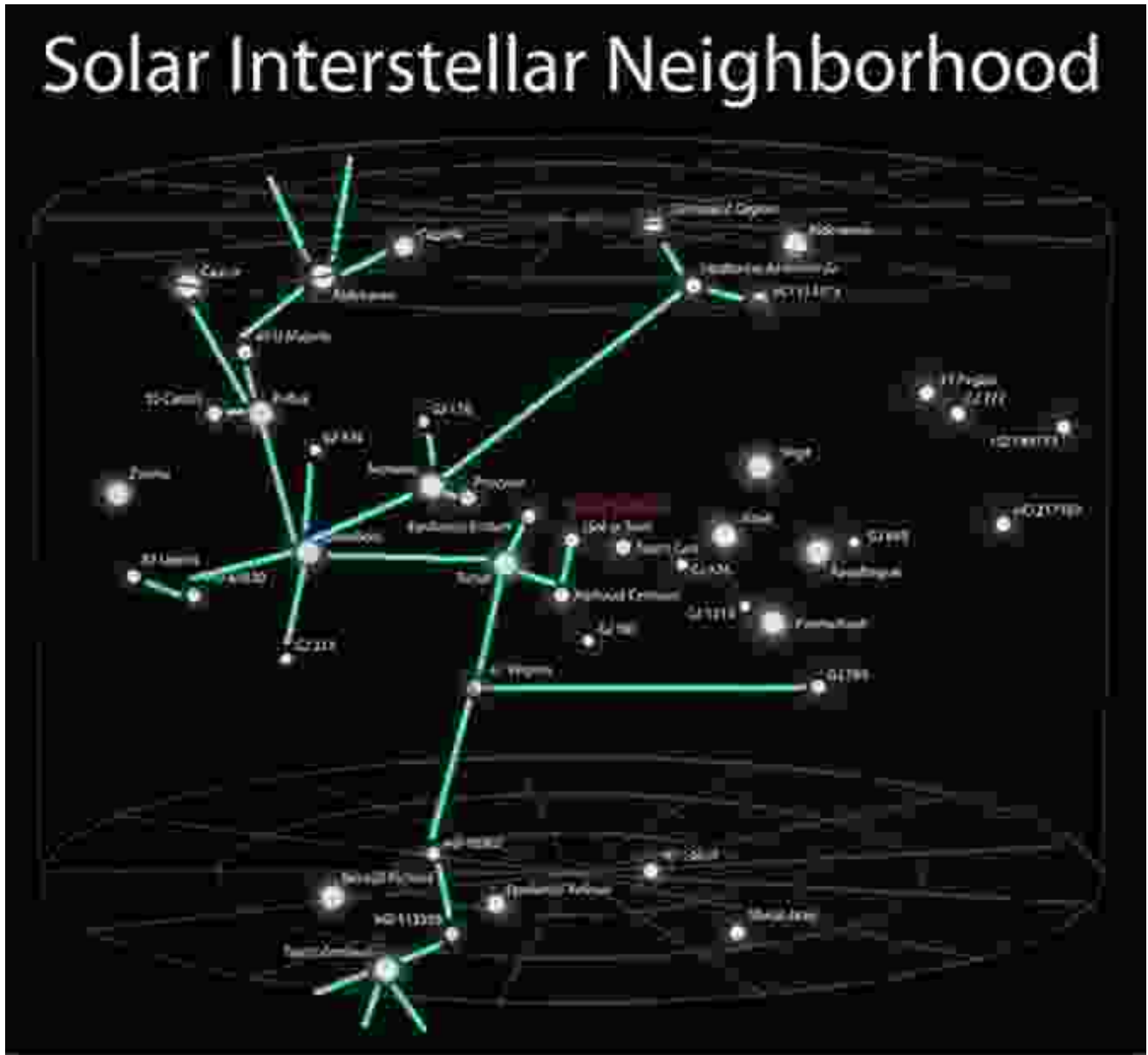


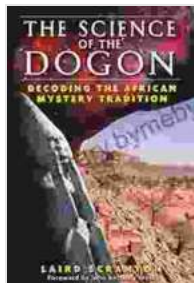
# Unlocking the Secrets of the Cosmos: The Science of the Dogon

A Comprehensive Exploration into an Ancient African Culture's Profound Astronomical Wisdom



Nestled in the rugged landscape of central Mali, the Dogon people have long fascinated anthropologists and scholars with their deep connection to

the cosmos. Known for their intricate cosmology, the Dogon possess a vast body of knowledge about the stars, planets, and celestial events that has been passed down through generations.



## The Science of the Dogon: Decoding the African Mystery Tradition by Laird Scranton

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

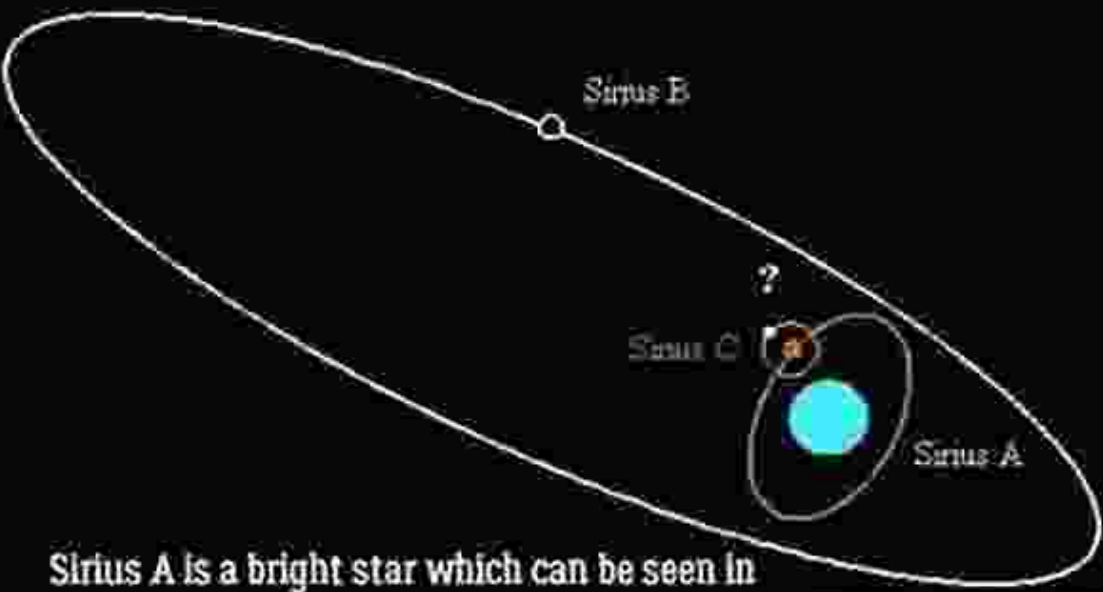
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Print length : 226 pages



In "The Science of the Dogon," renowned anthropologist Marcel Griaule meticulously documents and interprets the enigmatic wisdom of this ancient African culture. Through extensive fieldwork and collaboration with Dogon elders, Griaule uncovers a sophisticated scientific understanding that challenges our conventional notions of indigenous knowledge.

### **Astronomy and the Celestial Free Download**

At the heart of the Dogon cosmology lies a profound understanding of the heavens. The Dogon recognize a system of 58 stars, far beyond what is visible to the naked eye. They also possess detailed knowledge of the planets, particularly Saturn, which they consider the most important celestial body after the Sun.




The diagram illustrates the Sirius star system. It features a large, light blue star labeled 'Sirius A' at the center. A smaller, reddish-brown star labeled 'Sirius C' is shown orbiting Sirius A in a smaller, inner elliptical path. A question mark '?' is placed near Sirius C. A much larger, white elliptical orbit surrounds the entire system, with a small white dot labeled 'Sirius B' positioned at the top of this outer orbit.

**Sirius A is a bright star which can be seen in the western sky through the naked eye, but not Sirius B its invisible companion.**

**The Dogon people knew that Sirius B was very small but very dense or heavy. Yet its existence was proven only in 1970 when it was photographed for the first time by Western astronomers. The Dogon tribe knew about the existence of this invisible star for thousands of years.**

**They also knew that Saturn has four moons, and has rings or halos around it, although these cannot be seen without powerful telescopes.**



One of the most remarkable aspects of Dogon astronomy is their knowledge of the Sirius star system. They correctly describe Sirius B, an invisible companion star, its white dwarf nature, and its 50-year orbital period around Sirius A. This knowledge is highly accurate and astonishing, considering it was acquired without the aid of telescopes or modern scientific instruments.

## **The Cosmic Egg and the Origin of the Universe**

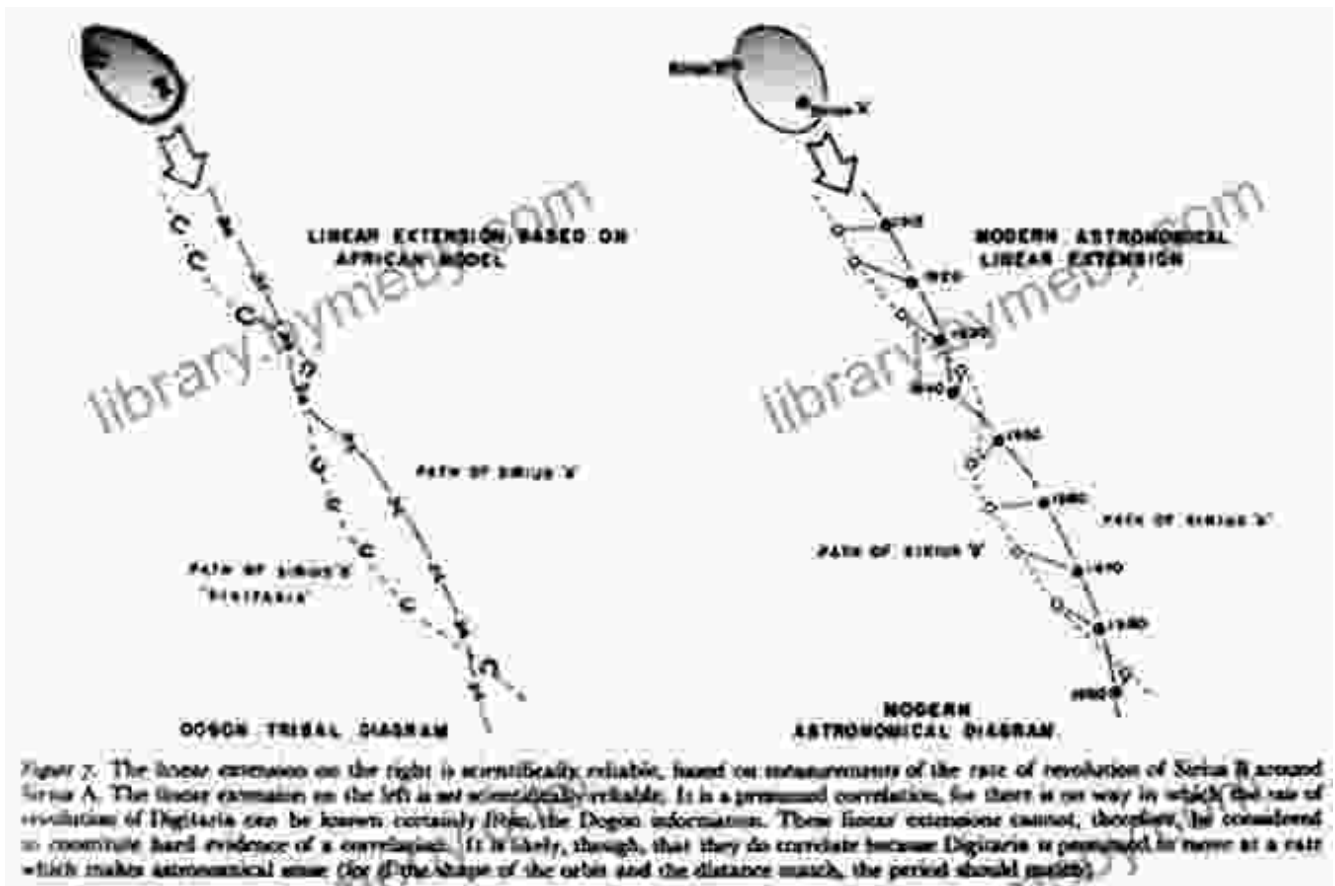
The Dogon believe that the universe originated from a cosmic egg, an idea strikingly similar to the Big Bang theory. They describe the egg as having two halves, one male and the other female, representing the fundamental principles of duality and balance in the cosmos.

According to the Dogon, the universe was created through a series of vibrations that emanated from the cosmic egg. These vibrations took the form of sound waves, which condensed into matter and gave birth to the planets, stars, and other celestial bodies.

## **Time, Cycles, and the Calendar**

The Dogon have a sophisticated system for measuring time, which is based on astronomical cycles. Their calendar consists of two main cycles: a yearly cycle of 360 days, divided into 12 months, and a longer cycle of approximately 60 years.

The yearly cycle is tracked by observing the movement of the Sun and the stars. The Dogon recognize the summer and winter solstices, as well as the equinoxes. The longer cycle is based on the Dogon belief in the precession of the equinoxes, which marks the gradual shift in Earth's axis of rotation.



## Mythology and Symbolism

The Dogon cosmology is intertwined with a rich tapestry of mythology and symbolism. The Dogon believe in a pantheon of deities who represent various celestial bodies and cosmic forces. They also have a profound understanding of the symbolism of numbers, shapes, and colors.

For instance, the number 3 represents the fundamental principle of creation, as it refers to the male, female, and neutral principles. The circle represents the universe, while the cross represents the duality of male and female energies.

## Transmission and Interpretation

The Dogon have traditionally transmitted their knowledge orally from one generation to the next. Elders hold the role of custodians of this ancient wisdom and pass it on to younger members of the community through storytelling, rituals, and ceremonies.

Marcel Griaule's collaboration with Dogon elders allowed him to document and interpret their cosmology. However, some scholars have questioned the accuracy of his work, suggesting that he may have misinterpreted or exaggerated certain aspects of Dogon knowledge.

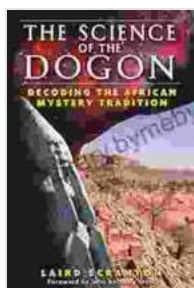
### **Modern Relevance and Legacy**

Despite ongoing debates, "The Science of the Dogon" remains a seminal work that has sparked significant interest in the astronomical knowledge of ancient African cultures. It has inspired further research and raised questions about the limits of our understanding of the cosmos.

The Dogon people continue to preserve and share their cultural heritage, which includes their profound astronomical wisdom. Their knowledge serves as a testament to the ingenuity and intellectual capacity of ancient civilizations, reminding us that human understanding of the universe is constantly evolving.

"The Science of the Dogon" is a captivating and thought-provoking exploration into the extraordinary knowledge of an ancient African culture. Through Marcel Griaule's meticulous documentation and interpretation, we gain a glimpse into the Dogon's profound understanding of the heavens, the origin of the universe, and the fundamental principles of existence.

While the accuracy of Griaule's work may be subject to debate, the Dogon's astronomical wisdom remains a source of inspiration and fascination. It serves as a reminder that the boundaries of human knowledge are constantly expanding, and that the pursuit of understanding the cosmos is an ongoing journey that spans cultures and time.



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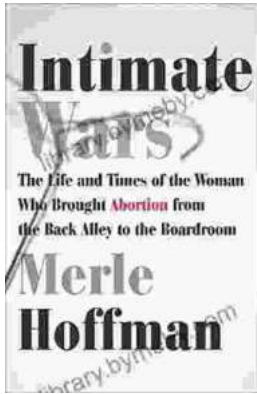
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