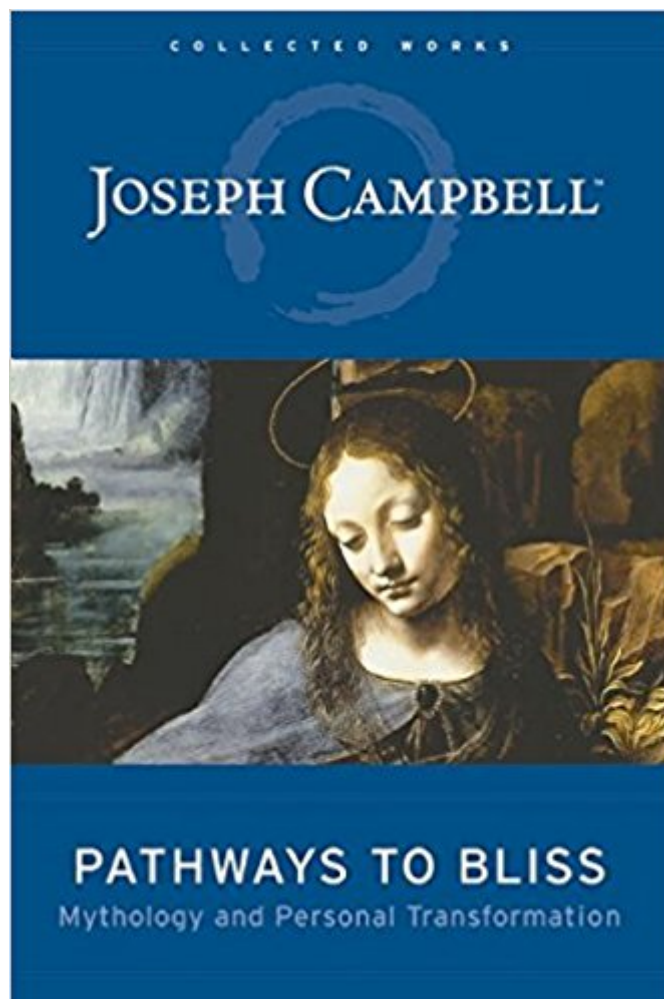


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# Pathways To Bliss: Mythology And Personal Transformation



## Synopsis

Joseph Campbell famously defined myth as "other people's religion." But he also said that one of the basic functions of myth is to help each individual through the journey of life, providing a sort of travel guide or map to reach fulfillment; or, as he called it, bliss. For Campbell, many of the world's most powerful myths support the individual's heroic path toward bliss. In *Pathways to Bliss*, Campbell examines this personal, psychological side of myth. Like his classic best-selling books *Myths to Live By* and *The Power of Myth*, *Pathways to Bliss* draws from Campbell's popular lectures and dialogues, which highlight his remarkable storytelling and ability to apply the larger themes of world mythology to personal growth and the quest for transformation. Here he anchors mythology's symbolic wisdom to the individual, applying the most poetic mythical metaphors to the challenges of our daily lives. Campbell dwells on life's important questions. Combining cross-cultural stories with the teachings of modern psychology, he examines the ways in which our myths shape and enrich our lives and shows how myth can help each of us truly identify and follow our bliss.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This ninth volume of Campbell's previously unpublished material deftly marries his sweeping grasp of myths with the needs of contemporary people looking for meaning and inspiration. Expert editor and seasoned Campbell authority David Kudler makes the mythic-stature-mythicist come alive again. Fans will recognize Campbell's comforting cadence and intimacy, conveyed by use of the

second person and by his masterful storytelling. Campbell realized he was essentially saying the same things over more than two decades. As such, this volume breaks no new ground, but does give explicit directions for identifying and connecting oneself to a meaningful mythic overview, unbounded by specific cultures or historical facts. Campbell gives adequate coverage to the historical development of myth as it pertains to the individual, especially through the eyes of Jung. The final chapter, a distilled jewel of the hero's journey mono-myth that Campbell made famous, is followed by "Dialogue," several pages of conversation between Campbell and anonymous people, exploring the application of gender differences to the hero's journey. Campbell assesses life now as pathless: "We are in a sort of free fall into the future." He is, however, perennially hopeful that if we discover our own mythological underpinnings, carried on the wings of artists and poets, we can find our way to individual bliss. This is a fine volume for old friends and new followers. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

If you followed the television series with Bill Moyers or have read any of Campbell's books, this book presents a new look at some of his ideas and a clearer picture of how to interpret myths for your own journey. --Bayswater Books Wonderful insight into the essential Joseph Campbell... a guidebook for finding one's own inner hero or heroine, and for finding the guts to listen to one's own story. --Bloomsbury Review No one in our century; not Freud, not Thomas Mann, not Lévi-Strauss; has so brought the mythical sense of the world and its eternal figures back into our everyday consciousness. --James Hillman Campbell has become the rarest of intellectuals in American life: a serious thinker who has been embraced by the popular culture. --Newsweek In our generation the mythographer who has had the fullest command of the huge scholarly literature, the analytic ability, the lucid prose, and the needed staying power has been Joseph Campbell. --Commentary

I've discovered Campbell's work not long ago, but it feels like I've found a life Master. I've read *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* and *The Hero's Journey*, but this was my favourite from Campbell, so far. Although in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* all that is covered here is also dealt with in depth, in this book Campbell relates myths and personal development in a most comprehensive and profound way. It fulfils the fourth function of myth perfectly: to carry the individual through the stages in his life and facilitate the hero's journey. Plus, the last part of the book, where some dialogues with a group of women are shown, and the heroine's journey is debated, really aided me to delve deep into my own woman's psyche and inner work, in addition to providing me with sound material for my

Women Circles. It's a really inspirational work and I'm so grateful to have come across this amazing Teacher, that Campbell is.

Never in my life has a book so inspired me. It has taken me months to get through this book because every page makes me stop and relate the passages to my own life. Do yourself a favor and get this book. The image I included is one of the many pages I've underlined. This book will be read and reread multiple times.

Worth reading if you are looking for bliss and appreciate mythology. This writing is much more accessible than some of his other books. Also, the feminine is addressed more here than in "Hero with a Thousand Faces".

Joseph Campbell is the most influential person in my life (of course I never met him) and this is his best book. This will help you understand some of the bigger questions of meaning, purpose and other perplexing things we humans face. And with all the hogwash out there telling us to put a smile on our face and that will solve our problems this is a wise way to try to understand life.

Joseph Campbell is a writer with no comparison. He has opened my eyes in so many occasions and expanded my mind to question my beliefs. I have found that reading his books gives me permission to think my own thoughts and understand that I am the reason for my happiness and bliss in life. Happiness is a state of mind that is my responsibility! Improve your world vision and get to know Joseph Campbell by reading his books. I especially loved Pathways to Bliss. Love and Light... Alexandra Alexander

I used to recommend people start with Myths to Live By, but now I think people should start with Pathways To Bliss. It's just a fantastic overview of the ideas that Joseph Campbell expands on and reiterates throughout his other books. I started reading this book and my wife was joking with me, saying all you have to do is read the last paragraph to get the gist of the book. So as a joke I turned to the last paragraph and read it out loud to her. It was so moving, well, that was it, we both read the book cover to cover together. It's just an amazingly affirmative view of life and nobody explains the mysteries of the cosmos better than Joseph Campbell. I'm a huge fan of his, and this book is the best one yet.

I wonder if I am qualified to judge a master mythologist that Joseph Campbell is. I have read with great admiration: The Power of Myth, The Hero with a Thousand Faces, The Masks of God, Vol. 1: Primitive Mythology, The Masks of God, Vol. 2: Oriental Mythology, The Masks of God, Vol. 3: Occidental Mythology, The Masks of God, Vol. 4: Creative Mythology. So this was not surprise to me, in fact I consider myself to be a student of Joseph Campbell. I wholeheartedly 110% recommend this book to all earnest seekers of knowledge and wisdom.

Joseph Campbell; A Teacher of Sacred Connections. His Openness and Verifiable Facts and Yearning to Explain the Truths are Absolutely An Awakening, Factual, Amazing, Brave and Priceless!!! He Can Help Further In Spirit Now, but He Left Us With Great Knowledge and Understandings.

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