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Quotes about Myth

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Myth is neither a lie nor a confession: it is an inflexion.

- Barthes, Roland

Myth is the hidden part of every story, the buried part, the region that is still unexplored because there are as yet no words to enable us to get there. Myth is nourished by silence as well as by words.

- Calvino, Italo

Myths are public dreams, dreams are private myths.

- Campbell, Joseph

It is a myth, not a mandate, a fable not a logic, and symbol rather than a reason by which men are moved.

- Edman, Irwin

A myth is a religion in which no one any longer believes.

- Feibleman, James

There is nothing truer than myth: history, in its attempt to realize myth, distorts it, stops halfway; when history claims to have succeeded, this is nothing but humbug and

mystification. Everything we dream is realizable. Reality does not have to be: it is simply what it is.

- Ionesco, Eugene

Myth is an attempt to narrate a whole human experience, of which the purpose is too deep, going too deep in the blood and soul, for mental explanation or description.

- Lawrence, D. H.

I therefore claim to show, not how men think in myths, but how myths operate in men's minds without their being aware of the fact.

- Levi-Strauss, Claude

It is a sure sign that a culture has reached a dead end when it is no longer intrigued by its myths.

- Marcus, Greil

The primary function of myth is to validate an existing social order. Myth enshrines conservative social values, raising tradition on a pedestal. It expresses and confirms, rather than explains or questions, the sources of cultural attitudes and values. Because myth anchors the present in the past it is a sociological charter for a future society which is an exact replica of the present one.

- Oakley, Ann

Myths which are believed in tend to become true.

- Orwell, George

Sometimes legends make reality, and become more useful than the facts.

- Rushdie, Salman

All the great things have been denied and we live in an intricacy of new and local mythologies, political, economic, poetic, which are asserted with an ever-enlarging incoherence.

- Stevens, Wallace

The poets were not alone in sanctioning myths, for long before the poets the states and the lawmakers had sanctioned them as a useful expedient. They needed to control the people by superstitious fears, and these cannot be aroused without myths and marvels.

- Strabo, Mikhail

Myths and legends die hard in America. We love them for the extra dimension they provide, the illusion of near-infinite possibility to erase the narrow confines of most men's reality. Weird heroes and mould-breaking champions exist as living proof to those who need it that the tyranny of the rat race is not yet final.

- Thompson, Hunter S.

One may as well preach a respectable mythology as anything else.

- Ward, Mrs. Humphrey



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