



Peter Owen Publishers
rights
INFORMATION

73 Kenway Road
London SW5 0RE

Tel: 020 7373 5628 or 7370 6093

Fax: 020 7373 6760

e-mail: ssmith@peterowen.com

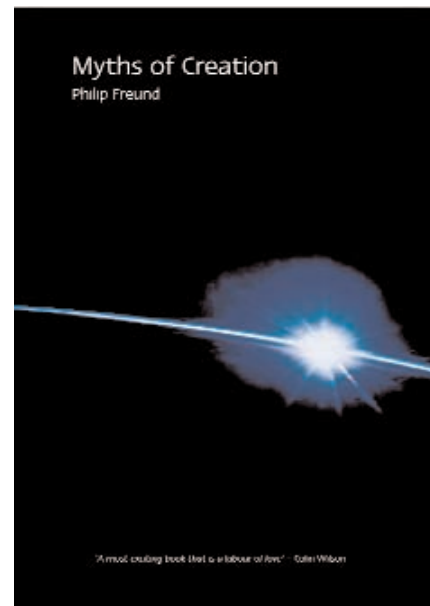
Myths of Creation

PHILIP FREUND

NON-FICTION

85,000 WORDS

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Myths of Creation is a classic study of mythology, religious belief and scientific theory on the origins of the universe that examines stories from all continents and ages – with all their startling similarities and contrasts – to reveal the workings of the human mind and imagination. Philip Freund provides an insight into the universality of ideas and faith by examining a wide range of texts in his search for parallels between creation fables. Why should a Polynesian have a legend which is almost exactly like one told by a Nordic nomad, or a Brazilian Indian repeat a tale much like that of an Eskimo? Also here are clear presentations of the theories of towering figures such as Freud, Jung, Frazer, Campbell and Malinowski who have proposed variously that myths are primitive history based on literal fact, a means of expressing profound tribal wisdom and psychological and sexual truth or that they represent a search for kinship with the animal and vegetable world.

First published over forty years ago, this – still – controversial study will appeal to a wide group of readers: the naturalist who wonders about the origin of the universe, the fundamentalist who challenges Darwin's theory of evolution, the psychologist intrigued by Freud's and Jung's studies of the subconscious and the literature student who finds mythic parallels in texts widely separated by place and time.

Fascinating and erudite, this well-respected book ranks among the select handful of core texts in any mythology collection.

'Myths of Creation will distract and delight the kind of person who was troubled by Spengler, stunned by Wells, angered by Jeans, and wished he knew enough to disprove Toynbee.' – *Daily Telegraph*

'Philip Freund has a style of lovely simplicity . . . with an inevitability of phrase that is the sure mark of a man who knows what he is doing.' – *New York Post*

'A most exciting book . . . done with much thoroughness and breadth that is a labour of love.' – Colin Wilson

PHILIP FREUND is a novelist, poet, short-story writer, documentary film writer, television dramatist and playwright as well as essayist, literary critic and anthropologist. He is a Professor Emeritus of Fordham University, New York, and over the years has taught and lectured on a wide range of subjects from creative writing to the history of art, theatre, music and films. He lives in New York. Peter Owen also publishes Philip Freund's monumental and groundbreaking history of theatre, 'Stage by Stage', decried by *The Stage* as 'possibly the most important study of all the facets of theatre to be published this century'.

For further information please contact Simon Smith at Peter Owen