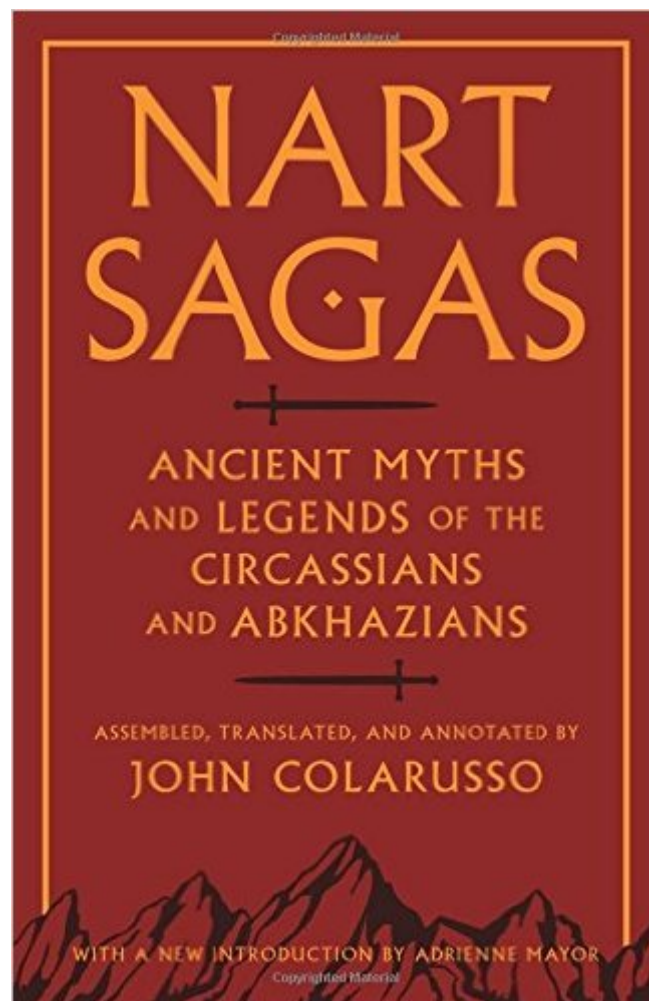


The book was found

# Nart Sagas: Ancient Myths And Legends Of The Circassians And Abkhazians



## Synopsis

The sagas of the ancient Narts are to the Caucasus what Greek mythology is to Western civilization. This book presents, for the first time in the West, a wide selection of these fascinating myths preserved among four related peoples whose ancient cultures today survive by a thread. In ninety-two straightforward tales populated by extraordinary characters and exploits, by giants who humble haughty Narts, by horses and sorceresses, Nart Sagas from the Caucasus brings these cultures to life in a powerful epos. In these colorful tales, women, not least the beautiful temptress Satanaya, the mother of all Narts, are not only fertility figures but also pillars of authority and wisdom. In one variation on a recurring theme, a shepherd, overcome with passion on observing Satanaya bathing alone, shoots a "bolt of lust" that strikes a rock--a rock that gives birth to the Achilles-like Sawseruquo, or Sosruquo. With steely skin but tender knees, Sawseruquo is a man the Narts come to love and hate. Despite a tragic history, the Circassians, Abazas, Abkhaz, and Ubykhs have retained the Nart sagas as a living tradition. The memory of their elaborate warrior culture, so richly expressed by these tales, helped them resist Tsarist imperialism in the nineteenth century, Stalinist suppression in the twentieth, and has bolstered their ongoing cultural journey into the post-Soviet future. Because these peoples were at the crossroads of Eurasia for millennia, their myths exhibit striking parallels with the lore of ancient India, classical Greece, and pagan Scandinavia. The Nart sagas may also have formed a crucial component of the Arthurian cycle. Notes after each tale reveal these parallels; an appendix offers extensive linguistic commentary. With this book, no longer will the analysis of ancient Eurasian myth be possible without a close look at the Nart sagas. And no longer will the lover of myth be satisfied without the pleasure of having read them. Excerpts from the Nart sagas "The Narts were a tribe of heroes. They were huge, tall people, and their horses were also exuberant Alyps or Durduls. They were wealthy, and they also had a state. That is how the Narts lived their lives. . . ." "The Narts were courageous, energetic, bold, and good-hearted. Thus they lived until God sent down a small swallow. . . ." "The Narts were very cruel to one another. They were envious of one another. They disputed among themselves over who was the most courageous. But most of all they hated Sosruquo. . . . A rock gave birth to him. He is the son of a rock, illegally born a mere shepherd's son. . . ." In a new introduction, folklorist Adrienne Mayor reflects on these tales both in terms of the fascinating warrior culture they depict and the influence they had on Greco-Roman mythology.

## Book Information

Paperback: 456 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (June 7, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691169144

ISBN-13: 978-0691169149

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #1,018,028 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, Legends & Mythology #211 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Russian #2846 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Nart Sagas: Ancient Myths and Legends of the Circassians and Abkhazians Japanese Tales and Legends (Oxford Myths and Legends) Tales of the Narts: Ancient Myths and Legends of the Ossetians The Popol Vuh: The Mythic And Heroic Sagas Of The Kiches Of Central America Iceland: Land of the Sagas Alexander: The Great Leader and Hero of Macedonia and Ancient Greece (European History, Ancient History, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Egyptian History, Roman Empire, Roman History) Understanding Greek Myths (Myths Understood (Crabtree)) Folklore and Fairy Tales from Burma (Myanmar) (Folklore, Fairytales, Myths and Legends) Banksy: Myths & Legends, Vol. 2 - A Further Collection of the Unbelievable and the Incredible Medieval Myths, Legends, and Songs (Medieval World (Crabtree Paperback)) Inkishu: Myths and Legends of the Maasai (African Art & Literature Series) Golden Tales: Myths, Legends, and Folktales from Latin America The Folklore of Discworld: Legends, Myths, and Customs from the Discworld with Helpful Hints from Planet Earth The Cost of Deception: The Seduction of Modern Myths and Urban Legends Hollywood Urban Legends: The Truth Behind All Those Delightfully Persistent Myths of Film Television, and Music Mi Primer Larousse de Leyendas de la Mitologia: My First Larousse: Legends and Myths (Spanish Edition) Banksy. Myths & Legends: A Collection of the Unbelievable and the Incredible The Voyageur's Paddle (Myths, Legends, Fairy and Folktales) West African Trickster Tales (Oxford Myths and Legends) King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed [An English Legend] (Graphic Myths and Legends)

[Dmca](#)