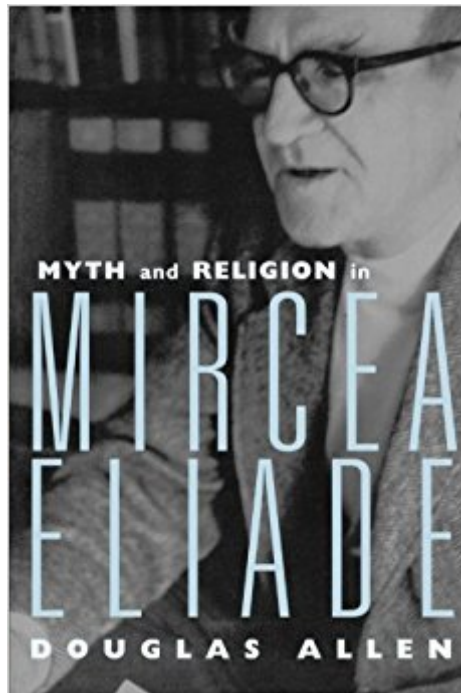




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Myth And Religion In Mircea Eliade (Theorists Of Myth)



Synopsis

This multidisciplinary study is the first book devoted entirely to the critical interpretation of the writings of Mircea Eliade on myth. One of the most popular and influential historians and theorists of myth, Eliade argued that all myth is religious. Douglas Allen critically interprets Eliade's theories of religion, myth, and symbolism and analyses many of the controversial issues in Eliade's treatment of myth including whether Eliade's approach deals adequately with the relationship between myth and history and how Eliade's anti-modern perspective makes sense of myth in modern culture. A valuable resource for scholars in religious studies, philosophy, anthropology, and history, this book enables readers not only to understand "archaic" and "traditional" religious phenomena, but also to make sense of repressed and sublimated myth dimensions in modern secular life.

Book Information

Series: Theorists of Myth

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (April 28, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415939399

ISBN-13: 978-0415939393

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #807,217 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 in [Books > History > World > Religious > New Age, Mythology & Occult](#) #938 in [Books > History > Europe > Italy](#) #2006 in [Books > History > World > Religious > General](#)

Customer Reviews

"Allen's work is a welcome contribution for those who seek a critical appreciation of Eliade's understanding of myth and religion." -Theological Studies."Douglas Allen's "Myth and Religion in Mircea Eliade is important for its careful revision of this model, this reputation [of the mind's desire for 'eternal return']."-Religious Studies Review "Douglas Allen, professor of philosophy at the University of Maine, is the foremost authority on Eliade."-Theology Digest, Winter 2002

Douglas Allen is Professor and Chair of the Philosophy department at the University of Maine. He is the author of Structure and Creativity in Religion (1978) and Culture and Self: Philosophical and

Religious Perspectives (1997).

In the slowly dying tradition of scholarship for scholarship's sake, Douglas Allen scholars his way through the work of Mircea Eliade, many of his critics, and even some of his defenders, producing another tome to gather dust on the groaning shelves of those who still care for such tomes. It's hard for one of my arty, poetic, soul-loving proclivities (yes, I've read too much Hillman, Corbin, Cheetham, Jung et al for my own good and it's destroyed a perfectly good mind) to take the very serious and scholarly Allen seriously. I can't help feeling (yes, feeling, not thinking) that what's missing is any real consideration of the possibility that Eliade's response to mythic and religious material is the only response possible: one based in imagination and favouring imagination and its ways. This was Eliade's way and occidental scholars don't like it, never have, never will. And no matter how much Allen pretends to not be reductionist, or at least not too reductionist, or just enough reductionist to still draw a scholarly salary, he can't help but miss the real and irreducible points Eliade chased. That said, if you're not actively seeking answers, making soul, and living myth, this dust collector may be enough.

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