



Palgrave Pivot

1st
edition

1st ed. 2018, XVII, 106 p.
10 illus.

Printed book

Hardcover

Printed book

Hardcover

ISBN 978-981-13-0631-0

\$ 69,99

Available

Discount group

Palgrave Standard US (P5)

Product category

Brief

Religious Studies : History of Religion

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Mourning Rituals in Archaic & Classical Greece and Pre-Qin China

- Examines the social control function of the ritualized action of mourning in both Eastern and Western cultures
- Focuses on three aspects of mourning before burial: lamentation, mourners' gestures and behaviours, and mourning apparel
- Highlights the cultural functions and social influence of rituals of two ancient peoples

This pivot compares mourning rituals in Archaic & Classical Greece and Pre-Qin China to illustrate some of the principles and methods used in comparative studies. It focuses on three main aspects of mourning of the dead before burial — lamentation, mourners' gestures and behaviors, and mourning apparel — to demonstrate the cultural function, purpose, and social influence of mourning. A key comparative study of rituals at the heart of both Western and Chinese culture, this text highlights the cultural function and social influence of rituals of two ancient peoples and will be of interest to all scholars of comparative religion, sociology and anthropology.

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