



The Palm and the Pleiades: Initiation and Cosmology in Northwest Amazonia (Cambridge Studies in Social Anthropology)

Stephen Hugh-Jones

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When it was first published in 1979, this book, together with its companion volume, *From the Milk River*, by Christine Hugh-Jones, was hailed as setting 'a new standard for South American ethnographers, one to be emulated' (*Third World Quarterly*). Both are now available for the first time in paperback. The book is an extended study in English of Amazonian ritual. Through an analysis of a secret men's cult widespread throughout Northwest Amazonia, Hugh-Jones builds up a general picture of a South American Indian society, and of a religious and cosmological system that is common to a large area of Northwest Amazonia. The book is also an exercise in the anthropological interpretation of ritual, myth and religious symbolism from a structuralist point of view.

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