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Nevertheless, from this brief survey of the role of myth in Dante and Petrarch, we can see how the basis was laid for European culture of the Renaissance and even down to our own iconoclastic times. We may also recognize the fact that myth is born of man's need to structure and reinterpret existence, to make it to some degree intelligible. It is not a scientific explanation but the outline of a pattern pointing to a truth, hidden in mystery, which reflects an important aspect of the human condition. As Lévi-Strauss has claimed, "the same logical processes operate in myth as in science ... man has always been thinking equally well; the improvement lies, not in an alleged progress of man's mind, but in the discovery of new areas to which it may apply its unchanged and unchanging powers."

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