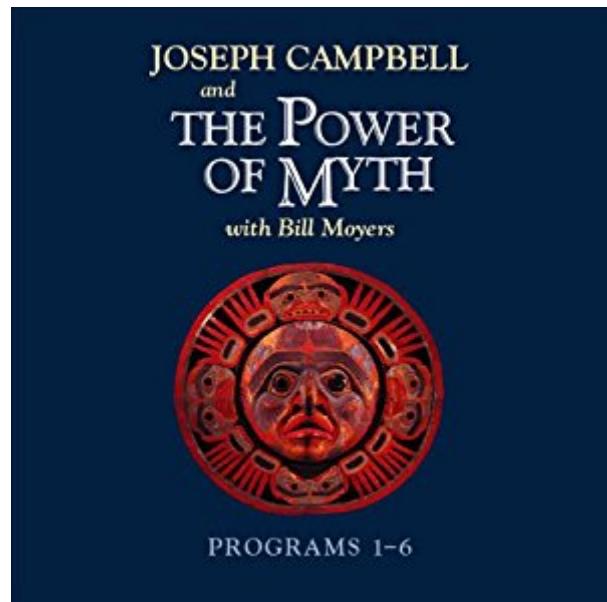


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The Power Of Myth: Programs 1-6



Synopsis

Finally available in a popularly priced, non-illustrated, smaller-format edition, which is ideal for the college market and general reader alike, this extraordinary best-seller is a brilliant evocation of the noted scholar's teachings on mythology. From the Trade Paperback edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book (more accurately, interview) provides an excellent summary of Campbell's work, and his enlightening perspective. Understanding religious metaphors and motifs as both pertinent and meaningful myths is essential to escaping the false dichotomy of "science vs. religion."

I had always heard the well-known phrase "Follow your Bliss" ...and learned it was attributed to Joseph Campbell. However, until I read this book and discussed it with my book group I wasn't fully aware of the meaning. I would recommend reading this book to gain insight into many of the world's religions and myths and most especially, what I came away with, was how interconnected we all are with each other. I've always believed that, but Joseph Campbell helped to solidify that thought. I am only giving the book 4 stars because I would highly recommend seeing the video of the interview. The video is much superior to the book. The book is not an accurate representation of the interviews between Bill Moyers and Campbell. When comparing the two, it appears that the author of "The Power of the Myth" may have taken liberties in many instances and added phrases and ideas that were not in fact said during the interviews. The book still is able to stand on its own, but if given a choice between the two - watching the videos would be the better choice.

This book is a transcript of a series of conversations that took place at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch between journalist Bill Moyers and Joseph Campbell, an influential professor of comparative religion at Sarah Lawrence College. There are nine chapters each devoted to a common theme found in mythology (The Hero's Journey, Masks of Eternity, etc.) For the topic of each chapter, Campbell distills the common wisdom found in the myth, be it religious or not. In that regard the book is as much a philosophy book as a comparative mythology/religion book as Campbell illustrates the morality common to all religions. What I found most interesting is the commonality between the cultural and religious myths. For example, I hadn't known that the virgin birth myth was known to many, many cultures across the world. And Campbell has numerous such examples.

This book covers Joseph Campbell's entire career work as a teacher and writer of an in debt teaching of how misunderstandings of religious metaphors for denoted meanings has led us to an area where the sociological and the cosmological functions are colliding. This encompasses a pedagogical lesson in higher learning of what can be known and what we must accept as a mystery if we are to make any further spiritual progress. It is the companion book to a series of interviews conducted by Bill Moyers toward the end of Campbell's life. A recommend to read book if you want to grasp a deeper meaning in spirituality.

This is a fascinating listen. It took me back in time and to magical places. It fed my newly found interest in spirituality, fueled my passion in religion, made me think, laugh and cry. It is a magical journey to who we are as a race and what we stand for. Highly recommended.

I ordered this book as a required material for a college class on Religion, Faith, and Theology. I must say, I've haven't been this intrigued by required reading since Orwell in high school. Campbell is insightful, clear, and profound in his ideas, thoughts, and explanations about the role myths play in society and the human race. Moyers asks all the right questions, inserts his own knowledge in an intellectually provoking way, and aids the reading in understanding of the metaphysical aspects discussed. The term "myth" is given a new definition, a new life from what we interpret it as in our culture. The importance of myth is so well plotted out by Campbell that it's changed my agnostic, skeptical mind into realizing that myth can serve a great purpose. Campbell and Moyers explore Myth in great detail, from the role in society to the comparative differences and similarities across time to the human spiritual potentialities. I bought several books by Campbell after reading this. It's

a wonderful telling of the truths you know in your heart, and Campbell puts them into words without making them sound like a fantasy. The illustrations are also interesting and relate to the narrative well. Great work!

This series is mesmerizing. Although all scholars do not support Campbell's vision of the universal monomyth, one of the things at which Campbell excelled was the ability to excite our imaginations and to encourage us to read beyond the surface details of myths to try to derive some sense of their relevance in our own lives. He seemed to have had a natural, comfortable way about him and he helped to make mythology accessible to all of us. I studied classical mythology in high school using good old Edith Hamilton's work and while it was all very interesting it never seemed to help to generate any excitement about mythology. Campbell's personal views have become controversial but I think that it just goes to show that, as with every genius whose works I have studied, the work has to stand or fall on its own. Geniuses all seem to me to be very flawed people. I think that if we scrutinize the personal life of any genius we will find plenty to criticize. If you are interested in the Star Wars saga you will find a lot in the "Power of Myth" series to think about.

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