

Chapter 1 : Metamorphoses (Kline) 4, the Ovid Collection, Univ. of Virginia E-Text Center

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Thursday, August 11, Clash of the Titans vs. Perseus is most commonly known as the hero who slayed the gorgon Medusa and saved the princess Andromeda from being sacrificed to a sea monster. Danae was the daughter of King Acrisius and his only child. When he went to an oracle to find out how to produce a male heir, he was told that he would have no sons and that his grandson would kill him. In an attempt to prevent Danae ever giving birth to his grandson, King Acrisius imprisoned his daughter in a bronze chamber, open to the sky, with wild, ferocious dogs guarding the entrance. When Acrisius learned that Danae had given birth, he suspected that his brother had lain with her but, not daring to anger the Gods by killing his wife and grandson, he locked them in a wooden ark and threw them into the sea. A fisherman, Dictys, hauled the ark aboard his boat and opened it. Both mother and child were still alive and he took them to his brother, King Polydectes, who brought them into his house. Acrisius, enraged that Zeus had slept with his wife and that his wife had given birth, attempted to execute his wife and Perseus by throwing them into the sea. Spyros the Fisherman 2. He protected her once when Polydectes tried to force her to marry him. Still determined to marry Danae, Polydectes decided to pretend that he intended to marry another. He brought all his subjects together and asked them all to contribute one horse apiece to be his love gift much like a dowry to a girl called Hippodameia who lived on another island. When he asked Perseus for a horse, Perseus replied that he had none but, if the king really did not intend to marry his mother, he would contrive to get the king whatever gift he desired. Perseus added, very rashly, that he would even get the head of the gorgon Medusa if the king so desired it. Perseus is the only survivor and is rescued by the only boatload of Argos soldiers to survive Hades. Perseus, determined to avenge his family, tries to attack Hades, who reveals that Perseus is a demi-God. In prison, he is visited by Io, who tells him that, if he kills the Kraken, he will be able to get to Hades. Perseus says he will fight the Kraken and is released from prison. Io tells Draco that, if the Kraken has a weakness, the Stygian Witches will know what it is. He tells her to back off. She tells him never to look at Medusa directly, only in a reflection and presents him with a brightly-polished bronze shield. Hermes also helped Perseus, giving him a sickle with which to behead Medusa. The Graeae were beautiful, swan-like creatures who shared a single eye and tooth between them. He sought out the Graeae and, creeping up behind them, snatched the eye and the tooth and refused to give them back until the three of them told him where the Stygian Nymphs lived. As usual, Hollywood spruces it up a bit. Perseus notices at one point that Io is following them, despite having been told to keep her distance by Draco. Draco humiliates Perseus in a sword fight, but is then bested by him. Suddenly, the herd takes to the wing and a massive, black Pegasus lands in the clearing, nearly trampling Perseus. They run towards the sound, Draco and his soldiers following, and arrive in time to see the disfigured form of a man tearing one of the soldiers in half! It is King Acrisius, the man who attempted to kill Perseus when he was an infant to get back at Zeus for sleeping with his wife. He tries to kill Perseus, but fails, only managing to infect him with venom from Hades. Eventually he has his hand cut off. He runs into the desert, drops of blood spilling from his injured wrist onto the sand. They Scorpiocs attack Perseus, Draco and the soldiers, killing two of them. Perseus is almost stung by one, but is saved by Io. The Djinn live in the desert and are traditional enemies of men, many soldiers accompanying Perseus have fought them before. Io warns Perseus that he must only ask what he needs to know, and no more. Gemma Arteton as Io Upon reaching the lair of the witches, Perseus demands to know how to kill the Kraken, the witches, who appear to be flesh-eating, demand payment for such knowledge and attack one of the young soldiers. The witches are then forced to tell the soldiers that there is a solution, but that it is impossible. If they can somehow get the gorgon Medusa to gaze in the eyes of the Kraken, it will be turned to stone, like anything of flesh that gazes upon Medusa. Draco says that Argos is doomed as they will not be able to control Medusa, but Perseus says they just need to take her head. He is about to leave when the witches ask him if he wants to know more. Perseus throws the eye at the witches and, as the scuffle around to find it, he, Io and the soldiers quickly

leave their lair. A Stygian Witch with the eye 4. They made such a noise that Stheno and Euryale awoke and pursued Perseus as he ran. Ancient Greek vase painting showing Perseus fleeing from Stheno and Euryale In the movie, killing Medusa is much more graphic and is arguably the best scene in the whole movie. Medusa ran to Athena for help, but Athena felt only disgust and turned Medusa into a hideous beast. When the men enter the temple, they hear chilling laughter and Draco is shot with an arrow.

Chapter 2 : Perseus and Medusa

Perseus married Andromeda in spite of Phineus, to whom she had before been promised. At the wedding a quarrel took place between the rivals, and Phineus was turned to stone by the sight of Medusa's head that Perseus had kept. [16].

With a promising plot that gets more complicated as the story progresses, this myth has a typical Hollywood-like scenario with the main character not being born yet at the moment when his destiny was determined. Here, we will present just a short version of the myth of Perseus and Medusa until the moment when Perseus beheaded Medusa. Perseus and the Oracle Acrisius, the king of Argos, was told by the oracle of Delphi that his own grandson would kill him one day. This grandson would be the child of his daughter Danae. Scared of the upcoming future and his destiny, King Acrisius decided to deprive his daughter of any possible intercourse, mating and child bearing, so he built a room beneath the earth and imprisoned Danae there. Hence, Perseus was born. Hearing the news but not believing that Zeus was the father of the newborn, Acrisius let his daughter and grandchild out to the open sea on an ark. They eventually came to the shores of Serifos island, where they were saved and adopted by a local couple, the man being the brother of the king of the island, Polydectes. When Perseus grew up to a handsome and strong young man, one more time he found himself in the way of one king, this time King Polydectes, who wanted Danae to become his wife. Polydectes told Perseus to bring him the head of the gorgon Medusa. Perseus and Medusa Medusa was one of three sisters, the gorgons, but she was the only mortal one. Some versions say all three were born as monsters, but the predominant myths had them as gorgeous maidens. Medusa kept her beautiful face but everything else was so monstrous. And whoever dared to look into her face ended up being turned into stone. Perseus thus had a hard task. He asked Athena and Hermes for help and two of them, together with the nymphs, provided winged sandals to fly him to the end of the world where gorgons lived, a cap that made him invisible, a sword and a mirrored shield. Pegasus, a winged horse, and Chrysaor, a giant or a winged boar. One of the most known art work is the Medusa shield by Caravaggio, painted at the end of the 16th century. It is exposed in the Uffizi museum in Florence. Close by the museum, in the main plaza of Firenze Florence there is a sculpture of Perseus.

Chapter 3 : Andromeda (mythology) - Wikipedia

Year 3 created this animation on the Explain Everything app to illustrate the story of Perseus and Medusa.

Likewise, Perseus and Calibos share the same sexual desire for Andromeda, so Calibos reveals the dark side of Perseus: Medusa is Andromeda and Calibos is Perseus, and the true destiny of every hero is to find the Medusa and Calibos, kill them, and then fulfill the highest ideals of pure love. To fulfill his destiny, Perseus--like all men--must overcome both Medusa and Calibos. First, Medusa is the opposite of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, whose son Cupid shoots arrows to wound his victims with love, whereas Medusa wounds her victims with the opposite of love, hardness of heart symbolized by the whole of their body becoming as hard as stone ; secondly, hunters of this time utilized the bow and arrow, and Medusa as a hunter of men demonstrates that sexually aggressive side of women who go "hunting for a man" to marry or even just to sleep with. The predatory nature of sexually aggressive women is seen in the body of the rattlesnake, invoking the ancient enemy of the dragon which symbolizes Satan think of St. George and the Dragonslayer, for example. Medusa, then, is the patroness of sexually aggressive females and a warning, if you will, of what happens to a woman who acts as such. Two, full as the moon; one, hollow as a crown. Two from the sea, five fathoms down. One from the earth, deep underground. Tell me, what can it be? The two pearls represent wisdom, because a pearl begins as a speck of sand, and over much time, locked within the mollusk symbolic of the interior life it develops layers and layers that become the pearl; with the pearls of wisdom, a woman nurtures her husband and her children. What role, if any, does Pegasus play in the film? Pegasus has always symbolized art and beauty, because a winged horse is a product of the mind, but the highest ideals of the soul. The lessons of art become the "vehicle" by which man Perseus is able to travel the distance necessary within himself to arrive at the place he needs to be, not only to save his Andromeda from her Medusa, but to save himself from his own Calibos. This is why that awful vulture is the opposite of Pegasus: A man who values women values women because he honors and reveres his own mother because his mother gave him the love he required when he was young and saved him from giving into a false image of himself more on this in the caption below: Because it was a good social move? Zeus, the father of all the gods, comes to her in a shimmering cloud of gold, because that is what she is in her innermost being: A Medusa lurks within every woman, a Calibos lurks within every man, ready to turn her virtue, value and beauty into lethal venom, full of hatred and deform her soul into the loathsome gorgon while Calibos is capable of taking the most beautiful and pure woman and turning her into the lowest of sex slaves. But what caused Andromeda to turn into Medusa? Medusa by Arnold Bocklin, circa So what is the Medusa? Perseus looks upon what could have been himself: Slavery to the flesh. When we fail to heed the needs of the soul--meditation and self-knowledge--the soul dies, and the flesh to which we have been catering with fun, amusement and worldly desires, becomes immune to the pleasures of the world, it takes more pleasure to satisfy us each time, so we become hardened to all things, like stone. Instead of the glorious afterlife for the soul being immortalized in the stars at the end of the film Perseus will be nothing but a pile of rocks returned to the dust of the earth. First, he begins by confronting Calibos. This act in turns releases Andromeda from her bondage to Calibos and actually frees the entire city of Joppa, in other words, men cannot overestimate the importance of their purity because one man enslaved to his sexual desires enslaves the whole world. This is where the "helmet of invisibility" comes in: So why is the helmet "lost in the swamp? Bust of Athena wearing a helmet. The truth is, Perseus is too weak at this point to overcome Calibos completely, and in letting Calibos continue to live, Perseus continues "allowing" himself to see Andromeda in the not-so-purest of terms. Perseus with the sword and the shield. The key to understanding what the sword means, and why Perseus needs it, comes from who gives him the sword: Please note, on the shield, the image of the bird in flight: The bird, like Pegasus, symbolizes the ability to "rise above" the situation and see what is not easily seen by others who have not attained the heights of wisdom which is the true gift of the gods. The second gift Perseus is given is from the patron goddess of women and marriage: The gift of the shield is what every man needs. Imagine a man in an argument with a woman Perseus confronting Medusa within her temple. The woman is firing her arrows at him, trying to wound him,

but he becomes objective Perseus tossing the shield to a pillar upon which the shield "sticks," reflecting what is going on ; instead of seeing the woman he loves attacking him, he sees the Medusa lurking around within her. Because of the shield, Perseus is able to "reflect" upon what she is doing and that "reflecting" is what keeps him from getting hurt, i. A man has to be brave enough to take these attacks, then wise enough to see through them. This is the glorious moment every man should strive for, and every woman should hope will happen to her: Perseus has to cut off the head of Medusa because the head represents the "governing function," that which controls all else e. Like the helmet "lost in the swamp," Perseus no longer needs the shield because he has interiorized the gift and it has become a part of him. Perseus making these gifts a part of his being is what gives him power, because as the demons within him die, the part of his divinity gets stronger, not being compromised by the power either Medusa or Calibos hold his fear of Medusa and what she can do to him and Andromeda or the weary battle he must fight within himself with Calibos. Perseus, by Cellini, Florence, Italy. Perseus and his men sleep, and because Perseus "sleeps," Calibos pierces the head of Medusa with his trident, representing the sexual act. Medusa, Caravaggio, Uffizi Gallery, Florence. As the soldiers fight off the scorpions, Calibos whips Perseus, preventing him from picking up his sword of course, the Sword of Truth and purified mating as opposed to the sexual act for physical gratification. Perseus is determined to love Andromeda as she deserves, and this is the ultimate action for a man: Birth of Aphrodite by Redon. The third gift, the sword of Aphrodite, is the Sword of Truth, and it is given by Aphrodite because she is the goddess of Love; usually, she is associated with lust, but that is a "weak" reading of her, rather, "love" means a genuine self-love of himself and Andromeda that is the final weapon Perseus needs to discipline himself and overcome the temptations to impurity which Calibos lords over him. Why does Calibos wear the color blue, the color of wisdom? A man not seeking wisdom in this life is ruled by his appetites like Calibos killing all the herd of sacred flying horses of Zeus instead of realizing they were meant to inspire and "elevate" his mind above the pleasures of the earth which is why Calibos is covered in hair like an animal because he is an animal. The pierced ears are a sign of the "man of fashion" because a man having pierced ears in the s when this was made was fashionable, so Calibos represents a man living life for a moment instead of a man seeing beyond the immediate moment. Are they meant to symbolize the devil? Whereas Moses led his people to freedom, Calibos enslaves Joppa, and this is the reality of his being that every single man must deal with: The exhaustion which drains Perseus after the battle with the scorpions shows him being completely weakened, and this is good. He has faced death of his inner-most being and survived. After a man has won this victory, he can face and overcome anything, even the Kraken. But Perseus gets a drink of water, and Bubo the owl comes up. When one couple has stood up against all the detrimental forces working against them as individuals and as a couple, all society benefits because they now have a standard, an example to look up to and emulate and that is why all the city is freed when the Medusa, Calibos and the Kraken have been defeated, because false images of false goods have been shown for what they really are, and the power of good and purity has been shown to be truly desirable and the ultimate good of our being. Why does Zeus help Perseus? Because now Zeus can help Perseus. The overwhelming forces that work against a relationship. Why does the head of Medusa permit Perseus to slay the Kraken? The head of Medusa is literally a trophy. Andromeda, Edward Poynter, , Private Collection. Another irony is, that it is her preparation to be the sacrifice for the Kraken that helps Andromeda contribute to the defeat of it. The Kraken is the symbol of culture with its numerous arms being all the devices at its control to destroy a relationship such as the press, drugs, divorce, self-image, sex and pornography. Since they themselves have been cleansed, they are strong enough to defeat all the other forces working against their relationship. So, what gave "birth" to Calibos? Thetis is the goddess of the sea, but in the film, she often appears in the moon and on the statue. The moon is a complex symbol, but it usually refers to our emotions, because our emotions go through cycles and change just as the unstable moon does. So Calibos can be said to be ruled by his emotions, rather than he rules his character, which is what men are called to do, and a man being ruled by his emotions is a man who will do what he wants, rather than what he should this is not to say, at all, that men should not be emotional or destroy their emotional impulses; rather, men and women need the gift of discernment to understand how our emotions play with us and how we act upon them and the consequences that way of life might lead to, turning us into animals. I have mentioned

before, was an important year for great art: It not only supported the virtuous way and path of individuality for individuals and relationships, but showed how it is the only Way. Eat Your Art Out,.

Chapter 4 : Andromeda and Perseus – Standing 'O' Marching

Medusa's petrifying power is also used on Phineus, Andromeda's uncle whom she was betrothed to, Proetus, the usurper of the throne of Argos, and finally Polydectes himself. Medusa's head was then given to Athena, who wears it on her aegis whenever she goes into battle.

Poseidon, he of the dark hair, lay with one of these, in a soft meadow and among spring flowers. But when Perseus had cut off the head of Medousa there sprang from her blood great Khrysaor Chrysaor and the horse Pegasos Pegasus so named from the springs pegai of Okeanos, where she was born. Weir Smyth Greek tragedy C5th B. When you have crossed the stream that bounds the two continents [probably the Red Sea], toward the flaming east, where the sun walks [text missing] crossing the surging sea until you reach the Gorgonean plains of Kisthene Cisthene , where the Phorkides Phorcides dwell, ancient maids, three in number, shaped like swans, possessing one eye amongst them and a single tooth; neither does the sun with his beams look down upon them, nor ever the nightly moon. And near them are their three winged sisters, the snake-haired drakontomalloi Gorgones Gorgons , loathed of mankind, whom no one of mortal kind shall look upon and still draw breath. Such is the peril that I bid you to guard against. Aldrich Greek mythographer C2nd A. Way Greek epic C4th A. Grant Roman mythographer C2nd A. Tithrasos [is a] river, or a location in Libya, where the Gorgones resided. The Greeks call this the aegis. When this was done, as we have shown above, Jupiter [Zeus], overcoming the Titanes, gained possession of the kingdom. Melville Roman epic C1st B. Showerman Roman poetry C1st B. These, surely, Neptune, and many more, the poets say in their songs have mingled their soft embraces with thine own. Her beauty was far-famed, the jealous hope of many a suitor, and of all her charms her hair was loveliest; so I was told by one who claimed to have seen her. Minerva [Athena] still, to strike her foes with dread, upon her breastplate wears the snakes she made. Medousa], and the bag floated about it, a wonder to look at, done in silver, but the shining tassels fluttered, and they were gold, and the temples of the lord Perseus were hooded over by the war-cap of Haides, which confers terrible darkness. The son of Danae, Perseus himself, sped onward like one who goes in haste or terror, as meanwhile the rest of the Gorgones Gorgons tumbled along behind him, unapproachable, indescribable, straining to catch and grab him, and on the green of the steel surface gibbered the sound of their feet on the shield running with a sharp high noise, and on the belts of the Gorgones a pair of snakes were suspended, but they reared and bent their heads forward and flickered with their tongues. The teeth for their rage were made jagged and their staring fierce, and over the dreaded heads of the Gorgones was great Panic shivering. Conway Greek lyric C5th B. The Phorcides was the second of a trilogy of plays describing the story of Perseus. The Graiai Graeae , sisters of the Gorgones, formed the chorus. Aeschylus, Fragment Phorcides from Athenaeus, Deipnosophists ix. Vellacott Greek tragedy C5th B. These Nymphai had in their possession winged sandals and the kibisis, which they say was a knapsack. Pindar and Hesiod in the Shield of Herakles, describe Perseus as follows: They also had the helmet of Hades. Approaching the Nymphai Nymphs he received what he had come for, and he flung on the kibisis, tied the sandals on his ankles, and placed the helmet on his head. With the helmet on he could see whomever he cared to look at, but was invisible to others. He also received from Hermes a sickle made of adamant. Perseus took flight and made his way to Okeanos Oceanus , where he found the Gorgones Gorgons sleeping. Their names were Stheno, Euryale and the third was Medousa Medusa , the only mortal one: All who looked at them were turned to stone. Perseus, therefore, with Athene guiding his hand, kept his eyes on the reflection in a bronze shield as he stood over the sleeping Gorgones, and when he saw the image of Medousa, he beheaded her. As soon as her head was severed there leaped from her body the winged horse Pegasos Pegasus and Khrysaor Chrysaor the father of Geryon. The father of these two was Poseidon. Perseus then placed the head in the kibisis and headed back again, as the Gorgones pursued him through the air. But the helmet kept him hidden, and made it impossible for them to identify him. It is affirmed by some that Medousa was beheaded because of Athene, for they say the Gorgon had been willing to be compared with Athene in beauty. Mair Greek poet C3rd B. Fashioning men as statues from top to toe he shall envelope them in stone--he that stole the lamp of his three wandering guides. Jones Greek geographer C1st B. Jones Greek

travelogue C2nd A. I omit the miraculous, but give the rational parts of the story about her. After the death of her father, Phorkys Phorcys , she reigned over those living around Lake Tritonis, going out hunting and leading the Libyans to battle. On one such occasion, when she was encamped with an army over against the forces of Perseus, who was followed by picked troops from the Peloponnesos, she was assassinated by night. Perseus, admiring her beauty even in death, cut off her head and carried it to show the Greeks. But Prokles Procles , the son of Eukrates Eucrates , a Carthaginian, thought a different account more plausible than the preceding. It is as follows. Among the incredible monsters to be found in the Libyan desert are wild men and wild women. Prokles affirmed that he had seen a man from them who had been brought to Rome. So he guessed that a woman from them, reached Lake Tritonis, and harried the neighbours until Perseus killed her; Athena was supposed to have helped him in this exploit, because the people who live around Lake Tritonis are sacred to her. Only Perseus has his name inscribed on him. Oldfather Greek historian C1st B. Furthermore, the manly prowess of those of whom we are now about to write presupposes an amazing pre-eminence when compared with the nature of the women of our day. Diodorus then goes on to describe a legendary tribe of Libyan Amazon-women. He is said, too, to have received from Vulcanus [Hephaistos Hephaestus] a knife made of adamant, with which he killed Medusa the Gorgon. The deed itself no one has described. But as Aeschylus, the writer of tragedies, says in his Phorcides, the Graeae were guardians of the Gorgones. We wrote about them in the first book of the Genealogiae. They are thought to have had but one eye among them, and thus to have kept guard, watch one taking it in her turn. This eye Perseus snatches, as one was passing it to another, and threw it in Lake Tritonis. So, when the guards were blinded, he easily killed the Gorgon when she was overcome with sleep. Minerva [Athena] is said to have the head on her breastplate. Euhemerus [Greek writer C3rd B. Goold Roman elegy C1st B. Mozley Roman epic C1st A. Rouse Greek epic C5th A. There was no battle when swiftshoe Perseus lifted the lifeless token of victory, the snaky sheaf of Gorgon hair, relics of the head dripping drops of blood, gently wheezing a half-heard hiss through the severed throats. Have you had the task of Perseus? Have you seen the eye of Sthenno which turns all to stone, or the bellowing invincible throat of Euryale herself? Have you seen the tresses of viperhair Medousa Medusa , and have the open mouths of her tangled serpents run round you? He cut off the head and bathed a bloodstained in the viperish dew; then as Medousa Medusa was slain, the neck was delivered of its twin birth, the Horse [Pegasus] and the Boy [Khrysaor Chrysaor] with the golden sword. A proverb [applied] to those concealing themselves with certain devices. For such was the helmet of Hades, which Perseus used when he killed the Gorgon. She [who was] also called Gorgon. Perseus, the son of Danae and Pecos Pecus [Zeus], having learned all the mystic apparitions and wanting to establish for himself his own kingdom, despised that of the Medes [Persians]. The head he called Gorgon, because of its sheer force. A goddess found, but finding, gave the strain to mortal men to hold, naming it the tune of many heads. Name of a city [in Boiotia]. Rieu Greek epic C3rd B. It was too sluggish to attack a man who showed now wish to harm it, or to fly at anyone who shrank away. And yet, for any creature living on the face of Mother Earth, one drop of its black poison in his veins was short cut to the world below. The poor man was doomed. A paralysing numbness was already creeping through him, and a dark mist began to dim his sight. Unable to control his heavy limbs, he sank to the ground and soon was cold. Mopsos was dead; and they could not leave him in the sunshine even for a short time, for the poison at once began to rot his flesh and mouldering hair fell from his scalp. The spattered desert gave them life as snakes, smooth snakes of many kinds, and so that land still swarms with deadly serpents to this day. When they looked at it, each one turned to stone, holding the pose he happened to have been striking at that moment. This he did to avenge his mother, because Polydektes the king, with their cooperation, intended to marry his mother against her will. The island is so rocky that the comedians say that it was made thus by the Gorgo. Fairbanks Greek rhetorician C3rd A. Perseus, discovering the plot, showed them the head of the Gorgon, and all were changed from human form into stone. Perseus with Andromeda returned to his country. Atlas, so huge, became a mountain; beard and hair were changed to forests, shoulders were cliffs, hands ridges; where his head had lately been, the soaring summit rose; his bones were turned to stone. The Sea-Nymphs Nymphae Pelagi tried the magic on more weed and found to their delight it worked the same, and sowed the changeling seeds back on the waves. Coral still keeps that nature; in the air it hardens, what beneath the sea has grown a

swaying plant, above it, turns to stone. If any friend is present, turn away your face!

Chapter 5 : The Real Story of Medusa and the Gorgons | Ancient Origins

3. Saving Andromeda Perseus flies on the Pegasus to Greece, arriving just in time to use Medusa's head against the Kraken and turn it to stone, saving Andromeda, and the city.

She is rash enough to deny that Bacchus is the son of Jupiter , and her sisters share in her impiety. The priest had ordered the observation of the festival, asking for all female servants to be released from work, they and their mistresses to drape animal skins across their breasts, free their headbands, wreath their hair, and carry an ivy-twined thyrsus in their hand. The Orient calls you its conqueror, as far as darkest India, dipped in the remote Ganges. You, the revered one, punished Pentheus , and Lycurgus , king of Thrace , who carried the double-headed axe, and you sent the Tyrrhenians into the waves. You yoke together two lynxes with bright reins decorating their necks, Bacchantes and Satyrs follow you, and that drunken old man, Silenus , who supports his stumbling body with his staff, and clings precariously to his bent-backed mule. Wherever you go the shouts of youths ring out, and the chorus of female voices, hands beating on tambourines, the clash of cymbals, and the shrill piping of the flute. Only the daughters of Minyas remain inside, disturbing the festival, with the untimely arts of Minerva , drawing out strands of wool, twisting the threads with their fingers, or staying at their looms, and plying their servants with work. Then one of them, Arsippe , speaks, spinning the thread lightly with her thumb. Her sisters are pleased with this, and beg her to begin first. She wondered which of many she should tell since she knew very many , and hesitated whether to tell about you, Babylonian Dercetis , who, as the Syrians of Palestine believe, with altered shape, your lower limbs covered with scales, swam in the waters, or how your daughter , assuming wings, lived her earliest years out among the white doves. Or how a Naiad , with incantations, and all too powerful herbs, changed the bodies of youths into dumb fishes, until the same thing happened to her. Or how the mulberry tree that bore white berries now bears dark red ones, from the stain of blood. This one pleases her. She begins to spin this tale, which is not yet well known, as she spins her woollen thread. Their nearness and their first childhood steps made them acquainted and in time love appeared. They would have agreed to swear the marriage oath as well, but their parents prevented it. They were both on fire, with hearts equally captivated, something no parent can prevent. They had no one to confide all this to: There was a fissure, a thin split, in the shared wall between their houses, which traced back to when it was built. No one had discovered the flaw in all those years “ but what can love not detect? Your endearments passed that way, in safety, in the gentlest of murmurs. How hard would it be for you to let our whole bodies meet, or if that is too much perhaps, to open to the kisses we give each other? Not that we are not grateful. Then they decided, first with a little murmur of their great sorrows, to try, in the silence of night, to deceive the guards, and vanish outside. Once out of the house they would leave the city as well, and they agreed, in case they went astray crossing the open country, to meet by the grave of Ninus, and hide in the shelter of a tree. There was a tall mulberry tree there, dense with white berries, bordering a cool fountain. They were satisfied with their plan, and the light, slow to lose its strength, was drowned in the waters, and out of the same waters the night emerged. Love made her brave. But a lioness fresh from the kill, her jaws foaming, smeared with the blood of cattle, came to slake her thirst at the nearby spring. In the moonlight, Babylonian Thisbe sees her some way off, and flees in fear to a dark cave, and as she flees, she leaves behind her fallen veil. When the fierce lioness has drunk deeply, returning towards the trees, she chances to find the flimsy fabric, without its owner, and rips it in her bloodstained jaws. She was the more deserving of a long life. I am the guilty spirit. I have killed you, poor girl, who told you to come by night to this place filled with danger, and did not reach it first. O, all you lions, that live amongst these rocks, tear my body to pieces, and devour my sinful flesh in your fierce jaws! As he lay back again on the ground, the blood spurted out, like a pipe fracturing at a weak spot in the lead, and sending long bursts of water hissing through the split, cutting through the air, beat by beat. Though she recognises the place and the shape of the familiar tree, the colour of the berries puzzles her. Hesitating, she sees quivering limbs writhing on the bloodstained earth, and starts back, terrified, like the sea, that trembles when the slightest breeze touches its surface, her face showing whiter than boxwood. But when, staying a moment longer, she recognises her lover, she cries

out loud with grief, striking at her innocent arms, and tearing at her hair. Cradling the beloved body, she bathes his wounds with tears, mingling their drops with blood. Your dearest Thisbe calls to you: I too have a firm enough hand for once, and I, too, love. It will give me strength in my misfortune. I will follow you to destruction, and they will say I was a most pitiful friend and companion to you. He, who could only be removed from me by death, death cannot remove. Nevertheless I ask this for both of us, in uttering these words, O our poor parents, mine and his, do not deny us the right to be laid in one tomb, we whom certain love, and the strangest hour have joined. And you, the tree, that now covers the one poor body with your branches, and soon will cover two, retain the emblems of our death, and always carry your fruit darkened in mourning, a remembrance of the blood of us both. Mars and Venus Arsispe ceased. I will tell you about his amours. He was the first god they say to see the adulteries of Venus and Mars: He was sorry to witness the act, and he told her husband Vulcan, son of Juno, of this bedroom intrigue, and where the intrigue took place. Immediately he began to file thin links of bronze, for a net, a snare that would deceive the eye. The finest spun threads, those the spider spins from the rafters, would not better his work. He made it so it would cling to the smallest movement, the lightest touch, and then artfully placed it over the bed. The Lemnian, Vulcan, immediately flung open the ivory doors, and let in the gods. There the two lay shamefully bound together, and one of the gods, undismayed, prayed that he might be shamed like that. And the gods laughed. And for a long time it was the best-known story in all the heavens. He who harmed her secret affair, was equally harmed by love. Son of Hyperion, what use to you now, are beauty, lustre, and radiant light? Surely, you who make all countries burn with your fires, burn with a new fire. Sometimes you rise too early in the dawn sky. Sometimes you sink too late into the waves. Thinking of her, you lengthen the winter hours. It is that love of yours that determines your aspect. You only love her. But when the daughter grew to womanhood, she outshone her mother, as her mother surpassed all others. Her father Orchamus ruled the Achaemenian Cities of Persia, seventh in line from ancient Belus, the founder. Trust me, you please me. Her fear enhances her, and he, waiting no longer, resumes his true form, and his accustomed brightness. And, though the girl is alarmed by this sudden vision, overwhelmed by his brightness, suppressing all complaint, she submits to the assault of the god. He tried to see if he could recall life to those frozen limbs, with his powerful rays. Immediately the body, soaked through with heavenly nectar, dissolved, steeping the earth in its perfume. Tentatively, putting out roots, the shoot of a tree, resinous with incense, grew through the soil, and pierced the summit of the mound. She wasted away, deranged by her experience of love. Impatient of the nymphs, night and day, under the open sky, she sat dishevelled, bareheaded, on the bare earth. Without food or water, fasting, for nine days, she lived only on dew and tears, and did not stir from the ground. They say that her limbs clung to the soil, and that her ghastly pallor changed part of her appearance to that of a bloodless plant: She turns, always, towards the sun, though her roots hold her fast, and, altered, loves unaltered. Part of them denies it could have happened, part says that the true gods can do anything. Though Bacchus is not one of those. Neither will I tell you how, the laws of nature conspiring to alter, Sithon became of indeterminate sex, now man, now woman: I will reject all those, and charm your imaginations with a sweet, new story. His features were such that, in them, both mother and father could be seen: He even reached the Lycian cities, and the Carians by Lycia. Here he saw a pool of water, clear to its very depths. There were no marsh reeds round it, no sterile sedge, no spikes of rushes: The edges of the pool are bordered by fresh turf, and the grass is always green. A nymph lives there, but she is not skilled for the chase, or used to flexing the bow, or the effort of running, the only Naiad not known by swift-footed Diana. She only bathes her shapely limbs in the pool, often combs out her hair, with a comb that is made of boxwood from Cytorus, and looks in the water to see what suits it best. Then draped in a translucent robe, she lies down on the soft leaves, or in the soft grass. Often she gathers flowers. And she was also busy gathering them, then, when she saw the boy, and what she saw she longed to have. But far beyond them, and far more blessed is she, if there is a she, promised to you, whom you think worthy of marriage. If there is someone, let mine be a stolen pleasure, if not, I will be the one, and let us enter into marriage together. He did not know what love was: Apples are tinged with this colour, hanging in a sunlit tree, or ivory painted with red, or the moon, eclipsed, blushing in her brightness, while the bronze shields clash, in vain, to rescue her. But he, obviously at leisure, as if unobserved, walks here and there on the grass and playfully, at the end

of his walk, dips his feet and ankles in the pool. Then, quickly captured by the coolness of the enticing water, he stripped the soft clothes from his slender body.

Chapter 6 : Perseus - Wikipedia

Andromeda and Perseus: The Adventures of Perseus part 3 - Greek Mythology Ep [HD] Perseus vs Medusa â•CLASH OF THE TITANSâ• - Duration: Ricetti , views.

The Pythia smiled knowingly through the swirling vapours that rose from the chasm below her, but spoke no more. On his arrival at his palace, his beautiful daughter, Danae, ran to greet him. Her joy turned to dismay as he roughly grabbed her arm. He dragged her to a bronze room at the top of the palace, thrusting her inside and locking the heavy door. Each day the door opened only to admit a young slave girl with food. The room was open to the sky, but Danae had no means of escape. She could only wonder in sorrow why her father had turned against her so. However, her pleas and sighs were heard in the heavens by Zeus. He looked down at the beautiful maiden, and immediately fell in love with her. So, one night, he visited her as a shower of golden light, and from this heavenly union, nine months later, a baby boy was born. He was called Perseus. On discovering this, Acrisius raged and roared. Even so, mother and baby bobbed around the sea for days and days, without food or water. Finally they were washed up on the strange, mysterious island of Serifos. Here they were taken in by a kind fisherman called Dyctus, brother to the king, Polydectes. He gave them shelter for many years. During that time, Perseus grew into a strong, handsome youth who was very protective of his lovely mother. Unhappily, she eventually came to the notice of the King. King Polydectes was a cruel and evil tyrant. He summoned Danae and her son to court. Polydectes, angered, planned how he could get the young man out of the way. He ordered a feast and invited all the young men and women of the court. Unsuspecting, Perseus eagerly turned up, only to find that all the other guests were carrying an expensive present for the monarch. You would deliver to me anything in the world? The courtiers looked at each other in stunned surprise and then started to titter. The three female Gorgons were monstrous and deadly creatures that guarded the entrance to the underworld. Of the three, only Medusa was mortal and could be killed. Surely this ignorant young man had no idea what he was taking on, they thought. Next morning, with a heavy heart, Perseus set off on his journey. Danae was distraught and begged him not to go. I will return and free you from the attentions of this man! In truth, he had no idea which path to take. Suddenly there appeared before him a young man with winged sandals and a tall woman in a white robe, holding a shield and spear. Perseus knew immediately that he was in the company of the gods. You are a son of Zeus. We wish to help you in your quest to slay Medusa. I am Hermes, messenger of the Gods and this is our sister Athena, goddess of wisdom and war. He next gave him his own winged sandals. Athena handed him a highly polished shield. Make them tell you how to locate the daughters of Hesperus, the Nymphs who tend the garden of the Goddess Hera. They have been entrusted with items you need to defeat the Gorgon. Be bold yet cunning in your quest, we wish you well. He travelled first northwards, to seek out the Old Grey Sisters. Soon he approached their cave by the seas. Never had he seen a more revolting sight. Hunched together in the mists and spray of the sea were three knotted, hideous old crones, as grey as the rocks that surrounded them. They had just one eye between them. As he cautiously approached, Perseus heard them muttering and passing the soft, slippery eye gingerly between them with their gnarled fingers. Each sister scolded the others and begged for a turn with the eye, in equal measure. It was a awful sight, but one which Perseus knew he could use to his advantage. As one took the eye out to pass it to another, Perseus seized his chance. He flew down on his winged sandals and, snatching the eye, darted out of reach. Give it to me," screeched one old hag. They gasped and groaned as though in agony, until eventually one exhausted old crone muttered the information Perseus wanted. He took off as their screeching, scrabbling and quarrelling started once again. Following their directions, he eventually reached a beautiful and peaceful garden. Situated on the western edge of the world, it was the garden of Hera. The nymphs who lived there were pleased to help Perseus on his quest. Their lair was unmistakable, surrounded, as it was, by the petrified remains of unwary visitors. Perseus cautiously entered, crouching low to avoid the sloping roof, slimy green and dripping with water. The foul stench made his stomach heave. He crawled further in, peering ahead in the gloom. The distant snoring of the Gorgons, and the soft hissing of the snakes that crowned their heads, reached the anxious warrior. The air turned bitter, the cold stinging his body like a swarm of wasps. He crept

silently on, using the shield to reflect the way ahead. Suddenly, he tripped on a rock and a low grunt of pain escaped his lips. He froze, listening, peering. Oh, only a rat scuffling across his path. Then he saw a reflection in his shield. Medusa was lying there, twisted and grotesque. Her hands were claws and her skin was scaly. Her mouth, open in sleep, revealed tusks that served for teeth and a black protruding tongue. Perseus gripped his gleaming sword until his knuckles turned white. He glanced again at his shield. He knew he would have but one chance. It was only the highly polished surface of the shield that was keeping him from turning to stone. Did he dare to step round that vile creature? Would the Gorgon sense his fear? At the instance of death her eyes flew open. There was a roaring of thunder and out of the severed neck arose a magnificent winged horse. As it flew into the sky, dark shadows shifted. Still using the shield as a mirror, he grabbed the loathsome snaked hair, lifted the head with its terrifying staring eyes and dropped it into his bag. He darted back out of the lair and, using his sandals, followed the winged horse into the skies, to the vengeful cries of the remaining two Gorgons. Perseus was eager to return home to rescue his mother. As he allowed himself a deep sigh and a brief smile, little did he know that his adventure was far from over. He was approaching the coast, when he saw a beautiful young woman chained to a jagged shelf above the sea. The rocks around her were littered with the bones of men and beasts. Clearly some terrible monster had feasted upon them. In their anger they released the sea monster over the land. Only my death will appease it," wept the girl. Perseus turned and watched the water ripple with the approach of the creature. As the great, scaly monster emerged below the rocks, Perseus hovered in the air on his winged sandals, challenging the brute and guarding the beautiful hostage. The monster opened its huge jaws, showing teeth as sharp as daggers. Perseus swung his sword, hacking as the creature twisted and turned, snarling and snapping to get its mouth around its adversary. But Perseus was quick. Perseus launched one final attack and the monster was dead. Andromeda was free and safe, in the arms of her adored and adoring hero. The journey back home was long, with many dangers. However, now that Perseus had his beloved Andromeda by his side, he feared nothing and no-one.

Perseus, in Greek mythology, the slayer of the Gorgon Medusa and the rescuer of Andromeda from a sea monster. Perseus was the son of Zeus and Danaë, the daughter of Acrisius of Argos.

There is some idea that it descended into Greek from the Proto-Indo-European language. In that regard Robert Graves has proposed the only Greek derivation available. According to Carl Darling Buck *Comparative Grammar of Greek and Latin*, the *per-* suffix is typically used to form an agent noun, in this case from the aorist stem, *pers-*. *Pers-eus* therefore is a sacker of cities; that is, a soldier by occupation, a fitting name for the first Mycenaean warrior. The origin of *perth-* is more obscure. Graves carries the meaning still further, to the *perse-* in *Persephone*, goddess of death. The native name, however, has always had an *-a-* in Persian. Herodotus [3] recounts this story, devising a foreign son, *Perses*, from whom the Persians took the name. Apparently the Persians [4] knew the story as Xerxes tried to use it to bribe the Argives during his invasion of Greece, but ultimately failed to do so. Zeus came to her in the form of a shower of gold, and impregnated her. Fearful for his future, but unwilling to provoke the wrath of the gods by killing the offspring of Zeus and his daughter, Acrisius cast the two into the sea in a wooden chest. Mother and child washed ashore on the island of Serifos, where they were taken in by the fisherman Dictys "fishing net", who raised the boy to manhood. Perseus believed Polydectes was less than honourable, and protected his mother from him; then Polydectes plotted to send Perseus away in disgrace. He held a large banquet where each guest was expected to bring a gift. Perseus had no horse to give, so he asked Polydectes to name the gift; he would not refuse it. Polydectes held Perseus to his rash promise and demanded the head of the only mortal Gorgon, [9] *Medusa*, whose gaze turned people to stone. The Graeae were three perpetually old women, who had to share a single eye. As the women passed the eye from one to another, Perseus snatched it from them, holding it for ransom in return for the location of the nymphs. Hermes lent Perseus winged sandals to fly, and Athena gave him a polished shield. In the cave he came upon the sleeping *Medusa*. The other two Gorgons pursued Perseus, [14] but, wearing his helm of darkness, he escaped. From here he proceeded to visit King Atlas who had refused him hospitality; in revenge Perseus turned him to stone. Perseus und *Andromeda*, c. *Cassiopeia*, having boasted her daughter *Andromeda* equal in beauty to the *Nereids*, drew the vengeance of *Poseidon*, who sent an inundation on the land and a sea serpent, *Cetus*, which destroyed man and beast. The oracle of Ammon announced that no relief would be found until the king exposed his daughter *Andromeda* to the monster, and so she was fastened naked to a rock on the shore. Perseus slew the monster and, setting her free, claimed her in marriage. Perseus rescuing *Andromeda* from *Cetus*, depicted on an amphora in the *Altes Museum*, Berlin Perseus married *Andromeda* in spite of *Phineus*, to whom she had before been promised. The fulfillment of the oracle was told several ways, each incorporating the mythic theme of exile. In *Pausanias* [19] he did not return to Argos, but went instead to *Larissa*, where athletic games were being held. He had just invented the quoit and was making a public display of them when Acrisius, who happened to be visiting, stepped into the trajectory of the quoit and was killed: Thus the oracle was fulfilled. *The Baleful Head*, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart. In the *Bibliotheca*, [20] the inevitable occurred by another route: There *Teutamides*, king of *Larissa*, was holding funeral games for his father. In a third tradition, [21] Acrisius had been driven into exile by his brother *Proetus*. The story is related in *Pausanias*, [22] which gives as motivation for the swap that Perseus was ashamed to become king of Argos by inflicting death. In any case, early Greek literature reiterates that manslaughter, even involuntary, requires the exile of the slaughterer, expiation and ritual purification. *Pausanias* [23] asserts that the Greeks believed Perseus founded *Mycenae*. He mentions the shrine to Perseus that stood on the left-hand side of the road from *Mycenae* to Argos, and also a sacred fountain at *Mycenae* called *Persea*. He states also that *Atreus* stored his treasures in an underground chamber there, which is why *Heinrich Schliemann* named the largest tholos tomb the *Treasury of Atreus*. Apart from these more historical references, the only accounts of him are from folk-etymology: Perseus dropped his cap or found a mushroom both named *myces* at *Mycenae*, or perhaps the place was named from the lady *Mycene*, daughter of *Inachus*, mentioned in a now-fragmentary poem, the *Megalai Ehoiai*. It is unlikely, however, that *Apollodorus* knew who walled in *Mycenae*; he was

only conjecturing. In any case, Perseus took up official residence in Mycenae with Andromeda. According to Hyginus , Fabulae , Megapenthes eventually killed Perseus, to avenge the death of his father.

Chapter 8 : Perseus Perseus – Facts and Information on the Greek Hero Perseus

Perseus with the Head of Medusa is a bronze sculpture made by Benvenuto Cellini in the period The sculpture stands upon a square base with bronze relief panels depicting the story of Perseus and Andromeda, similar to a predella on an altarpiece.

Perseus The only son of Zeus and Danae – and, thus, a half-god by birth – Perseus was one of the greatest heroes in Greek mythology, most renowned for beheading the only mortal Gorgon , Medusa , and using her severed head capable of turning onlookers into stone as a mighty weapon in his subsequent adventures. One of these was Electryon, the father of Alcmena , whose union with Zeus produced the most complete Greek hero ever, Heracles. To thwart the prophecy, Acrisius imprisoned his daughter in bronze, underground chamber; that way – he thought – she would never be able to marry, let alone have any offspring. The Banishment of Danae During a routine visit sometime later, Acrisius was astonished to find Danae in her chamber with a baby boy in her hands. Dictys Possibly guided by the gods, the chest eventually arrived safely to the island of Seriphos, which was ruled by the relatively just king Polydectes. It is in the modest home of Dictys that Perseus grew up to become a strong young man. He tried wooing her and eventually even asked her hand in marriage, but the timid princess repeatedly spurned his advances. His only obstacle was, naturally, her son; so, the king devised a cunning plan to get rid of Perseus. Namely, Polydectes pretended that he had proposed Hippodameia , the daughter of Oenomaus , the king of Pisa in Elis. On royal orders, every citizen of Seriphos was now obliged to bring a horse as a contribution for the bride-gift Hippodamia means "tamer of horses" ; being poor, Perseus could not oblige, so he asked Polydectes to name any other gift: After all, even a single glance from the snake-haired monster was sufficient to turn a man into a stone. The Quest for the Gorgon Medusa Perseus is most famous for his expedition against the Gorgons , during which he slew the only mortal of the three, Medusa , taking with him her severed head – capable of turning anyone into stone – and using it as a powerful weapon. Fortunately for Perseus , the gods cast a merciful look upon his despair: On their advice, Perseus headed off to find the Graeae , the sisters of the Gorgons , who were supposed to give him further directions. The Graeae and the Nymphs The Graeae were three grey-haired women who lived in a cave and shared a single eye and a tooth among them. When one of them was about to give the eye and the tooth to one of the others, Perseus grabbed them and blackmailed the Graeae to aid him. Having no choice but to oblige, the Graeae informed Perseus that he should go and visit certain nymphs of the north, who not only knew the location of the Gorgons but also owned winged sandals and a kibisis, probably something akin to a magic, impenetrable bag. Upon arriving among the hospitable nymphs, Perseus learned that they also keep possession of an even more precious item: Wearing it, he saw whom he pleased, but was not seen by others. And having received also from Hermes an adamantine sickle, he flew to the ocean and caught the Gorgons asleep. To emulate the sound of this lament, Athena invented the music of the double pipe, the aulos. Back in Seriphos, upon learning that he had harassed his mother, Perseus turned Polydectes into stone. Afterward, accidentally, he killed his grandfather Acrisius as well, thus fulfilling the prophecy which caused his wanderings in the first place. Atlas On his way back to Seriphos, Perseus came across the Titan Atlas , condemned to hold the heavens on his shoulders. Cetus and Andromeda Traversing further through Africa, Perseus reached the land of the Ethiopians ruled by the good, but unfortunate king Cepheus. Perseus fell in love with Andromeda at first sight and made a deal with her father: Upon witnessing his bravery, Cepheus gladly gave Andromeda in marriage to Perseus. Within a year the couple had its first child, Perses , the ancestor of all future Persian kings. When Perseus threw the discus, it accidentally hit an old man on the spot, killing him on the spot. As it should be evident by now, that old man was none other than Acrisius ; thus, the prophecy was fulfilled. The Aftermath After burying Acrisius outside of Argos , Perseus was too ashamed to go back there and ask for the throne. So, he went to Megapenthes who ruled at Tyrins and made an exchange with him, surrendering Argos into his hands and getting Tyrins in return. After some time, he also founded Mycenae, where he and his wife Andromeda lived happily for many years to come and raised at least one daughter and six sons – though some add one more of each. Most of their descendants became great kings,

the greatest of them all being Heracles , their great-grandson, the most famous of all Greek heroes.

Chapter 9 : Perseus with the Head of Medusa - Wikipedia

Medusa was a formidable foe, since her hideous appearance was able to render any onlooker into stone. In some variations of the myth, Medusa was born a monster like her sisters, described as girded with serpents, vibrating tongues, gnashing their teeth, having wings, brazen claws, and enormous teeth.

He is best known in Greek mythology as the slayer of Medusa, one of three female creatures, or Gorgons, with hair said to be made of poisonous snakes. Perseus and his origins on Argos Perseus was thought to exist several generations before the famous Heracles Hercules. He was born to Danae, his mother, who was a mortal meaning that she was not a God. Danae was the daughter of the king of Argos, King Acrisius. King Acrisius had once sought advice from the oracle at Delphi because he had been unable to have a son. In Greek mythology, oracles were like fortune tellers and Acrisius was seeking information for his future. King Acrisius was determined to keep that from happening, so he decided to lock up his only daughter, Danae. According to the legend, she was imprisoned in a bronze enclosure some versions of the story say that it was a tall bronze tower, other versions report that it was actually an underground prison that was open to the sky. His goal was to keep her from male suitors so that she could not become pregnant. The myth goes on to say that through the opening in her enclosure, the great God Zeus came to her in a golden rainfall. From that meeting with the very amorous Zeus, Danae did become pregnant and had a child while still imprisoned. That child was the legendary Perseus. Thus, Perseus was known as a demigod, meaning that he was born of both mortal his mother, Danae and immortal his father, Zeus parents. When King Acrisius realized that his daughter had, in fact, had a child, he feared for his life, but was unable to take the lives of his daughter and grandson. Instead, he responded by locking Danae and Perseus in a wooden chest and casting them out to sea. Perseus on the Island of Seriphos Perseus and his mother, Danae experienced calm seas after being cast out of Argos. The legends say that Zeus played a role in that by speaking to Poseidon, the God of the sea, so that they may have a calm journey. Eventually, Danae and Perseus washed up onto the shores of the island of Seriphos, an Aegean island. There, they were found by a fisherman called Diktys. He proceeded to help raise Perseus on the island of Seriphos. Perseus spent many years at Seriphos. He was known there as a young man with great physical strength as well as great courage. Danae stayed there as well. She happened to catch the eye of the brother of Diktys, who was also the King of the island. His name was King Polydectes. The King wished to court Danae, but Perseus did not want that for his mother and he therefore became an obstacle for the king. King Polydectes needed a way to rid himself of Perseus so that he could get to Danae. Perseus was eventually overheard boasting about his physical strength, saying that he could single-handedly kill the dreaded Gorgon Medusa. This was the opportunity that King Polydectes was looking for. He presented a challenge to Perseus that if he could not make good on his boast to kill Medusa, then the King would take possession of his mother. Medusa was one of the three Gorgons, sisters who were known for their hair made of venomous snakes and who could turn men to stone with just a single look. Medusa was the only one of the Gorgons who was mortal meaning that she could be killed. Perseus first consulted the Gods, who advised him to seek out the Graiai. The Graiai were actually 3 other sisters of the Gorgons. The myth states that the Graiai were three old witches who had only one tooth and one eye between them. Perseus was said to have stolen the eye and would only return it for information on finding Medusa and also information on finding the cap of Hades a cap that made the person invisible when he wore it as well as winged sandals to enable him to fly. He also asked for the kibisis, a special bag that he would use to carry the head of Medusa. In order to get their eye back, the Graiai gave in and helped Perseus to find the items he asked for. With those items as well as a sickle given to him by the God Hermes , Perseus was on his way to attempt to slay Medusa. Perseus and Medusa The Gorgon Medusa , along with her sisters Sthenno and Euryale, were said to live at the ends of the Earth beyond the oceans. Perseus was able to fly to their lair thanks to his flying sandals that he now had. Using the cap of Hades to render him invisible, he was able to find and silently slay Medusa with the sickle that he received from Hermes. In addition to killing Medusa, this event was said to be the birth event of Pegasus , the mythological winged horse, and his brother Chrysaor, who were said to have emerged from the severed neck of Medusa. Upon

slaying Medusa, the other Gorgon sisters were alerted and tried to subdue Perseus. However, the God Athena assisted Perseus with fleeing and he was able to escape with the head of Medusa in the kibisis. Perseus and Andromeda Perseus was triumphant in his quest to kill the Gorgon Medusa. While on his journey back to the Island of Seriphos where his mother awaited, he came across the beautiful Andromeda. The legends say that Andromeda was the daughter of Cepheus and Cassiopeia, who were the king and the queen of Ethiopia. The Nereids were sea nymphs, or female spirits of the sea. Poseidon, being the God of the sea, was angered by the boasting of Cassiopeia. Out of his anger, Poseidon sent a great flood to Ethiopia. He also sent a sea monster to wreak havoc on the territory. It was said that the only way to appease Poseidon was to offer up Andromeda as a sacrifice to the sea monster, and so that was done. Perseus immediately fell in love with Andromeda. In order to marry her, he offered a trade to Cepheus, the King. The king accepted the deal. Perseus easily slayed the sea monster using the weapon that he carried in his kibisis: One look at Medusa and the sea monster was turned to stone. The head of Medusa also brought about another casualty. Phineus, who was the brother of King Cepheus, also wanted to marry Andromeda and claimed that she had been promised to him. He decided to claim Andromeda for himself and stood in the way of her union with Perseus. Return to Seriphos After his victorious defeat of Medusa and his marriage to Andromeda, Perseus continued back to Seriphos where his mother awaited. Upon his return, he quickly learned that King Polydectes had been abusive to his mother Danae while he was away on his quest. Infuriated, Perseus brought the head of Medusa to the king, but instead of just giving the severed head to Polydectes, he again used it as a weapon against his foe. This, in turn, made Diktys, the fisherman who raised Perseus, the new king since he was the brother of Polydectes. King Acrisius had gone to Larissa in Greece, probably to avoid Perseus. However, Perseus went to Larissa in search of his grandfather. Perseus was, of course, known as a great athlete with tremendous strength. Upon arriving at Larissa, he found that there were funeral games being held there. He joined in the games and participated in a discus throwing event. As fate would have it, Perseus threw a discus which went off track and into the crowd. The discus hit and immediately killed King Acrisius, thus fulfilling the prophecy of the oracle at Delphi so many years before this event. Perseus, King of Mycenae After causing the prophesized death of his grandfather Acrisius, Perseus was noted to be ashamed to take the kingdom for his own. Instead, he offered the kingdom of Argos to Megapenthes who was his uncle and the ruler of Tiryns. In exchange, Perseus would become the ruler of Tiryns. From there, it is said that Perseus went on to form the Kingdom of Mycenae. The legends vary on this part of his life, just as there are variations to the other stories of his life. A popular story is that he did take up residence there as King along with Andromeda. After years of ruling over the kingdom of Mycenae, he died of old age. Since he was a loyal servant to the Greek mythological Gods, he was placed in the skies among the skies along with Andromeda and Cassiopeia and has remained there forever. Facts About Perseus In Greek mythology, various old texts are used as references along with centuries old artifacts and drawings. Many variations of the old stories have been told. This, of course, would have killed Acrisius and still fulfilled the prophecy. There are variations in the other stories of Perseus, as well as in all of Greek mythology. Since there are differing texts and stories, it is important to note the parts of the legends that are fairly consistent. He also had to kill Phineus, another suitor of Andromeda, in the process. This resulted in Diktys, the fisherman who raised Perseus, becoming the new king. It was a Greek hero, Bellerophon, who tamed and used Pegasus in battle. The association of Perseus with Pegasus involves the beheading of Medusa which set forth the first appearance of Pegasus.