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# Of Water and the Spirit: Ritual, Magic and Initiation in the Life of an African Shaman (Compass) Paperback – May 1, 1995

by Malidoma Patrice Some (Author)

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Maliodoma Patrice Some was born in a Dagara Village, however he was soon to be abducted to a Jesuit school, where he remained for the next fifteen years, being harshly indoctrinated into european ways of thought and worship. The story tells of his return to his people, his hard initiation back into those people, which lead to his desire to convey their knowledge to the world. Of Water and the Spirit is the result of that desire; it is a sharing of living African traditions, offered in compassion for those struggling with our contemporary crisis of the spirit.

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## Editorial Reviews

### About the Author

Malidoma Somé was born in Burkina Faso in 1956. At the age of four, he was forcefully taken from his family to be educated at a French Jesuit boarding school. At the age of twenty, he escaped from the school and was reunited with his family. He now lectures on his experiences.

## Product details

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### Malidoma Patrice Some

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Top reviews

### Top reviews from the United States

Alicia
**Great Book**
Reviewed in the United States on August 23, 2020
Verified Purchase
One of the best books I've read this year. I'm also spiritual and I know that African magic is real. I noticed that someone said that this guy was lying about these events. I don't know if he was lying about the event but I do know the magic works. The problem with some people is the magic may not work for them because it is not meant for them. Some of us don't have Afrikan ancestors meaning that there not of African descent. The magic is ancestral so unfortunately for some people who learn our magic, they will never be able to use it because we share the same ancestors. There was someone who mentioned >"if the magic really worked why couldn't he do more like become a millionaire. "Because there are rules to Magic and that's not how it works. Magic is spiritual not physical so those who are not spiritual will never understand how it works. (meaning those born without souls) Again this is a great book. I do recommend it to people of African descent and those who are just curious will live reading about the Magic we process. Ase' to the writer. Thanks for a great book. 👍😊
33 people found this helpful
Helpful | Report abuse

K. Williams
**READ IT!!!**
Reviewed in the United States on May 16, 2017
Verified Purchase
This is the best book I have ever read in my entire life and anyone that knows me knows I've read LOTS of books. This books takes you on a truly magical journey. I don't doubt anything written in this book because I can feel the it's the truth within my soul. This book was so well-written and truly amazing. My soul couldn't get enough of it. I recommend this book to everyone i know. I wont give a description but if you're starting out on your spiritual journey, curious about the ways of some of your African ancestors, a lover of nature, or even if you're third eye is WIDE open, read this book. It's just a blessing.
100 people found this helpful
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Timothy McConnell
**what i dont get**
Reviewed in the United States on June 14, 2019
Verified Purchase
What I don't get is, if the tribe's elders can do magic, such as telepathy, teleportation, getting information from someone's aura, and manifestation, why are they scraping by? Why does he take airplanes to get around? Why don't they just manifest gold, diamonds, etc. instead of needing him to send them $600 every month? I like the book, have read multiple times, but can't find it applicable to my life. It doesn't seem like the tribe uses magic to solve basic problems, which leads me wondering why not? Something doesn't add up. And for what it's worth, I've worked with shamans in real life.
23 people found this helpful
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MaRen
**African spirituality,**
Reviewed in the United States on April 24, 2018
Verified Purchase
This MUST BE ADDED IN EVERY BLACK PERSONAL LIBRARY. Every Black person MUST read this book. Beautifully written!
So much hidden gems within this book. As a young woman who is embarking on her spiritual journey, I recognized (some part of ) myself within this book.

"It was all in me. I was the room and the door. It was all me. I just had to remember. " Malidoma Some.
29 people found this helpful
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critical sage
**Astounding**
Reviewed in the United States on October 10, 2018
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I had the chance to meet Malidoma after reading his book. I was amazed by some the events depicted in book and had to track him down to see what this man was truly like. He did a divination for me that was astounding and I even wrote about in my own book - Pathless Path: God, Grace, Guru
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Joyce
**A book that changes the reader**
Reviewed in the United States on September 26, 2012
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Malidoma, born in what is now Burkina Faso, West Africa, was his shaman grandfather's shadow until age four. That year his grandfather died, and Malidoma was kidnapped from his home by a French Jesuit missionary. For the next 16 years he suffered almost every kind of abuse as he was trained in Western culture. He escaped at age 20 and, walking 300 miles from the seminary, found his way back to his tribal village, where he now was an outsider. The elders offered him the opportunity to participate in an intensive six-week shamanic initiation with younger tribal boys which, if he survived, would reestablish his connection to the tribe. After undergoing the initiation, Malidoma learned that his destiny lay in being a bridge between Western civilization and indigenous culture. Studying in the Sorbonne and Brandeis University, he now holds three master's degrees and two PhDs. Though he returns regularly to his tribal home for renewal, he makes his home in the U.S. where he has taught at the University of Michigan and now leads seminars, intensives, and rituals.

Malidoma's open, vulnerable, detailed stories of his experiences in the Jesuit school and in his initiation

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InnocentnLovely
**So relatable to me!**
Reviewed in the United States on November 8, 2016
Verified Purchase
This book is so relatable....I'm the complete opposite though...I was born into a lie and now having to untangle myself from the lies and the false history...this book has been a great help!
29 people found this helpful
Helpful | Report abuse

sg
**What an adventure!**
Reviewed in the United States on May 22, 2018
Verified Purchase
What a book! What an adventure! I am sorry it is finished. I've ordered another. This book brings the magic of childhood back to life. The possibility of possibility. I could not put it down. The story-telling is perfect. The story, incredible. Read with an open mind and allow abundance to fill your inner life with wonder at all that is possible.
11 people found this helpful
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### Top reviews from other countries

Arusha T
**Powerful!**
Reviewed in the United Kingdom on October 24, 2019
Verified Purchase
An absolutely amazing read! From almost the first page to the last I was completely absorbed by the author's spiritual and cultural journey; albeit an extremely painful one. What is so sad, is how few Africans have been able to hold on to the wonderfully rich traditional heritage of our ancestor's belief/faith systems. Nonetheless, a must read for all those Africans in search of a lost spiritual heritage.
6 people found this helpful
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Ms. Amore
**Every Melanated person should read**
Reviewed in the United Kingdom on November 25, 2019
Verified Purchase
Absolutely AMAZING Spiritual book that every person of melanin should read, Malidoma takes you on a magickal, mysterious ride. I do not want to give out spoilers, but this is a must read.
5 people found this helpful
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Kio
**A book everyone must know**
Reviewed in the United Kingdom on July 22, 2020
Verified Purchase
This book has been in my top 5 for over 10years, this is my 5th copy, everyone should read.
3 people found this helpful
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CaroleM
**A healing journey**
Reviewed in the United Kingdom on October 14, 2018
Verified Purchase
This book was captivating from the very first page it took you on a journey not just the writer's journey but it also somehow took me on inner a journey of self Discovery and Awakening.
5 people found this helpful
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Ayebainemi Abieyuwa Ese
**Touching, inspiring and healing entity of a book**
Reviewed in the United Kingdom on February 16, 2021
Verified Purchase
Incredible book detailing the lost magic and wisdom of our ancestral african heritage due to the ramifications of colonialism. Malidoma Somé is a beautiful storyteller and healing writer. This was everything I needed to read especially in these times of uncertainty, racism and loss of spirit in the West. Couldn't recommend more.
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