



*May 2023 Newsletter*

*Magazine Section*

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*FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP*

*AND FUN*

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## *Greek Mythology*

Ancient Greek mythology is a vast and fascinating group of legends about gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters, warriors and fools, that were an important part of everyday life in the ancient world. Greek myths explained everything from religious rituals to the weather and gave meaning to the world that people saw around them. While many of these myths are fanciful tales, such as the legends of greedy King Midas or heroic Hercules, other stories like the Trojan War epic have a basis in historical fact.

The poet Homer's 8th-century BC epics, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* tell the story of the Trojan War as a divine conflict as well as a human one

At the centre of Greek mythology is the pantheon of gods and goddesses who were said to live on Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece. From their lofty perch, they ruled every aspect of human life. Olympian deities looked like men and women (though they could change themselves into animals and other things) and were — as many myths recounted — vulnerable to human foibles and passions..

The twelve main Olympians are:

- Zeus (Jupiter, in Roman mythology): the king of all the gods (and father to many) and god of weather, law and fate
- Hera (Juno): the queen of the gods and goddess of women and marriage
- Aphrodite (Venus): goddess of beauty and love
- Apollo (Apollo): god of prophesy, music and poetry and knowledge
- Ares (Mars): god of war
- Artemis (Diana): goddess of hunting, animals and childbirth
- Athena (Minerva): goddess of wisdom and defence
- Demeter (Ceres): goddess of agriculture and grain
- Dionysus (Bacchus): god of wine, pleasure and festivity
- Hephaestus (Vulcan): god of fire, metalworking and sculpture
- Hermes (Mercury): god of travel, hospitality and trade and Zeus's personal messenger
- Poseidon (Neptune): god of the sea

Other gods and goddesses sometimes included in the roster of Olympians are:

- Hades (Pluto): god of the underworld
- Hestia (Vesta): goddess of home and family
- Eros (Cupid): god of sex and minion to Aphrodite

Greek mythology does not just tell the stories of gods and goddesses, however. Human heroes — including Heracles (aka Hercules), the adventurer who performed 12 impossible labours for King Eurystheus (and was subsequently worshipped as a god for his accomplishment); Pandora, the first woman, whose curiosity brought evil to mankind; Pygmalion, the king who fell in love with an ivory statue; Arachne, the weaver who was turned into a spider for her arrogance; handsome Trojan prince Ganymede who became the cupbearer for the gods; Midas, the king with the golden touch; and Narcissus, the young man who fell in love with his own reflection — are just as significant.

Monsters and “hybrids” (human-animal forms) also feature prominently in the tales: the winged horse Pegasus, the horse-man Centaur, the lion-woman Sphinx and the bird-woman Harpies, the one-eyed giant Cyclops, automatons (metal creatures given life by Hephaestus), manticores and unicorns, Gorgons, pygmies, minotaurs, satyrs and dragons of all sorts. Many of these creatures have become almost as well known as the gods, goddesses and heroes who share their stories..

The characters, stories, themes and lessons of Greek mythology have shaped art and literature for thousands of years. They appear in Renaissance paintings such as Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* and Raphael's *Triumph of Galatea*. Also in writings like Dante's *Inferno*; Romantic poetry and libretti; and scores of more recent novels, plays and movies..



*The Birth of Venus*  
Painting by Sandro Botticelli

The Birth of Venus is a painting by the Italian artist Sandro Botticelli, probably executed in the mid 1480s.

The painting depicts the moment when, having emerged from the sea in a shell, Venus lands at Paphos in Cyprus. She is attended by two winds who blow her toward the shore, while a nymph is poised to wrap a cloak, decorated with spring flowers, around Venus to cover her nudity.

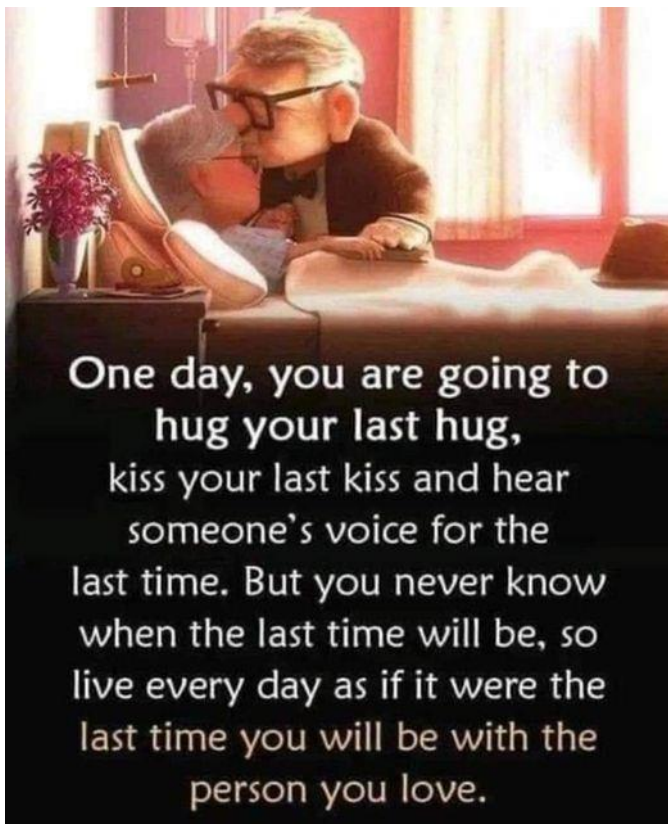
The stance of Venus is believed to be based on classical statuary, which was highly prized in Florence at that time.

Despite the unusual proportions of her body—the elongated neck and her overlong left arm—Venus is an arrestingly beautiful figure with her delicate skin and soft-flowing curls fresh from the sea. She is born to the world as the goddess of beauty, and the viewer is witness to this act of creation. She steps off a gilded scallop shell, the winds shower her with roses—each with a golden heart—and the orange blossom on the tree behind her is also tipped with gold.

Historically, this is the most important depicted nude since classical antiquity.

The painting is in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy.

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One day, you are going to hug your last hug, kiss your last kiss and hear someone's voice for the last time. But you never know when the last time will be, so live every day as if it were the last time you will be with the person you love.

*With thanks to Margaret Eyre*

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## *Different Types Of Poetry*

### Sonnet

The sonnet, from the Italian *sonetto* meaning “little song,” is one of the better-known forms of poetry.

Made famous by the Italian writer Petrarch, the traditional *sonnet* consists of fourteen lines divided into two stanzas of eight and six lines each. There is no definitive structure or rhyme scheme of the *sonnet*, because over time different writers have given it their own poetic spin. Particularly famous is the Shakespearean *sonnet*, made up of three quatrains and a closing couplet. Perhaps the most recognizable is Sonnet 18:

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,  
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.  
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*

## Villanelle

The villanelle has humble origins as a rustic Italian song, but over the past few centuries it has developed into a highly structured form of poetry. A nineteen-line poem divided into five tercets (three-line stanzas) and a closing quatrain (four-line stanza), the *villanelle* is further constrained by a regular rhyming scheme and two refrains that are echoed in each stanza. A classic example of a strict *villanelle* is Dylan Thomas's "Do not go gentle into that good night,"

*Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of  
day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*Though wise men at their end know dark  
is right,  
Because their words had forked no  
lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*Good men, the last wave by, crying how  
bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a  
green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*Wild men who caught and sang the sun  
in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its  
way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*Grave men, near death, who see with  
blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be  
gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*And you, my father, there on the sad  
height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce  
tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

## Elegy

The word elegy does not describe the form of a poem, but rather its content. *Elegies* are poems written to lament someone's death, such as Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" written in honour of President Lincoln. The long-standing tradition of this type of poem traces back to ancient Greece, when *elegies* were sung to the accompaniment of an *aulos* (a double-reed instrument). *Elegies* are distinct from short epitaphs, laudatory odes, and eulogies, which fall into the category of prose.

*O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip  
is done,  
The ship has weather'd every rack, the  
prize we sought is won,  
The port is near, the bells I hear, the  
people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the  
vessel grim and daring;  
But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.*

*O Captain! my Captain! rise up and  
hear the bells;  
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for  
you the bugle trills,  
For you bouquets and ribbon'd  
wreaths—for you the shores a-  
crowding,  
For you they call, the swaying mass,  
their eager faces turning;  
Here Captain! dear father!  
This arm beneath your head!  
It is some dream that on the deck,  
You've fallen cold and dead.*

*My Captain does not answer, his lips are  
pale and still,  
My father does not feel my arm, he has  
no pulse nor will,*

*The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its  
voyage closed and done,  
From fearful trip the victor ship comes  
in with object won;  
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!  
But I with mournful tread,  
Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.*

### Haiku

The Japanese haiku is a rigidly-structured poetic form, consisting of three lines of five, seven, and five syllables.

Originally, *haikus* were the opening stanza of a style of a long-form poem called the *renga*, or linked verse, but the compactness of these introductory lines intrigued Japanese poets of the 17th century. Soon, the *haiku* broke away from its longer context into the profound three-line poems popular today.

### Gnomic verse

Gnomic verse may sound silly, but the essence of this type of poetry is to provide serious, meaningful advice.

Before *gnome* referred to a little, dwarfish man who lives underground and guards treasure, a *gnome* was an *aphorism*, or pithy expression of a general truth. The two forms appear to be unrelated: *gnome* the creature was invented, perhaps arbitrarily, in the 1700s, and *gnome* the aphorism derives from ancient Greek.

It was also in Greece that the tradition of filling poems with these judgments and aphorisms—originating the *gnomic verse*—also began.

### Ballad

The ballad's lyrical rhythm and rhyme nod to the fact that this poetic form is rooted in song.

The traditional *ballad* was performed at dances in time with the music, and the term ultimately derives from the Latin word meaning "to dance." This form of narrative poem is structured with an unspecified number of rhymed quatrains (four-line stanzas).

"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge is a particularly famous example of a *ballad*

*(Note from the Editor – I studied this poem for my final high school exams. The poem is very long but this was my favourite part - when the sailing ship was becalmed – Jenny Jones)*

*Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt  
down,  
'Twas sad as sad could be;  
And we did speak only to break  
The silence of the sea!*

*All in a hot and copper sky,  
The bloody Sun, at noon,  
Right up above the mast did stand,  
No bigger than the Moon.*

*Day after day, day after day,  
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;  
As idle as a painted ship  
Upon a painted ocean.*

*Water, water, every where,  
And all the boards did shrink;  
Water, water, every where,  
Nor any drop to drink.*

## Epic

Much like a ballad, an epic is a narrative poem that spins a tale—a lengthy one—of a hero's great valour and adventure.

Much like the elegy, *epics* derive from ancient Greece, where *epikós* meant “speech,” “tale,” or “song,” and applied not only to the subject matter but to a specific type of meter, the *Epic meter*. The first *epics* of Western literature are the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* by Homer, and in the English tradition we have Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

## Limerick

The noble stature of the epic could not be more at odds with the nonsense verse the limerick.

Containing five lines with the rhyming pattern AABBA, the *limerick* is a brief and bouncy poem ideal for Mother Goose-style nursery rhymes. Named after the Irish town of Limerick, the poem allegedly got its name from the town custom of shouting “Will you come up to Limerick?” after a performance of nonsense poetry at social gatherings.

## Palinode

You may have heard of the *ode*, a lyric poem dedicated to an object of admiration or praise. The *palinode* is less well-known, but very useful for the poet who later regrets writing an *ode*. The *palinode* is a recantation, a poem that withdraws the sentiment of a previous poem. Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, for example, concludes with a *palinode* in which he apologizes for the sin and “worldly vanitees” of his tales.

## Acrostic

Acrostics are words, names, or messages spelled out by particular letters in a series of lines.

The term *acrostic* comes from the Greek roots *akro-* meaning “outermost, tip,” and *stích*, “line” or “verse.” Most *acrostics* are formed by the first letter of each line, read vertically down the poem's edge.

Although, *acrostic* as a poetic genre may be somewhat scorned, this clever form of wordplay has been used by such well-regarded authors as William Blake, Lewis Carroll, and John Milton.

Acrostic, by Lewis Carroll

*Little maidens, when you look  
On this little story-book,  
Reading with attentive eye  
Its enticing history,  
Never think that hours of play  
Are your only holiday,  
And that in a house of joy  
Lessons serve but to annoy:  
If in any house you find  
Children of a gentle mind,  
Each the others pleasing ever—  
Each the others vexing never—  
Daily work and pastime daily  
In their order taking gaily—  
Then be very sure that they  
Have a life of holiday.*

This acrostic poem by Carroll spells out the three names of the 'little maidens' - 'Lorina', 'Alice,' and 'Edith'.

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## *Dear Tech Support*

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 5.9 and Personal Attention 6.5 and then installed undesirable programs such as Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs and House Cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems but to no avail.

What can I do?

*Signed: Desperate*

## *Dear Desperate,*

First keep in mind Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package while Husband 1.0 is an Operating System.

Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and try to download Tears 6.2. Do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5. However, remember overuse of the Tears application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download Snoring Loudly Beta version.

Whatever you do DO NOT under any circumstances install Mother-in-Law 1.0 as it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.

In addition, please do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Cooking 3.0.

Good Luck

*Tech Support*

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## *The Coronation*

(Information taken from the UK House of Commons Library)

A coronation ceremony for, successively, the monarchs of England and Scotland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom can be traced back more than 1,000 years. Formerly, it was often a necessary stage on an individual's journey to becoming king or queen. Nowadays, a sovereign succeeds, by law, immediately upon the death of another, although the ceremony remains an important event early in a new reign.

Coronations emerged from a European tradition of increasing church involvement in the state, as well as the need to bring stability to often volatile societies in which several individuals had a claim to the throne. Central to the ceremony is the “unction”, the act of anointing a monarch with holy oil. This signals the conferment of God’s grace upon a ruler. Today, the United Kingdom is the only European monarchy to retain such a ceremony. The last one – for Queen Elizabeth II – took place on 2 June 1953.

Although British coronations have at their heart an Anglican service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Westminster Abbey, the ceremony combines not only religion but aspects of the UK’s uncodified constitution and a degree of theatre. The contemporary form of the coronation dates from 1902, when King Edward VII was crowned. They consist of a state procession from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey, another procession inside, the Recognition, the Anointing, the Coronation Oath, the Homage and finally another procession from the Abbey back to the Palace.

The Coronation Oath, in which the monarch swears to govern the peoples of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms “according to their respective laws and customs” is the only aspect of the ceremony that is required by law. The wording of this oath has constantly evolved to reflect changes to the territorial composition of the UK and the wider Commonwealth.

As it is a state event, a coronation is paid for by the UK Government. Organisation involves ministers, the

Royal Household, the Church of England and the Commonwealth Realms. A Privy Council “Coronation Committee” is usually formed to oversee the planning, and its Executive Committee is chaired by the Earl Marshal. This can take several months. A monarch also has significant influence on the form a coronation takes.

## *History*

In England, the main elements of a coronation service can be traced to the ceremony devised by Saint Dunstan for King Edgar’s crowning at Bath Abbey in 973. This included a coronation banquet, a grand feast at which the King’s Champion would make an appearance and the earliest form of an oath – an oral contract between a monarch and their people..

The first English coronation to take place at Westminster Abbey was that of William the Conqueror in 1066. He was also the first monarch to spend the night before his coronation at Westminster, a tradition that continued until 1821. At this time, there was no immediate (or indeed automatic) right of succession, and so a coronation was an essential rite of passage. A king was referred to as “Dominus Anglorum” and his queen “Domina Anglorum” until they were anointed, after which they became “Rex et Regina Anglorum”. The English regalia (including the crown, orb and sceptre) was carried into the Abbey, “an emphatic statement that he who walked behind them was not yet king”.

The coronation of Charles III will take place on 6 May 2023.





It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice.



There is one word that may serve as a rule for all one's life: Reciprocity.  
~Confucius~



I always prefer to believe the best of everybody. It saves so much trouble.  
~Rudyard Kipling~



Don't wait for people to be friendly. Show them how.  
~Henry James~



Don't be yourself — be someone nicer.



Today, give a stranger one of your smiles.  
It might be the only sunshine he or she sees all day.