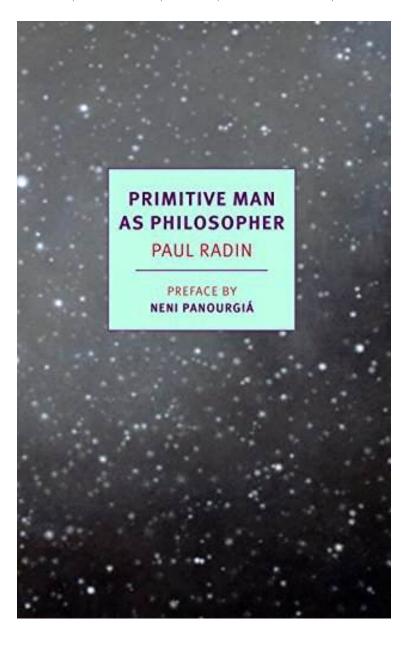
Primitive Man as Philosopher (NYRB Classics)

By Paul Radin
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2 of 3 review helpful old time anthropology By laolaohu This book was undoubtedly cutting edge when first published back in 1927 but today it s observations are clearly dated Basically it is this primitive peoples are capable of abstract thought Seems pedestrian now but back in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when we were first coming into contact with the American Indian tribes for instance or the tribal peo Anthropology is a science whose most significant discoveries have come when it has taken its bearings from literature and what makes Paul Radin rsquo s Primitive nbsp Man as Philosopher a seminal piece of anthropological inquiry is that it is also a book of enduring wonder Writing in the 1920s when anthropology was still young Radin set out to show that Idquo primitive rdquo cultures are as intellectually sophisticated and venturesome as any of their Idquo Paul Radin rsquo s neglected classic rdquo nbsp mdash Clifford Geertz The Antioch Idquo By skillful use of texts from native informants and his own colorful prose I believe Radin succeeds well enough so that the book is a landmark

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