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The Afterlife Is Where We Come From: The Culture of Infancy in West Africa

Alma Gottlieb

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When a new baby arrives among the Beng people of West Africa, they see it not as being born, but as being reincarnated after a rich life in a previous world. Far from being a tabula rasa, a Beng infant is thought to begin its life filled with spiritual knowledge. How do these beliefs affect the way the Beng rear their children?

In this unique and engaging ethnography of babies, Alma Gottlieb explores how religious ideology affects every aspect of Beng childrearing practices—from bathing infants to protecting them from disease to teaching them how to crawl and walk—and how widespread poverty limits these practices. A mother of two, Gottlieb includes moving discussions of how her experiences among the Beng changed the way she saw her own parenting. Throughout the book she also draws telling comparisons between Beng and Euro-American parenting, bringing home just how deeply culture matters to the way we all rear our children.

All parents and anyone interested in the place of culture in the lives of infants, and vice versa, will enjoy *The Afterlife Is Where We Come From.*

"This wonderfully reflective text should provide the impetus for formulating research possibilities about infancy and toddlerhood for this century." — Caren J. Frost, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*

“Alma Gottlieb’s careful and thought-provoking account of infancy sheds spectacular light upon a much neglected topic. . . . [It] makes a strong case for the central place of babies in anthropological accounts of religion. Gottlieb’s remarkably rich account, delivered after a long and reflective period of gestation, deserves a wide audience across a range of disciplines.”—Anthony Simpson, *Critique of Anthropology*

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The reason why? Because this The Afterlife Is Where We Come From: The Culture of Infancy in West Africa is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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