

# **Professor David Leeming**

## ***MEDUSA: THE MAKING OF A FEMININE ICON***

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David Leeming is Professor Emeritus of University of Connecticut in Storrs where he started his teaching career in 1969. He is also Emeritus President at Blanton-Peale Institute in New York City where he started as Publications Director, later as Dean, and then as President. After receiving his B.A. in English from Princeton University, David Leeming taught at Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey for five years. Returning to the States for graduate school at New York University where he did his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. During graduate school in the mid-60s, he worked in the office of author and civil rights activist James Baldwin and returned with Baldwin to Istanbul, where he also took up his old job at Robert College for three more years. After his early retirement from the University of Connecticut he moved to New Mexico, where he studied Native American ceremonies and mythology.

He has published widely. Some of the selected titles of his works include: *The World of Myth*; *James Baldwin*;

*A Biography*; *Goddess: Myths of the Female Divine*; *God: Myths of the Male Divine*; *Jealous Gods and Chosen People: The Mythology of the Middle East*; *The Oxford Companion to World Mythology*; *Creation Myths of the World* and an *Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion*.

Richard D. Heck, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion, University of California at Santa Barbara says on David Leeming's *Myth: A Biography of Belief*: "David Leeming has provided ... a compelling account of the powers of myth to inform the human condition and ultimately to provide meaning as myth persists from ancient time to the present. ..."

He now lives in Rhinebeck, NY where he is working on a book on the Medusa myth for the British publisher, Reaktion.