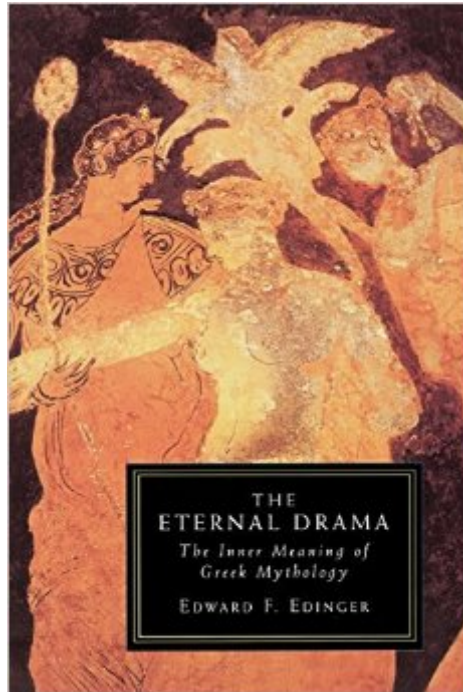


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Eternal Drama: The Inner Meaning Of Greek Mythology



Synopsis

Zeus, Aphrodite, Apollo, Artemis, Athena -- do the gods and goddesses of Greece have anything to say to us that we haven't already heard? In this book, based on a series of his lectures, the eminent Jungian analyst and writer Edward F. Edinger revisits all the major figures, myths, oracles, and legends of the ancient Greek religion to discover what they can still reveal -- representing, as they do, one of the religious and mythic foundations of Western culture. Building on C. G. Jung's assertion that mythology is an expression of the deepest layers of mind and soul, Dr. Edinger follows the mythic images into their persistent manifestations in literature and on into our modern lives. He finds that the gods indeed continue to speak as we grow in our capacity to listen and that the myths express the inner energies within all of us as much as ever. Heracles is eternally performing his labors, Perseus is still confronting the Medusa, Theseus is forever stalking the Minotaur, and Persephone is still being carried off to life in a new realm.

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Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent overview of the "inner meaning," thus the psychological value of the unconscious images that are represented in Greek Mythology. If the reader is not interested in that, I would not buy it. The material here is for learning more about the language of the psyche. The book covers all of the major figures of Greek Mythology that are most relevant to understanding the inner meaning of various symbolic forms as they might appear in dreams or other spontaneous productions from the unconscious. Other reviews of mythology such as Bulfinch's or Edith Hamilton cover the basic "facts" or objective features of mythology, while this book again is focused on

relating the figures of Greek Mythology as part of the living heritage of the psyche, the collective unconscious. In this respect, the book is most valuable.

Edinger was, of course, one of the best expositors of Jung. Many readers complain that his books can be dry and technical. The Eternal Drama, edited from a series of lectures, is not dry at all. It provides the usual depth and insight into the unconscious and the human condition that one expects from Edinger, but it's also presented in a highly accessible, entertaining way. "Myths are not simply tales of happenings in the remote past but eternal dramas that are living themselves out repeatedly in our our own personal lives and in what we see all around us," Edinger says. In brief chapters, Edinger reviews the major players in the Greek pantheon from the perspective of depth psychology. He provides fascinating commentary on the Greek cosmogony, the Epics of Homer, tragic drama, and the mystery religions of Orphism and Eleusis. Maybe my favorite chapter was the one on Greek heroes, which offers fascinating interpretations of the stories of Hercules, Jason, Theseus, and Perseus. Sometimes Edinger's analysis feels like a stretch, but more often it's right on target and provides stunning revelations into the workings of the human mind and the ongoing evolution of human consciousness.

I read this in college, many many years ago. I couldn't find that copy for the life of me, and after several moves, I knew it was gone. I stumbled upon this while searching for other like books, and had to buy again! I majored in Psychology, and I have a love of Mythology. This joins my two favorite subjects. A must read.

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