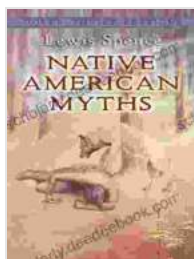


# Unveiling the Enchanting World of Native American Myths: A Journey Through Dover Thrift Editions Literary Collection

Native American mythology, steeped in ancient traditions and captivating narratives, has captivated generations with its vibrant imagery, profound symbolism, and rich cultural significance. The Dover Thrift Editions Literary Collection presents an exceptional opportunity to delve into this enchanting world, offering a treasure trove of classic works that serve as a testament to the enduring power of these tales.



## Native American Myths (Dover Thrift Editions: Literary Collection) by Lewis Spence

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

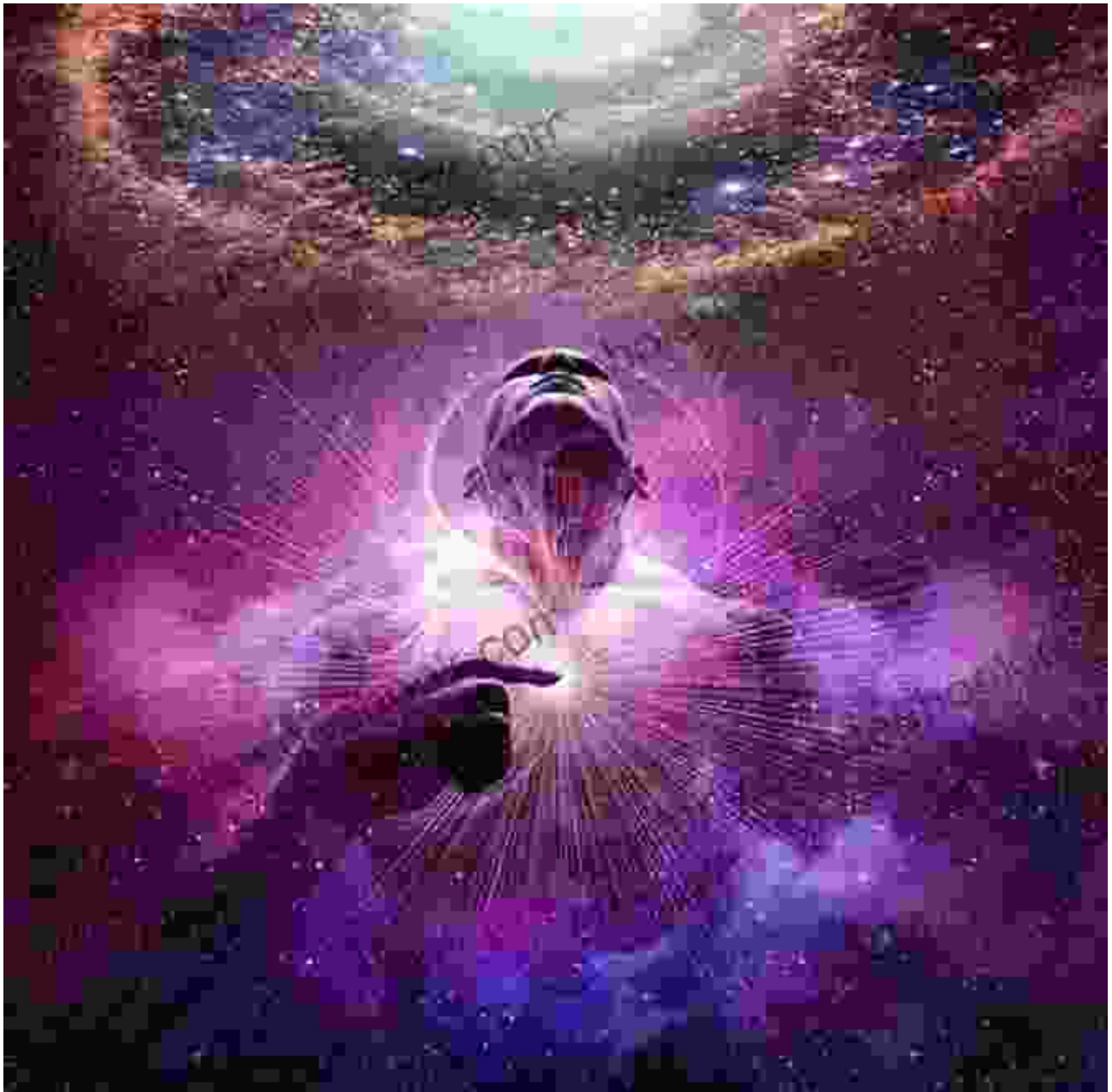
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| File size            | : 2390 KB                   |
| Text-to-Speech       | : Enabled                   |
| Screen Reader        | : Supported                 |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled                   |
| Word Wise            | : Enabled                   |
| Print length         | : 146 pages                 |
| Lending              | : Enabled                   |
| Item Weight          | : 8.8 ounces                |
| Dimensions           | : 5.04 x 0.71 x 7.83 inches |



## Origins of the World: Creation Myths

At the heart of Native American mythology lies the captivating stories of creation. "The Creation of the World" by George Bird Grinnell recounts the

Lakota legend of the creation of the universe from nothingness. Through the power of the Great Spirit, the world is brought into being, along with the animals, plants, and humans who inhabit it. Similarly, "The Navajo Creation Myth" by Washington Matthews narrates the Navajo belief that the world emerged from a primordial water world, with the first humans and animals being created by divine beings.



**Legendary Heroes: From Raven to Coyote**

Native American mythology abounds with legendary heroes who embody courage, cunning, and wisdom. In "The Raven and the First Men" by Franz Boas, the trickster figure Raven plays a central role in the creation of humans and the acquisition of fire. His mischievous and often humorous antics bring both knowledge and chaos to the world. Another prominent hero, Coyote, is featured in "Coyote Stories" by Edward Sapir and Morris Swadesh. Coyote, known for his wit and resourcefulness, serves as a cultural icon, representing both the human desire for knowledge and the dangers of recklessness.



Raven and Coyote

## **Animals and Nature: Spiritual Connections**

Native American myths deeply intertwine the animal world with human experience and spirituality. "Animal Heroes" by Richard Erdoes and Alfonso Ortiz collects stories from across Native American cultures that showcase

the transformative power of animals. From the wise old owl to the cunning fox, each animal embodies specific qualities that reflect the human condition. In "The Sacred Pipe" by Black Elk, the Lakota elder recounts the vision quest that led him to discover the sacred pipe, a symbol of unity and peace among all living beings.



### **Wisdom and Teachings: Lessons from the Elders**

Beyond captivating narratives, Native American myths also serve as a repository of wisdom and teachings. "The Teachings of the Red Feather" by Dagara recounts the life and teachings of Red Feather, a Cherokee elder who shared his profound insights on nature, spirituality, and the importance of living in harmony with all things. Similarly, "The Wisdom of the Elders" by

Peter Nabokov and Robert Easton gathers wisdom stories from various Native American traditions, offering a deep understanding of the human spirit and the enduring values that shape life.

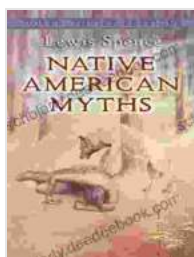


### Wisdom and Teachings

The Dover Thrift Editions Literary Collection provides an invaluable gateway into the vibrant and captivating world of Native American myths. Through these classic works, readers can embark on a journey of discovery, exploring the origins of the world, the exploits of legendary heroes, the interconnectedness of animals and nature, and the profound wisdom that lies at the heart of these enduring tales. As we delve into these myths, we gain a deeper understanding of the rich cultural heritage of Native American peoples and the timeless relevance of their stories to our own lives.

## Further Reading

- Native American Myths and Legends
- Native American Creation Myths and Legends
- Native American Myths by Joseph Bruchac



### Native American Myths (Dover Thrift Editions: Literary Collection) by Lewis Spence

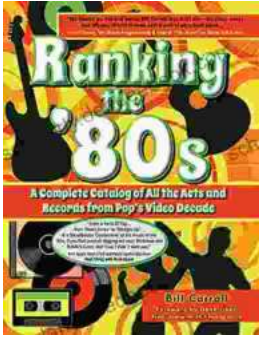
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