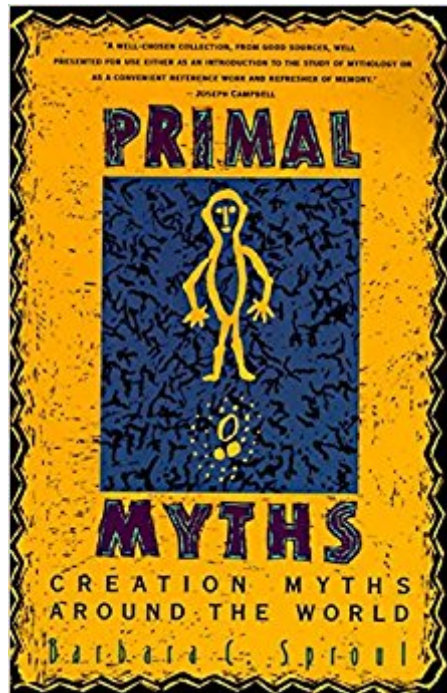


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Primal Myths: Creation Myths Around The World



Synopsis

A comprehensive collection of creation stories ranging across widely varying times and cultures, including Ancient Egyptian, African, and Native American.

Book Information

Paperback: 373 pages

Publisher: HarperOne (December 12, 1979)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"A landmark book" -- Maurice Friedman, author of "Touchstones of Reality" "An Anthology devoted to myths of creation has long been needed and the selection in this volume is first-rate..." --

"Parabola" "Any extensive exploration of mythology will reveal how incredibly heterogeneous Human culture is. I know of no book that shows this better than Barbara Sproul's "Primal Myths." -- "San Francisco Chronicle's Whole Earth Catalog"

A comprehensive collection of creation stories ranging across widely varying times and cultures, including Ancient Egyptian, African, and Native American.

Who knew there were so many, and such unusual, creation myths? This was a required book for a Mythology class I took, and I enjoyed reading how other cultures traditionally explained creation. Our professor used the study of these creation myths to help explain how different cultures view themselves, their environments, their relationships, and the world around them. Interesting addition to the study of other cultures!

This is a fairly large, but by no mean exhaustive, collection of creation myths from around the world. In some cases, one could quibble about the translation Sproul has chosen, but they should be accessible to everyone. The Introduction is particularly good in dispelling some of the "myths" about myth and warning about the dangers of taking myths literally. It also addresses, and offers a resolution to, the science versus religion debate: science deals with "facts", religion with "values" or "attitudes" towards those facts. This Introduction could well serve as the introductory reading for a variety of Religious Studies courses, especially those dealing with texts. My only wish is that the book itself were designed a little more attractively. Some illustrations might have helped.

Arrived very quickly and is exactly what I was looking for, which is a comprehensive collection of these myths. This is not for someone who is looking for an in-depth analysis of the myths, as they are briefly told with short introductory paragraphs as to their tribe, religion, or people of origin. This was, however, just what I was looking for so it was perfect for me and I am very satisfied. It also arrived in excellent condition.

A little bit on the sketchy side. Covers a lot of different cultures but not much depth on any of them.

I have read a few books of this type, and although it's not my favorite overall mythology collection, for creation mythology specifically it can't be beat. I used it for an anthropology paper comparing creation myths from around the world and bought this just to for the paper but will definitely be holding on to it. The translation and presentation strikes the fine line that most books miss, most are either too focused on making the myth exiting and readable, or too focused on giving just the facts and the story becomes too boring. This book is right in between, the stories read like they are meant to: interesting and entertaining and at the same time loaded with information specific to the society who created them. the only thing I wish it had were some pictures, but overall I was very happy with my buy.

Useful for understand what a myth is and how it fulfills a societal need differently from science.

Have used this reference book for years in my work.

A masterful work. These myths foreshadow the cultures to come. Scholarly and readable.

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