

## The Nature and Function of Myth

### I. Definitions and terms:

- myth
  
- folktale
- legend
- saga
- attributes and iconography

### II. Approaches to the study of myth:

#### a. Changing Greek views of their own mythological traditions:

- allegorical-
- Euhemeristic-
- philosophical-

#### b. Modern theories applied to understanding myth as cultural expression:

##### 1. Externalist- myth as a product of the social and natural environment

- nature myths-
- ritual-
- charter-
- etiological-

##### 2. Internalist- myth as a product of the human mind

- Freud and myth-
- Jung's archetypes and the "collective unconscious"-
- Levi-Strauss and structuralism-
- Eliade, sacred time; Turner-rites of passage; Campbell, archetypes and rites of passage; hero's journey-
- Feminist theory- explorations of the role of gender and goddess figures-

### III. Some reasons why myth is studied:

- historical-
- anthropological -
- etiological -
- sociological -
- psychological-