

## New Perspectives on Myth



Wim M.J. van Binsbergen & Eric Venbrux  
(eds)

# **New Perspectives on Myth**

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of the International Association for  
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*to Michael Witzel, the driving force behind it all*



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# Preface

by Wim van Binsbergen & Eric Venbrux

The Second Annual Conference of the International Association for Comparative Mythology (IACM) was held at the former convent of Soeterbeeck near the small medieval town of Ravenstein in the Netherlands on 19-21 August 2008. This volume, entitled *New Perspectives on Myth*, contains the proceedings of the conference.

In total the work has 19 chapters. The volume consists of five parts: an introduction offering a report of the conference, a section on *The Mythology of Death and Dying*, another on *Mythological Continuities between Africa and Other Continents*, a section on *Theoretical and Methodological Advances*, and a final one on *Work-in-Progress*. Indexes of proper names and of authors have been added to assist readers in consulting the proceedings, to highlight the links between chapters, and to provide something of an inventory of current comparative mythology as a field of studies.

We would like to thank the following institutions for their financial contributions, making the conference possible: the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University, USA; the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW); the Faculty of Religious Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands; the African Studies Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands; the Sormani Fund, Nijmegen, the Netherlands; the Philosophical Faculty, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands; the International Office, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands; *Quest: An African Journal of Philosophy / Revue Africaine de Philosophie*; the Research School NISCO, Faculty of Social Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands; and the International Association for Comparative Mythology (IACM), Cambridge MA, USA.

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Last but not least, our thanks are due to the International Association for Comparative Mythology, and to the participants in the Second Annual Conference of that organisation, for creating the intellectual conditions towards the present book, and entrusting its realisation to us.



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