



Common Elements in Creation Myths

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It is in the nature of humans to wonder about the unknown and search for answers. At the foundation of nearly every culture is a creation myth that explains how the wonders of earth came to be. These myths have an immense influence on people's frame of reference. They influence the way people think about the world and their place in relation to their surroundings. Despite being separated by numerous geographical barriers many cultures have developed creation myths with the same basic elements

Many creation myths begin with the theme of birth. This may be because birth represents new life and the beginning of life on earth may have been imagined as being similar to the beginning of a child's life. This is closely related to the idea of a mother and father existing in the creation of the world. The mother and father are not always the figures that create life on earth. Sometime the creation doesn't occur until generations after the first god came into being.

A supreme being appears in almost every myth. He or she is what triggers the train of events that create the world. Sometimes there are two beings, a passive and active creator.

Not all cultures imagine life starting on earth. Some believe that it originated either above or below where we live now. Still other myths claim the earth was once covered with water and the earth was brought to the surface. These are called diverse myths.

According to some cultures humans and animals once lived together peacefully. However, because of a sin caused by the humans they are split up. This sin is often brought on by darkness and is represented by as fire. Other times the innocence of humans is taken away by a god.

We continue to wonder. Even now in the 21st century we continue to make theories on how earth was created. They are new creation myths. We base our ideas on scientific evidence. However the creation myths were based on what people saw – their observations,

