

Comparative Myth

Notes

Meeting One

Myth Definitions- Greek

- mūthos [Μῦθος] ‘special speech; special utterance; myth; words, wording, something said for the record’
- logos [λογος]- speech, word, reason, order
- related verbs:
 - muo- to close the mouth, be silent or “mum”
 - muelo- to initiate into the mysteries

Myth Definitions- Sanskrit

- mithya = subjective truth
- satya = absolute truth

Myth Definitions- Egypt

- “Zep Tepi” = happenings in the time of the Gods
- This brings in the Yugas

How Do We Study Myth

- Mythos + logos = mythology; the study of sacred speech; bringing a rational approach to what is subjective truth
- What is the language of myth?
 - symbol
 - ritual
 - stories (words)

Some Considerations

- What negative connotations do we have about myth in our culture?
- What are the dangers of comparison?
- What happens when we apply our own spiritual framework?