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Crossing of the First Threshold. After this the "Belly of the Whale" (or the night sea journey) forms a decisive ordeal. After further trials and victories initiation follows resulting in "Apotheosis", "The Ultimate Boon" and finally the return and reintegration with society.

The Cosmogonic Cycle (Part II) "unrolls a great vision of the creation and destruction of the world which is vouchsafed as revelation to the successful hero ... The hero and his ultimate god, the seeker and the found are ... understood as the outside and the inside of a single, self-mirrored mystery, which is identical with the mystery of the manifest world".

The author quotes freely from modern psychological sources, including both Freud and Jung, thus using an analytical approach as an aid towards understanding the spiritual adventure of the hero, who seeks to attain and bring back the treasure of superhuman knowledge and wisdom. However, little attempt is made to interpret the myths, the author preferring to let "the ancient meaning become apparent by itself", through the constant repetition of the same story-pattern with infinite individual variations.

The material ranges from the life and transfiguration of Christ and the life of Buddha (his ordeal and victory under the "Bo Tree") to such stories as the Sleeping Beauty and the Frog Prince. One of the chief merits of the material chosen is that a wealth of rare and little known myths and tales are given more space than the well known ones, thus making the collection a valuable source book for further study.

The book is richly illustrated with beautiful and unusual plates from Bali, Egypt, Persia, Tibet, India, China, Japan, Polynesia, Assyria, Cambodia etc., to mention only the eastern sources. Further material, including Christian, Hebrew and Sumerian sources, is taken from the following lands: Greece, Algiers (Paleolithic), France, the Sudan, Nigeria, Argentine, Mexico, Honduras, and Alaska.

The author astutely observes (p. 382) that all the varied attempts to interpret mythology represent so many facets of the truth and are determined by the various viewpoints of the judges, since "mythology shows itself to be as amenable as life itself to the obsessions and requirements of the individual, the race, the age".

C. BAUMANN

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ART NEWS 1950

January to June

DISCOVERIES

Amman, Jordan. A group of figures or part of them, nearly life-size or smaller, have been unearthed outside the city walls at the north-end of the citadel. Some of them consist of limestone, and one of a harder stone; they are of different states of preservation and have traces of colour. One of the complete figures has an inscription so far untranslatable in its plinth. They show both Egyptian and Mesopotamian influences and are ascribed to the ninth century B. C. – A cemetery dating from about A. D. 500 has been discovered in Central Palestine. Ten stone coffins containing pottery, decorated pottery lamps and a glass statue and bracelet have been found.

Baghdad. A stone portrait statue, 50 cm high, representing a scribe and high priest of a Sumerian king, of which scholars have known for six years but which had disappeared in illicit trade, has been seized by the Iraqi Government. The work, which dates from about 2700 B. C., is said to be the finest Sumerian sculpture which has been discovered up to now.

Karachi. At Mohenjo Daro a granary has been excavated, which is the best preserved of all known buildings of the Indian Valley civilization. It was originally over 45 m long and is architecturally very notable. The excavations have been supervised by Dr. Mortimer Wheeler.

Philadelphia. Excavations directed at Nippur in Iraq by Dr. Donald E. McCown for the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the Oriental Institute of the University