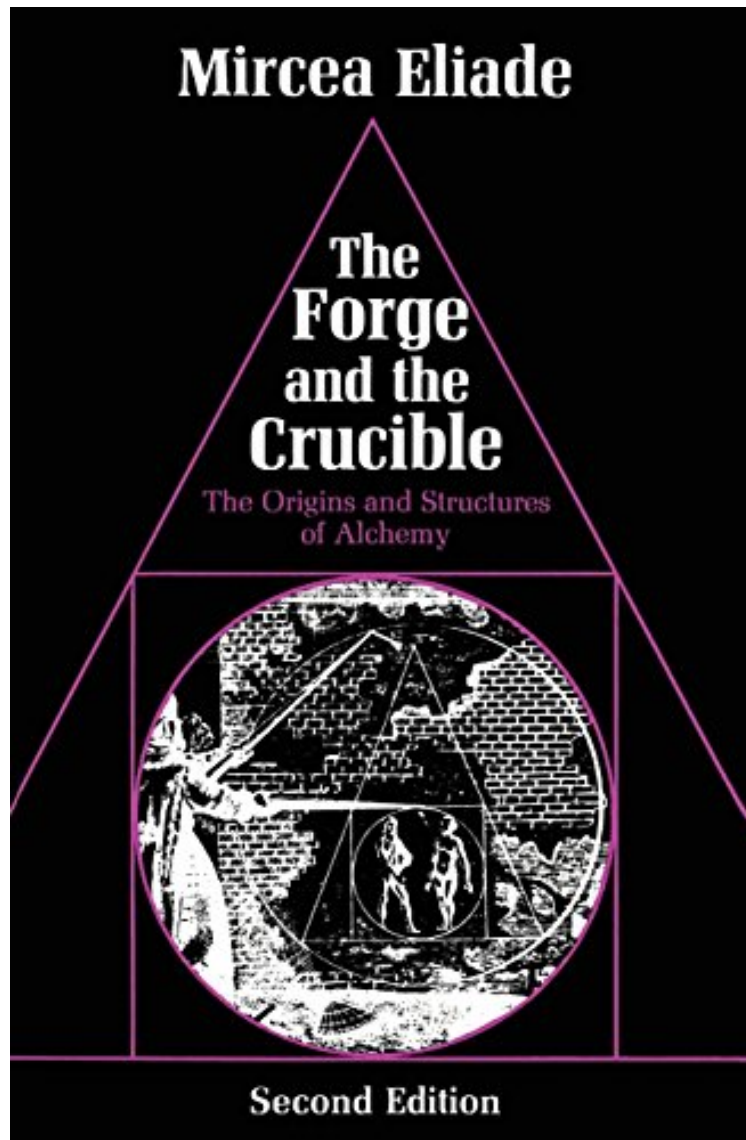


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The Forge and the Crucible: The Origins and Structure of Alchemy

Mircea Eliade

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Mircea Eliade : The Forge and the Crucible: The Origins and Structure of Alchemy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Forge and the Crucible: The Origins and Structure of Alchemy:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. fantastic resource By Michele Langman This is a fantastic resource, incredibly comprehensive especially as it includes an insightful discussion of Jung's researches into alchemy. It also investigates the history of metal-working and the way it affects the development of alchemy. Eliade is a marvellous

researcher and writer, his use of references is exhaustive and illuminating. Oddly enough he does not include a chapter on Arabic alchemy although he refers to it and it seems very important. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting take on the rise of secular chemistry and its ...By Bradford Matsunaga Interesting take on the rise of secular chemistry and its de-sacralization from its "mythic" roots and the attempt to recapture the Age of Gold in a present Age of Iron. 99 of 101 people found the following review helpful. Great Introductions to a fascinating subject By M. Scott If I had my time over again I would read these three books on alchemy in the following order: All of them are excellent in their own sphere to introduce a complex process. (1) *The Forge and the Crucible* - Eliade This is an excellent prehistory of alchemy showing the patterns of thought out of which Alchemy most probably arose. An easy read. (2) *Anatomy of the Soul* - Edinger Set out according to seven processes involved in alchemy Calcinitio, Solutio, Coagulatio, Sublimatio, Mortificatio, Separatio, Coniunctio, this is an accessible book that puts each process in reasonably neat boxes, (though the considerable overlap and intermingling is acknowledged). The approach is somewhat mechanical. (3) *Alchemy, an Introduction...* - Von Franz. More 'organic' than Edinger, Von Franz has a very warm and human touch. She deals with the origins of alchemy in Egypt and Greece and delves into the 'Aurora Consurgens', attributed to Aquinas. She includes relevant and interesting case material. Being a transcription of lectures, it is a little haphazard, though none the less informative for that.

Primitive man's discovery of the ability to change matter from one state to another brought about a profound change in spiritual behavior. In *The Forge and the Crucible*, Mircea Eliade follows the ritualistic adventures of these ancient societies, adventures rooted in the people's awareness of an awesome new power. The new edition of *The Forge and the Crucible* contains an updated appendix, in which Eliade lists works on Chinese alchemy published in the past few years. He also discusses the importance of alchemy in Newton's scientific evolution.

Language Notes Text: English, French (translation) About the Author Mircea Eliade (1907-1986) was the Sewell L. Avery Distinguished Service Professor in the Divinity School and professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. His books published by the University of Chicago Press include *Autobiography, Volume II*; the novel *The Old Man and the Bureaucrats*; the three-volume *History of Religious Ideas*; *Ordeal by Labyrinth*; and several other works on the history of religions.