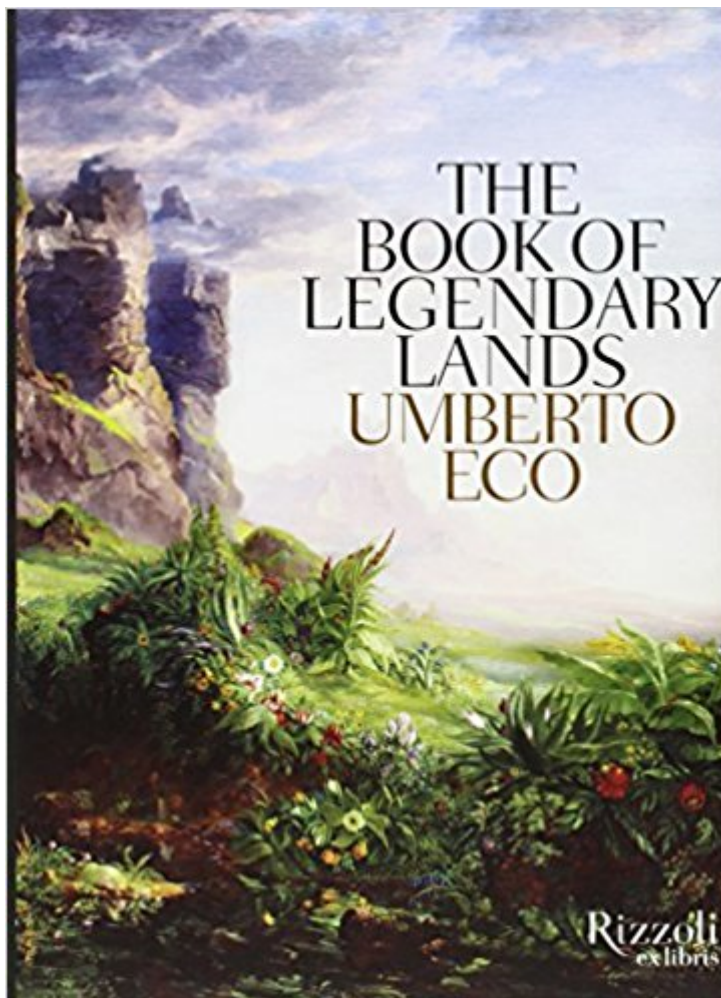


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# The Book Of Legendary Lands



## Synopsis

A fascinating illustrated tour of the fabled places in literature and folklore that have awed, troubled, and eluded us through the ages. From the epic poets of antiquity to contemporary writers of science fiction, from the authors of the Holy Scriptures to modern raconteurs of fairy tales, writers and storytellers through the ages have invented imaginary and mythical lands, projecting onto them all of our human dreams, ideals, and fears. In the tradition of his acclaimed *History of Beauty, On Ugliness, and The Infinity of Lists*, renowned writer and cultural critic Umberto Eco leads us on a beautifully illustrated journey through these lands of myth and invention, showing us their inhabitants, the passions that rule them, their heroes and antagonists, and, above all, the importance they hold for us. He explores this human urge to create such places, the utopias and dystopias where our imagination can confront things that are too incredible or challenging for our limited real world. Illuminated with more than 300 color images, *The Book of Legendary Lands* is both erudite and thoroughly enjoyable, bringing together disparate elements of our shared literary legacy in a way only Umberto Eco can. Homer's poems and other ancient and medieval texts are presented side by side with *Gulliver's Travels* and *Alice in Wonderland*; Tolkien shares space with Marco Polo's *Books of the Marvels of the World*; films complement poems, and comics inform novels. Together, these stories have influenced the sensibilities and worldview of all of us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Umberto Eco takes us on a wonderful illustrated journey through the lands of myth and invention, showing us their inhabitants, the passions that move them, their heroes and antagonists, and, most of all, the importance they hold for us. Eco explores the enduring human need to seek refuge in the beautiful places of literature and folklore, examining along the way both epic poets and contemporary storytellers who have drawn--and stretched--the boundaries of our emotions, dreams, worries, and ideals." -i-ItalyNY Magazine"A book for people who, as children, pored gleefully over the maps of Oz and Earthsea, an atlas of the most surreal and fabulous imaginary places you've never been."

-SFGate

Umberto Eco is a world-renowned writer of fiction, essays, and academic treatises. Among his best-selling novels are *The Name of the Rose*, *Foucault's Pendulum*, and *The Prague Cemetery*.

Excellent reference book for the creative writer.

Waited for a two months shipment but worth it! A great book!

Simply great!

Gorgeous, mesmerizing, a bed time story for adults.

What a beautiful book. I can't wait for the adventure to begin !

Excellent

Outstanding account of what humankind believed or longed about gods, kings, pleasures, punishments. Who is aware of Cockaine land, where pigs fly, already roasted and with a knife on their back, just to make it easy to dine?

Eco excites the senses with this world survey of legends and dreams of other worlds found in literature and sacred texts. Humans have imagined the world in terms of fantasies beyond the sounds and sights we encounter. The glories of perfection and the horrors of damnation are recreated in the literature of all cultures. To name the location of these legends, ideas, and

associations presents a remarkable understanding of their importance and influence on beliefs and actions of people. The Book of Legendary Lands serves as an excellent tool for readers of history, philosophy, art, religion, and geography. Practitioners of psychology, sociology, and all religions may also gain an understanding of the human mind and society. Of particular interest is the constancy of dystopia in so many cultures, and how humans construct ideas of the damned to perpetuate--- or challenge evil. The visual adventure of woodcuts, paintings, architecture, and maps empower the reader to comprehend the fantasies and ideals perpetuated in legends.

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