

Sisyphus. Greek myth by Camus.

Camus wrote the myth about the cunning king Sisyphus not fearing gods nor death. Sisyphus cheated the god of death called Hades and Hades doomed Sisyphus to roll a stone forever.

The myth about Sisyphus.

Sisyphus founded the city of Corinth and built a castle, but it did not have a source and Sisyphus pondered how to persuade the gods to give him one.

The river god Asopos had got into a brawl with the supreme god Zeus and the river god was looking for Zeus, but could not find his hiding place. When Sisyphus heard about this, he used his cunning to find out where Zeus had been hiding.

Sisyphus used it to make a deal.

If Asopos would give the castle a fountain, he would in turn reveal Zeus' hiding place to Asopos. Asopos agreed to the deal and touched a cliff in the castle courtyard, whereby the clearest source sprang out of the cliff. Sisyphus gratefully revealed the hiding place of Zeus.

Asopos began to chase Zeus, but forgot that Zeus was the ruler of all gods and men and also ruler of the lightning of heaven. Zeus, now grieved, sent a lightning bolt that set fire to Asopos. The burning god fell into a river, where since then pieces of coal have floated on top of the water. After punishing Asopos, Zeus turned his anger towards Sisyphus.

Zeus commanded Hades to lead Sisyphus to the realm of the dead, so that he could no longer reveal secrets.



Sisyphus sensed that Zeus would seek revenge, so as Hades approached the castle, Sisyphus picked up two strong ropes with which he tied Hades and threw him into a dungeon.

During the Captivity of Hades, no one in the whole world died and Zeus became furious at this unnatural condition. So he commanded the god of war Ares to liberate Hades. Ares went down to earth and freed his friend. Immediately after his liberation, Hades imprisoned Sisyphus, whom he tore with him into the underworld.

Sisyphus had prepared for it well in advance. Therefore Sisyphus lamented that his wife had forgotten him, and that she did not give in to the sacrificial offerings. Therefore the ruler of the underground, Persephone, allowed him to return to daylight to remind his wife of her obligation.

Sisyphus returned to his castle and happily arranged a feast. He praised his wife for following the invitation he had given her.

When Hades realized that he had been cheated, he hurried after Sisyphus. In the midst of his celebratory speech, Hades captured him and took him to the realm of the dead for the second time.

He was sentenced to a severe punishment:

Sisyphus must forever push a giant block of marble up a mountainside and leave it again to fall down.

