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Psychosemiotic Cycles and the Liturgical Year

By Andrew Wilson

Cuvillier Verlag Aug 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x149x12 mm. Neuware - Psychosemiotic Cycles and the Liturgical Year This book sketches the outline of a psychosemiotic framework for studying 'aesthetic-religious experiences', both within and beyond the Christian liturgy. Rejecting a simple dichotomy between religious/spiritual/mystical experiences (on the one hand) and aesthetic experiences (on the other), it is argued that they are essentially one and the same, and that any distinction between them consists in their contextualization (or 'discernment') in relation to a body of doctrine - hence the unitary term 'aesthetic-religious experience'. It is proposed that such experiences are, in fact, altered states of consciousness, induced by deeply concentrated narrowed attention on a personally meaningful stimulus (or 'symbol') which is perceived as particularly beautiful and pleasurable. Building on this foundation, the book goes on to focus especially on the relationship between aesthetic-religious experiences themselves and conventionalized patterns of narrating them. By means of a detailed case study of the cycle of seasonal prayers in a version of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, the book shows how Martindale's methodology of 'narrative pattern analysis' - a combination of computer-assisted content analysis and statistical methods for the analysis of time-series data -...


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