

Myth

Miki Kiyoshi

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Abstract: “Myth” comprises the first chapter of the book, *The Logic of the Imagination*, by Miki Kiyoshi.

In this chapter Miki analyzes the significance of myth (shinwa) as possessing a certain reality despite being “fictions.” He begins by broadening the meaning of the imagination to argue for a logic of the imagination that involves expressive action or poiesis (production) in general, of which myth is one important product. The imagination gathers in myth material from the enviroing world lived by the social collectivity. Its formation of images (Bilder) expresses the pathos of a people vis-à-vis their environment, but myth also contains elements of logos in the form of intellectual representations and figures. And their combination becomes expressed externally by stimulating and guiding action. In this way Miki argues that myths contain both emotive and kinetic elements, which by moving people to action, are capable of making history. Thus rooted in the symbiosis between individual and social and between society and environment, myth possesses a “historical creativity.” And he also argues that myths can be present with a sense of reality at any epoch in history, even today, wherever and whenever their primeval power is felt to function, “drawing out” a new reality, a new world, out of the natural world.¹

Key Words: myth — imagination — creative imagination — productive imagination — Kyoto School philosophy — *poiesis* — Japanese Philosophy

Section 1

The term ‘logic of imagination’ [構想力の論理] (*Logik der Einbildungskraft*) derives from Baumgarten. It has also been called the ‘logic of fantasy’ [想像の論理] (*Logik der Phantasie*). According to Cassirer (1922, p. 6), the concept