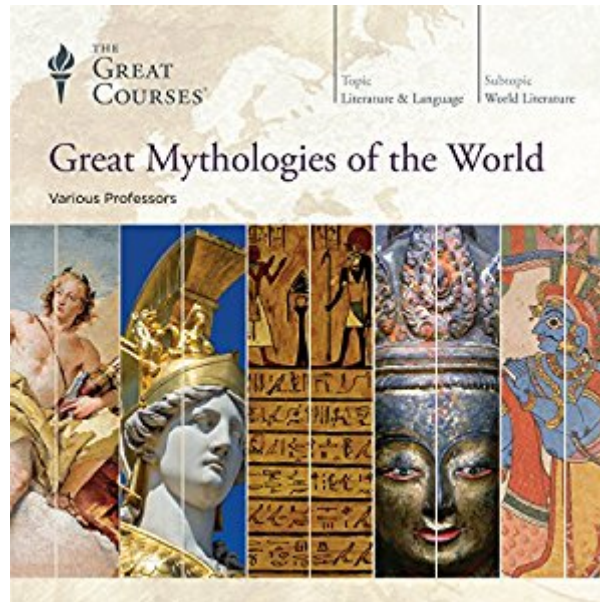




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Great Mythologies Of The World



Synopsis

The deep-seated origins and wide-reaching lessons of ancient myths built the foundation for our modern legacies. Explore the mythologies of Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Learn what makes these stories so important, distinctive, and able to withstand the test of time. Discover how, despite geographical implausibilities, many myths from across the oceans share themes, morals, and archetypes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The lecture series suffers from an uneven and directionless treatment of the subject matter. In the end, there is a lot of information, which for most people could prove excessive with little in the form of conclusions (which is most obvious when the book ends - which just happens to be the last Chapter while it almost could have been any other). Myths matter. As many anthropologists have rightly argued, myths are what led to the homo sapiens' cognitive revolution. Myths made it possible for small groups to come together to perform team actions that separated our species from other forms of humans and animals. Myths provided common purposes, rationales or collective targets to various societies all the way from pre-historic times to now. The lecture series spends no time to expand the roles played by myths in our development - at the broad theoretical level or in explaining differences between various cultures. In fact, no explanations are provided on the selection criteria as well - why certain periods are chosen for various different regions. While various professors allow the series to travel to almost all parts of the world, the selections are almost completely random. For European societies, for example, the discussions are up to the beginning of the common era while almost mysteriously stopping before the rise of the Christianity. In the middle-Eastern sections, the

Judaic myths are avoided. However, the Indian section involves discussion on Buddha but the Chinese Daoism and Confucianism are avoided. For some societies, the discussions include myths developed in the early parts of the last millennia while for some others discussions end way before the Common Era. All the professors have myriads of stories. In most cases, every lecture tries to summarize almost a dozen different tales. One often wonders why as stories zip by. Stories are rarely developed sufficiently for any enjoyment. And they are not analyzed for their meaning to the society around in most cases. The geographical categorization prevents any classifications of myths that permit discussions on their similarities and differences across continents or eras. Without a doubt, there is a lot of information. In one series, the listeners go around the world to realize how different groups reasoned the creation, death, the misery or injustices of daily lives, the environment, other animals and other vagaries of our existence. The scope of the series is absolutely breathtaking as professors make us travel to almost every corner of the pre-modern worlds.

I was excited about this course at first, I wasn't blown away but the final nail was the treatment of the Norse myths. Not only was it short and exceptionally basic, but some of it was just plain wrong. My first disappointment in the Great Courses.

I have heard much better from the Great Courses. The instructor rambles. The myths are not fully explained. The course seems stuffed with a lot of talk and very little content. I feel that course did not deserve my money or most importantly, my time.

On of the nicest courses I have ever heard. I have been using Audible for long time now, and this book is comprehensive. The Professors are really knowledgeable.

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