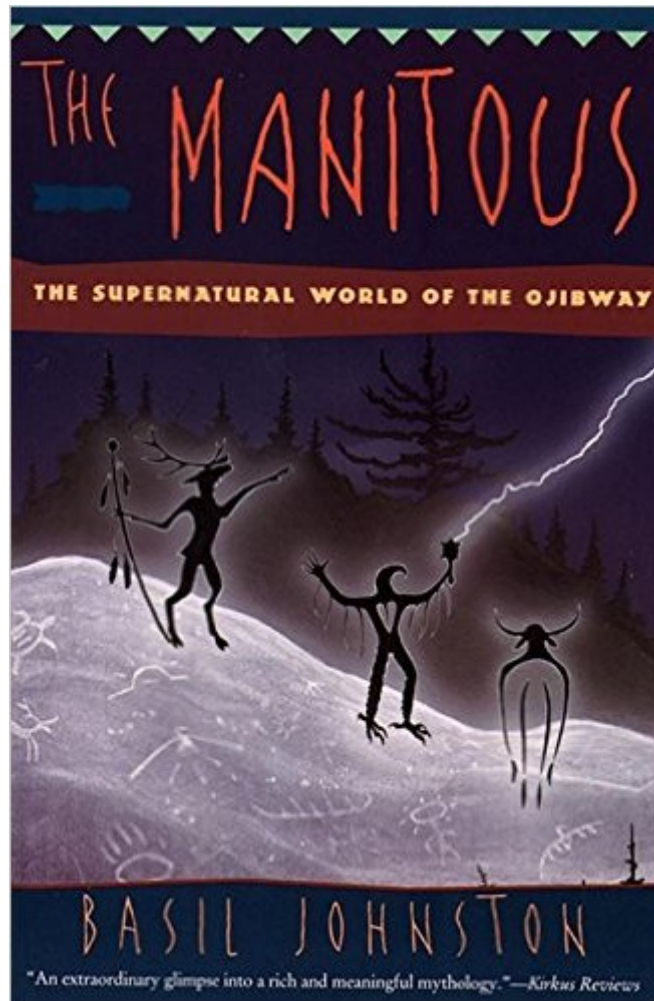


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# The Manitous: Supernatural World Of The Ojibway, The



## Synopsis

These are the stories of the manitous--the spirits who inhabit the supernatural world of the Ojibway (the Native American tribe of the Great Lakes and central Canada region). Harvested by an eminent expert from an ancient oral tradition, these sacred stories introduce wily tricksters, fearsome giants, timorous tree spirits, seductive maidens, and wise grandmothers. Here, a coward masquerading as a hero becomes one; a powerful warrior is riled and routed by a younger sibling with a gift for dancing and disguises; and the ever-hungry evil weendigos--evil manitous--haunt the land. In spellbinding and hypnotic fashion, the creation and flood legends are told, and the origin stories of corn, spruce, and tobacco are revealed. Comic, erotic, dramatic, and tragic, these engrossing tales are a window into the heart of an ancient culture, an important contribution to Native American literature, and a fascinating source of spiritual guidance for the many followers of New Age mysticism.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial (June 21, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060927356

ISBN-13: 978-0060927356

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #481,778 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Hinduism](#) #1045 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Hinduism](#) #1135 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is written in such a way to document the historical value and so interestingly you don't even realize you are learning all along the way. I found the book accurate as to the stories as I remember the old people telling them.

Basil Johnson is a master story teller and writer. The legends are all deeply meaningful. He really transmits the spirit of the Anishinaubae in a vivid way. I hope he writes down a lot more of these haunting legends and that his hopes for the recovery of the Anishinaubae language and cultural

traditions come to full realization.

This is a necessary reading if you are interested in Anishnaabe (Ojibway, Chippewa) culture and survival. Johnston tells us what Manitous are, how they've been mis-perceived and suppressed by Euro-Americans, and the importance of the stories to the survival of the Anishnaabe nation. He gives a chapter to each of the major manitous, telling their stories on the page, so they are available for those not hearing them on winter nights, or at gatherings. I am Abenaki, and so related to the Anishnaabe, with similar stories and way of being in the world. I have re-read this book every time I teach *Love Medicine*, *Tracks* or other book by Louise Erdrich. *Wliwni*.

I have taken several courses related to Native American history and culture and this book in particular has proven its worth in relation to the study of the Native American spiritual realm. I highly recommend this book to anyone, whether they are a scholar in the field or a novice just looking for something interesting to read about the field. Hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

This was a very interesting book. It is really refreshing to read about another cultures spiritual world, and the stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. My two favorite stories were about the mermaids (I will not even attempt to sound out those two names) and the one about Pauguk (even the Ojibway have their version of a creepy ghost story).I will keep a look out for more books by Basil Johnston.

Fantastic book including primary sources about the Ojibway world view. If you like books about myths and legends, you'll enjoy this. If you like books about religions, you'll enjoy this. If you like books about other cultures, you'll enjoy this.

Great price. Glad you listed the book when and where I could find it. Everything in the preview was accurate. Great delivery! The book itself is just the best stories available from the Ojibway (Ojibwe) Tribe. Miigwech/Thank you, again for making it available when and where you did!!

Johnston assembles stories from the oral traditions of his people, in a scholarly but very accessible way. He wisely draws on several sources for most, if not all, of the stories, which necessarily are mutable because they come down to us orally in the main. The book gives a valuable glimpse of a rich culture parallel to, but little recognized by, the culture dominant in North America for the last two

centuries or so. In a broad way, the flood stories and some of the other themes remind readers again of the near universality of many human myths and efforts to explain the physical world around us, and to reconcile ourselves with it.

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