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in maya theology everything from humans and crops to gods and the world itself passes through endless cycles of birth maturation dissolution death and rebirth traditional maya believe that human beings perpetuate this cycle through ritual offerings and ceremonies that have the power to rebirth the world at critical points during the calendar year the most elaborate ceremonies take place during semana santa holy week the days preceding easter on the christian calendar during which traditionalist maya replicate

many of the most important world renewing rituals that their ancient ancestors practiced at the end of the calendar year in anticipation of the new year's rites marshaling a wealth of evidence from pre-columbian texts early colonial spanish writings and decades of fieldwork with present day maya the burden of the ancients presents a masterfully detailed account of world renewing ceremonies that spans the pre-columbian era through the crisis of the conquest period and the subsequent colonial occupation all the way to the present allen j christenson focuses on santiago atitlán a tz'utujil maya community in highland guatemala and offers the first systematic analysis of how the maya preserved important elements of their ancient world renewal ceremonies by adopting similar elements of roman catholic observances and infusing them with traditional maya meanings his extensive description of holy week in santiago atitlán demonstrates that the community's contemporary ritual practices and mythic stories bear a remarkable resemblance to similar cultural entities from its pre-columbian past

shakespeare text sets new agendas for the study and use of the shakespearean text written by twenty leading experts on textual matters each essay challenges a single entrenched binary that has come to both define and limit the way we read analyze teach perform and edit shakespeare today

the survival of edmund harrold's diary for the years 1712-1715 is a remarkable piece of luck for historians not only are such diaries for the middling sort rare for this period but few provide so candid an insight into the everyday concerns and troubles of early eighteenth century life providing a full transcription of the diary with a substantial introduction and scholarly references this edition the first since a partial transcription in the nineteenth century offers a unique insight into both a troubled individual and the society in which he lived and worked born in 1678 edmund harrold seems to have worked his whole life in manchester as a barber and wigmaker with a sideline in book dealing the period covered by his diary although short is rich in its insights into his life and thoughts it lays open his struggles with alcohol his attitudes to and frequency of marital sex his reactions to the death of his three wives and 5 children and his religious meditations upon these and other subjects the diary also relates the ups and downs of his business together with the day to day realities of a provincial barber from cutting hair to wig making to unblocking the nipples of wet nurses the only medical service he records performing what emerges from these pages is a fascinating snapshot into the social professional and private life of an impoverished inhabitant of manchester during a period of profound social and economic change it is impossible to read the diary without developing some sense of empathy with this troubled man but more than this it puts flesh onto the bones of history reminding us that the people we read about and study were all individuals

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