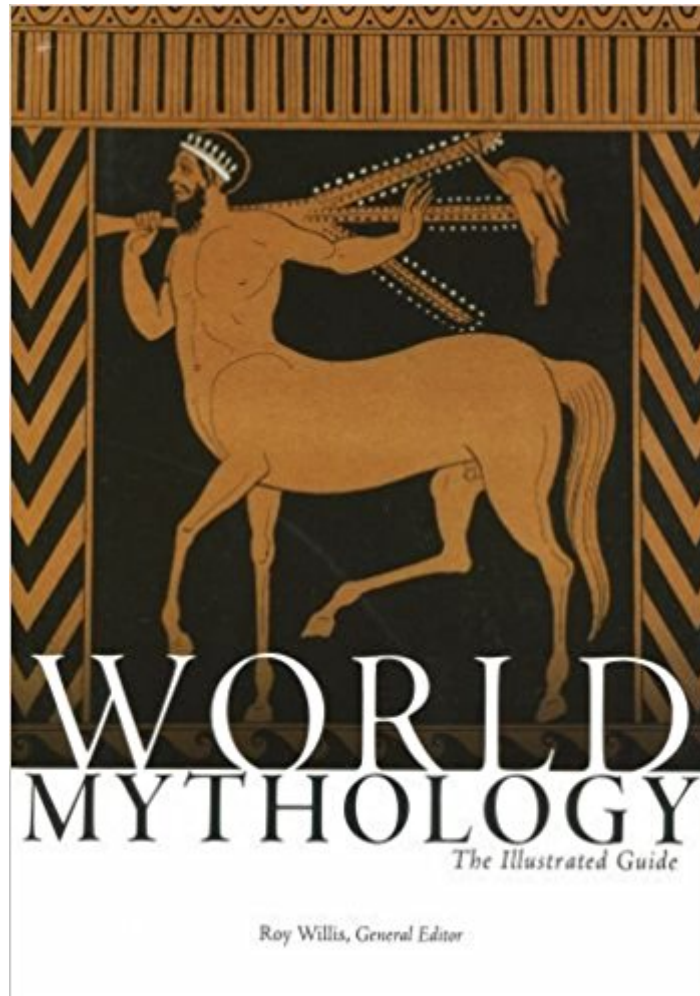




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World Mythology: The Illustrated Guide



Synopsis

The great myths of the world create meaning out of the fundamental events of human existence: birth, death, conflict, loss, reconciliation, the cycle of the seasons. They speak to us of life itself in voices still intelligible, yet compellingly strange and distant. World Mythology offers readers an authoritative and wide-ranging guide to these enduring mythological traditions, combining the pure narrative of the myths themselves with the background necessary for more complete understanding. Here, noted mythology expert Roy Willis, brings together a team of nineteen leading scholars navigate a clear path through the complexities of myth as they distill the essence of each regional tradition and focus on the most significant figures and the most enthralling stories. All aspects of the world's key mythologies are covered, from tales of warring deities and demons to stories of revenge and metamorphosis; from accounts of lustful gods and star-crossed human lovers to journeys in the underworld. All are told at length and are accompanied by illuminating and readable introductory text. Also included are summaries of important theories about the origins and meaning of myth, and an examination of themes that recur across a range of civilizations. Beautifully illustrated with more than 500 color photographs, works of art, charts, and maps, World Mythology offers readers the most accessible guide yet to the heritage of the world's imagination.

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Customer Reviews

The study of mythology does not suffer from a dearth of fine, scholarly reference books, but until now the general reader lacked a good, illustrated collection of the most important myths. In this fascinating and authoritative encyclopedia, scholarly contributors use more than 500 color

photographs, maps, and artifacts to describe the myths of Egypt, the Middle East, India, China, Tibet, Mongolia, Japan, Greece, Rome, the Celtic lands, Northern and Eastern Europe, the Arctic, North and South America, Mesoamerica, Africa, Australia, Oceania, and Southeast Asia. An insightful foreword by Robert Walter of the Joseph Campbell Foundation adds further credibility to this oversized, colorful book. Recommended for the general reader and as an introduction for the student and scholar in any library.- Gary P. Gillum, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, Ut. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A comprehensive and comparative survey of the myths of nineteen cultural regions. "-American Libraries

I had this book for a comparative mythology course. It was one of the three assigned books and i can't think how else would have that worked. This book is more like an encyclopedia containing only brief information about various world mythologies. It contains abridged versions of mythological stories and its characters. In my opinion, this book cannot work as stand alone for an analytical study of world mythologies. However, it is a good reference book. I like how each mythology is explained with maps, timelines, and pictures.

First, its strong points: The prose was intelligent, the rich images of ancient artwork on every page added a great deal of context to the myths, and coverage of the subject matter was very comprehensive as a whole. I was impressed with the quality of the book itself. The pages were thick, high quality paper (almost like card-stock) and the full color images were beautiful. It was a pleasure to hold and read. Second, its weak points: In the sections on several cultures, the stories were summarized so much that at times I had trouble following them. In the myths I as familiar with from previous study, I realized part of the problem was that key details were skipped over in the telling that would have made future details (which were included) have made more sense. While the slangy tone of Mythology for Dummies was aggravating, it did a better job than this book of telling the individual stories it covered. That having been said-- this book covered much more ground than Mythology for Dummies, which was concerned largely with Greek Mythology (it dedicated half its pages to this culture alone). This book covered the mythology from many more world regions, which is doubtless why the author gave fewer details.

Exactly the book I needed for school!

Never thought I would be buying it, especially reading it! But I loved it! Totally worth it!

I had to purchase this book for a class at school. It is a dry read with very fine print. I'm sure there are more captivating mythology books out there. It is very slow going getting through this text.

i ordered this for school, but i really enjoyed it! it's easy to read, and easy to understand. there were some stories that i hadn't actually heard of, and they also made the more confusing mythologies (such as the hindu and egyptian gods) easier to follow.

Book shipped quickly, damn near PERFECT CONDITION. Overall great price and I cannot stress the quality of the book. A+!!

Book was in good condition for a great price. All world mythologies are represented with great pictures to complement them. Worth the purchase.

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