

# The Gift The Form And Reason For Exchange In Archaic Societies

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GO TO THE TECHNICAL WRITING FOR AN EXPANDED TYPE OF THIS THE GIFT THE FORM AND REASON FOR EXCHANGE IN ARCHAIC SOCIETIES, ALONG WITH A CORRECTLY FORMATTED VERSION OF THE INSTANCE MANUAL PAGE ABOVE.

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And with good reason. Mauss's "The Gift" has become one of those landmark books that has become a staple for anthropology and social theory; however, I think it deserves far more. If you can, for all 80 pgs of it, discard the notion that this is old-fashioned armchair ethnography, The Gift is an immensely enlightening read. Seriously. Mauss looks comparatively at several societies through the present and history. He finds, in the end, one common thread that unites them all. Marcel Mauss' seminal work of ethnography reviews the practice of the 'potlatch' in a number of archaic societies throughout the world. His analysis and empirical data are far reaching and highly specific, drawing on a number of the finest researchers in the field (such as Malinowski). The Gift: The Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies by Marcel Mauss highlights the concept of gift-giving and reciprocity in several societies. The author holds the view that in archaic societies, there had to be some form of reciprocation for any gifts given. One of the critical reasons for the exchange was the belief that gifts created spiritual connections. The author notes: In this system of ideas one clearly and logically realizes that one must give back to another person what is really part and parcel of his nature and substance, because to accept something from somebody i