

CONTENTS

Foreword	ix
Translator's Note	xi
Abbreviations	xiii
List of Texts-Figures and Plates	xvii
Introduction	1
Chapter One Religion, Cult and Mystery	17
Chapter Two Systems of Belief	25
1. Cosmic Order and the Nature of the Divine	33
a. The Egyptian Cults	39
i. The Myth of Isis and Osiris	39
ii. Serapis	52
b. The Myth of Cybele and Attis	63
c. Mithras	74
2. Humankind in the World	106
3. The World Beyond	122
Chapter Three Systems of Value	143
1. Between Utopia and Reality	154
2. Ethics in the Phrygian Cults	165
3. Isiac Ethics	177
4. Moral Values in Mithraism	192
Chapter Four The Ritual Systems	205
1. Religion and Ritual	206
2. Rituals in the Mysteries	211
a. Initiation	217
b. Sacrifice	221
c. Commensality	227
d. Prayer	231
3. Rituals in the Phrygian Cults	240
a. Introduction	240
b. Emasculation	246

c. The <i>taurobolium/criobolium</i>	261
d. Initiation	276
e. The <i>Megalensia</i> and the March Festival of Attis	282
4. Rituals in the Egyptian Cults	293
a. Festivals	296
b. Cultic Practice	305
i. Sacrifice and Votives	313
ii. Prayer, Healing and Incubation	318
c. Initiation	336
5. Cultic Practice in Mithraism	344
a. The Ritual Function of the Mithraeum	349
b. Initiation and the Initiatory Grades	364
Chapter Five The Oriental Cults and Christianity	383
1. The Problems	384
2. The Sub-system of Belief	393
3. The Sub-system of Ethics	401
4. The Sub-system of Ritual	405
5. From Reverse Borrowing to 'Commensality'	417
Bibliography	423
Plates	445
General Index	461
Index of Inscriptions, Papyri and Monuments	474
Index of Passages	481