

# Review of: "Intersecting Realms of Totemism and Spiritual Uniqueness: A Cross-Cultural Exploration of Mystical Experiences"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The draft I was sent is full of insightful observations on the nature of totemic cultures around the world. A great deal of this originates in the uses of phenomenological classics as methodological materials. However, I do believe that the authors need to rework the ways they present their ideas on paper - the endless subsectioning of observations confuses and fragments their argument. Fewer sections will produce a more coherent thesis.

Regarding the thesis: I would expect more clarity in the objectives of the analysis. There is a great deal of analysis on totemism, but the notion of spiritual uniqueness is lost on me. Instead, I am taken through a series of notes on the subject's encounters with material representations of divine entities, which is not the same. In fact, this matter is addressed most in half a page (pp.6-7). There is also a promise to produce an analysis via fusions of postcolonial, posthumanist, and other such paradigmatic discourses, which is not really kept, save less than half a dozen references to texts that are not necessarily the best or most paradigmatically useful to use.

Perhaps the authors would benefit from reading the following: <https://www.dukeupress.edu/on-the-modern-cult-of-the-factish-gods>

And, possibly this illuminating essay: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/http://www.bruno-latour.fr/sites/default/files/downloads/84-ICONOCLASH%20PDF.pdf>

Please note that my disciplinary orientation is very different from that of the authors'.</p>