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# Sacred Narrative Readings In The Theory Of Myth

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Religious Stories We Live By  
Figuring the Sacred  
To Tell the Sacred Tale  
Sacred Narrative  
Empty Tomb, Apotheosis, Resurrection  
What's in It for Me? Finding Ourselves in Biblical Narratives  
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*Sacred Narrative Readings In The  
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## **WILLIAMSON MCCONNELL**

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*Religious Stories We Live By* Routledge

Until recently, studies of the Bible centered on finding sources for historical knowledge, theological insights, or ethical advice, overlooking the true beauty of the words in the "book of books." This collection of six essays by noted literary critics and biblical scholars--including Harold Bloom, Hans Frei, Frank Kermode, James Robinson, Donald Foster, and Herbert Schneidau--breaks new ground by exploring the Bible as poetry, rhetoric, and narrative. The authors treat such issues involved in biblical narrative as its genesis, its revisionist dynamic, its fictional

character, its interpretive nature, and its contradictions, prejudices, and claims. McConnell's lively, readable introduction elucidates and unifies the book's themes.

**Figuring the Sacred** Guilford Press

The Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, and certain other works of fantasy and science fiction have inspired some of their readers and viewers to believe that the superhuman powers of the story-worlds, such as Gandalf and the Force, exist also in the real world. We can say that such fictional narratives possess 'religious affordance', for they contain certain textual features that afford or make possible a religious, rather than just a fictional, use of the text. This book aims to identify those features of the text that make it possible for a fictional narrative to inspire belief in the supernatural beings of the story, or even to facilitate ritual

interaction with these beings. The contributions analyse the religious affordance and actual use of a wide range of texts, spanning from Harry Potter and Star Wars, over The Lord of the Rings and late 19th-century Scandinavian fantasy, to the Christian Gospels. Although we focus on the religious affordance of fictional texts, we also spell out implications for the study of religious narratives in general, and for the narrativist study of religion. This book was originally published as a special issue of the journal Religion.

*To Tell the Sacred Tale* Oxford University Press

What kind of book is the Bible? Is it a rulebook or a guidebook for moral living? Is it a history book or a book filled with fascinating (and sometimes fantastic) stories? Did humans write the Bible or did God somehow speak a perfect message that the authors transcribed? Many people have asked these questions about the nature of this beautiful, odd, comforting, disturbing book the church calls its "Holy Scripture." Charlotte Vaughan Coyle shares her own journey to make sense of the Bible in this read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year project. She discovered that the crucial work of asking hard questions and even arguing with the Bible revealed the Scriptures to be a symphony of polyphonic voices, a work of art that paints an alternative vision of reality, a complex novel-like story unavoidably embedded in its own culture and time, and yet able to give witness to the God beyond history who has acted (and continues to act) within history. With the heart of a pastor and the passion of a preacher, Rev. Coyle invites seekers and students (both church and un-church) to strap on their scuba gear and join her for a deeper dive beneath the surface of this immense, colorful, mysterious world of the Bible.

**Sacred Narrative** Oxford University Press

In this volume, the editors have brought together a rich multidisciplinary collection of papers on the incorporation and adaptation of existing stories in a new context. It presents a vast array of research in mutual interaction between ancient myths, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and modern secular culture.

*Empty Tomb, Apotheosis, Resurrection* Oxford University Press, USA

'Ayn al-Qudat is one of the great multi-dimensional geniuses of Islamic intellectual history and has even been described as the true father of deconstructionism, yet he remains little known and even less understood in the English speaking world. Hamid Dabashi has filled this gap with a compelling and sophisticated analysis of this seminal 12th century writer and thinker. Prof. Dabashi frees 'Ayn al-Qudat from the static categorizations of mystic, philosopher, theologian, poet or social critic and allows the dynamism and subversive thrust of his life and intellect to emerge. *Untimely thoughts* provides a clearly written critical introduction to the intellectual, literary, religious and philosophical struggles of the time as expressed by one of Islam's greatest and most radical writers.

**What's in It for Me? Finding Ourselves in Biblical Narratives** Univ of California Press

Stories have always been important in religion, but systematic explorations of the narrative dimensions of religion are more recent and interdisciplinary explorations of narrative approaches in theology and religious studies are scarce. *Religious Stories We Live By* paves the ground for these much needed interdisciplinary conversations. It first offers philosophical, psychological, and

epistemological reflections on the importance of narrative approaches in the study of religion. The subsequent sections contain case studies and disciplinary overviews of narrative perspectives in biblical, empirical, systematic, and historical approaches in theology and religious studies. Combined, the contributions showcase the potential of narrative perspectives in bridging theology and religious studies, as well as descriptive and normative approaches. Narrative perspectives offer a fruitful common ground for the study of religion. Contributors include Angela Berlis, Marjo Buitelaar, James Day, Maaïke de Haardt, Marieke den Braber, Luco van den Brom, Marjet Derks, Toke Elshof, Dorothea Erbele Küster, John Exalto, Ruard Ganzevoort, Joep van Gennip, Annelies van Heijst, Chris Hermans, Liesbeth Hoeven, Anne-Marie Korte, Edwin Koster, Marit Monteiro, Michael Scherer-Rath, Klaas Spronk, Piet Verschuren, Wim Weren, and Willien van Wieringen.

Sacred Stories, Spiritual Tribes Harper San Francisco

*In Search of the Sacred Book* studies the artistic incorporation of religious concepts such as prophecy, eternity, and the afterlife in the contemporary Latin American novel. It departs from sociopolitical readings by noting the continued relevance of religion in Latin American life and culture, despite modernity's powerful secularizing influence. Analyzing Jorge Luis Borges's secularized "narrative theology" in his essays and short stories, the book follows the development of the Latin American novel from the early twentieth century until today by examining the attempts of major novelists, from María Luisa Bombal, Alejo Carpentier, and Juan Rulfo, to Julio Cortázar, Gabriel García Márquez, and José Lezama Lima, to "sacralize" the novel by

incorporating traits present in the sacred texts of many religions. It concludes with a view of the "desacralization" of the novel by more recent authors, from Elena Poniatowska and Fernando Vallejo to Roberto Bolaño.

Truth and Narrative Routledge

*Theological Reflections: Methods*, offers a comprehensive collection of models of theological reflection. By bringing this diverse collection together in one place, the editors create a unique reference work that allows a clear and visible contrast and comparison as each model is treated formally and in a standard format. Throughout each chapter the distinguishing features of the model are examined, the genealogy and origins are discussed, worked examples of the model applied to contemporary theology are provided, and critical commentary, future trends and exercises and questions are provided. Now firmly established as an essential text on theological reflection, this new edition has been revised and updated with a new introduction, updated examples, and refreshed bibliographies

Narrative and Belief A&C Black

*In Chinese Mythology*, Anne Birrell provides English translations of some 300 representative myth narratives selected from over 100 classical texts, many of which have never before been translated into any Western language. Organizing the narratives according to themes and motifs common to world mythology, Birrell addresses issues of source, dating, attribution, textual variants, multiforms, and context. Drawing on exhaustive work in comparative mythology, she surveys the development of Chinese myth studies, summarizes the contribution of Chinese and Japanese scholars to the study of Chinese myth since the 1920s,

and examines special aspects of traditional approaches to Chinese myth. The result is an unprecedented guide to the study of Chinese myth for specialists and nonspecialists alike.

**Religious Stories in Transformation: Conflict, Revision and Reception** Wipf and Stock Publishers

*Biblical Epics: Sacred Narrative in the Hollywood Cinema* is a major survey and analysis of the relationship between religion and film, and traces the development of this genre in Hollywood. The book examines the impact of religion, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender on this complex genre, within the context of American history. Together, Bruce Francis Babington and Peter William Evans raise questions of narrative spectacle, Jewish-Christian relations, authorship, star meanings, the representation of Christ, and sexual desire. The authors theorize the Biblical epic in its three main forms: the Old Testament epic; the Christ film; and the Roman-Christian epic. Films analyzed include *David and Bathsheba*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *The King of Kings*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, *Demetrius and the Gladiators*, *Samson and Delilah*, and *Ben Hur*.

*Theological Reflection: Methods, 2nd Edition* Cambridge University Press

The world is rapidly dividing between those who take biblical narratives as the literal word of God -- claiming that they are historically and scientifically true -- and those who dismiss those narratives as quaint or even foolish fairy tales. *WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME* invites the reader to discover a middle ground that takes biblical narratives seriously without regard to their historical or scientific truth. The "truth" of these stories has nothing to do with, "Did this really happen?" Their truth emerges in the

valuable lessons these stories can teach all of us. As we walk the rich middle ground of biblical narrative, we shall keep one question constantly in mind: Where am I in the text? In other words what do these stories teach ME that can help me to be a more self aware, caring, and compassionate human being?

**Pitch Woman and Other Stories** Zahid Ameer

In the hallowed corridors of the New Testament, amidst the echoes of ancient wisdom and divine grace, lie stories that have shaped the very essence of faith and spirituality. These narratives are more than just words on parchment; they are timeless parables, profound teachings, and glimpses into the lives of extraordinary individuals who walked in the light of divine guidance. Welcome to "Sacred Narratives: A Collection of 50 New Testament Stories." Within the pages of this eBook, you will embark on a captivating journey through the heart of the New Testament, exploring fifty poignant tales that have resonated through the ages. Each story is a tapestry of faith, hope, love, and redemption, inviting you to delve deeper into the profound truths that have inspired generations. As you navigate this collection, you will encounter familiar figures like Jesus Christ, His disciples, and revered women from biblical history. Yet, you will also meet lesser-known characters whose stories, though often overshadowed, carry profound lessons of faith and transformation. The narratives within these pages are not mere retellings; they are windows into the human experience, infused with the divine. From the miracles performed by the hands of the Messiah to the enduring compassion of His followers, these stories paint a vivid picture of the boundless love of God and the unwavering faith of His people. Each tale has been carefully

crafted to capture the essence of the original scriptures while offering a fresh perspective, inviting readers to reflect on the deeper meanings embedded within these sacred texts. It is our hope that these narratives will inspire, challenge, and uplift you, guiding you on a spiritual odyssey that transcends time and space. May these sacred narratives serve as a source of contemplation, encouraging you to explore the profound depths of faith and spirituality. Let them remind you of the enduring power of hope, the transformative nature of love, and the unyielding grace that permeates every chapter of the New Testament. So, dear reader, prepare to be enthralled, enlightened, and enriched as you immerse yourself in the pages of "Sacred Narratives." May this collection be a beacon, illuminating your path on this sacred journey of discovery and faith.

### **The Stories We Live by** Mohr Siebeck

Narratives are the wealth of nations: they animate life, sustain culture and cultivate humanity. They regulate and empower us, bringing both joy and discontent. And they are always embedded in ubiquitous power: stories shape power, and power shapes story. In this provocative and original study, Ken Plummer takes us on a journey to explore some of the key dimensions of this narrative power. His main focus is on what he calls 'narratives of suffering' and how these change through transformative narrative actions across an array of media forms. The modern world is in crisis, and long-standing narratives are being challenged in five major directions: through deep inequalities, global state complexities, digital risks, the perpetual puzzle of truth and the ever-emerging contingencies of time. Asking how

we can build sustainable stories for a better future, the book advocates the cultivation of a narrative hope, a narrative wisdom and a politics of narrative humanity. Narrative Power suggests novel directions for enquiry, discusses a raft of innovative ideas and concepts, and sets a striking new agenda for research and action.

### **Reading Spiritualities** BRILL

How do stories of particular events turn into global myths, while others fade away? What becomes known and seen as a global iconic event? In *Stories without Borders*, Julia Sonnevend considers the ways in which we recount and remember news stories of historic significance. Focusing on journalists covering the fall of the Berlin Wall and on subsequent retellings of the event in a variety of ways - from Legoland reenactments to slabs of the Berlin Wall installed in global cities - Sonnevend discusses how certain events become built up so that people in many parts of the world remember them for long periods of time. She argues that five dimensions determine the viability and longevity of international news events. First, a foundational narrative must be established with certain preconditions. Next, the established narrative becomes universalized and a mythical message developed. This message is then condensed and encapsulated in a simple phrase, a short narrative, and a recognizable visual scene. Counter-narratives emerge that reinterpret events and in turn facilitate their diffusion across multiple media platforms and changing social and political contexts. Sonnevend examines these five elements through the developments of November 9, 1989 - what came to be known as the fall of the Berlin Wall. *Stories Without Borders* concludes with a discussion of how global

iconic events have an enduring effect on individuals and societies, pointing out that after common currencies, military alliances, and international courts have failed, stories may be all that we have to bring hope and unity.

*The Fantastic in Religious Narrative from Exodus to Elisha* John Wiley & Sons

Stories are the connective tissue that sews the world together. In storytelling, the soul quickens and comes alive. In *To Tell the Sacred Tale*, Janet Ruffing describes the narrative process of spiritual direction in relationship to our contemporary contexts. She discusses the significance of narrative across cultures, and encourages spiritual directors to pay close attention to the actual stories directors tell and suggests helpful responses directors can make to these sacred tales based on theory and illustrated with rich case material. Book jacket.

**The Language of Life and Death** Wipf and Stock Publishers  
Richard Friedman is well known in the field of biblical studies, not only because of his contributions to the study of the Hebrew Bible (which are many) but also because he has written cogently and clearly for a much wider audience, outside the academy, most notably in his *Who Wrote the Bible?* (1997). In addition, his influence has crossed the boundaries of a variety of disciplines such as source criticism, archaeology, the ancient Near East, as well as religious studies. The essays in this volume reflect the breadth and depth of Richard Friedman's life and work. Several contributors discuss topics related to the Hebrew Bible: for example, Jacob Milgrom examines the relationship between Ezekiel and the Levites and Carol Meyers discusses the Tabernacle texts in the context of Priestly influence on them;

Ronald Hendel, Michael Homan, and Robert Wilson explore the history of source criticism, with detailed source-critical analysis of Genesis 1-11 and the book of Kings. Jeffrey Geoghegan discusses the origins of the Passover in one of several insightful essays under the topic "Israel and the Ancient Near East." Among the contributions specific to archaeology, Baruch Halpern's provides a provocative "Defense of Forgery." Lastly, four contributors (e.g., Alan Cooper) discuss religion and religious studies, along with ramifications for contemporary application. A fine collection of contemporary topics discussed by leading scholars in the field. *Why Narrative?* Fortress Press

*The Fantastic in Religious Narrative from Exodus to Elisha* argues that perspectives drawn from literary-critical theories of the fantastic and fantasy are apt to explore Hebrew Bible religious narratives. The book focuses on the narratives' marvels, monsters, and magic, rather than whether or not the stories depict historical events. The Exodus narrative (Ex 1-18) and a selection of additional Hebrew Bible narratives (Num 11-14, Judg 6-8, 1 Kings 17-19, 2 Kings 4-7) are analysed from a fantasy-theoretical perspective. The 'fantasy perspective' helps to make sense of elements of these narratives that - although prominently featured in the stories - have previously often been explained by being explained away. These case studies can illuminate Hebrew Bible religion and offer wider perspectives on religious narrative generally. In light of the fantasy-theoretical approach, these Hebrew Bible stories - with the Exodus narrative at the centre - read not as foundational stories, affirming triumphantly and unambiguously the bond between the deity, his people, and their territory, but rather as texts that harbour and even actively

encourage ambiguity and uncertainty, not necessarily prompting belief, orientation, and a sense of meaningfulness, but also opened reflection and doubt. The case studies suggest that other religious narratives, both in and beyond the Judaic tradition, may also be amenable to interpretation in these terms, thus questioning a dominant trend in myth studies. The results of the analyses lead to a discussion of the role of ambiguity, uncertainty, and transformation in religious narrative in broader perspective, and to a questioning of the emphasis in the study of religion on the capacity of religious narrative for founding and maintaining institutions, orienting identity, and defending order over disorder. The book suggests the wider importance of incorporating destabilisation, disorientation, and ambiguity more strongly into theories of what religious narrative is and does.

#### Reading Ruth Eisenbrauns

This substantially expanded edition of Belden C. Lane's *Landscapes of the Sacred* includes a new introductory chapter that offers three new interpretive models for understanding American sacred space. Lane maintains his approach of interspersing shorter and more personal pieces among full-length essays that explore how Native American, early French and Spanish, Puritan New England, and Catholic Worker traditions has each expressed the connection between spirituality and place. A new section at the end of the book includes three chapters that address methodological issues in the study of spirituality, the symbol-making process of religious experience, and the tension between place and placelessness in Christian spirituality.

*Mystic Stories* Aardvark Global Publishing DBA Ecko Publishing  
Language plays a key role in religion, framing how people

describe spiritual experience and giving structure to religious beliefs and practices. Bringing together work from a team of world-renowned scholars, this volume introduces contemporary research on religious discourse from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. It introduces methods for analysis of a range of different kinds of text and talk, including institutional discourse within organised religions, discourse around spirituality and spiritual experience within religious communities, media discourse about the role of religion and spirituality in society, translations of sacred texts, political discourse, and ritual language. Engaging and easy-to-read, it is accessible to researchers across linguistics, religious studies, and other related disciplines. A comprehensive introduction to all the major research approaches to religious language, it will become a key resource in the emerging inter-disciplinary field of language and religion.

#### *Narrative Power* Simon and Schuster

Rabi'a al-'Adawiyya is a figure shrouded in myth. Certainly a woman by this name was born in Basra, Iraq, in the eighth century, but her life remains recorded only in legends, stories, poems and hagiographies. The various depictions of her – as a deeply spiritual ascetic, an existentialist rebel and a romantic lover – seem impossible to reconcile, and yet Rabi'a has transcended these narratives to become a global symbol of both Sufi and modern secular culture. In this groundbreaking study, Rkia Elaroui Cornell traces the development of these diverse narratives and provides a history of the iconic Rabi'a's construction as a Sufi saint. Combining medieval and modern sources, including evidence never before examined, in novel



ways, Rabi'a From Narrative to Myth is the most significant work to emerge on this quintessential figure in Islam for more than seventy years.

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