

**WRITE ON!**

**MYTHOLOGY**

**MISSISSAUGA WRITER'S GROUP**

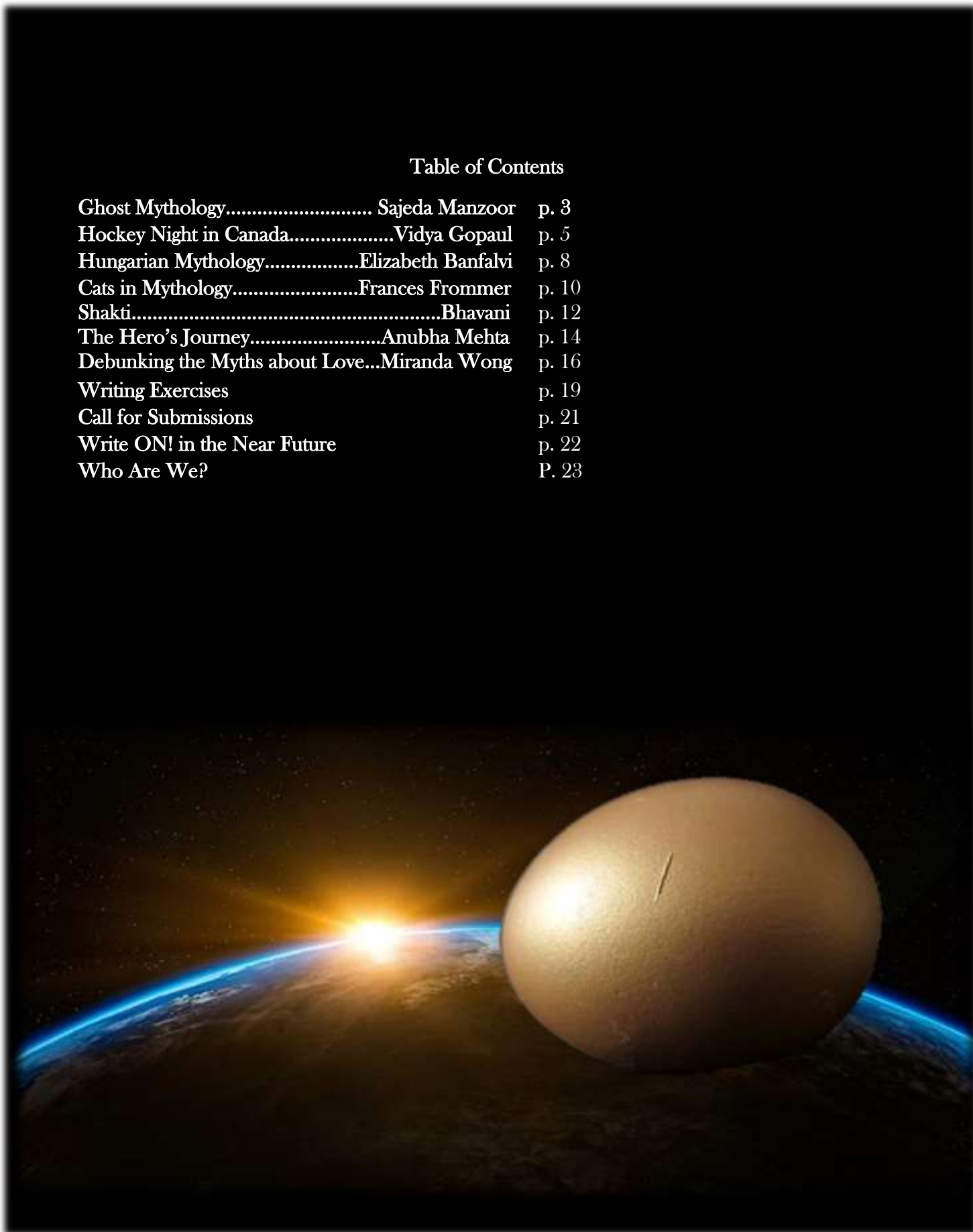
**QUARTERLY E-ZINE**

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## Sajeda Manzoor

Sajeda is a writer from Mississauga. Look for her work with Mississauga Writers Group.



### Ghost Mythology

Mythology is a word related to the Greek work *mythos*. Myths are stories about a divine being; they are believed to be as sacred as human heroes, giants, fairies, monsters, ghosts, aliens, spirits and their folktales. It is a set of beliefs from ancestors or past civilizations and cultures.

In primitive cultures, mythology was more or less a formal part of their religion and customs, mostly in tribal societies of Africa, India, South America and some countries in Europe. As human consciousness and knowledge developed, mythology faded into darkness. We observe the dominance of mythology in Greek and Indian culture. In Hebrew and Indian culture, the idea that the dead live in shadow is a common belief, mostly from ancient civilization. In primitive years, people believed the dead person's spirit came back as a good or bad spirit. Some concept of ghost haunts the quiet places.

I will mention here an old story of my Grandma. She used to tell stories about a spirit who lived in their house. It was a good spirit and was often seen at night. They believed it was a kind one and brought people a wish come true. Some thought it was a ghost living in the house. All the relatives of the families wanted to come to their house to stay overnight and meet the gentle spirit. It never harmed anyone; it only appeared at night like a shadow. My grandfather's family was running a business of rose water and perfumes. The supplier sent the boxes of perfumes to the house to distribute to the shops. It was a coincidence that the spirit used to show up the same day the fragrance of perfume was throughout the house.

My grandmother often saw a lady in the lounge, wearing a red outfit. It disappeared within minutes. People living in the house often saw a shadow moving in the house. It scared them, but nobody was harmed by it. Their business was booming, so they believed it was a kind spirit benefitting them.

My grandma's cousin was desperate to meet her. One evening, she dressed up nicely and sat up the whole night, waiting to meet the spirit. She wanted to ask the spirit to make her wish come true. At the middle of the night, she dozed off; all of a sudden, she felt a hard slap on her face. She woke up and was scared badly. After that incident, she never wanted to meet the ghost, as the slap left a mark on her face. The family was scared too. They gossiped about the angry spirit that did it. Anyhow, this is an old story and mystery.

After that, no one wanted to meet the spirit. They thought the spirit had a preference for

certain people, like a human. A fear of the spirit was felt by everyone in the house. It was bothering everyone that, one day, it might hurt another person.

These kinds of characters change their places because they do not want to live in crowded areas. I think, as the global societies are getting more and more populated, these creatures are rarely seen and some people think it is a myth. They do not exist in the modern era—it has become controversial. I wish I could meet one of these characters who could make my dream come true. As I always believe in my dreams: it gives one hope to keep going with the passion to achieve success in life.

Legends, anthologies and architecture left by our ancestors are the precious treasures for us, and they should be preserved.

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## Vidya Gopaul

Vidya Gopaul is the author of a novel, *Race the Time*, and a screen play, *Fires of Times*. He is a regular contributor to the publications of anthology and e-zine of Mississauga Writer's Group. He is currently working on other novels.



### Hockey Night in Canada

After God created the Earth, He found out that in the northern part of the hemisphere there was a group of people who were not enjoying life as it should be. They were sad and bored, especially during the cold winter days. He wanted them to have the same type of enjoyment in life as the citizens of Europe were having while playing soccer or rugby, or the citizens of India and West Indies while playing a game of cricket. He then decided to do an experiment with the citizens of one of the northern countries, namely Canada. He chose Canada because he noticed that Canadians were very polite, courteous and respectful to others by frequently using the words, “Thank you”, “Please”, “May I...?” and “Have a nice day.” He was also amused by their constant usage of the word

# Eh!

He also wanted them to have a close-knit community, a sense of belonging and a place either at home or at a large public gathering so that they would get together on a regular basis. Moreover, they would transcend to something they would be passionate about, much like religious people do.

He then threw a soccer ball to a group of Canadians. They looked at it, touched it, bounced it and kicked it. They did not know what to do with it. Every time they ran with it in the snow or on the ice, they fell. They then decided that it was not something to play with but, instead, a thing to use as a decoration piece in the house—and that was exactly what they did. They hung it in the living room.

A few years went by, and God was still thinking about the good and polite Canadians—that is, how to brighten their lives during the winter seasons. He experimented with several types of games such as rugby, cricket and ping-pong. He noticed that they were not very keen on playing those games. Moreover, those games did not bring them any closer as a team. They were able to figure out partially how to play the games but were not very enthused., especially during winter. Hence, Canadians carried on their boring life for several years until God decided to help them with a new game.

He dropped a hard, round but flat rubber type object (now as we called it “a puck”) on a frozen pond in Nova Scotia. One bright morning when the sun was shining, a boy named Stan decided to walk on that frozen pond with his dog. The dog started sniffing that black object and, all of a sudden, started to bark. Stan ran to his dog and found out the puck. He did not know what to make of it. He threw it on the frozen pond, and it did not bounce. He threw in the air and caught it right back. It did not seem to interest him. He then threw it across the pond like a skipping stone on the water. He noticed that once it fell on the ice, it started to slide across the pond. He then got an idea.

The next day he gathered some friends, went to the same pond and started to play with the puck. A few boys were on one side of the pond and others on the other side. They were sliding the puck from one side of the pond to the other using their feet. Then they decided to make a game of it. They erected two poles on each end of the pond and figured out how to score goals. But there was one problem, namely, they were still falling quite often on the ice and hurting themselves. Then Stan came up with a brilliant idea of making a pair

of shoes that could help them slide on the ice just like the puck, and they named those shoes “skates”. And that is how God help them invent the game of hockey.

After that, as they say, the rest is history.

But God had another idea for Canadians beside just playing hockey. He wanted them to make that game as *passionate* as possible and as *religious* as possible. And He did. As the game of hockey evolved over the years, the fans gave it the same characteristics as a mainstream religion would have. For the fans, it is synonymous to worshipping a god. For them it *is* a god. Hockey became embedded in the genes of Canadians, whether young or old. One can say that Canadians start skating and holding hockey stick before they start walking. Canadians worship on hockey night in Canada. It is a very close community. The hockey fans religiously attend the games, whether they lose or win. Therefore, God has achieved His goal of making Canadians enjoy their winter seasons, being together as a religious family and transcending to their ultimate reality of winning the Stanley Cup.

Hence, the journey of achieving and participating in the ultimate reality of winning the Stanley Cup in June of every year begins from the moment the first hockey puck is dropped in October of every year. It's an act of pilgrimage on behalf of the fans that lasts for almost eight months. During that period, emotions among the fans are very high because sometime their team loses a game, or wins a game or is just not playing good games. Yet they all keep on marching towards the ultimate goal of reaching the Stanley Cup.

Not only is the game of hockey rooted in Canadian history, but it has been exported all around the world. God not only made the winter seasons enjoyable for Canadians but for

the whole world, even for the citizens of Las Vegas where it is warm all year round.

©Vidya Gopaul 2018



## Elizabeth Banfalvi

Elizabeth Banfalvi is the author of *Meditation* book series, and conducts workshops on stress relief naturally & meditation.



### Hungarian Mythology

Every country has their own mythology and stories from the beginning of time.

Hungary has lost a lot of its historical data, but where it has been rediscovered is in old Mesopotamia. I always knew there were mentions of the Huns and the Magyars, but I didn't realize that these were twin sons of the legendary ruler and King Nimrod. He was a mighty hunter who was a descendant of Noah. They landed in the Persian Sea area after "The Great Flood".

His twin sons, named Hunor and Magor, were also hunters, and while hunting they saw a great white stag. This stag evaded them and then led them to the vast land of Scythia, where the brothers eventually settled with their people.

Scythia was part of Eurasia, beside the Roman empire, and it included, to the south, the Persian Sea and, to the northwest, modern Europe, which of Hungary is still part.

Hunor's people were the Huns, who were Sumerian; Magor's people were the Magyars, and they were Scythian. The Huns and then the Magyars, as they became stronger and more in number, went on to conquer new lands.

The mythical story of the Wonder Stag was an important symbol of Sumerian-Scythian-Hun-Magyar cultures. As with the original lands and in Hungarian mythology, the stag is also seen as a mystical being with magical powers, whose role was to reveal the will of God and guide the Hungarians accordingly.





### The Turul

The "Turul" is a giant mythical falcon, a messenger of god in Hungarian mythology, who sits on top of the Tree of Life along with the other spirits of unborn children who are in the form of birds. The Turul is one of the more prominent symbols and legends of Hungary, as both a cultural and political entity.



The Turul is the symbol of the house of Atilla, as well as the Hungarian Árpád dynasty kings of Hungary. According to the legend of origin of the Árpád clan, it was the divine intervention of God, through his messenger the Turul, which founded the royal family.

While often shown in stylized representations, the real-life counterpart seems to be a falcon. The specific species seems to be the Saker falcon, but in other sources the term *Turul*

seems to refer to vultures, hawks, or eagles. There are two main stories regarding the importance of Turul in establishing the Magyar people. The first regards the king's birth.

A Hungarian legend tells the story of Emese, wife of Ügyek, the descendant of Atilla, who had a dream in which a Turul appeared to her. In this dream, a crystal-clear stream started to flow from her, and as it moved westward, it grew into a mighty river. This dream represented her symbolic impregnation by the Turul and meant that she would give birth to a line of great rulers. Emese later gave birth to Álmos, who was the father of Árpád, the great leader of the Magyars and founder of Hungary. The Danube River flows through Hungary.

The second story is later, after the Magyars were already established. The Magyar tribe's horses were being attacked by eagles, and the people tried in vain to drive the eagles away. The Turul falcon appeared, killed one eagle, and scared the rest off. The attack by the eagles was taken as a sign that the people had to move elsewhere, and so the Turul led them to what is now Hungary. In later times, the Magyars' main occupation was animal husbandry, especially horse-breeding.

So, the Turul is both an ancestor (to the Magyars and Huns, since Turul is also Attila's ancestor) and a guide to his descendants. Even today, in heavily Christianized Hungary, it is still a prominent symbol, as well as a source of pride and inspiration.

The Turul became Christianized as a messenger of the Christian God, delivering a divine sword to Attila the Hun. One more speculation is that the Turul, a falcon-like bird, was a significant part of the Huns' culture and their connection to falconry.

## Frances Frommer

Frances Frommer, the author of *Surviving & Thriving Solo* is owned by two felines—Precious and Sweetie. Cats have been her muses, inspiring stories and poems and art plus leading her to collect cat figurines and cats in the arts on stamps.



## Cats in Mythology

Cats have been at the centre of myths in many countries. Here are tales of a few of the most colorful characters.

Maneki Neko is a lucky charm cat, popular in Japanese and Chinese cultures. In Japanese, the name means “beckoning cat”, as the paw is raised as if it is waving in good fortune for its owners. The left paw raised will attract customers. The right paw will attract good fortune and money. Two raised paws will offer protection. It is usually adorned with a bib, a collar and a bell.

The first Maneki Neko appeared in Japan during the Edo periods (17<sup>th</sup> to mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries). One popular legend is that a rich man took shelter from a rainstorm under a tree near a temple. He went inside to follow a cat that seemed to beckon him. Then, lightning struck the tree. Since the cat saved his life, the grateful man became a benefactor of the temple. When he died, a statue of the cat was made to honor him. This feline was considered an incarnation of the Goddess of Mercy. The temple now has dozens of statues of the beckoning cat.

Norse mythology is about the myths and religion of North Germanic peoples, and the religion was practised by Vikings who lived in Scandinavia. The Goddess Freya rode in a chariot pulled by two large male cats named Bygul and Trjegal. She was associated with domesticity and womanhood, female sexuality, sorcery and magic, plus war and death.



The Egyptians worshipped cats. The Goddess Isis held cats as sacred, and they were viewed as her incarnation. The daughter of Isis married the Sun God Ra and gave birth to the cat-headed Goddess Bast (or Bastet). She was the only goddess represented as a domestic cat. Then, all cats were believed to be manifestations of the Goddess Bast.

Bast was viewed as the Goddess of protection, fertility and the moon. She was the protector of all cats and those who took care of them. Bast gave joy and pleasure.

The cult of Bast was centered in the city of Bubastis where her temple once stood. Hundreds of mummified cats were buried there in an ancient cemetery. An annual festival was held to honor Bast.

Besides inspiring mummification of cats, Bast was so sacred to Egyptian society and religion that there were laws prohibiting the export of cats. A human who killed a cat was put to death. When a cat died, the owners would shave off their eyebrows as a sign of mourning. In the tomb of Tutankhamun, the image of a serene Bast was found on a gilded shrine housing the royal coffin.

Sinh, the sacred cat of Burma lived in a temple built on the sides of Mount Lugh. The temple housed a golden image of the Goddess Tsun Kyan-Kse, who had sapphire eyes. The head monk, Mun-Ha, would meditate with Sinh beside him.

One night, when Mun-Ha, was in a transcendental state, he was murdered by Siamese invaders. Sinh placed his paws on the monk's robes. As the cat faced the Goddess, Sinh's fur became gold, like the statue and his eyes turned blue like her eyes. Sinh's paws became pure white. His legs, tail, ears, and face turned a rich brown.

Sinh, with his serene look, moved the other monks to close the temple doors and so saved them from the intruders.

The next morning, the remaining 99 cats were transformed to look like Sinh. This cat stayed by his deceased master for seven days, and then he died. He took Mun-Ha's soul to present it to Tsun Kyan-Kse who rewarded him with Nirvana. In Buddhism, this is a state of perfect bliss; for Christians, this would be heaven.

In Celtic mythology, cats were considered mysterious, sensual, magical and sacred to the ancient Goddess (Mother Earth). The Celts believed that cats were guardians of the gates to the Otherworld and their treasures. The felines brought the people wholeness and served as a spiritual link between humans and the universe. The Celtic religion was nature-based (trees, water, etc.)—what is now called “earth spirituality”.

©Frances Frommer 2018





## Bhavani

I am a retired physician from Ottawa, who moved to Mississauga to be closer to my only son and two grandchildren. Always enjoyed writing, but never published other than medical articles.



## Shakti

My name is Bhavani. I was born in India into a Hindu family, and my parents chose a very Hindu name. I was told that I was named after my grandmother's younger sister who passed away, without any children, at a very young age. She was a darling of the family.

Looking for the root of this name brought me to a goddess in Hindu mythology named Bhavani. She is also called Parvathi and is the consort of Lord Shiva, one of the trinities of Hindu mythology.

Bhavani is the other name of Durga, who is a fierce form Parvathi took to destroy some evil characters like Mahishasura.

She is worshipped in most Hindu households in India. Bhavani is worshipped in Maharashtra state, also by warriors who pray for her blessings before going to the battlefield. The famous Maharashtra King Sivaji was believed to have been blessed by Goddess Bhavani by presenting him with a sword, which led him to win the battles he fought.



Goddess Bhavani/Durga/Parvathi is also considered as the seat of power and strength—Shakti. Shakti is the presiding power over the trinity and is believed to be present in all Devas (gods).

She empowers Brahma through creative power, Shiva through destructive abilities, and Vishnu through mediating balancing powers. Thus, she is believed to be the supreme energy who can neither be destroyed nor created by anyone or anything. She is the ultimate primordial cosmic power that exists in all creations.

Bhavani translates to “Giver of Life”, meaning the seat of creative energy.

In Kerala (the southern-most state of India—my home state) the warriors were chosen from the Nair families. Each family had Durga or Kali as family deity, and her blessings were sought before any important events in the family.

May her blessings be with all those who read this article.

©Bhavani 2018



## Anubha Mehta

Dr. Anubha Mehta's debut novel *Peacock in the Snow*, published by Inanna Publications, will be available in bookstores across North America on September 25, 2018.

Visit

[www.AnubhaMehta.com](http://www.AnubhaMehta.com)



## The Hero's Journey

Our world, across civilizations and throughout history, has always needed its tales of holy creatures and ferocious monsters, demonic beasts, saviours and heroes, Sirens and witches, kings and gods, war and peace, love and honour, order and chaos. Before the written word, these were oral traditions of storytelling, passed on for generations. In oral narratives, cultural nuances were captured and combined with the wisdom of each of its generations. These tales reflected our inner demons, our imperfect lives, our weaknesses, strengths, virtues and, most importantly, our unexplained and somewhat irrational desire to follow conventions. These tales became mythology and, within that, its multi-layered myths.



Myths and mythology tell us about our values and are embedded in our social psyche—how we treat strangers, how we behave in society, how we relate to family, how we worship our gods, and what happens if we don't.

A fascinating mythological feature across the globe and through time is a similarity: the construction of good and evil. American mythologist Joseph Campbell (1904-1987), in his ground-breaking 1949 publication *A Hero with a Thousand Faces*, drew on the pioneering work of Sigmund Freud (the father of psychoanalysis) and Carl Jung (the father of analytical psychology). He outlined the recurring stages in stories and cultures and called it *The Hero's Journey*.



This took Hollywood by storm. It opened the door for Hollywood producers of big blockbusters like Star Wars, authors of best sellers, and playwrights to follow the eleven stages of his model of the monomyth:

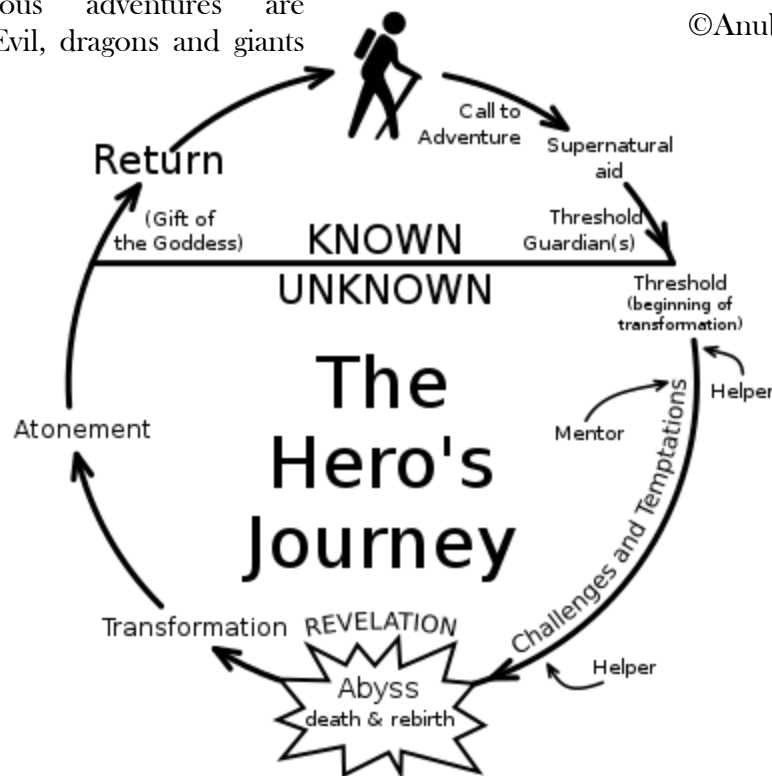
1. **Status Quo**—when everything is normal
2. **Call to Adventure**—the issue is raised
3. **Supernatural Aid**—heroes cannot do it alone and, in today's narrative, the supporting helpers are as important as the hero
4. **Crossing the Threshold**—the hero steps into unknown territory
5. **Road of Trials**—a series of dangerous tests and perilous encounters awaits the skill of the hero
6. **The Approach**—creates a story about our fears and our longing
7. **The Ordeal**—once the hero has survived these fires, (s)he comes out victorious in this final ordeal. The hero tackles demons and gods in love and battle. In many patriarchal cultures, male prowess is celebrated and enormous adventures are undertaken. Evil, dragons and giants

are found in stories across the globe, from ancient Indian, Egyptian and Chinese texts to those of the Middle East and into the West

8. **The Reward**—is won in a state of enlightenment
9. **Magic Flight**—brings the hero home
10. **Return**—is symbolised with new-found wisdom or the desired object
11. **Resurrection**—a new world is erected
12. **Resolution**—the hero's journey comes to an end

Despite similar elements, different societies developed mythologies for different purposes, like teaching lessons of cultural norms and morality. The wonder and belief in a Hero's Journey, the threads that connect humanity across cultural and geographic boundaries, are necessary in today's divided world. When all else fails, it is this relevance of mythology that keeps it alive. In a state of abyss of positive thoughts of our collective consciousness, it is our mythologies of wonder and magic, of valour and bravery, of love and loyalty, that get us through the harshness, the ruthlessness and cruelty of today's world.

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## Miranda Wong

Miranda Wong is a writer from Mississauga. Look for her work with the Mississauga Writers Group.



### Debunking the Myths about Love: Important Lessons for My Dating Success

I got the concept of romantic love all wrong! When I thought to look up my assumptions about it, it made me realize that I may not have the slightest clue about romantic love and I've been going about looking for romantic love in all the wrong ways. Thus, I thought it was high time I learn more about our notions—the so-called myths—about love and debunk them.

It turns out there are too many myths to count, and men and women vary in our perspectives of romantic love. Let's dig right in:

1. **Love should happen naturally and with ease.**<sup>1</sup> False: according to Jason Silver (a dating consultant for Attract Great Guys), instead of acting and reacting intuitively just as the average person would behave safely and comfortably, acting differently helps you stand out, create tension and attract a high quality potential partner. This can be done in 3 ways for 3 seconds: (a) pausing without interjecting, to give the other person space to continue a thought, to feel listened to and cared for; (b) maintaining deep eye contact by focusing on one eye, adding a smile or a hello, and imagining kissing the person; and (c) applying touch to the arm, shoulder or upper back to break that touch barrier.

<sup>1</sup> Silver, Jason. "Counterintuitive secret to attract higher quality men (The 3 second rule)," Mar. 16, 2018, YouTube - Attract Great Guys.

2. **Men and women communicate and behave the same way.** False: a man, unlike a woman, hates it when a woman talks to him with a lot of emotional and random thought details. More particularly, women wrongly assume that men are women that are misbehaving and, due to the fallacy of me (the “irrational belief that everybody is like us... looking at the world through the lens of our own perception of the world and each other”), women assume that men want the same thing they do. Lastly, a man prefers to be respected and admired to being loved, and he prefers a woman who knows how to get close to him and how not to<sup>1</sup>.
3. **Discussion about your ex-partners (“bond over baggage”) is therapeutic.** False: according to John Mordechai Gottman (a psychology and relationship researcher) and Jaki Sabourin, anger won’t bring you closure, you risk getting angrier, over-sharing and appearing not over your baggage, and doing so derails the couple from “moving forward.” One should intervene and gently guide the chat back to the present.
4. **It is acceptable now for women to take part in the chasing.** False: men should be chasing, otherwise a woman doing the chasing displays masculine energy. Apparently,

according to Brian Nox (a dating coach and author of *F\*ck Him!* and *She Comes First*), when a man ignores a woman, he is getting spooked, wants to run away and he doesn’t care enough for her. Thus, a woman should not nag, complain or run after him. The woman’s withdrawal will attract a man right back because, if the man likes her, he will want to help her and will not want to make it hard on her<sup>2</sup>. John Gray (a dating coach) called this the female power of the women getting and letting the man doing it for her<sup>3</sup>.

5. **A woman should not set the pace of the relationship.** False: don’t engage in sex until a woman is comfortable with it and the man has expressed an interest in being exclusive. The mature man will wait to have sex.
6. **Partners can improve one another.** False: advice-giving is a turnoff<sup>4</sup> as instant defensiveness, criticism to the partner’s ego and rejection against your standards. It is important to note that admonishing someone won’t change the partner, you can’t help someone unless he/she wants, needs and asks to be helped, and advice-giving isn’t reflective of a high value person. Ideally, partners are to practice B.A.G. (Boundaries, Acceptance and Gratitude): (a) focus on oneself when it comes to setting

<sup>1</sup> Cavallo, Carlos. “3 Shocking things every man wants from a woman,” Oct. 1, 2015, YouTube – Carlos Cavallo.

<sup>2</sup> Nox, Brian. “When a man ignores you, here’s what he’s thinking (counterintuitive),” Jan. 11, 2018, YouTube – Brian Nox.

<sup>3</sup> Gray, John. “What is male and female power,” Oct. 27, 2016, YouTube - EZ Dating Coach.

<sup>4</sup> Silver, Jason. “The #1 Turn Off for Quality Men (NEVER do this to him!),” Mar. 30, 2018, YouTube - Attract Great Guys.



boundaries, especially leave, walk away and refuse to engage when treated poorly, disrespected or treated less than how one should be treated; (b) practice having deep true acceptance of the partner's flaws, unless the partner's flaws are harmful or unhealthy; and (c) having gratitude for the good in the partner (the law of attraction). Also, if a woman is to ask for help, John Gray advises a woman to be careful that she (a) is happy and self-reliant first and (b) returns when she is giving and she can make him feel accepted and appreciated, before she asks him for help. This way, the woman's request for help won't be from the goal for him and an expectation of him to change, and, in doing so, she can avoid him resisting her request for help altogether<sup>5</sup>.

7. **When you meet the right person, your life will feel complete.** False: Reliance on the partners for self-esteem and personal growth will disappoint you. 74% of men, compared to 71% of women, in a January 2011 Marist poll believed in the notion of a soul mate<sup>6</sup>. Soul-mate believers tended to give up more readily when the relationship isn't

perfect. Also, this belief has led to intense but shortened romances and one-night stands. Ideally, lovers are to aim for romantic growth or cultivation. That way, lovers can work and grow with one another, be motivated to resolve conflicts and stay committed to one another. Furthermore, Carlos Cavallo (a dating coach) suggests that a woman stop living her life feeling like a glass half-empty because an irresistible woman is done checking her value, she is happy being single, she nurtures her mind, body and spirit, she has a plan and direction, and she is looking for a guy to make it better<sup>7</sup>.

In reflection, I was so wrong about so many things, I have much to learn, and I have much to do to make dating life better.

I'm so glad that I took the time to do this research and debunk the myths of romantic love. Indeed, for me, the findings were an eye-opener as to what I have been so wrong about all along. Thank you for your patience and hearing me out through this journey. Hopefully, it is of use to you or those you care to share with.

© Miranda Wong 2018

<sup>5</sup> Gray, John. "Instead of complaining, how can you get men to change their behaviour," Oct. 27, 2016, YouTube - EZ Dating Coach.

<sup>6</sup> Nicholson, Jeremy, M.S.W., Ph.D. "Why you shouldn't believe in soul mate: The pros and cons of

believing in romantic destiny," July 10, 2012, Psychology Today.

<sup>7</sup> Cavallo, Carlos. "Top 10 things irresistible women do to capture his heart," Sept. 27, 2017, YouTube - Carlos Cavallo.

## Writing Exercise

Set your timer for 15 minutes.

### Make It from Scratch

All cultures have a creation myth.  
Some creation myths are pure magic;  
some contain natural science  
or even a bit of chemistry.

Retell your favourite creation myth,  
or write a creation myth for Earth,  
another planet in our solar system,  
or a world of your own making.



### Writing Exercise

Set your timer for 15 minutes.



#### **A Wrench in the Works**

We always need someone to provide the darkness, so our light can shine brightly.

Tricksters are not necessarily evil; sometimes they're the antagonist to good, but sometimes they merely add the realistic human element to a plot that would otherwise end up too perfect, too easy. They take great delight in disturbing the peace. Often, they have abilities (e.g. shapeshifting, super-human intelligence) that make them difficult to control or overpower.

Design your ideal trickster.



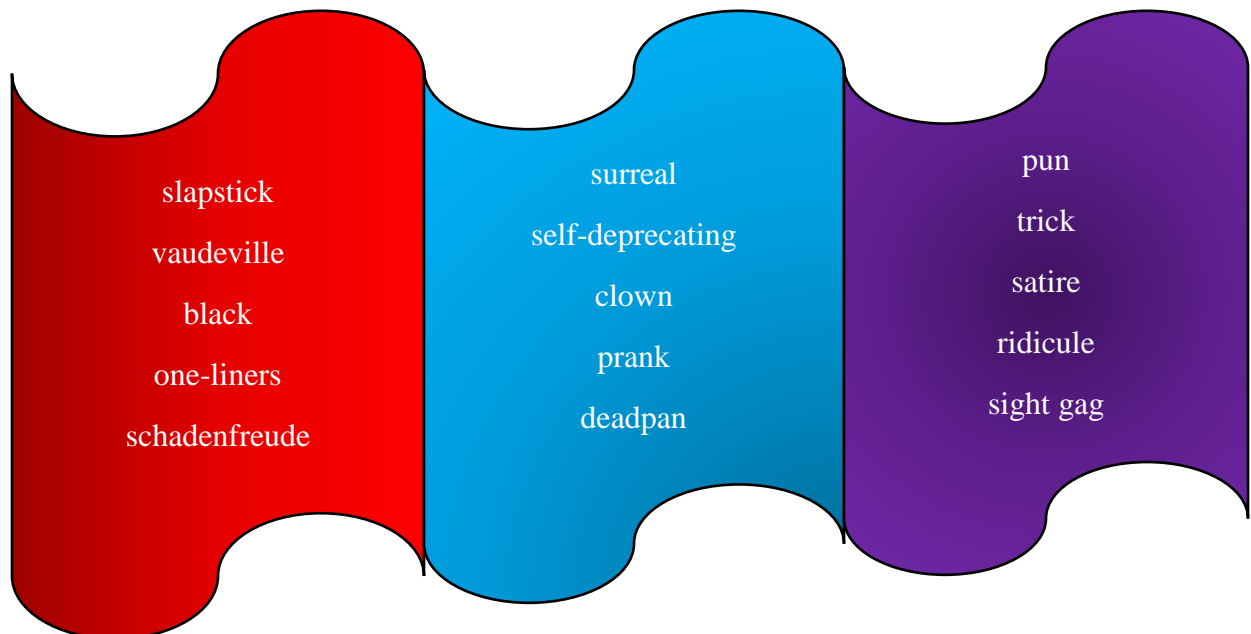
**Write ON! The Autumn Issue**  
**Call for Submissions**

The theme for the autumn issue is

**Humour**

The deadline is August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Stuck for ideas? Consider some of these words:



Submission guidelines:

- electronic submissions only
- send submissions to [sheilavdhc@gmail.com](mailto:sheilavdhc@gmail.com) and [info@mississaugawritersgroup.com](mailto:info@mississaugawritersgroup.com)
- include submission, a short bio (2-3 sentences) and an author's photo
- ensure submission is relevant to theme
- content must be in English or include an English translation

N.B. Content which contains hate speech or images, extreme violence or explicit sexuality will not be published.

## Write ON! in the Near Future



Not inspired by the theme for the upcoming issue of Write ON? Perhaps you need a different theme. Here are the upcoming themes for Write ON!:

Autumn 2018	Humour	deadline August 15 <sup>th</sup>
Winter 2018	Science	deadline November 15 <sup>th</sup>
Spring 2019	Mental Health	deadline February 15 <sup>th</sup>
Summer 2019	Music	deadline May 15 <sup>th</sup>

A reminder that Write ON! also accepts theme-related drawings, paintings and photos from group members. Please send images in .jpg format.

## We Are the Mississauga Writers Group

We are a group of writers who have established this forum to share our experiences and pursue our dreams through creativity, knowledge and mutual respect. We want to learn from our strengths and talents and have enjoyable and stimulating conversations that only writers can relate to!

We would love to have writers from our community join us. All aspiring and established writers are most welcome. We believe we all have something special inside us. Come explore your talent with the Mississauga Writers Group!

**Website** - [mississaugawritersgroup.com](http://mississaugawritersgroup.com)

**Email** - [info@mississaugawritersgroup.com](mailto:info@mississaugawritersgroup.com)

