

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Woman's Evolution**

*From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family*

BY EVELYN REED

---

**Reviewed by:** Diane Mitter

A fresh and convincing new etiology of incest taboo is just one discovery in this odyssey through centuries of changing human culture.

Ms. Reed has chosen a bold scope—from the Matriarchy through Fratriarchy to Patriarchy; from data of archaeology to feminist future theorizing—held together by her anthropological approach.

Here is a fantastic wealth of fascinating detail on human cultural practices, enough to satisfy the most avid readers of National Geographic. We journey through societies organized as clans, kins groups, and the evolving permutations of family structures.

I had never imagined so many possible ways people could live. Woman the Culture Builder emerges page after page, exploding that insistently repeated myth of the light dawning in the sodden brain of a primitive man who, club in hand, sets out onward and upward to shape a new horizon, dragging female mate and offspring in tow; or, the caveman who conquers fire with one well executed, elegant piss.

Forget these, and discover the richly varied complexities of our ancient mothers. This is a sourcebook for dreams and imaginings, as well as for fact and theory. Readers will appreciate the glossary, index, and bibliography as guides for exploration.