1. Record Nr. UNINA9910781392603321 Autore Midgley Mary <1919-, > Titolo The myths we live by // Mary Midgley; with a new foreword by the author Abingdon, Oxon;; New York:,: Routledge,, 2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-136-80752-7 1-283-10375-3 9786613103758 1-136-80753-5 0-203-82832-1 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (297 p.) Collana Routledge classics Disciplina 201/.3 Soggetti Myth - Social aspects - History Civilization, Modern - Philosophy Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Originally published: 2004. With new foreword. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Cover; Mary Midgley The Myths We Live By; Copyright; Contents: Acknowledgements; Foreword To The Routledge Classics Edition; 1. How myths work; 2. Our place in the world; 3. Progress, science and modernity: 4. Thought has many forms: 5. The aims of reduction: 6. Dualistic dilemmas; 7. Motives, materialism and megalomania; 8. What action is; 9. Tidying the inner scene: why memes?; 10. The sleep of reason produces monsters; 11. Getting rid of the ego; 12. Cultural evolution?; 13. Selecting the selectors; 14. Is reason sex-linked?; 15. The journey from freedom to desolation 16. Biotechnology and the yuk factor 17. The new alchemy; 18. The supernatural engineer; 19. Heaven and earth, an awkward history; 20. Science looks both ways; 21. Are you an animal?; 22. Problems about parsimony; 23. Denying animal consciousness; 24. Beasts versus the biosphere?; 25. Some practical dilemmas; 26. Problems of living with otherness; 27. Changing ideas of wildness; Notes; Index Sommario/riassunto With a new Introduction by the author'An elegant and sane little book. -The New StatesmanMyths, as Mary Midgley argues in this powerful

book, are everywhere. In political thought they sit at the heart of

theories of human nature and the social contract; in economics in the pursuit of self interest; and in science the idea of human beings as machines, which originates in the seventeenth century, is a today a potent force. Far from being the opposite of science, however, Midgley argues that myth is a central part of it. Myths are neither lies nor mere stories bu