



Beyond the Vision: Essays on American Indian Culture (Civilization of the American Indian)

William K. Powers

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For anthropologist William K Powers, the study of humanity demands that one live up to the "mandates of a vision." Theories, says the author, are like visions and "may be continually discarded and replaced" with new theories, each one contingent in some way upon the last. This collection of essays includes seven chapters on widely varying aspects of American Indian culture. Powers's observations are connected by a thread of structuralism that elucidates philosophical functionalism, sociobiology, and ethnomusicology. Even more strongly binding the pieces together is Powers's debt to Claude Levi-Strauss. The book is dedicated to the great anthropologist, whom Powers calls "bold and speculative, scientific and philosophical, theoretical and empirical."

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