

## BOOK REVIEWS

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**Tartu 2001**

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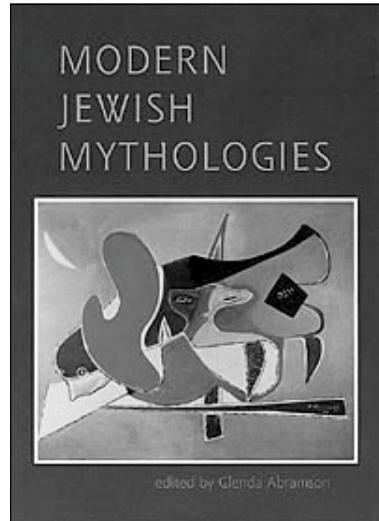
*Glenda Abramson (ed.)*

**MODERN JEWISH MYTHOLOGIES** In English. Cincinnati  
1999: Hebrew Union College. 197 pp. ISBN 0-87820-216-1

The understanding of reality (and the world view?) is made up of facts and the ways in which these facts are approached and comprehended. Among the major influence to reality are various modern myths – historical, religious, and national narratives that replace the sacred myths of the past. The presence of shaping myths is generally accepted in Jewish culture, but up till now their role has been discussed only fragmentarily.

Modern Jewish Mythologies presents eleven essays, each of which seeks to demonstrate the function and dynamic effect of myths in Jewish cultural, social, political and psychological life. The gathered essays explore the complex relationship between myth and ritual in Jewish culture. The contributors examine such topics as the ancient myth of the Golem, myth and the function of collective memory, South African Jewry and their moral views on Apartheid, the male superhero in Zionist cinema, and separating the myth from reality in remembering the Holocaust.

The book's authors include Tudor Parfitt, David Cesarani, Dan Urian, Eli Yassif, Nurith Gertz, Anita R. Shapiro, Sylvia Ann Goldberg, Matthew Olshan.



Maris Kuperjanov, Tartu