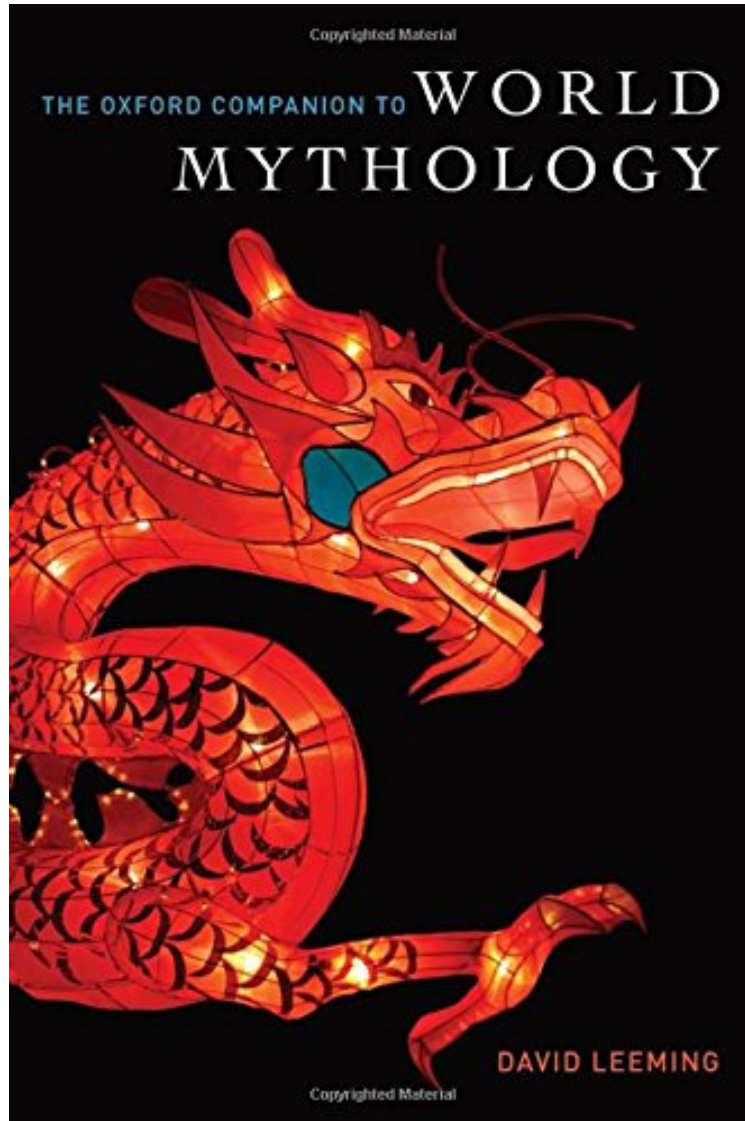


(Ebook free) Oxford Companion to World Mythology

Oxford Companion to World Mythology

David Leeming

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David Leeming : Oxford Companion to World Mythology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oxford Companion to World Mythology:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A must have...By Gary B. Wack This book is formatted as a dictionary of mythology and is very helpful for those of us who need a reference to a textual note from time to time. It's a value for anyone reading, for example, such works as Ezra Pound's Cantos. Anyone reading a work of literature that references religious and mythological imagery will benefit from this book. It's true that you can easily gather such

information on references through the internet, but rather than wading through a lot of (sometimes unreliable) information, one can easily traverse this book and know that the information is accurate. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. oxford companion to world myth By Mildred Johnson interesting and great addition for the ancient history books in my collection. expected a bigger book but it is useful as a quick search for information 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Judy Johnson This is a very complete book and very helpful for the mythology class I teach.

In *The Oxford Companion to World Mythology*, David Leeming explores the role of mythology in history, revealing how the dreams of specific cultures add up to the larger collective story of humanity. Appealingly illustrated with nearly one hundred black-and-white halftones, the Companion provides thousands of alphabetically arranged entries covering all aspects of mythology including areas traditionally ignored by mythologists such as Polynesia, Africa, Native North America, Australia, and more. Leeming includes substantial essays on the world's major mythological traditions, on mythological types and motifs, on mythological figures, and on numerous related subjects such as fairy tales and legends. The Companion also locates myth in our lives today, relating it to psychology, religion, science, politics, art, and much more. From King Arthur and the Round Table to Jonah and the Whale, from the wicked and destructive Norse trickster Loki to the great mother goddess of Chinese mythology Nuwa, here is a comprehensive and thoughtful look at mythology around the world.

From *School Library Journal* Grade 9 Up Dependable information, clear and concise writing, and well-chosen illustrations make this a useful resource. The volume offers easy access to a broad range of topics, including, gods and heroes; important scholars (Joseph Campbell, James Frazer); texts (I Ching, Bhagavadgita); themes (floods, Immaculate Conception); and complete overviews of world mythology. Readers searching for information on the Green Man will find links not only to the Green Knight and Adonis, but also to Dumuzi, a Sumerian fertility hero. The volume is peppered with mostly black-and-white, evocative illustrations and there is a lovely eight-page centerfold of color illustrations. Also included are pantheonic family trees and charts of equivalent deities. Attempting to cover so much territory, the editors have left a few things out. There is no entry for Midas, though the index refers readers to an article on Irish mythology that mentions the famous king. Despite a quibble or two, this is a grand book. Herman Sutter, Saint Agnes Academy, Houston, TX Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* In the introduction to this work, Leeming, an emeritus professor of English and comparative literature who has written extensively on mythology, defines myths as "religious narratives that transcend the possibilities of common experience and that express any given culture's literal or metaphorical understanding of various aspects of reality." Covering a broad range of belief systems dating from prehistoric times to the twenty-first century, this compendium not only traces the myths of various cultures but also shows how a number of common elements thread through many sacred stories from disparate geographic areas. Ranging in length from a single sentence to multiple pages, the approximately 1,500 entries cover deities and other mythological figures (Artemis, Job, Thor); heroic epics and other stories (Iliad, Volsunga Saga); motifs (Afterlife, Flood); mythologists (Campbell, Joseph; Frazer, Sir James); sacred books (Qur'an, Upanishads); and the mythologies of particular regions, religions, or cultures. Only a small percentage of the entries include references to sources for further information. Access is facilitated by a section that categorizes entries by cultural groups or broad topics, a network of cross-references, and an index. Adding visual appeal are a number of black-and-white illustrations and color plates, most of which reproduce artworks that depict mythological themes. Additional features include a lengthy bibliography, family trees for five major pantheons, and charts identifying Greek-Roman and Sumerian-Babylonian equivalent deities. With more than twice as many entries, the two-volume *Facts On File Encyclopedia of World Mythology and Legend* (2004) identifies many more mythological figures than does Leeming's work. In addition, specialized sources such as *The Oxford Dictionary of Classical Myth and Religion* (2004) and *Dictionary of Celtic Mythology* (Oxford, 1998) offer more in-depth coverage of specific mythological cultures. The strength of *The Oxford Companion to World Mythology* lies in its overview articles on mythologies of particular eras and cultures and in its thematic entries that bring together mythological concepts from a variety of traditions. Scholarly but rarely abstruse, this reasonably priced volume is particularly suitable for academic and larger public libraries. Marie Ellis Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "Inclusive and reasonably comprehensive.... This work should find a place in any general reference collection." --Choice "The scope of this companion to world mythology belies its compact, easy-to-hold format... Leeming's Companion has a place in any library." --Voice of Youth Advocates "The strength of the Oxford Companion to World Mythology lies in its overview articles on mythologies of particular eras and cultures.... Scholarly but rarely abstruse, this reasonably priced volume is particularly suitable for academic and larger public libraries." --Booklist "Dependable information, clear and concise writing, and well-chosen illustrations make this a useful resource. The volume offers easy access to a broad range of topics.... This is a grand book." --School Library Journal