



The Cry for Myth

By Rollo May

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It happens almost daily in a therapist's office. A patient, recalling a person, an event, an emotion, quite unexpectedly supplies a link from the present to one of the durable myths of our culture. In this moment, the myth reveals to the patient source of disturbance and pain in a pattern of behaviour that often stretches over a year. The healing process begins. The myth, "eternity breaking into time" in Rollo May's works, becomes the focal point of recovery. Through tracing myths - whether from classical Greece and Dante's Middle Ages, European legend (Faust and the prototype of Sleeping Beauty), or contemporary life (Jay Gatsby) - and relating them to the dreams and associations he encounters in his own practice, Dr May provides meaning and structure for all who seek direction in a morally confusing world.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Since his introduction of modern philosophy to American psychiatric practice in the United States (*Existence*, 1958), May has provided readers with accessible texts on many psychological issues (including *Freedom and Destiny*, LJ 10/1/81). In his newest book he directs our attention to the psychology of our culture by providing a distinctly American portrait of the place--and displacements--of myth in our society. As is customary for this author, the text weaves case studies and considerable literary exegesis into his cogent analyses. May demonstrates his thesis--that "Each myth in human history is interpreted according to the needs of the society which it reflects"--and keeps good his promise to provide an American audience currently interested in the mythic realms of other cultures (witness the popularity of Joseph Campbell's works) with insight on our own mythology. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

- *Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley P.L., Cal.*

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About the Author

Rollo May (1909-1994) taught at Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, and was Regents' Professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz. An influential psychologist, he was the best-selling author of *Love and Will*, as well as the author of *The Courage to Create*, *Man's Search for Himself*, *The Meaning of Anxiety*, and *Psychology and the Human Dilemma*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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