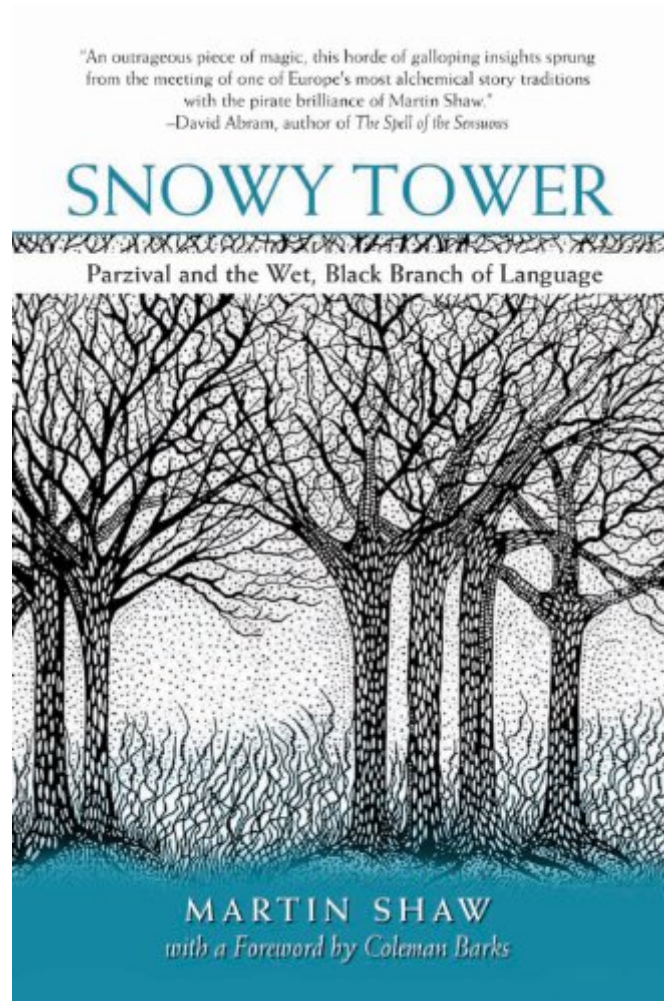


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Snowy Tower: Parzival And The Wet Black Branch Of Language



Synopsis

In *Snowy Tower*, Dr. Martin Shaw continues his trilogy of works on the relationship between myth, wilderness, and a culture of wildness. In this second book, he gives a telling of the Grail epic *Parzival*. Claiming it as a great trickster story of medieval Europe, he offers a deft and erudite commentary, with topics ranging from climate change and the soul to the discipline of erotic consciousness, from the hallucination of empire to a revisioning of the dark speech of the ancient bards. Ingrained in the very syntax of *Snowy Tower* is an invocation of what Shaw calls "wild mythologies" stories that are more than just human allegory, that seem to brush the winged thinking of owl, stream, and open moor. This daring work offers a connection to the genius of the margins; that the big questions of today will not be solved by big answers, but by the myriad of associations that both myth and wilderness offer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Martin Shaw is an extraordinary language user and story teller, and his psycho-mythic intelligence -- his sense of his the psyche develops and is trained through the process of narrative-- is bone deep and rife with insight. Shaw may be the foremost contemporary practitioner of this genre of literature ,

whichbraids story and exegesis together in an "journey of the soul" narrative,in the line of Robert Johnson, Joseph Campbell, Robert Bly, Marion Woodman, Marie Von Franz,etc. Even more than those writers, Shaw is capable of passages of metaphor and linguisticembroidery that those other (mostly) north American writers could never do--thus Shaw's Parisval book-- like his others,-- is a kind of literary experience of itsown, and this sensuous ludic dimension of the work adds another kind of hypnogogic richness to the reading and thinking -- This is rich important workcultural studies, introspective psychoanalysis and story telling all put together. Importantwork here!

If you have never had the pleasure of hearing Martin Shaw speak or reading his books, this will be a treat for the mind and heart. If you have had the pleasure, this will still be a treat. He give his exegesis of the Parzival story, with fascinating asides linking the deep meaning of the tale to our modern world and current yearnings and challenges to our humanity. Thought-provoking and entertaining, Parzival and the Wet Black Branch of Language is an intelligent, informed and wise journey through the forests and briar patches of the human heart. IF you feel the least bit drawn to this book, my advice is to read it, put it back on the shelf and then read it again. Truly, a gift to every sojourner on the path of becoming human.

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