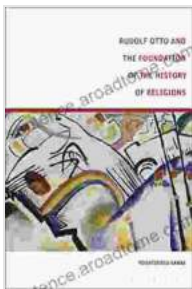


# Rudolf Otto and the Foundation of the History of Religions

Rudolf Otto (1869-1937) was a German philosopher and theologian who is best known for his work on the philosophy of religion. His book, *The Idea of the Holy*, is a classic work in the field and has been widely influential in the study of religion. In this book, Otto argues that there is a unique and irreducible element in religious experience that he calls the "numinous." The numinous is a sense of awe, mystery, and transcendence that is distinct from other emotions such as fear, love, or awe. Otto argues that the numinous is the foundation of all religion and that it is essential for understanding the nature of religious experience.



## Rudolf Otto and the Foundation of the History of Religions by Yoshitsugu Sawai

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3466 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 194 pages



Otto's work on the philosophy of religion has had a profound impact on the study of religion. His concept of the numinous has been used to explain a wide range of religious phenomena, from the experience of the sacred to the practice of ritual. Otto's work has also been influential in the

development of the history of religions as a discipline. By arguing that there is a universal element in religious experience, Otto helped to lay the foundation for the comparative study of religion.

In addition to his work on the philosophy of religion, Otto also wrote extensively on the history of religions. His book, *The Idea of the Holy*, contains a wealth of insights into the history of religious thought. Otto argues that the numinous is a universal element in human experience and that it can be found in all religions. He also argues that the history of religions is a history of the development of the numinous consciousness.

Otto's work on the history of religions has been praised for its originality and insight. He was one of the first scholars to argue that the history of religions should be studied as a comparative discipline. He also argued that the study of religion should focus on the subjective experience of the individual believer. Otto's work has had a profound impact on the study of religion and continues to be influential today.

### **The Idea of the Holy**

Otto's most famous work, *The Idea of the Holy*, was first published in 1917. In this book, Otto argues that there is a unique and irreducible element in religious experience that he calls the "numinous." The numinous is a sense of awe, mystery, and transcendence that is distinct from other emotions such as fear, love, or awe. Otto argues that the numinous is the foundation of all religion and that it is essential for understanding the nature of religious experience.

Otto's concept of the numinous has been widely influential in the study of religion. It has been used to explain a wide range of religious phenomena,

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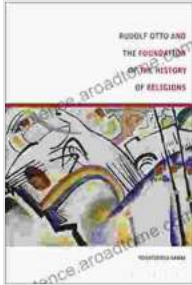
*The Idea of the Holy* is a classic work in the philosophy of religion. It is a challenging and thought-provoking book that has had a profound impact on the study of religion. Otto's work is essential reading for anyone interested in the nature of religious experience.

## **The History of Religions**

In addition to his work on the philosophy of religion, Otto also wrote extensively on the history of religions. His book, *The History of Religions*, was first published in 1923. In this book, Otto provides a comprehensive overview of the history of religions from the ancient world to the present day. He argues that the history of religions is a history of the development of the numinous consciousness.

Otto's *History of Religions* is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the study of religion. It is a comprehensive and insightful work that provides a unique perspective on the history of religions. Otto's work is essential reading for anyone interested in the development of religious thought.

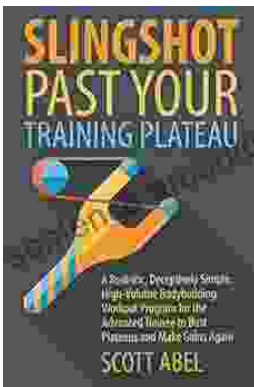
Rudolf Otto was a pioneering scholar in the field of religious studies. His work on the philosophy of religion and the history of religions has had a profound impact on the study of religion. Otto's work is essential reading for anyone interested in the nature of religious experience and the history of religions.



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