MYTHS, DREAMS AND MYSTERIES

The Encounter between Contemporary Faiths and Archaic Realities

MIRCEA ELIADE

Translated by
PHILIP MAIRET

PUBLISHERS

New York

281./13 BL 311. E 42 m . E413 1961

MYTHS, DREAMS AND MYSTERIES

Copyright © 1960 in the English translation by Harvill Press

Copyright © 1957 by Librairie Gallimard

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved.

No part of the book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information address Harper & Brothers,

49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N. Y.

This book was originally published by Gallimard, Paris, under the title of Mythes, Rêves et Mystères.

Library of Congress catalog card number: 60-15616

MONASTIC LIBRARY
Abbey of achsemani
Trappisty kentucky

CONTENTS

	FOREWORD TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION page	7
	PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION	13
	CONTEMPORARY FAITHS	
I.	THE MYTHS OF THE MODERN WORLD	23
П.	THE MYTH OF THE NOBLE SAVAGE OR, THE PRESTIGE	
ш.	OF THE BEGINNING	39
	Una Isola muy hermosa	39
	The Cares of the Cannibal	43
	The Good Savage, the Yogi and the Psychoanalyst	47
	ARCHAIC REALITIES	
III.	NOSTALGIA FOR PARADISE IN THE PRIMITIVE	
4	TRADITIONS	59
IV.	SENSE-EXPERIENCE AND MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE	
14.	AMONG PRIMITIVES	73
	Preliminary Remarks	73
	Illness and Initiation	75
	The Morphology of "Election"	79
	Illumination and Interior Vision	81
	The Change in the Organisation of Sensory Experience	85
	Extra-sensory Perception and Paranormal Powers	87
	The "Magical Heat" and the "Mastery of Fire"	92
	The Senses, Ecstasy and Paradise	95
v.	SYMBOLISMS OF ASCENSION AND "WAKING DREAMS"	99
	The Magic Flight	99
	The Seven Steps of the Buddha	IIO
	Dûrohana and the "Waking Dream"	115
VI.	POWER AND HOLINESS IN THE HISTORY	
	OF RELIGIONS	123
	The Hierophanies	123
	Mana and the Kratophanies	126
	"Personal" and "Impersonal"	128
	Varieties of Religious Experience	131

Contents

	Destiny of the Supreme Being	page	
	The "Strong Gods"		138
	Indian Religions of Power		143
	The "Magical Heat"		146
	"Powers" and "History"		149
VII.	MOTHER EARTH AND THE COSMIC HIEROGAMIES		155
	Terra Genetrix		155
	The Myths of Emergence		157
	Memories and Nostalgias		162
	Mother Earth		163
	Humi positio: the Placing of the Infant on the Soil		166
	The Subterranean Womb. The Embryos		169
	Labyrinths		171
	Cosmic Hierogamies		172
	Androgyny and Wholeness		174
	A Historico-Cultural Hypothesis		176
	The "Primordial Situation"		178
	Izanagi and Izanami		179
	Sexuality, Death, Creation		182
	Creation and Sacrifice		183
	Rites of the Earth-Mother		185
	Human Sacrifices		187
VIII.	MYSTERIES AND SPIRITUAL REGENERATION		190
1,6	Australian Cosmogony and Mythology		190
	The Karadjeri Initiation		192
	Mystery and Initiation		195
	"Men's Societies" and Secret Societies		201
	The Initiatory Significance of Suffering		207
	The "Women's Mysteries"		209
	Feminine Secret Societies		214
	Swallowing by a Monster		218
	Symbolism of the Initiatory Death		223
	distribution of the distri		225
	THE ENCOUNTER: A TEST-CASE		
TY	RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM AND THE MODERN MAN'S		
LA.	ANXIETY		231
	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS		
	INDEX		247