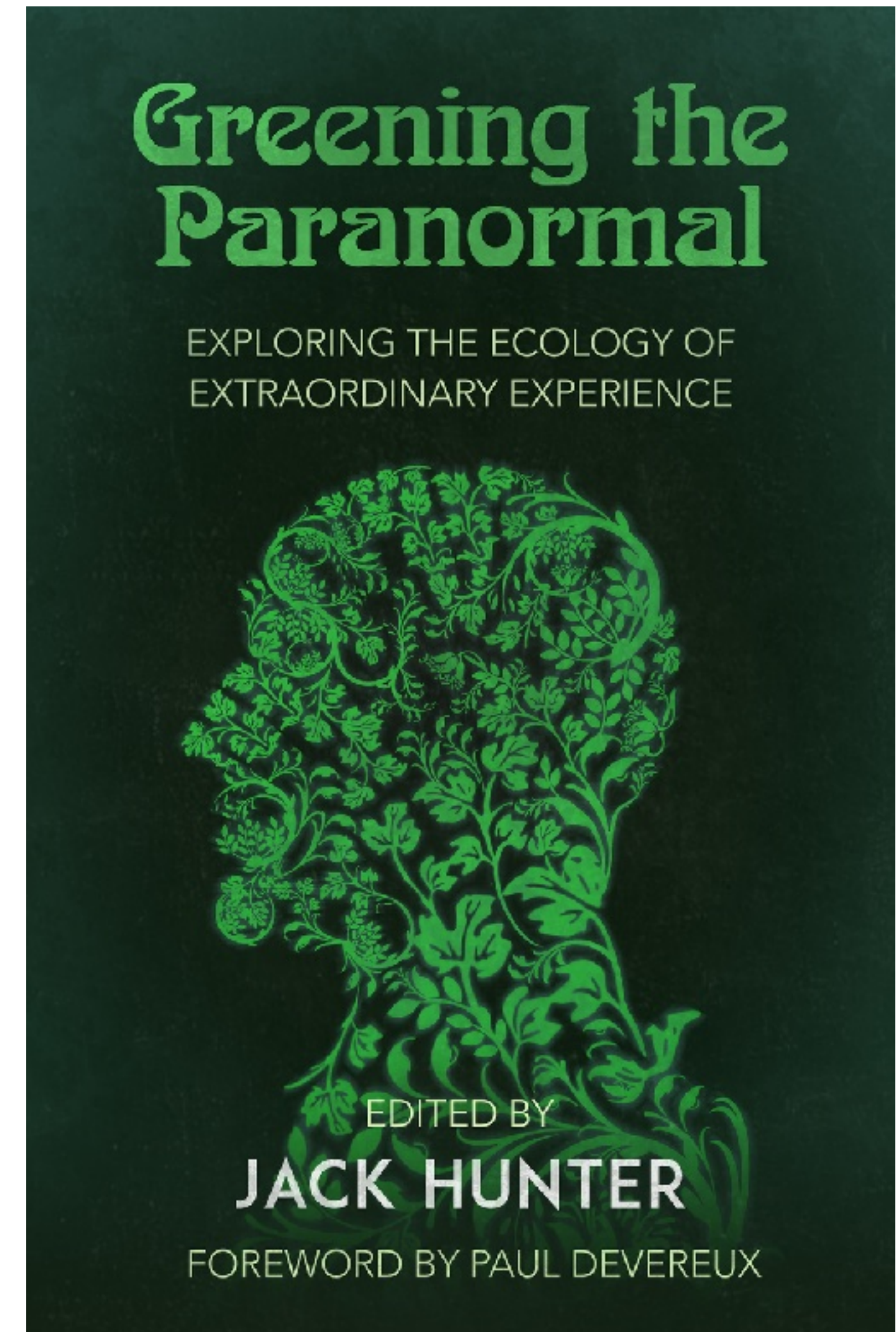


Ecology and Spirituality: Orientation



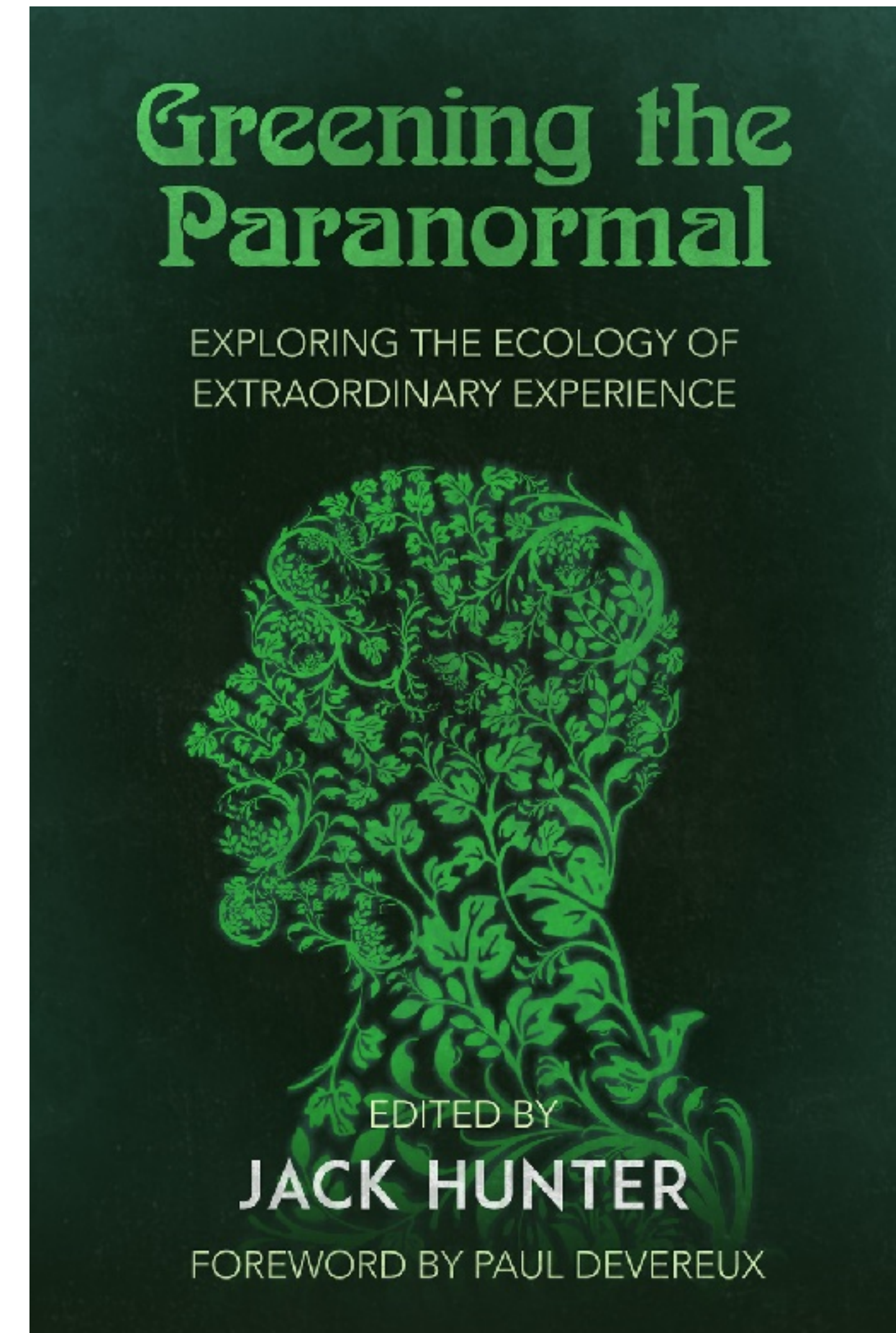
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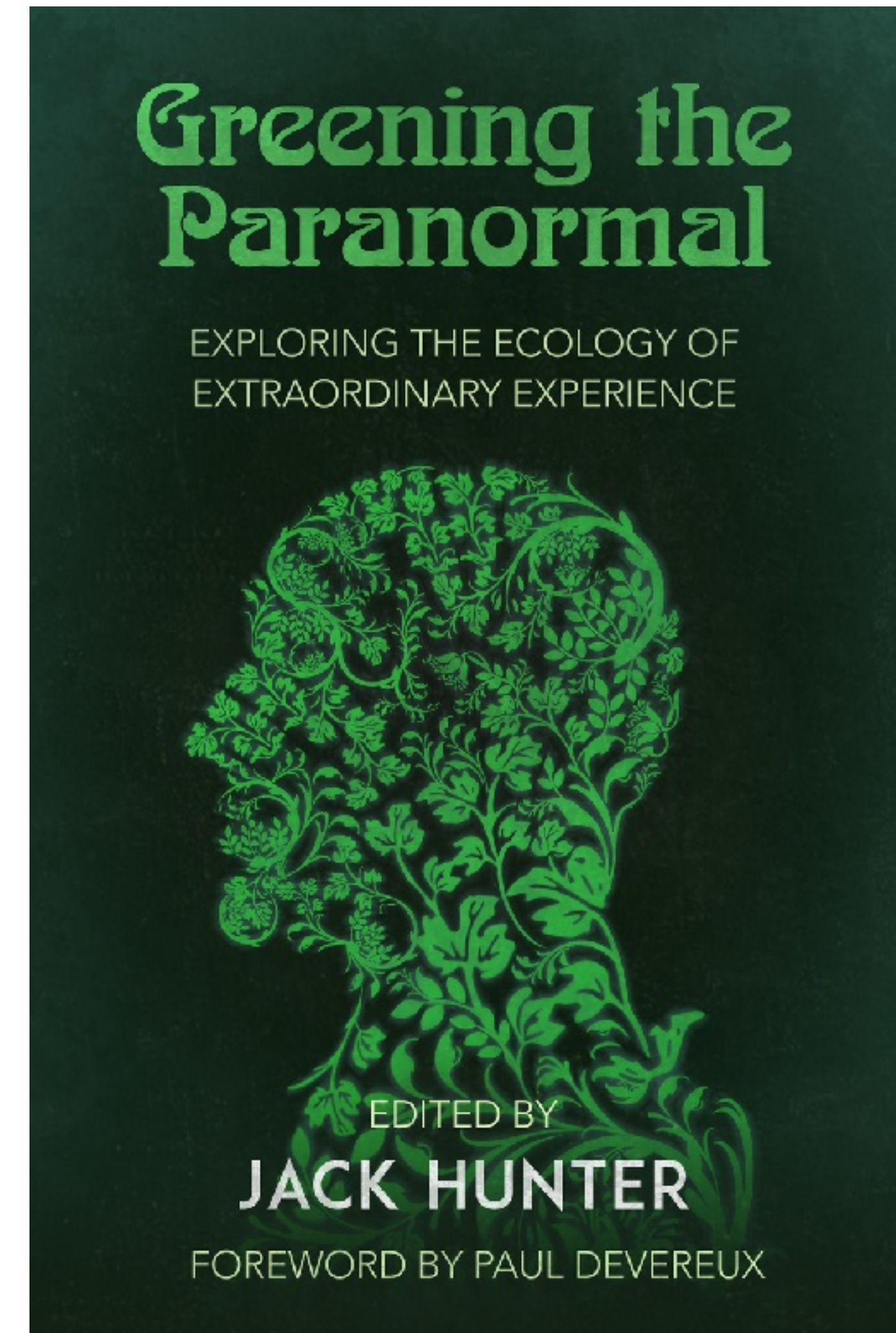
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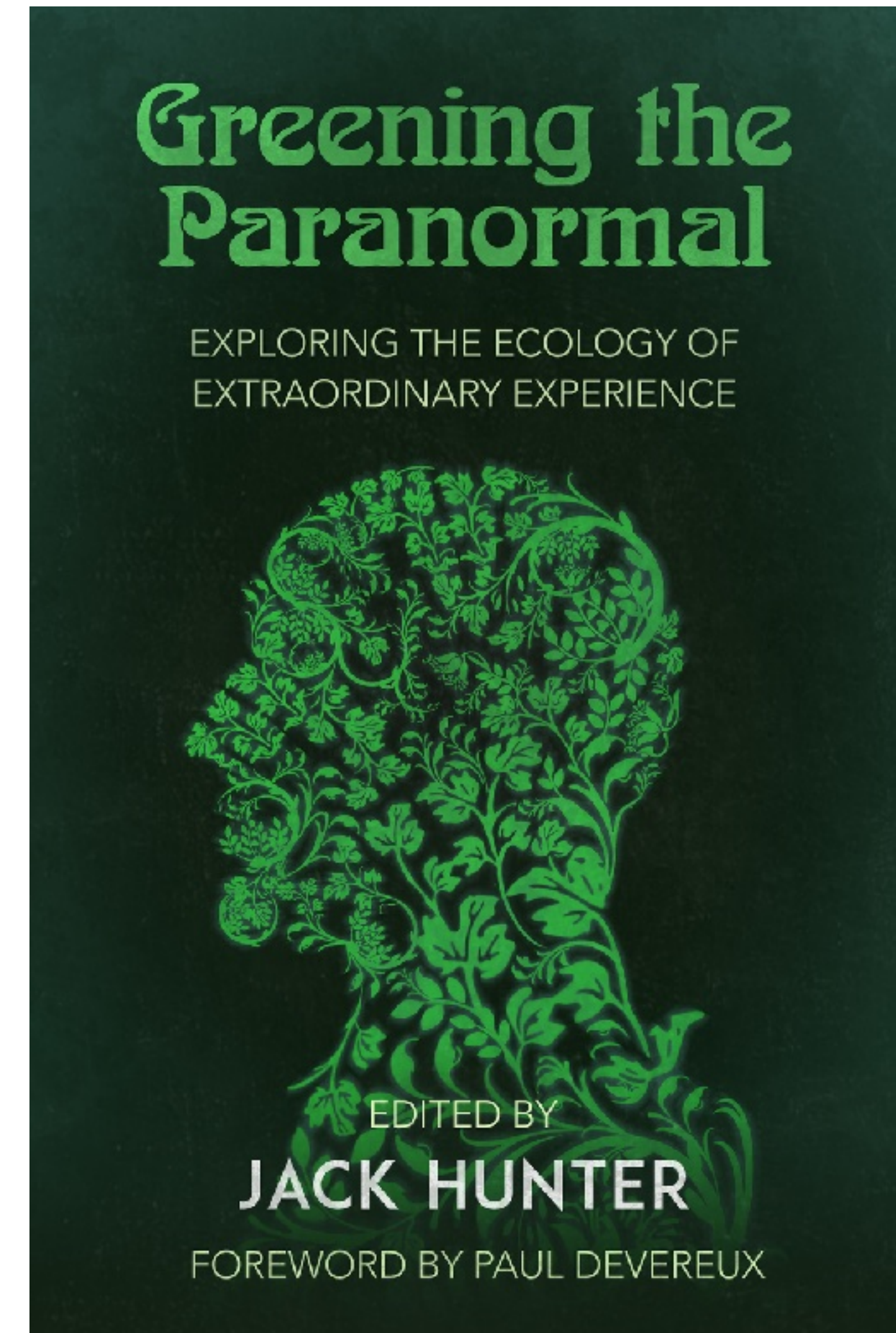
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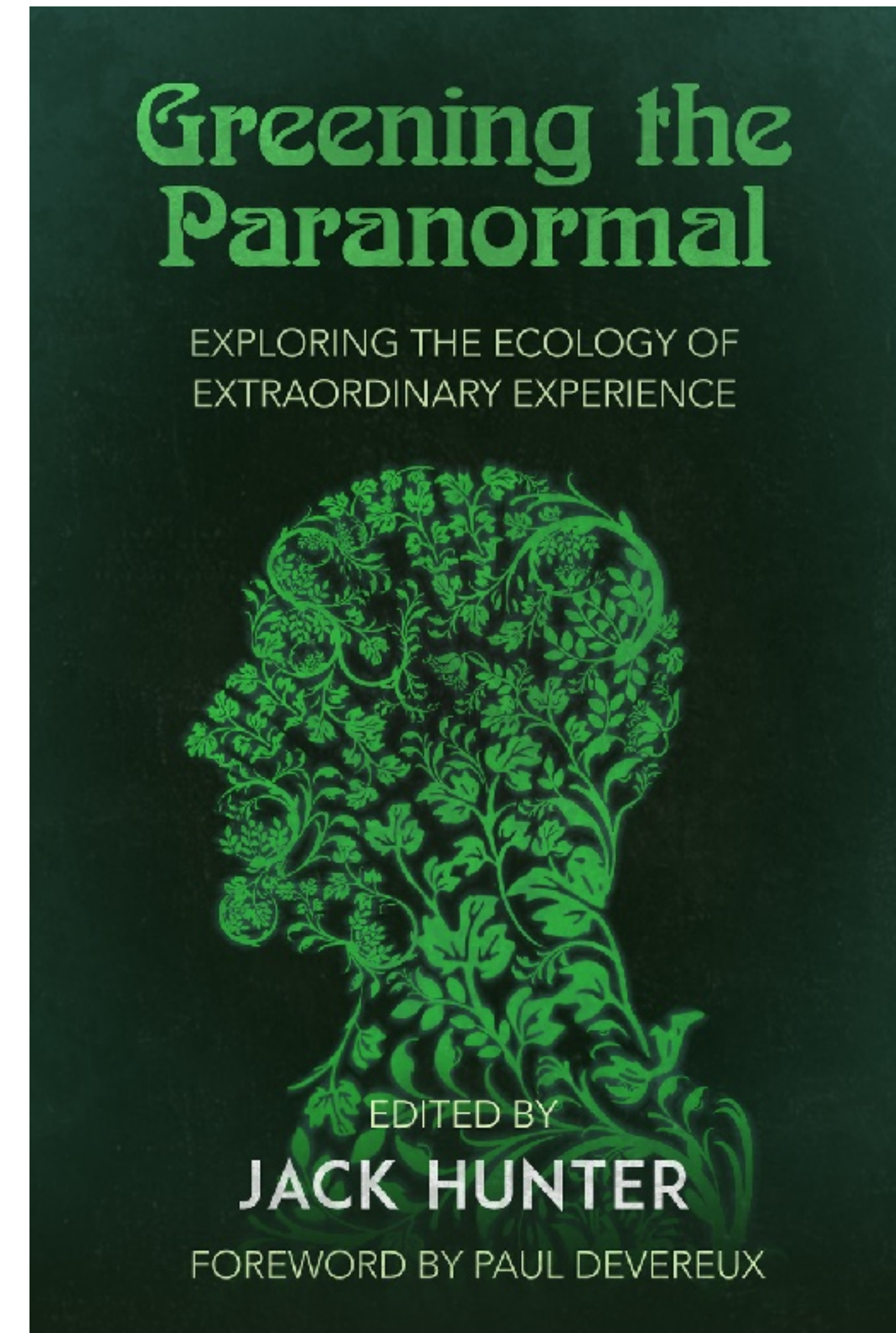
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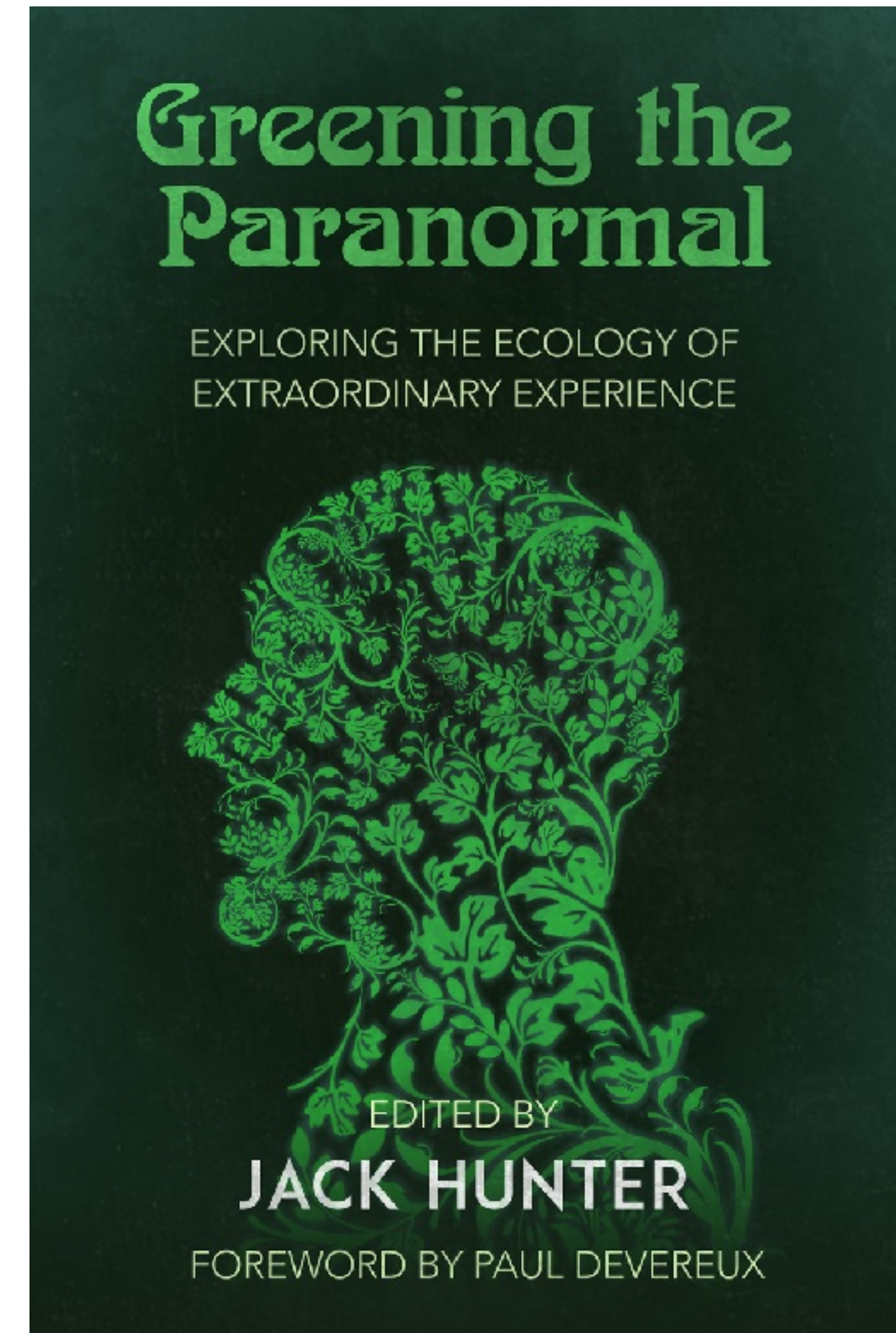
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- There is an ecological dimension to the paranormal.
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- Greening of theorising about the paranormal, e.g. looking to ecology for models and theories - complexity, interdependence, etc.



Ecology and Spirituality

- Builds on some of the ideas in *Greening the Paranormal*.

ECOLOGY *and*
SPIRITUALITY
A Brief Introduction



Jack Hunter

Ecology and Spirituality

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ECOLOGY *and*
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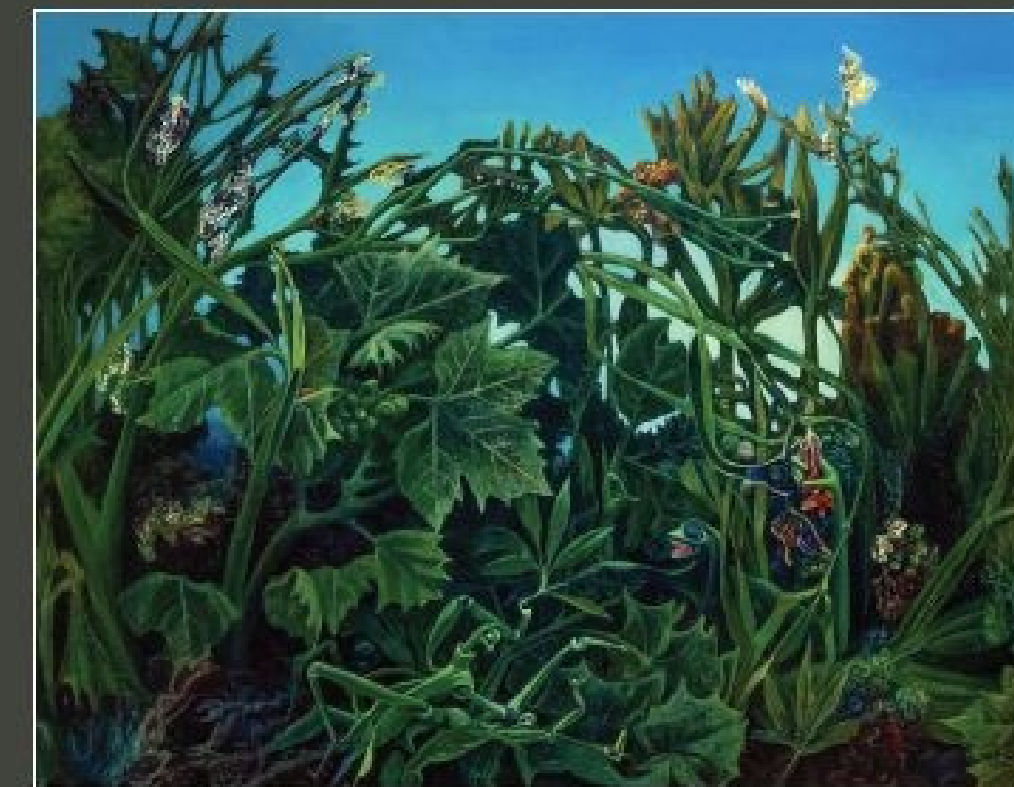


Jack Hunter

Ecology and Spirituality

- Builds on some of the ideas in *Greening the Paranormal*.
- Organic/Organismic alternatives to mechanical reductionism.
- Considers traditional ecological knowledge, indigenous traditions.
- Emphasises an animistic perspective.

ECOLOGY *and*
SPIRITUALITY
A Brief Introduction



Jack Hunter

Structure of the Module

- 9 weeks.
- Lectures and seminars.
- Student discussions.
- 2 assignments (1x comparison of key theorists, 1x reflective/theoretical).
- Significant connections with the Sacred Geography and Researching Contemporary Cosmologies modules.
- Progresses increasingly towards practical engagement with the world.



Schedule

- Week 1 - What is Ecology? (3rd October 2025).
- Week 2 - What is Spirituality? (10th October 2025).
- Week 3 - The Ecological Crisis (17th October 2025).
- Week 4 - Dark Green Religion (24th October 2025).
- READING WEEK - NO SEMINAR (27th-31st October)
- Week 5 - The Ecological Self (7th November 2025).
- Week 6 - The Non-Human (14th November 2025).
- Week 7 - Greening the Paranormal (21st November 2025).
- Week 8 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge (28th November 2025).
- Week 9 - Ecological Activism and Sacred Ecology (5th December 2025).

Essay 1:

Compare and Contrast

- You will choose two papers to compare and contrast, e.g.:

Frake - 'Cultural Ecology and Ethnography.'

Taylor - 'Earth and Nature-Based Spirituality (Part I): From Deep Ecology to Radical Environmentalism.'

Kimmerer - 'Weaving Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Biological Education: A Call to Action.'

White Jr. - The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis

Plumwood - 'Gender, Eco-Feminism and the Environment'

Taylor - 'The Greening of Religion Hypothesis (Part One).

Botelho et al. - "I made a pact with God, with nature and with myself": exploring deep ecology.

Matthews - 'Community and the Ecological Self.'

Bird-David - 'Animism Revisited: Personhood, Environment and Relational Epistemology.'

Alley - 'River Goddesses, Personhood and Rights of Nature: Implications for Spiritual Ecology.'

Bird Rose - 'An Indigenous Philosophical Ecology: Situating the Human.'

Harrild & Luke - 'An evaluation of the role of mystical experiences in transpersonal ecopsychology.'

Schroll - 'From Ecopsychology to Transpersonal Ecosophy: Shamanism, Psychedelics and Transpersonal Psychology.'

- **Due Date:** 20th November 2025 - 23:59pm
- Submission via Turnitin on Moodle.

Essay 2 Questions

(Reflective/Theoretical, 4,500 words)

- Can there be a spiritual response to the climate crisis? Critically analyse the concept of ecopsychology.
- Is there a role for traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in contemporary ecological perspectives?
- Critically assess the evidence for the 'Greening of Religion' hypothesis.
- Does extraordinary experience play a role in establishing a relationship with nature?
- You can also come up with your own question, but please run it past us first to approve it.

Due Date: 5th January 2026 - 23:59pm

- Submission via Turnitin on Moodle.

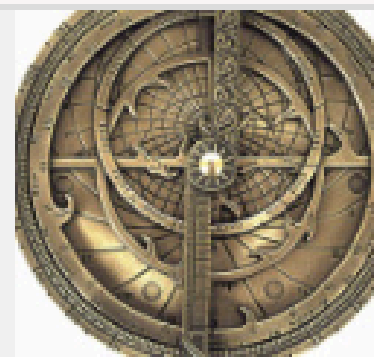
Moodle

W Reading List - Updated 18/09/2020

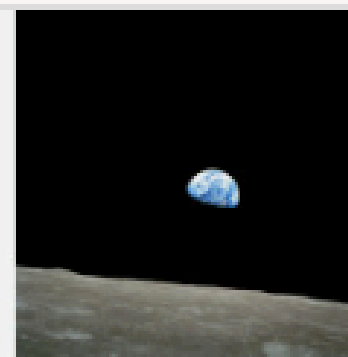
Turnitin Assignment Subm...



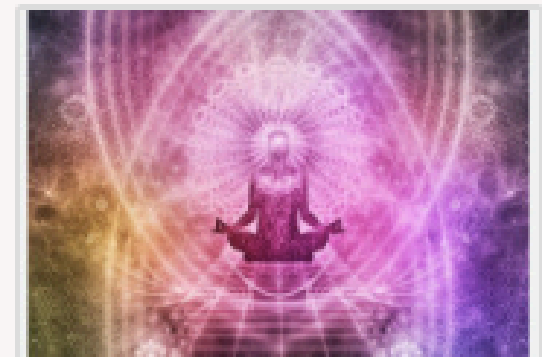
Week 1 - Orientation (2nd ...



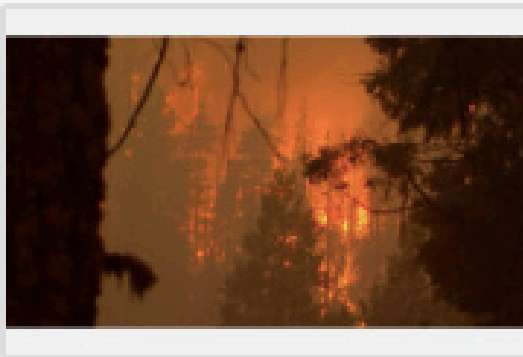
Week 2 - What is Ecology? ...



Week 3 - What is Spirituali...



Week 4 - The Ecological Cr...



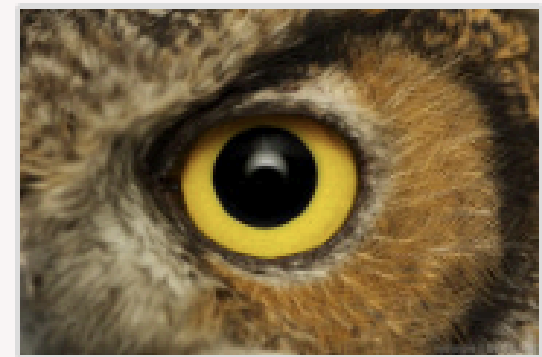
Week 5 - Dark Green Religi...



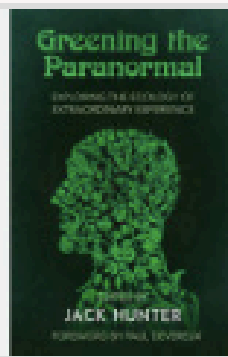
Week 6 - The Ecological S...



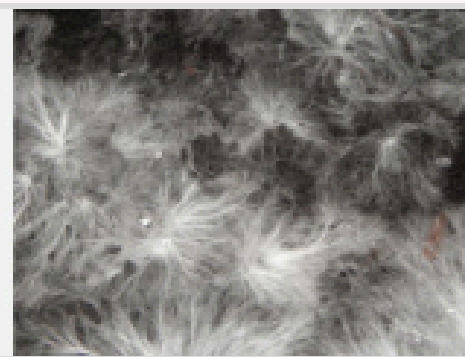
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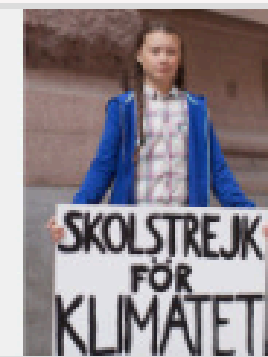
Week 8 - Greening the Par...



Week 9 - Traditional Ecolo...



Week 10 - Ecological Activi...



Student Discussions

- **Week 2:**

Taylor - 'Earth and Nature-Based Spirituality (Part I): From Deep Ecology to Radical Environmentalism.'

Kimmerer - 'Weaving Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Biological Education: A Call to Action.'

- **Week 3:**

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Guest Lectures

- There is a playlist of past guest lectures on YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7FSKERTYn-dQ8zJRamd37tEgfaVnXCSF>

- They are also linked to in the relevant seminar for each week.



Nanda-Gikendan (Seek Knowledge)

- The sweatlodge ceremony is a space and a classroom from which our people go to learn, to explore, and to gather information about the ecologies with which we live.
- The sweatlodge is the:
 1. research methodology
 2. method of gathering
 3. pedagogy for teaching and learning



Renee Bedard

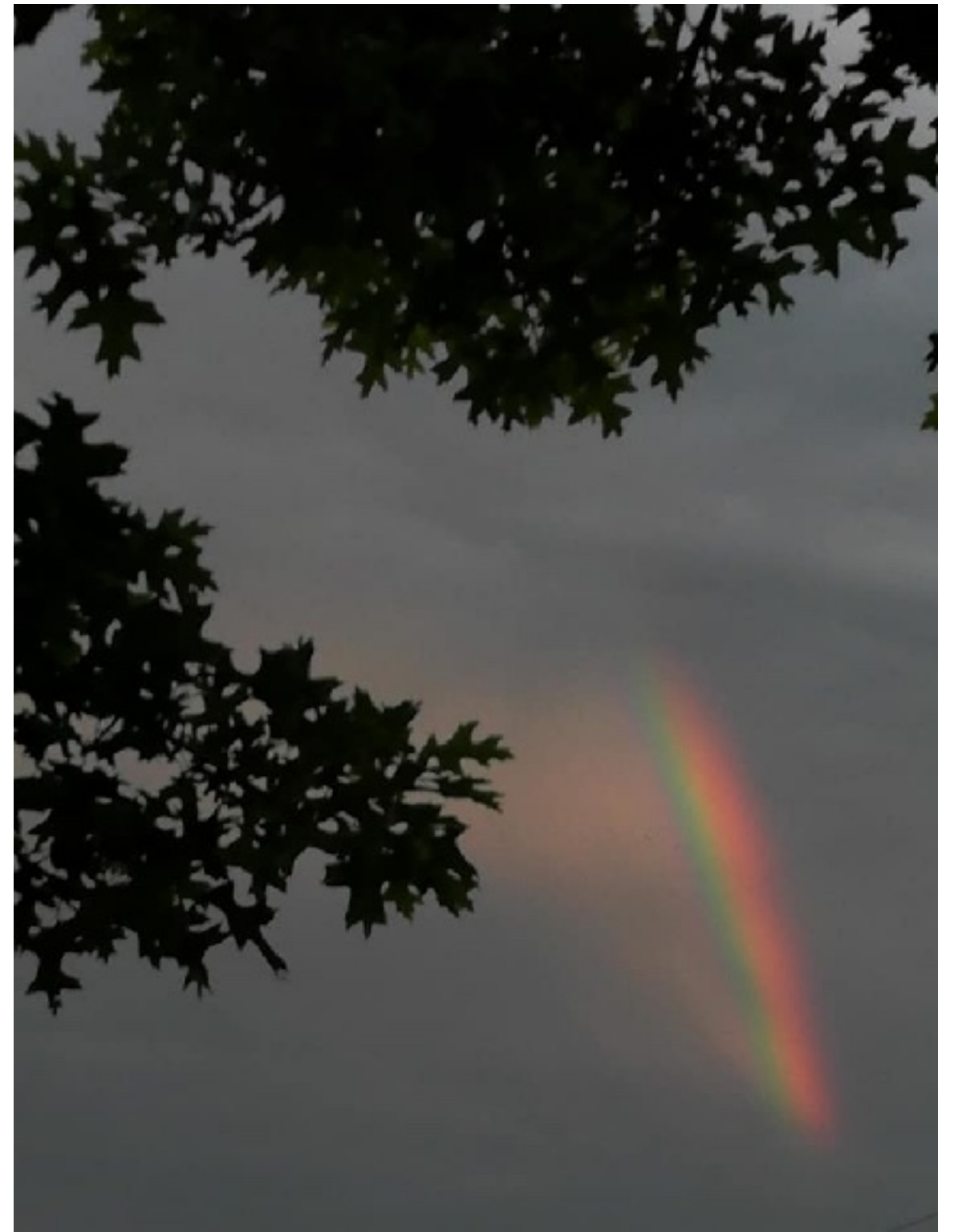
1. Ecology

- Principles of Ecology.
- Cultural Ecology.
- Is there harmony in nature?



2. Spirituality

- What is spirituality?
- What is the relationship of spirituality to religion?
- How are ecology and spirituality related?



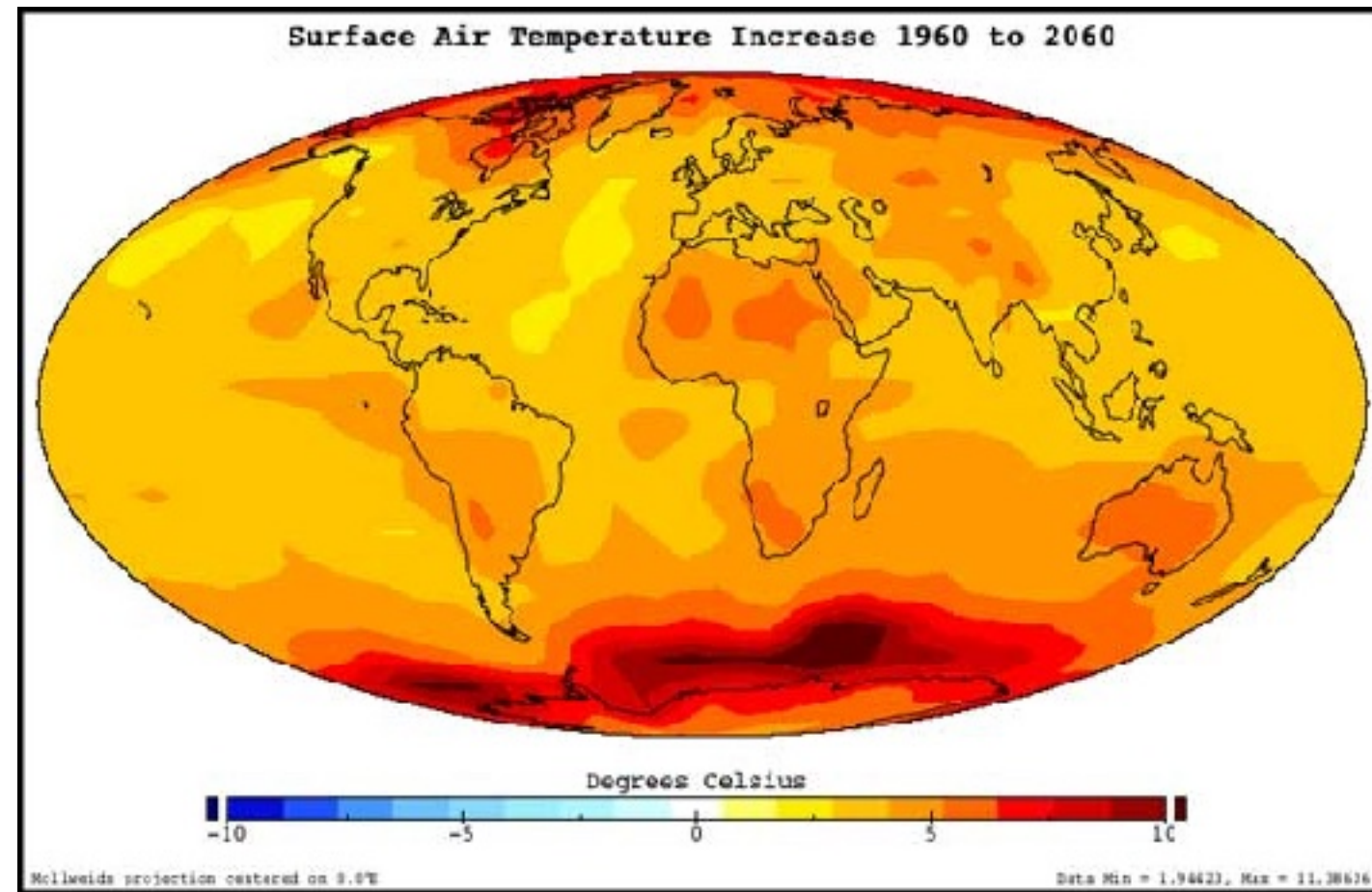
Guest Lecture (10th October)

- Rachel Fleming has worked with animist education for many years, designing and delivering educational programmes for Schumacher College, University of Wales Trinity St Davids and Embercombe, with a focus on the meeting place between human, spirit and nature, between 'ecology' and 'spirituality'. She is co-founder and curator of the Contemporary Animism programmes and loves to convene conversations that explore the deepest depths of why we are here, the ways we find belonging to the world and how to be in service to soul. She is committed to scholarship, word magic, creative imagination and the medicine of circles.



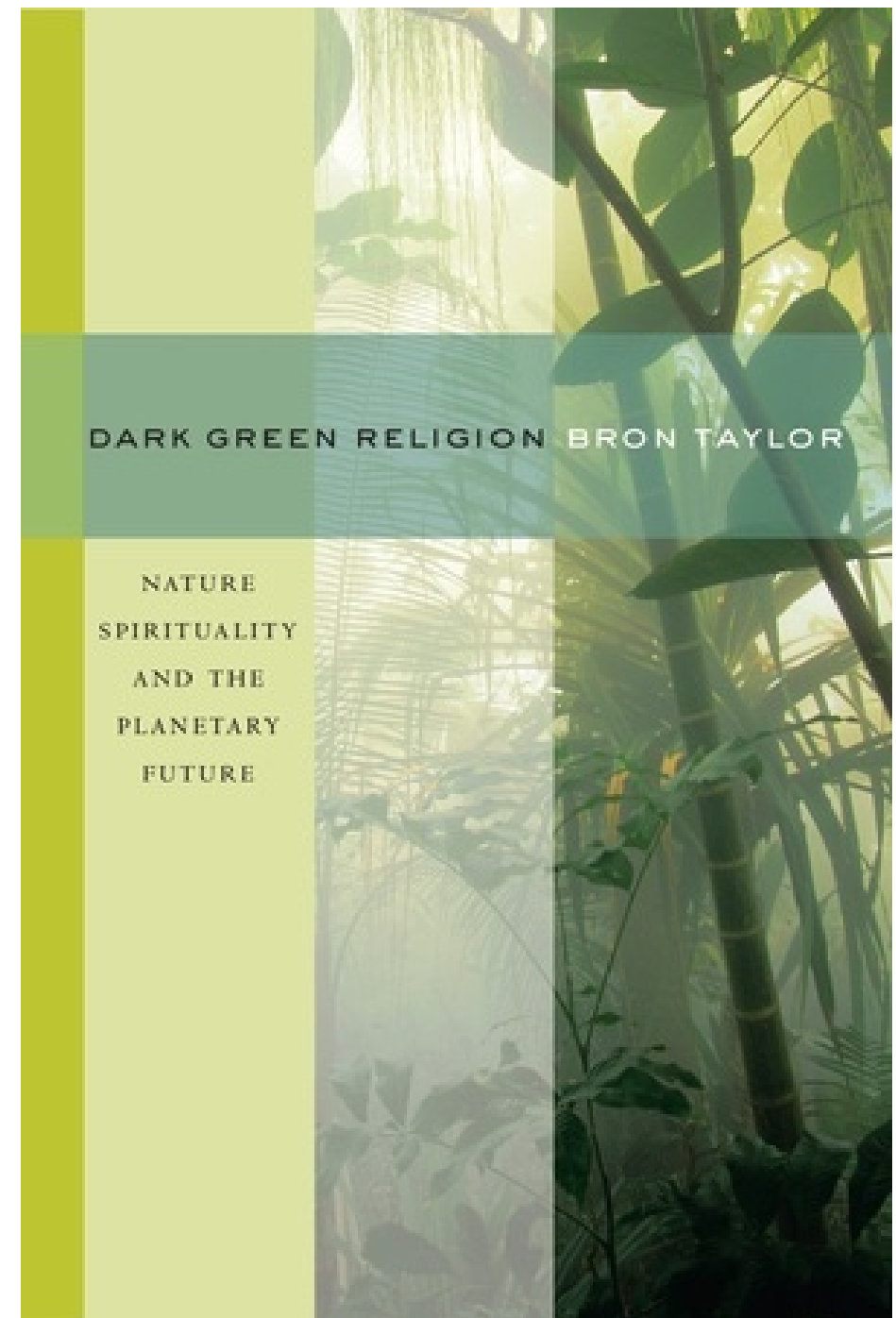
3. Ecological Crisis

- What are the symptoms and causes of the ecological crisis?
- What are the various responses?
- Can there be a spiritual response to the ecological crisis?



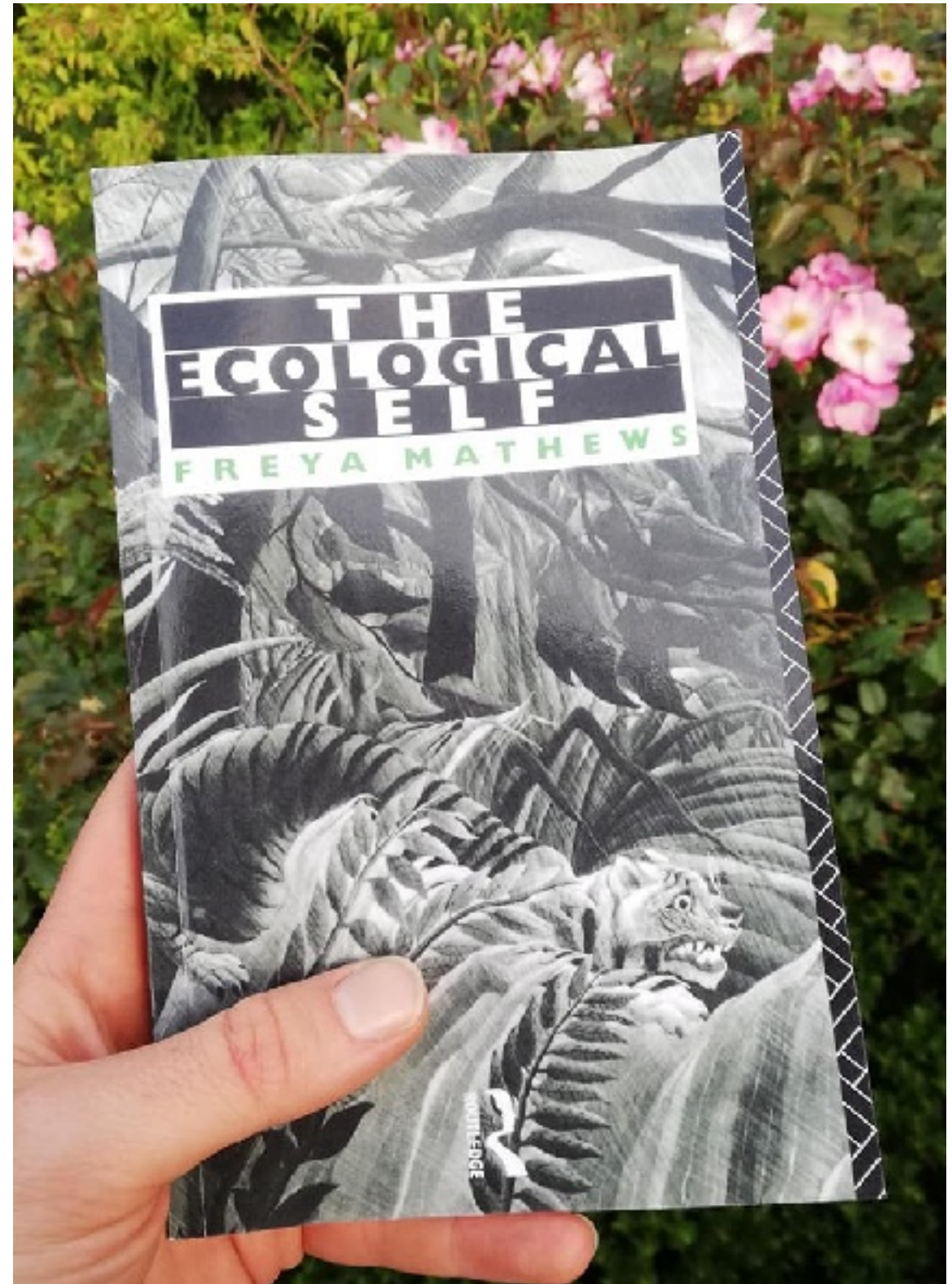
4. Dark Green Religion

- What is the relationship between religion and ecology.
- Nature mysticism.
- The Greening of Religion hypothesis.



5. The Ecological Self

- What is deep ecology?
- What is ecopsychology?
- What is the ecological self?



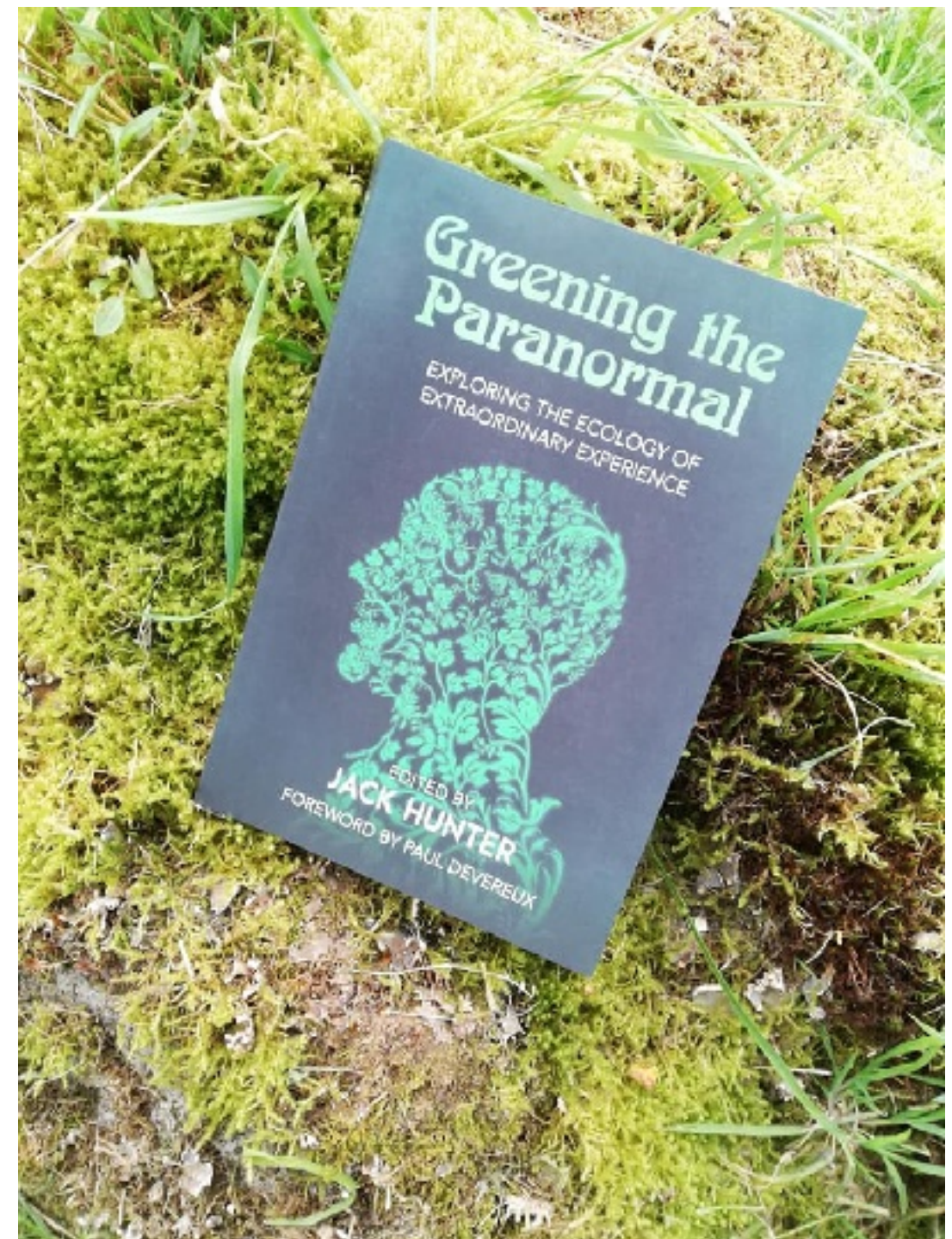
6. The Non-Human

- Animism and Other-than-human persons.
- The intelligence of plants.
- Animal cultures.
- The personhood of rocks.



7. Greening the Paranormal

- What is the relationship between parapsychology and the ecological self?
- What do Alien abductions, Near-Death Experiences, Spirits and psychedelics have to do with ecology?
- How do we maintain a semblance of academic respectability when studying these things?



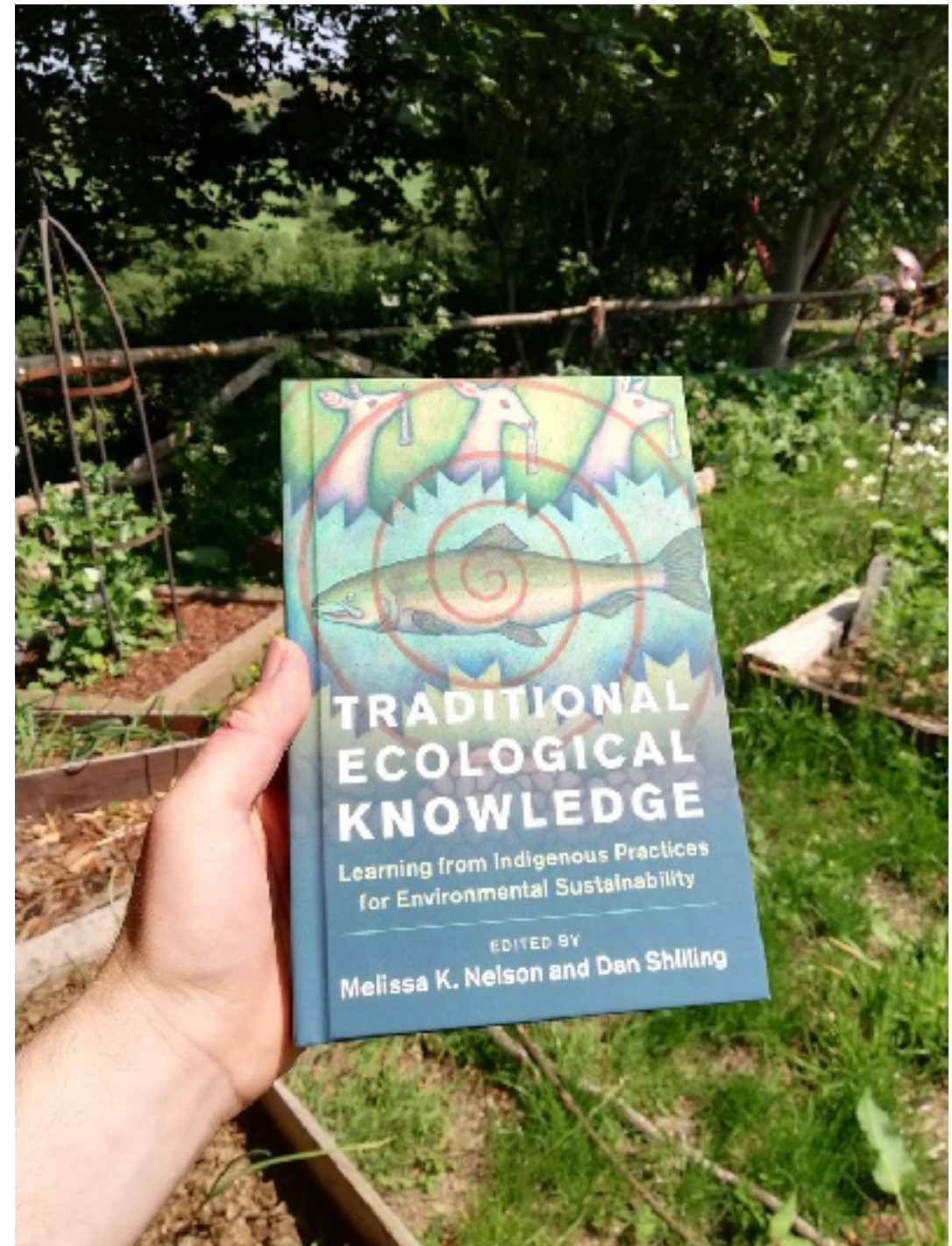
Guest Lecture (21st November)

- Joshua Cutchin is the author of multiple critically-acclaimed books on the paranormal: 2015's *A Trojan Feast: The Food and Drink Offerings of Aliens, Faeries, and Sasquatch*; 2016's *The Brimstone Deceit: An In-Depth Examination of Supernatural Scents, Otherworldly Odors, & Monstrous Miasmas*; 2018's *Thieves in the Night: A Brief History of Supernatural Child Abductions*; and 2020's *Where the Footprints End: High Strangeness and the Bigfoot Phenomenon*, Volumes I & II, with Timothy Renner. In 2022, he released his two-part: *Ecology of Souls: A New Mythology of Death & the Paranormal*, and in 2025 *Fourth Wall Phantoms: Reflections on the Paranormal, Narrative, and Fictions Becoming Fact*.



8. Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- What role do systems of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Indigenous Knowledge have in confronting the ecological crisis?
- Can traditional ecological knowledge provide a framework for integrating the perspectives we have been exploring with real-world impact?
- What is the relationship between metaphysics/worldview and ecological behaviour?



9. Ecological Activism and Sacred Ecology

- How can we implement some of the ideas we have been exploring.
- Are there real-world applications?
- Permaculture and sacred gardening.

