



Polynesian Researches: Hawaii

William Ellis

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Polynesian Researches: Hawaii is the famous record of the author's visit to the Hawaiian Islands in the early nineteenth century. It includes an account of Hawaiian history, government, religion, warfare, and traditions- a general survey of Hawaiian life. More than this, it is the author's personal observations of Hawaiian manners and customs and is invaluable to anyone interested in old Hawaii.

The author, Rev. William Ellis, lived in Polynesia as a missionary from 1817 to 1825. He spent much of his time in Tahiti and soon became fluent in the language. Before returning to England, he seized an opportunity to visit the Hawaiian Islands. He was soon able to talk with the natives in the Hawaiian language and made a tour of the island of Hawaii.

On his tour he talked with chiefs, common people Hawaiian holy-men, and divinely possessed oracles. He climbed volcanoes, rode canoes, and visited the sight of Captain Cook's death. Besides the description of his tour, this book includes an account of Maui, Kahoolawe, Molokini, Lani, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, Hiihau, and Kaula.

The book is full of interesting descriptions of the author's encounters with Hawaiians. It is fast-moving and easy-reading. This book, an encyclopedic account of traditional Hawaii.

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