



Parallel Myths

By J.F. Bierlein

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An entertaining and thought-provoking look at the common threads woven through the world's greatest myths -- and the central role they have played through time.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A religious scholar and lifelong student of mythology, Bierlein (*The Book of Ages*) has done an outstanding job both in tracing the parallel themes of world mythology and then gathering a wealth of information vital to understanding their importance. He recaps not only the well-recognized Greek and Roman gods but also the lesser-known Norse, Indian, Chinese, Native American and Oceanic gods, detailing fascinating similarities among pantheons. Bierlein weaves spell-binding tales through his examination of creation myths, flood myths, tales of love, morality myths and myths of heroes and the underworld. He devotes an entire chapter to four stories, two of which tell almost identical tales of two brothers—one myth is from the Native American Blackfoot nation, the other from ancient Egyptians. After providing examples, Bierlein ends with a look at how to interpret parallel myths and modern questions of faith and the legitimacy of the supernatural. This enlightening work will beckon not only the newcomer to mythology, but also the reader well versed in Joseph Campbell.

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From Library Journal

In many ways a worthy successor to Joseph Campbell, Bierlein (*The Book of Ages*, Ballantine, 1992) introduces and compares myths from many cultures and suggests how we may interpret them to make sense in our world today. Various creation accounts, flood myths, mythological love stories, morality myths, legends of the underworld, and visions of the apocalypse are all sensitively retold in this landmark introduction to mythology. A religious scholar at American University, Bierlein convincingly demythologizes the myths themselves by reminding the reader of their true meaning, both sacred and secular, throughout history. Recommended especially for undergraduates and for informed lay readers in public libraries.

Gary P. Gillum, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, Ut.

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From the Inside Flap

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