

Searching a Definition of the Myth

This article has the purpose of stressing the importance of the myth as a basic literary concept. That is why the first pages of this study explain the well-known definitions of the myth written by Mircea Eliade, Andreas Jolles, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Gilbert Durand, Pierre Albouy and Pierre Brunel.

The second part of this article refers to some of the most important writings by Mircea Eliade, Julien Reis and Douglas Allen, in order to present the relationship between myth and the sacred and the concept of *homo religious/symbolicus*. The symbolic dimension of the myth leads to the analysis of the *exemplum* role implied by the myth in the communities that re-actualize it.