



Harald Falck-Ytter

**Aurora**

The Northern Lights in Mythology, History and Science

**Das Polarlicht**

Aurora Borealis und Australis in mythologischer, naturwissenschaftlicher und apokalyptischer Sicht

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With numerous colour photographs.

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**A colourful window on the cosmos.**

**The aurora borealis (northern lights in the northern hemisphere, aurora australis in the southern hemisphere) is one of the most beautiful and at the same time most mysterious phenomena of nature.**

The colourful light phenomenon of the aurora borealis appears in the sparsely populated polar regions during the long winter's nights. Little is known about this ethereal occurrence, which gives dazzling displays of ghostly light and movement. The author reveals the mythology surrounding the aurora in different northern cultures, as well as the science behind the phenomenon. He discusses responses to the aurora, ranging from Aristotle to modern geophysicists, together with evidence from various cultures and traditions, thus charting the gradual understanding through history of this awe-inspiring experience.

Demonstrating the influence of the sun in the creation of the aurora, Falck-Ytter compares the northern lights with other light phenomena such as lightning and rainbows.

Beautifully illustrated, this book gives a comprehensive account of a mysterious dynamic which has fascinated and alarmed communities throughout the ages.



**Harald Falck-Ytter** (1927-2006) was born in the United States to a Norwegian father and a German mother. He grew up in Canada, Germany and Norway. He worked in Norway and Germany, as a lecturer, musician, and minister. He dedicated many years to studying the different aspects of the aurora.

