

**JOHN HOLMES MCDOWELL**

**"SO WISE  
WERE OUR  
ELDERS"**

**Mythic Narratives  
from the Kamsá**

# So Wise Were Our Elders Mythic Narratives Of The Kamsa

**Zhe Xu**



## **So Wise Were Our Elders Mythic Narratives Of The Kamsa:**

"So Wise Were Our Elders" John Holmes McDowell, 1994-01-01 So wise were our elders Thus exclaims Mariano Chicunque himself an elder expressing in a single phrase the thrust of the mythic narrative tradition he simultaneously presents and represents in his storytelling A remarkable body of mythology is documented for the first time in this volume John Holmes McDowell s study revolves around thirty two mythic narratives of the Kamsa Indians who live in the Sibundoy Valley of the Colombian Andes collected by the author from several renowned Kamsa story tellers Each myth is given in the native language with parallel English translations that seek to capture the flavor of the original performances Textual annotation and commentary assess the grounding of the myths in the language and culture of the Kamsa indigenous community Introductory chapters describe the process of transcription and translation and highlight important characteristics of the collection McDowell stresses the collaborative nature of the enterprise which benefits from the shared vision of the ethnographer and of indigenous consultants who were involved in every step of the process The narratives are portrayed as a residual mythology in transit toward folktale but still evocative of a traditional cosmos The myths are much more than inert literary objects and under McDowell s scrupulous analysis they emerge as a storehouse of narrative potential whose performances still have meaning in Kamsa society and culture today

"So Wise Were Our Elders" John Holmes McDowell, 2014-07-15 So wise were our elders Thus exclaims Mariano Chicunque himself an elder expressing in a single phrase the thrust of the mythic narrative tradition he simultaneously presents and represents in his storytelling A remarkable body of mythology is documented for the first time in this volume John Homes McDowell s study revolves around thirty two mythic narratives of the Kams Indians who live in the Sibundoy Valley of the Colombian Andes collected by the author from several renowned Kams storytellers Each myth is given in the native language with parallel English translations that seek to capture the flavor of the original performances Textual annotation and commentary assess the grounding of the myths in the language and culture of the Kams indigenous community Introductory chapters describe the process of transcription and translation and highlight important characteristics of the collection McDowell stresses the collaborative nature of the enterprise which benefits from the shared vision of the ethnographer and of indigenous consultants who were involved in every step of the process The narratives are portrayed as a residual mythology in transit toward folktale but still evocative of a traditional cosmos The myths are much more than inert literary objects and under McDowell s scrupulous analysis they emerge as a storehouse of narrative potential whose performances still have meaning in Kams society and culture today So Wise Were Our Elders is a companion volume to McDowell s Sayings of the Ancestors The Spiritual Life of the Subundoy Indians 1989

**The ^AOxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies** Simon J. Bronner, 2019-08-06 The Oxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies surveys the materials approaches concepts and applications of the field to provide a sweeping guide to American folklore and folklife culture history and society Forty three comprehensive

and diverse chapters explore the extraordinary richness of the American social and cultural fabric offering a valuable resource not only for scholars and students of American studies but also for the global study of tradition folk arts and cultural practice

**Traditional Storytelling Today** Margaret Read MacDonald, 2013-12-16 Traditional Storytelling Today explores the diversity of contemporary storytelling traditions and provides a forum for in depth discussion of interesting facets of contemporary storytelling Never before has such a wealth of information about storytelling traditions been gathered together Storytelling is alive and well throughout the world as the approximately 100 articles by more than 90 authors make clear Most of the essays average 2 000 words and discuss a typical storytelling event give a brief sample text and provide theory from the folklorist A comprehensive index is provided Bibliographies afford the reader easy access to additional resources

*Rejecting the Marginalized Status of Minority Languages* Ari Sherris, Susan D. Penfield, 2019-11-20 This book explores Indigenous tribal and minority ITM language education in oral and or written communication and in the use of new technologies and online resources for pedagogical purposes in diverse geopolitical contexts It demonstrates that ITM language education transpires in both formal and informal spaces for children or adults and that sometimes these spaces are online where they become de territorialized discourses of teaching and learning The volume brings together examples of ITM language education that are challenging the forces that flatten languacultures into artefacts of history It also examines the economic and material realities of the people who live in and through their languacultures or who aspire to do as much The book will be useful for educators and all those interested in Indigenous and minority language issues as well as for a wide range of undergraduate graduate and research contexts where topics of language education and minority rights are the focus

**Anthropological Linguistics** ,1959 **Forthcoming Books** Rose Arny, 1994-02 Manawashai Basketry Baqi'e Badawi Muhammad, 2001 **The Library Journal** ,1993 Includes beginning Sept 15 1954 and on the 15th of each month Sept May a special section School library journal ISSN 0000 0035 called Junior libraries 1954 May 1961 Also issued separately **Folklore Forum** ,1998 Resound ,2001 **The Publishers Weekly** ,1993 **Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts** ,1997 TRANSLATING NAT LAT AMER VERBAL SAMMONS KAY, Joel Sherzer, 2000-03-17 *Library Journal* ,1993 Arts & Humanities Citation Index ,1995 A multidisciplinary index covering the journal literature of the arts and humanities It fully covers 1 144 of the world s leading arts and humanities journals and it indexes individually selected relevant items from over 6 800 major science and social science journals

**Books In Print 2004-2005** Ed Bowker Staff, Staff Bowker, Ed, 2004 **Pilgrims, Patrons, and Place** Phyllis Granoff, Koichi Shinohara, 2011-11-01 UBC Press is pleased to announce a new series in Asian religions Pilgrims Patrons and Place a Buddha Dharma Kyokai Foundation Book on Buddhism and Comparative Literature is the first book in this series Click here to see other titles in this series This book brings together essays by anthropologists scholars of religion and art historians on the subject of sacred place and sacred biography in Asia The chapters span a broad geographical area that includes India Nepal

Thailand Indonesia and China and explore issues from the classical and medieval period to the present They show how sacred places have a plurality of meanings for all religious communities and how in their construction secular politics private religious experience and sectarian rivalry can all intersect The contributors explore some of the most fundamental challenges that religious groups face as they expand from their homeland or confront the demands of modernity In every case the biography of a saint or founding figure proves to be central to the formation of religious identity Sacred place becomes a means of concretizing the ever expanding sphere of the saint s influence While some chapters deal with well known religious movements and sites others discuss little known groups and help to enrich our understanding of the diversity of religious belief in Asia The book will be of interest not only to scholars of Asian religion and hagiography but to others who seek to understand the ways in which religious groups accommodate to the challenges of new environments and new times

**Subject Guide to Books in Print** ,1996      **Rivista degli studi orientali** ,1995

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