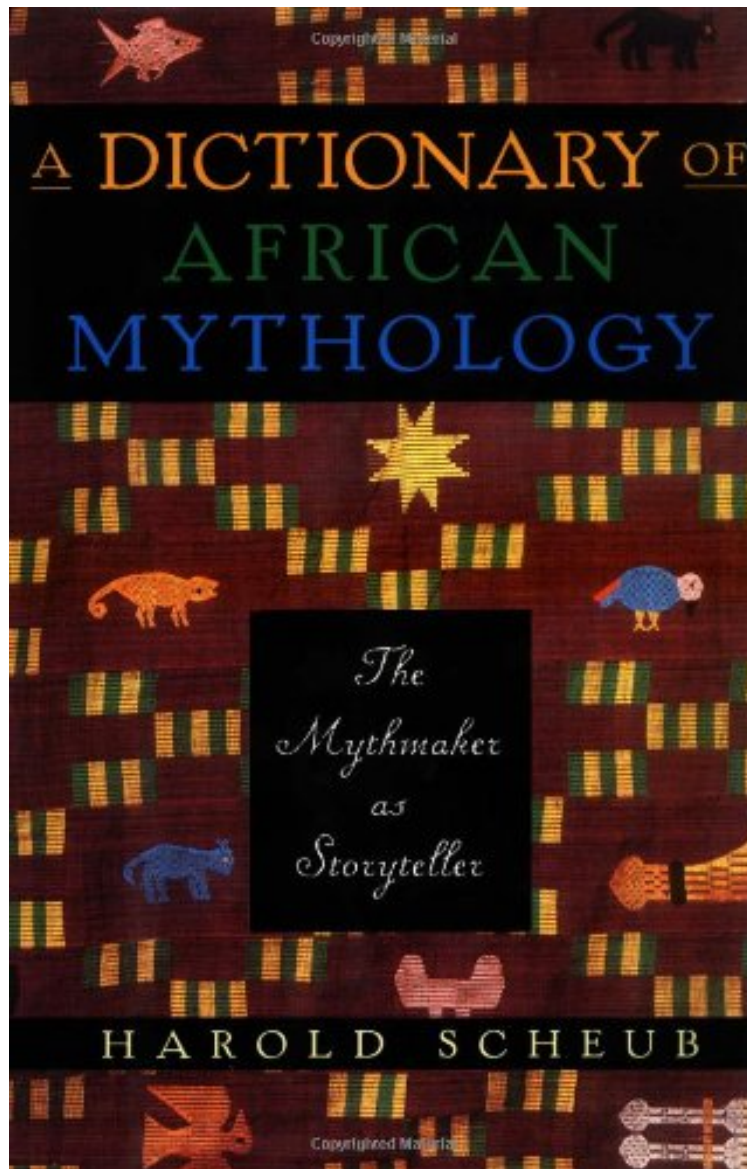


[Get free] A Dictionary of African Mythology: The Mythmaker as Storyteller

## A Dictionary of African Mythology: The Mythmaker as Storyteller

*Harold Scheub*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1197579 in Books 2000-02-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x 1.50 x 6.20l, #File Name: 0195124561384 pages | File size: 71.Mb

**Harold Scheub : A Dictionary of African Mythology: The Mythmaker as Storyteller** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of African Mythology: The Mythmaker as Storyteller:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazingly thorough. Surprised there aren't more myths about lions ...By Andrew88Amazingly thorough. Surprised there aren't more myths about lions.13 of 13 people found the

following review helpful. An Essential Guide to African Mythology By Zekeriyah Most people today are familiar with the mythologies of Greece, Rome, Egypt and possibly the Norse, but how many people can name people or places from sub-Saharan African mythology? Despite the continuation of many indigenous religions in Africa, to say nothing of the proliferation of African religions in the New World (such as Voudon, Santeria and Candomble), few people know much about the gods, heros and legends of Africa. Set up as a dictionary, with entries in alphabetical order, this book starts to change some of that. After a short introduction that explains the background of African myths and the storytelling traditions, this book goes on to give hundreds of different African myths. Each entry explains the myth and gives a story, along with the culture group and what country or country the story comes from. Included are countless important stories from across the continent, taken from everyone from the Zulu of South Africa to the Berbers of Morocco. Tunisian stories of the Arab hero Abu Zayd are included, alongside the Khoi story of how Heitsi-Ebib parted the waters and how the Egyptian sun god Ra created the world. Yoruba stories about Shango, the Orisha of thunder and lightning, stand beside tales of the epic Swahili culture hero Liongo. There are entries about Abuk, the first woman to the Dinka of Sudan who caused the fall of man, and entries about the Mpaca forest spirit of the Nyanga from the Congo and the Hausa folklore about the bull who supports the world on his horns. Hundreds of different stories from across Africa are included, mostly focusing on gods, spirits and culture heros. Scattered throughout the book are a couple of essays about African storytelling traditions, and some traditional African proverbs (both in the original languages and translated into English). There are also some pictures of African art, and a map. A very thorough work of scholarship, as could be seen from the bibliography (which includes sources for each story). Even better, the end includes an index which lets you search for myth by country and culture, so if you want to find something from, say Cameroon or perhaps the Tutsi people, you can easily find it by going to the index. There is another appendix which includes myths sorted by category, such as creation myths, myths of separation between man and god, and myths of the origin of death. This is great if you ever want to do a cross-cultural survey of myths. All in all, this is an essential book for anyone interested in mythology and storytelling, especially in the context of Africa. While it is far from being a comprehensive guide to African myth, if such a thing is even possible, it does give a very good survey of pan-African mythology, and it makes it easy to search myths by theme, culture/language group and country. That makes it a great starting point and source of reference, even if it doesn't include every single African myth. So do yourself a favor and check this book out. It will certainly expand your cultural knowledge, which is a good thing.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Dictionary By Alex C. Telander There are not many people who know a lot about African countries today, and there are far less who are aware of the immense mythology that exists on this ancient continent. A Dictionary of African Mythology changes this. In paperback form and being not that long, this edition serves as a handy reference tool, with a thorough index, for anyone writing papers on this subject. But it also serves as a most interesting book about a giant continent whose mythology is not really known about. In an easy-to-read dictionary form, you can either start at the beginning, or flip to a random page. Whatever you choose to do, it will ultimately open new worlds to, and tales of countries you were never even sure existed before. Originally published on November 25th, 2002. Go to BookBanter ([...]) for over five hundred reviews and over forty exclusive author interviews, and more.

In this marvelous collection of hundreds of fascinating, mysterious, and revealing tales, Harold Scheub captures the immense sweep and diversity of African mythology. Scheub offers an unprecedented collection of 400 stories, arranged alphabetically, that touch on virtually every aspect of religious belief. Here are gods and goddesses, epic heroes and divine tricksters, along with epics of the world's origins, the struggle between the human and the divine, and much more. Scheub covers the entire continent, from the mouth of the Nile to the shores of the Cape of Good Hope, including North African as well as sub-Saharan cultures. Here, for example, is the tale of Abu Zayd (from the Bani Hilal of Tunisia), an epic hero who battles a jinni; and here too is a myth of how the moon and the toad created the first man and woman, from the Soko of Congo. Scheub not only retells each story, but provides information about the respective belief system, the main characters, and related stories or variants. Perhaps most important, Scheub emphasizes the role of mythmaker as storyteller--as a performer for an audience. He explores various techniques, from the rhythmic movements of a Zulu mythmaker's hands to the way a storyteller will play on the familiar context of other myths within her cultural context. In *A Dictionary of African Mythology*, Harold Scheub has constructed an invaluable bridge to the richly diverse oral cultures of Africa. In this magnificent collection, he not only provides hundreds of fascinating myths, but recaptures their cultural contexts--in which story and storyteller, tradition and performance, all merge.

.com There's no Zeus with his thunderbolt or Thor with his hammer; but in Harold Scheub's *A Dictionary of African Mythology*, there is Kibuka, who shoots arrows from clouds, and Tanit, mother of the universe, with her spear. From over 10 years of living in Africa, Harold Scheub has combed oral and recorded traditions to deliver a treasury of African mythology. Scheub focuses on the art of the storyteller, presenting stories that animate the peoples that tell them. You'll find the full range of archetypal figures here and see how mythic scenarios can vary from region to

region. There are the rain-stones from God; the crocodile women; and Wuni, the god who destined men to always have to chase women. Scheub ties the stories together by locating common themes and provides an immense bibliography, along with cross-referencing by culture and country. Africa is not often on our mythology radar, but Scheub demonstrates that the continent's traditions are every bit as colorful and transformative as the myths of other world cultures. --Brian Bruya

**From Library Journal**African myths are stories--most of them ancient--passed along from generation to generation by oral narrative. They are inexorably linked to religious traditions, tribal customs, and enduring proverbs couched in the continuum of belief systems. Collectively, the 400 stories presented here--revamped by Scheub, who has devoted his professional career to researching and teaching in Africa and has published numerous monographs, e.g., the celebrated *The Tongue Is Fire*--reveal the unique sweep and diversity of African mythology. Selections from every country, arranged alphabetically by nation, survey the entire continent, including North Africa and Sub-Saharan cultures. Based on careful research, this book includes a geographic index and a valuable guide to sources (French, German, English, etc.). Engaging yet scholarly in presentation, this work is vital to upper-level and professional studies and should be considered for all collections of African research.-Richard K. Burns, MSLS, Hatboro, PA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

**From Booklist**This is a sampler of 400 of the many thousands of African myths, encompassing the entire continent, from the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope. Entries are arranged by the name of the principal character, from Abasi's messenger is a vulture to Zra creates death. Most are brief, providing cultural and geographical origin and anywhere from one short paragraph to several paragraphs that give the basic tale and a few variants. Fourteen are slightly expanded to allow the author to comment upon some of the themes that run through the myths. Myths from North Africa include tales from the pre-Islamic Egyptian, classical Greek, and Hellenistic traditions as well as from Islamic traditions. Following the entries is a list of sources for each tale that refers to an extensive bibliography. There are three indexes: country of origin, cultural/linguistic origin, and "grand myth," which indexes themes. There are a few illustrations, both photographs and woodcuts, and a map. Within most entries one finds a symbol that is not explained in the introduction or notes. It may have been intended to indicate that text that follows the symbol covers a variant of the myth being discussed; it should have been explained. A map or maps outlining linguistic/cultural areas in addition to the modern political map would be useful, as would a pronunciation guide. This volume will be valuable in large public library collections and larger high-school and community-college collections. The bibliography should be useful for undergraduate university folklore students.