Record Nr. UNINA9910811904603321 Autore Ellwood Robert S. <1933-> Titolo Tales of lights and shadows: mythology of the afterlife / / Robert Ellwood Pubbl/distr/stampa London; New York:,: Continuum,, [2010] ©2010 **ISBN** 1-282-82207-1 9786612822070 1-4411-8603-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (173 p.) Disciplina 202/.3 Soggetti Future life Mythology Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (pages [145]-149) and index. Nota di contenuto In that good night, what dreams may come? : myth, meaning, and afterlife -- Hungry and happy fields of the dead : gloomy vs. bright views of the afterlife -- The several homelands of the heart : abodes of the soul -- Circling paths, endless journey: reincarnation vs. eternal life in heaven or hell -- God or garden of delights? : is heaven theocentric or anthropocentric? -- Ghostly fear and love: the dread of ancestral spirits vs. respect and honor -- On the long march: community and religious solidarity vs. individual reward and punishment -- Amazing grace : difficult vs. the easy path -- The end of days: linear and cyclical time -- Common and uncommon faith: the afterlife in folk religion and the great tradition -- Retrospect : afterlife and culture. Sommario/riassunto Tales of Lights and Shadows offers a fresh approach to the traditional mythology and literature of the afterlife, centering on tensions and polarities in the afterlife concepts: bright vs. dismal, heaven vs. reincarnation, theocentric vs. anthropocentric heaven, etc. Presenting examples from virtually all the world's religious cultures past and present, this fascinating book puts the concepts clearly in the context

of the worldview and social issues of that society. Robert Ellwood

depicts the many rich mythologies of the afterlife from the ancient Mesopotamians, Japanese, Greeks of the Homeric