does a great job of offering some short stories and myths, initiation rituals, antidotal teachings, divinational techniques, mystical rites, magical operations, hunting traditions, and art. As for the art and imagery, nearly every page has some visual image to appreciate. One way the author shares different aspects of Bear energy is to tell us small episodic stories to help

enliven the teachings. It feels as if we are there witnessing the story unfold as a passive participant. For instance, on page 25 there is a short episode of a wife preparing a Bear skull before handing it to her husband who then puts a tobacco plug in the jaw and hangs it on his dream lodge for a vision of where to hunt. Itâ™s as if I am there. As for something I did not like, at some points it felt belabored and repetitious as the author relayed yet another story of ritual from another tribe.

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