



# UFO RELIGIONS

# Ufo Religions

**Yi-Tong Ma**



## **Ufo Religions:**

Encyclopedic Sourcebook of Ufo Religions James R. Lewis,2003-11 The macabre mass suicide by adherents of the Heaven s Gate Cult in 1997 was shocking and difficult to comprehend for most outsiders Their bizarre mindset which mixed New Age religion with belief in extraterrestrial visitation struck many as unique In fact as the contributors to this intriguing study show the belief in alien contact has had religious overtones since the first purported sighting of an unidentified flying object UFO in 1947 Moreover the religious dimensions of the UFO phenomenon may be the key to understanding the widespread appeal of this modern craze An expert in new religions Professor James Lewis has here brought together twenty insightful articles that cover the many variations of UFO based religions What the contributors demonstrate is that there are persistent and salient themes underlying the diversity of beliefs centered on the UFO phenomenon Harkening back to theosophy many groups have interpreted UFO sightings and alleged contacts as attempts by alien ambassadors from a more advanced civilization to bring spiritual enlightenment to Earth where humanity is seen to be floundering in ignorance The extraterrestrial message is usually channeled through a charismatic human leader who then mobilizes a group around this New Age revelation The Encyclopedic Sourcebook of UFO Religions discusses the histories and beliefs of prominent UFO based sects looks at group dynamics and other sociological factors and presents selections from the unusual literature of the various groups This revealing and disturbing study shows that there is much more to the UFO phenomenon than simple curiosity about the possibility of life on other planets

*UFO Religions* Christopher Partridge,2012-11-12 The spectre of the UFO as popularized by shows such as *The X Files* has brought an astonishing slant to the face of modern religious practice But what motivates the fantastical and sometimes sinister beliefs of UFO worshippers *UFO Religions* critically examines some of the fascinating issues surrounding UFO worship abduction narratives UFO based interpretations of other religions the growth of pseudo sciences purporting to explain UFOs and the responses of the core scientific community to such claims Focusing on contemporary global UFO groups including the Raelian Movement Heaven s Gate Unarius and the Ansaaru Allah Community it gives a clear profile of modern UFO controversies and beliefs

Handbook of UFO Religions ,2021-03-08 The Handbook of UFO Religions edited by esteemed scholar of new religions Benjamin E Zeller offers the most expansive and detailed study of the persistent popular and global phenomenon of religious engagements with ideas about extraterrestrial life The present work considers not only new religions founded on ideas about extraterrestrials and UFOs but how those within more mainstream religions have responded to the science scientific speculation and popular culture involving extraterrestrials UFOs and related concepts Global in reach it includes chapters considering South and East Asia Europe and North and South America and draws on several interdisciplinary methods In addition the handbook traces connections between UFO religiosity and cultural patterns such as science and scientism esoterism and occultism millennialism and popular culture

*UFO Religion* Gregory L. Reece,2007-08-20 Lines laid across the plain near the Peruvian site of Nazca

have been explained as ancient roads or features of a long forgotten religious calendar So why did Erich von Daniken interpret these markings as the contours of a huge galactic spaceport In his assessment of the uncanny and frequently eerie world of UFOlogy Gregory L Reece travels deep into a mindset which believes that the gods of mythology were really visitors from the stars Venturing into the Mojave Desert to watch the night skies for flying saucers exploring Nevada's top secret installation Area 51 and visiting Roswell famous site of a supposed saucer crash in 1947 the author's quest for the truth brings him more than he bargained for He has his atomic structure recharged in a machine supposedly designed by extraterrestrial technology encounters a whole galaxy of alien life forms and meets those who claim themselves to have been abducted by UFOs Along the way he tries to make sense both of the sinister Men in Black and of lethal Tall Whites deadly aliens who liquidate human beings without mercy What is it about flying saucer culture that speaks to people with an apparently religious intensity and fervour For those looking for the answers UFO Religion is the definitive guide and handbook to one of the most extraordinary and compelling cults of our times

**The Gods Have Landed** James R. Lewis,1995-01-01 This is a comprehensive account of the religious dimensions of the UFO flying saucer experience **Aliens Adored** Susan J. Palmer,2004 Aliens Adored is the first full length in depth look at the Raelian movement a fascinating new religion founded in the 1970s by the charismatic prophet Rael Born in France as Claude Vorilhon the former race car driver founded the religion after he experienced a visitation from the aliens the elohim who in his cosmology created humans by cloning themselves This pioneering study provides a thorough analysis of the movement focusing on issues of sexuality millenarianism and the impact of the scientific worldview on religion and the environment Rael's radical sexual ethics his gnostic anthropocentrism and shallow ecotheology offer us a mirror through which we see how our worldview has been shaped by the forces of globalization postmodernism and secular humanism

**UFO Religions** Christopher Hugh Partridge,2003 The spectre of the UFO as popularized by shows such as The X Files has brought an astonishing slant to the face of modern religious practice But what motivates the fantastical and sometimes sinister beliefs of UFO worshippers UFO Religions critically examines some of the fascinating issues surrounding UFO worship abduction narratives UFO based interpretations of other religions the growth of pseudo sciences purporting to explain UFOs and the responses of the core scientific community to such claims Focusing on contemporary global UFO groups including the Raelian Movement Heaven's Gate Unarius and the Ansaaru Allah Community it gives a clear profile of modern UFO controversies and beliefs

**UFO Religion** Gregory L. Reece,2007-08-15 An irreverent look at our obsession with UFOs and little green men **Heaven's Gate** Benjamin E Zeller,Robert W Balch,2014-10-31 The captivating story of the religious group focused on transcending humanity and the Earth and seeking salvation in the literal heavens on board a UFO 2015 Best Book Award from the Communal Studies Association In March 1997 thirty nine people in Rancho Santa Fe California ritually terminated their lives To outsiders it was a mass suicide To insiders it was a graduation This act was the culmination of over two decades of

spiritual and social development for the members of Heaven's Gate. In this fascinating overview Benjamin Zeller not only explores the question of why the members of Heaven's Gate committed ritual suicides but interrogates the origin and evolution of the religion, its appeal and its practices. By tracking the development of the history, social structure and worldview of Heaven's Gate, Zeller draws out the ways in which the movement was both a reflection and a microcosm of larger American culture. The group emerged out of engagement with Evangelical Christianity, the New Age movement, science fiction and UFOs and conspiracy theories and it evolved in response to the religious quests of baby boomers, new religions of the counterculture and the narcissistic pessimism of the 1990s. Thus Heaven's Gate not only reflects the context of its environment but also reveals how those forces interacted in the form of a single religious body. In the only book-length study of Heaven's Gate, Zeller traces the roots of the movement, examines its beliefs and practices and tells the captivating story of its people. The most thorough work on the cult of Heaven's Gate that is presently available.

Choice *Religions of the World* J. Gordon Melton, Martin Baumann, 2002. Contains entries that examine the beliefs and practices of the world's religions at the beginning of the twenty-first century, including core essays that provide basic data about major religious traditions and descriptions of the religious situations in the countries of the world, arranged alphabetically S to Z.

**Introduction to New and Alternative Religions in America** William M. Ashcraft, Eugene V. Gallagher, 2006-10-30. Most new or alternative religions are gravely misunderstood by members of the religious mainstream. Labeled cults or sects, groups and their members are often ridiculed or otherwise disregarded as weird and potentially dangerous by the populace at large. Despite their efforts at educating the general public, the various anti and counter-cult activists have in fact promoted much more misunderstanding than accurate understanding of the religious lives of some of their fellow citizens. Consequently, they have helped to create a very hostile environment for anyone whose religious practices do not fit within a so-called mainstream. This set rectifies the situation by presenting accurate, comprehensive, authoritative and accessible accounts of various new and alternative religious movements that have been and are active in American society and it addresses ways of understanding new and alternative religions within a broader context. Determining what actually constitutes a new or alternative religion is a subject of constant debate. Questions arise as to a new faith's legitimacy, beliefs, methods of conversion and other facets of a religious movement's viability and place in a given culture. How a religion gains recognition by the mainstream, which often labels such new movements as cults, is fraught with difficulty, tension and fear. Here, experts delineate the boundaries and examine the various groups, beliefs, movements and other issues related to new faiths and alternative beliefs. Readers will come away with a fuller understanding of the religious landscape in America today.

Volume 1: History and Controversies discusses the foundations of new and alternative religions in the United States and addresses the controversies that surround them. This volume helps readers better understand what makes a new or alternative belief system a religion and the issues involved.

Volume 2: Jewish and Christian Traditions explores the various new religions that have grown out of these two

Abrahamic faiths Groups such as the Shakers the People s Temple the Branch Davidians Jehovah s Witnesses and others are examined Volume 3 Metaphysical New Age and Neopagan Movements looks at Shamanism Spiritualism Wicca and Paganism among other movements as they have developed and grown in the U S These faiths have found new and devoted followers yet are often misunderstood Volume 4 Asian Traditions focuses on those new and alternative religions that have been inspired by Asian religious traditions From Baha i to Soka Gakkai from Adidam to the Vedanta Society contributors look at a full range of groups practicing and worshiping in the U S today Volume 5 African Diaspora Traditions and Other American Innovations examines the various traditions linked to the African diaspora such as Rastafarianism Santeria and the Nation of Islam alongside traditions that are truly American incarnations like Scientology UFO religions and Heaven s Gate Some of the new and alternative religions covered in these pages include Shamanism Wicca Black Israelites Santeria Scientology Elan Vital Hare Krishna Soka Gakkai and many more

**Encyclopedia of Religion** Jones Lindsay,2005 **Essay and General Literature Index** Minnie Earl Sears,Marian Shaw,Dorothy Herbert West,2004 Includes List of books indexed published also separately Encyclopedia of New Religions Christopher Hugh Partridge,2004 A comprehensive and authoritative guide to over 200 new religions sects and alternative spiritualities UFO Religions Daniel Payne,2025-06-09 UFO Religions Extraterrestrial Belief Systems in Modern Religious Movements provides a comprehensive examination of religious movements centered on extraterrestrial contact and cosmic spirituality From the early contactees of the 1950s to contemporary global movements like Ra lism and the Aetherius Society this scholarly work traces the development beliefs and cultural impact of UFO religions across seven decades Drawing on extensive primary sources and interdisciplinary analysis the book explores how these movements synthesize ancient spiritual wisdom with modern scientific concepts creating innovative forms of religious community that address distinctively contemporary concerns about humanity s cosmic destiny and potential contact with non human intelligence Cults and New Religions Douglas E. Cowan,David G. Bromley,2008 An overview of the development of new religions and the controversies surrounding them in late modern society A stimulating course friendly overview of the history and development of new religious movements NRMs in the late twentieth century Explores eight cults and NRMs including the Church of Scientology Transcendental Meditation Unificationism The Family International the Ramtha School of Enlightenment the Branch Davidians Heaven s Gate and Wicca Each chapter reviews the origins leaders beliefs rituals and practices of a NRM highlighting the specific controversies surrounding this group Covers debates including what constitutes an authentic religion the validity of claims of brainwashing techniques the implications of experimentation with unconventional sexual practices and the deeply rooted cultural fears that cults engender

**The Watkins Dictionary of Religions and Secular Faiths** Gerald Benedict,2008 Describes the major religions and belief systems as well as many of the denominations cults and sects that have stemmed from them **Science Fiction** ,2007 *When Prophecy Never Fails* Diana G. Tumminia,2005 The Unarius Academy of Science is one of the oldest

of the numerous UFO based US religious movements Unarius is devoted to teaching the all encompassing Uranian Science  
This book offers an inside look at this movement     **The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft** Rebecca L.  
Stein, Philip L. Stein, 2008 AutoCite helps to correctly cite sources in a variety of formats

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