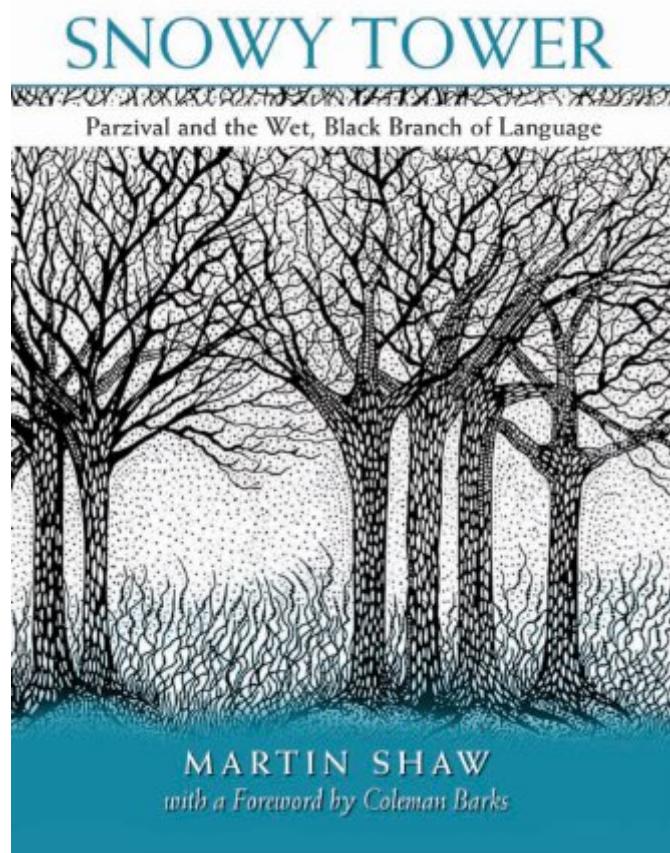


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Snowy Tower: Parzival And The Wet Black Branch Of Language

"An outrageous piece of magic, this horde of galloping insights sprung from the meeting of one of Europe's most alchemical story traditions with the pirate brilliance of Martin Shaw."
—David Abram, author of *The Spell of the Sensuous*



Synopsis

In Snowy Tower, Dr. Martin Shaw continues his trilogy of works on the relationship between myth, wilderness, and a culture of wildness. In this second book, he gives a telling of the Grail epic Parzival. Claiming it as a great trickster story of medieval Europe, he offers a deft and erudite commentary, with topics ranging from climate change and the soul to the discipline of erotic consciousness, from the hallucination of empire to a revisioning of the dark speech of the ancient bards. Ingrained in the very syntax of Snowy Tower is an invocation of what Shaw calls "wild mythologies" stories that are more than just human allegory, that seem to brush the winged thinking of owl, stream, and open moor. This daring work offers a connection to the genius of the margins; that the big questions of today will not be solved by big answers, but by the myriad of associations that both myth and wilderness offer.

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Customer Reviews

Martin Shaw is an extraordinary language user and story teller, and his psycho-mythic intelligence -- his sense of his the psyche develops and is trained through the process of narrative-- is bone deep and rife with insight. Shaw may be the foremost contemporary practitioner of this genre of literature ,

which braids story and exegesis together in an "journey of the soul" narrative, in the line of Robert Johnson, Joseph Campbell, Robert Bly, Marion Woodman, Marie Von Franz, etc. Even more than those writers, Shaw is capable of passages of metaphor and linguistic embroidery that those other (mostly) north American writers could never do--thus Shaw's *Parzival* book-- like his others,-- is a kind of literary experience of its own, and this sensuous ludic dimension of the work adds another kind of hypnagogic richness to the reading and thinking -- This is rich important work cultural studies, introspective psychoanalysis and story telling all put together. Important work here!

If you have never had the pleasure of hearing Martin Shaw speak or reading his books, this will be a treat for the mind and heart. If you have had the pleasure, this will still be a treat. His exegesis of the *Parzival* story, with fascinating asides linking the deep meaning of the tale to our modern world and current yearnings and challenges to our humanity. Thought-provoking and entertaining, *Parzival* and the Wet Black Branch of Language is an intelligent, informed and wise journey through the forests and briar patches of the human heart. If you feel the least bit drawn to this book, my advice is to read it, put it back on the shelf and then read it again. Truly, a gift to every sojourner on the path of becoming human.

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