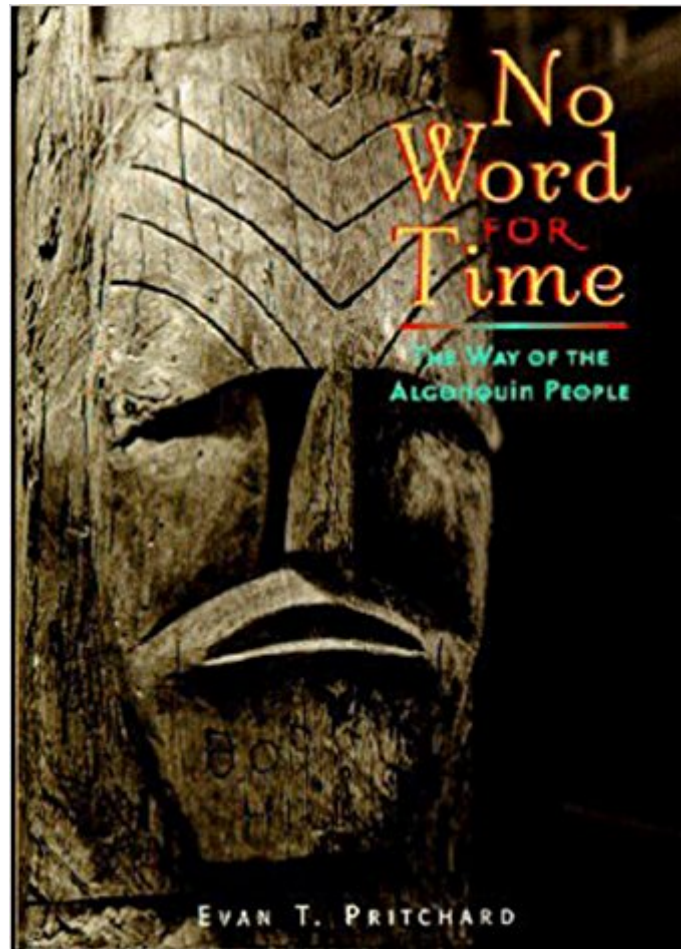




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No Word For Time: The Way Of The Algonquin People



Synopsis

A descendant of the Algonquins explores a rapidly disappearing world in which there is no word for time and life moves with the rhythms of nature - the world of the Algonquin Indians. One of the largest and most diverse language groups in the world, the nations and tribes which are related under the title "Algonquin" once occupied most of the northeastern United States, from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean, and great portions of southern Canada. Their influence on the culture and history of North America has been immense. Here we share this world and experience with the author a sweat lodge, vision quest, ceremonial dances and the wise teachings of Algonquin elders. Pritchard also points out the remarkable parallels between Algonquin beliefs and those of better-known religions, Taoism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read and ordered Now Word for time, thinking it might be a scientific Anthropological study. Perhaps this pre-conception colored my judgement, because what I read seemed to be a philosophy book with which borders on New Age spiritualism. The author describes his experiences study Algonquin traditions and makes several general statements on how the "Elders" act and feel. Many of these statements are so absolute, It makes me wonder... Do all the 'elder's' act/feel this way? What is the origin and purpose of these traditions? Is there a difference between the philosophy of the elders based on Gender? What about Gender rolls in Algonquin society? How do the non-elders feel? I was left curious about this. Second, while I enjoyed some of the stories, I felt the author may leap to some conclusions based on experiences with a small group of people.

Saying: "All Algonquin's behave a certain way-," is like saying: all Anglos eat fried rice on Tuesday..." it just seemed to generalized for me. Third, I didn't really care for the first-person narrative: the author writes throughout the book "I have seen-" or "I-went" Or, "I did this." It just didn't seem to have the same impact as a third-person narrative. Fourth: there was a distinct absence of footnotes, in the text. Chapters were slurred together with no particular order or purpose. Chapters starting off at the end of the paragraph of a previous chapter. I found this distracting. Fifth: Finally, there is a certain 'pseudo-science' which I think can be misleading in this book. The author starts speculating that early native peoples were Neanderthal-like in appearance is incorrect.

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