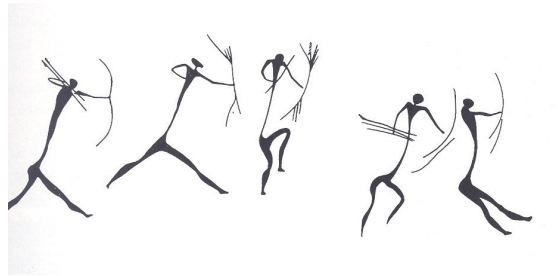


Religion Expressed in Myth and Culture



Myth and Mythology

- What is a “myth”?
 - Colloquial definition
 - An alternate definition

The truth about the facts of the myth are *less important* than the TRUTH the myth conveys.

Myth and Mythology

The truth about the facts of the myth are *less important* than the TRUTH the myth conveys.

Religion and Mythology

Lasting (often religious) concepts and themes found in myth and mythology.

Ancient example: Homer's *Iliad*

Modern example: Creation/Evolution Debate

"Now the earth was **formless** and **empty**, **darkness** was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

Genesis 1:2

Myth and Mythology

The truth about the facts of the myth are *less important* than the TRUTH the myth conveys.

- Three elements represent three basic concerns:

- Formless**: watery depths

- Empty**: famine, no food or shelter

- Dark**: night and vulnerability

- Creation story address each concern

- Formless**: separated land from sea

- Empty**: filled with plants, creatures, and humans

- Dark**: "let there be light"

- Creation story as mythology

Myth and Mythology

The truth about the facts of the myth are *less important* than the TRUTH the myth conveys.

Carl Jung
Mythology, Archetypes, and Psychology

Joseph Campbell and Mythology
Hero with a Thousand Faces

Writing about myth from your own experience

Purposes of Myth

1. Education

How do you learn best or easiest?

What do you remember with little or no effort?

Myth . . .

Communicates knowledge about the world.

Communicates knowledge about the self in the world.

Purposes of Myth

2. Creating Personal Meaning

Structures how we think of ourselves.

Provides a broader background and context for life.

Connection with narrative therapy.

Purposes of Myth

3. Creating Communal Meaning

Helps to organize a community's experiences.

Provides a "shared language".

Provides connections among people of a given culture.