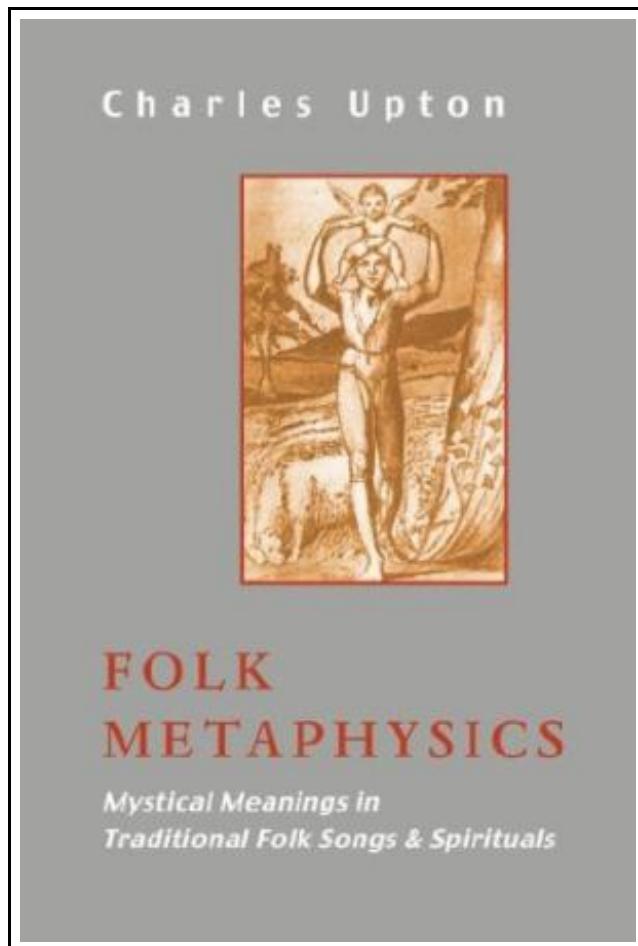


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Sophia Perennis et Universalis, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 224 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In the last century, authors and psychologists like Robert Graves, Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell reminded us that folklore is often full of deep symbolic truths, truths that the folk themselves are usually unaware of. And they also taught us - just as Plato did, 2400 years ago -- that myth and folklore constitute a philosophical language, where images (as in dreams, holy icons, and symbolic poetry) can carry a great burden of meaning. Few seem to realize, however, that certain works of art conventionally considered to be unconscious products of the folk imagination were quite consciously and deliberately constructed, by highly-informed individuals, to transmit specific items of spiritual lore. Among these few was Ananda K. Coomaraswamy, who said: The content of folklore is metaphysical. Our failure to recognize this is primarily due to our own abysmal ignorance of metaphysics and of its technical terms. The true folklorist must be not so much a psychologist as a theologian and metaphysician, if he is to understand his material . Traditional man lived in a natural environment he could read like a book - a book written in primordial symbols of Divine Reality (the Sun, the Rain, the Mountain, the Eagle) - as well as in a man-made environment that was in large part deliberately constructed to remind him of that Reality, and teach him the nature of it (just as our own human world, with its weapons of mass distraction , seems ingeniously contrived to make us forget it). Through song, dance, gesture, poetry, architecture, proverbs, jokes, riddles, stories, games, toys, medicine, painting, sculpture, weapons, tools, scriptures, sacred rites, and the traditional forms and rhythms...



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