CREATION MYTHS

• The most profound questions give rise to Creation Myths:
  Who are we? Where do we come from?
  Where does the world come from?
  What is the purpose of life/death?
  What is our place in the cosmos?

• Myths organize the way we perceive reality, ourselves and the world

• Creation myths express our awe before reality
  ➔ Sacred Nature

• The power of myth is not descriptive but existential:
  ➔ Myths are “true” to the extent that they are effective
• Myths are integral part of religion
  myths are how religions proclaim their reality
  (Ritual as vehicle)

• Creation Myths: Relation of the known to the unknowable
  What was before anything was?
  What is the source of all being?

• Solution: Go beyond polarity of opposites
  “Creation” implies in separation of opposites
CLASSIFICATION OF COSMOGONICAL MYTHS

IS THERE A BEGINNING?

YES

CREATION MYTHS

POSITIVE BEING

God/gods

NEGATIVE BEING

From nothing

NEGATIVE BEING VS. NONBEING

Order from chaos

ETERNAL EXISTENCE

RYTHMIC COSMOS

NO

NO-CREATION MYTHS

ETERNALLY EXISTING

RYTHMIC COSMOS