The Ancient Indus Valley: New Perspectives (Understanding Ancient Civilizations) by Jane R. McIntosh

The Ancient Indus Valley: Enjoyable, Fascinating Reading

The Ancient Indus Valley: New Perspectives takes readers back to a civilization as complex as its contemporaries in Mesopotamia and Egypt, one that covered a far larger region, yet lasted a much briefer time (less than a millennium) and left few visible traces.

Researchers have tentatively reconstructed a model of Indus life based on limited material remains and despite its virtually indecipherable written record. This volume describes what is known about the roots of Indus civilization in farming culture, as well as its far-flung trading network, sophisticated crafts and architecture, and surprisingly war-free way of life. Readers will get a glimpse of both a remarkable piece of the past and the extraordinary methods that have brought it back to life.

My Personal Review:
This book treats the known facts, questions and mysteries of the Indus Civilization with thoroughness and care. The author discusses many aspects of the ancient civilization in depth, speaking to the lay reader with clarity and evident mastery of the subject. Jane McIntosh treats the unknown, of which there is a great deal, judiciously. For example, she has a chapter on the language in which she presents the possible historical links to the unsolved puzzle and explores the various theories that have been put forth, but, while she offers her thoughts, she takes no strong stand of her own. The author also describes in some depth the cultures with which the Indus Civilization had ties so the reader experiences a broader perspective of the age and the surrounds. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is fascinated by the Indus Civilization.

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