

Medea

Glossary Of Terms

Lucina (2) – The Goddess of Childbirth (Roman)

Neptune (4) – Ruler of the sea. Other name: Posidon

Titan (5) – I believe the reference here is to Hyperion, the Father of the sun, the moon and the dawn. Titan is typically a name used to refer to an Elder God.

Hecate (6, etc) – Goddess of the dark of the moon. Hecate is the underworld version of Artemis (Diana), Apollo's twin sister and daughter of Zeus. Artemis is one of the 3 maiden goddesses of Olympus (Athena, Aphrodite the others). Medea, here, refers to Hecate as a "triformed maiden". Hecate is associated with all deeds of darkness, the Goddess of the crossways which were held to be ghostly places of evil magic. Finally, in Colchis, Medea and Jason are married at her altar.

Hades' (Pluto) Mistress (13) – sources reveal Hades' queen to be Persephone. Persephone, daughter of Demeter, was captured when she was lured away from the group by the captivating narcissus. Persephone was the radiant maiden of the spring and summertime who caused things to bloom. Sorrow is foremost in her story as she is kept away from her mother Demeter by Hades until Zeus' intervention.

Crime-avenging furies (15) – the 3 Furies pursued and punished sinners on earth. Their names: Tisiphone, Megaera, Alecto. They were formed by father heaven's blood. They were of terrible aspect, with writhing snakes for hair and eyes that wept tears of blood.

Phoebus (32) – Phoebus, or Apollo, was the son of Zeus and Leto. Amongst other things, he is the God of Light and the God of Truth. He was also the Sun God which, I believe, relates to Medea's cry in this instance.

Phasis (49)- River near Colchis, modern day Rioni River. It is on the Phasis that Jason and the Argonauts enter Aetes' realm.

Pontus (49) – A region of the southern shores of the Black Sea. This area lies adjacent to Aetes Colchian realm.

Epithalamium (Chorus 1) - specifically refers to a form of poem that is written for the bride. Or, specifically, written for the bride on the way to her marital chamber. It was originally among the Greeks a song in praise of bride and bridegroom, sung by a number of boys and girls at the door of the nuptial chamber. According to the scholiast on Theocritus, one form was employed at night, and another, to rouse the bride and bridegroom on the following morning. In either case, as was natural, the main burden of the song consisted of invocations of blessing and predictions of happiness, interrupted from time to time by the ancient chorus of Hymen hymenaeae.

Concord (74) – The Greek God of war ('war-god') is Ares, who never married. But, he was often known to make love to Aphrodite. Also the Goddess of Peace is Eirene (Irene) who is also referred to in this passage. I believe the Concord here is in fact the Concord of peace, of cooperation. Of the peaceful union of Jason and Creusa.

Athenian (84) – This is a reference to the women of Athens, a Greek city.

Spartan (85) – A reference to the women of Sparta. This could be a reference to Helen of Troy. Overall, the Chorus here is bringing the image of women burdened by war, something not happening in Corinth at the time.

Alpheus (87) – Arethusa was a fair nymph who one day found herself at the banks of a stream. She waded into the water, only to feel a stirring underneath her. She scurried to the banks of the river only to hear a voice call to her. She ran, but was chased by Alpheus. Why? He loved her and was transfixed by her beauty.

Boeotia (88) – Boeotia is a central region of Greece, north of Corinth. Apparently, Narcissus fell in love with his own image in a pool of water near Thespia.

Corinthian/Thessaly (90/91) – Corinth is the city of the action of the play. It is located on the isthmus between mainland Greece and the Peloponnese. Creon rules Corinth, and Creusa is his daughter. Thessaly (Thessalian) is a northern region of Greece which contains Iolcos (a coastal city). Jason is from Iolcos.

Bacchus (93) – aka Dionysus, the God of Wine. Son of Zeus. He represents not only the intoxicating effects of wine but its social and beneficent influences also. He is viewed as the promoter of civilization and a lawgiver of love and peace.

Tripod (95) - A sacrificial tripod was a type of altar used by the ancient Greeks. The most famous was the Delphic tripod, on which the Pythian priestess (the "fairest", 1.96) took her seat to deliver the oracles of the deity. The seat was formed by a circular slab on the top of the tripod, on which a branch of laurel was deposited when it was unoccupied by the priestess. In this sense, by Classical times the tripod was sacred to Apollo. The mytheme of Heracles contesting with Apollo for the tripod appears in vase-paintings older than the oldest written literature. The oracle originally may have been related to the primal deity, the Earth.

Twins (97) – The Gemini sign and constellation. The 2 twins in the constellation are, interestingly, Castor and Pollux.

Pleiads (101) – An open star cluster within the Taurus constellation, known for its extremely luminous stars.

Thyrsus (110) - A staff of giant fennel (*Ferula communis*) covered with ivy vines and leaves, sometimes wound with taeniae and always topped with a pine cone. These staffs were carried by Dionysus (Bacchus) and his followers. Euripides wrote that honey

dripped from the thyrsus staves that the Bacchic maenads carried. It has been suggested that this was specifically a fertility phallus, with the fennel representing the shaft of the penis and the pine cone representing the "seed" issuing forth. The thyrsus was a sacred instrument at religious rituals and fetes.

Fescennine (113) - After Fescennia, a town of ancient Etruria known for its ribald and scurrilous songs sung at festivals and weddings.

Malea's crags (155) – Malea is a town on the southern cape of the Greek Peloponnesus.

Pelias (208) – Aeson's nephew, and usurper of the throne which was rightfully due to Jason. Upon their return to Greece with the Golden Fleece, Jason and Medea found Pelias to have forced Aeson's death. Enraged, Jason turned to Medea for help. She convinced his daughters that if they cut him into many pieces and put him into a magic pot of water, he would be renewed and made young again. When they did this, of course, Pelias died a grisly death. Pelias initiated Jason's quest for The Golden Fleece.

Scythian (219) – modern day Eurasia, which included the Caucasus and King Aetes realm. It extended from the northern shores of The Black Sea a on the west to the western areas of modern-day China.

Thermodon (221) - The Thermodon river issued into the Black Sea, near Thermiskyra, the legendary capital of the Amazons. The major neighboring rivers (personified) were the Halys of Paphlagonia in the west, and the Phasis of Kholkis to the east.

Orpheus (236) – A son of one of the Muses and blessed with the gift of music. There was no limit to his power when he played and sang. No one and nothing could resist him.

Boreas (238) – The name given to the north wind. Her "winged sons" were Zetes & Calais.

Leda (239) - Leda was admired by Zeus, who seduced her in the guise of a swan. As a swan, Zeus fell into her arms for protection from a pursuing eagle. Their consummation, on the same night as Leda lay with her husband Tyndareus, resulted in two eggs from which hatched Helen (later known as the beautiful "Helen of Troy") Clytemnestra, and Castor and Pollux (the heavenly born progeny).

Lynceus (239) - Lynceus was the jealous murderer of Castor, along with his brother, Idas. Idas and Lynceus murdered Castor because they all sought Phoebe and Hilaeira, daughters of Leucippus. Lynceus was one of the Argonauts and he participated in the hunt for the Calydonian Boar. He was a son of Aphareus and Arene and was said to have excellent sight, even able to see through trees, walls and underground.

Hymen (312) – God of the wedding feast.

Hyades (325) – daughters of Atlas and half sisters to the Pleiades. They were the rainy stars, supposed to bring rain because the time of their evening and morning setting, which comes in May and November, is usually rainy.

Amalthea/"Zeus' foster-mother" (326) - AMALTHEIA was the she-goat (or, according to some, Nymph) nurse of the god Zeus who nourished him with her milk in a cave on Mount Ida in Crete. When the god reached maturity he created his thunder-shield (aegis) from her hide and the horn of plenty (keras amaltheias or cornucopia) from her crown. Amalthea was placed amongst the stars as the constellation Capra--the group of stars surrounding Capella on the arm (ôlenê) of the Auriga the Charioteer.

Bootes (327) – A star just behind the Dipper; also called Arcturus and the Wagoner who drives the dipper, called the Wain of the Wagon (this constellation is quite close to the North Star).

Zephyr (328) – The name given to the west wind.

Tiphys (330) – steersman of the Argo, until his death in Bithynia.

Pelorus (355) – In this instance, this seems to refer to the present day Punta del Faro off the coast of Sicily. This would indicate that this strait is the mythical location of Scylla and Charybdis.

Bacchanal (380) – A participant in a bacchanalia. The bacchanalia were wild and mystic festivals of the Roman god Bacchus (or Dionysus). It has since come to describe any form of drunken revelry. The bacchanalia were originally held in secret and only attended by women.

Pindus (381) – A mountain range in northern Greece and southern Albania.

Nysa (382) - In Greek mythology, the mountainous district of Nysa, variously associated with Ethiopia, Libya, Triphalia, or Arabia by Greek mythographers, was the traditional place where the rain nymphs, the Hyades, raised the infant god Dionysus, the "Zeus of Nysa". Though the worship of Dionysus came into mainland Greece from Asia Minor (where the Hittites called themselves "Nesi" and their language "Nesili"), the locations of the mythical Nysa may simply be conventions to show that a magically distant chthonic land of myth was intended. The name Nysa may even be an invention to explain the god's name.

Scylla (409) - a monster that lived on one side of a narrow channel of water, opposite its counterpart Charybdis. The two sides of the strait were within an arrow's range of each

other—so close that sailors attempting to avoid Charybdis would pass too close to Scylla and vice versa. Scylla was a horrible sea monster with six long necks equipped with grisly heads, each of which contained three rows of sharp teeth. Her body consisted of twelve tentacle-like legs and a cat's tail and with four to six dog-heads ringing her waist. Originally, Scylla was a fair nymph who was wooed by Glaucus. He pleaded with Circe to allow him to love her, as he was a mortal of the sea. Instead, Circe turned Scylla into a monster out of jealousy, as she had fallen for Glaucus.

“sea engulfing pool”/Charybdis (410) - was a sea monster, once a beautiful naiad and the daughter of Poseidon and Gaia. She takes form as a huge bladder of a creature whose face was all mouth and whose arms and legs were flippers and who swallows huge amounts of water three times a day before belching them back out again, creating whirlpools. In some variations of the tale, Charybdis is just a large whirlpool rather than a sea monster. The myth has Charybdis lying on one side of a blue, narrow channel of water. On the other side of the strait was Scylla, another sea-monster. The two sides of the strait are within an arrow's range of each other, so close that sailors attempting to avoid Charybdis will pass too close to Scylla and vice versa.

Aetna (410) - was in Greek and Roman mythology a Sicilian nymph, and according to Alcimus, a daughter of Uranus and Gaea, or of Briareus. Simonides said that she had acted as arbitrator between Hephaestus and Demeter respecting the possession of Sicily. By Zeus or Hephaestus she became the mother of the Palici. Mount Aetna in Sicily was believed to have derived its name from her, and under it Zeus buried Typhon, Enceladus, or Briareus. The mountain itself was believed to be the place in which Hephaestus and the Cyclops made the thunderbolts for Zeus.

Acastus (415) – son of King Pelias of Iolcus. Acastus sailed with Jason and the Argonauts to capture The Golden Fleece. After the return of the Argonauts, Acastus' sisters were seduced by Medea to cut their father Pelias in pieces and boil them. Acastus, when he heard this, buried his father, and drove Jason and Medea from Iolcus. He thereafter became king of Iolcus.

Symplegades (461) – or “clashing rocks” was the gateway to The Black Sea (present day, this is the Bosphorus Strait). Jason was said to have to navigate 2 small floating islands which repeatedly clashed against each other destroying anything caught in between. The sage Phineus advised the Argonauts to send a small dove through in advance of their passage, to know if it was safe or not. This proved to be successful allowing Jason to continue his journey to capture The Golden Fleece.

Field of Mars (474) – the location in Colchis where Jason had to pass a number of tests to win The Golden Fleece.

Sisyphus (520) - Sisyphus was son of King Aeolus of Thessaly and Enarete, and the founder and first king of Ephyra (Corinth). He was punished by being compelled to roll an immense boulder up a hill, only to watch it roll back down, and to repeat this throughout eternity.

Auster (602) – the name given to the southern wind.

Hister (604) – Latin name for the Danube river. Versions of the Argonautica have Jason and his ship traveling back from Colchis by way of the Danube.

Rhone (607) – A river mostly in France, which begins in Switzerland. One of the primary rivers in Europe.

Haemus (611) – an early name for the Balkan mountains.

Phaethon (621/622) - Phaeton seeks assurance that his mother, Clymene, is telling the truth that his father (Phoebus Apollo) is the sun god Helios. When Phaeton obtains his father's promise to drive the sun chariot as proof, he fails to control it and the Earth is in danger of burning up when Phaeton is killed by a thunderbolt from Zeus to prevent further disaster. (In Hellenistic times, especially during the third century BCE, as Apollo Helios he became identified among Greeks with Helios, god of the sun). Medea is the granddaughter of Helios.

Pelion (633) - Mount Pelion (which took its name from the mythical king Peleus, father of Achilles – one of the leading Argonauts) was the homeland of Chiron the Centaur, tutor of many ancient Greek heroes, such as Jason, Achilles, Theseus and Heracles.

or;

Pelion (633) – Pelias? Son of Posiedon and Tyro, the unrightful king of Iolcus who sent Jason on the quest for The Golden Fleece. He was murdered by his daughters, due to the trickery of Medea. She convinced the girls that, should they cut their father into small parts, Medea could transform him into a young man again. They did this, only to find that Medea had caused them to kill their father.

Aulis (649) – The harbor from which the Greek army set sail for Troy.

Thracian (657) - According to a Late Antique summary of Aeschylus's lost play Bassarids, Orpheus at the end of his life disdained the worship of all gods save the sun. One early morning he went to the oracle of Dionysus at Mount Pangaion to salute his god at dawn, but was ripped to pieces by Thracian Maenads for not honoring his previous patron and buried in Pieria. His head and lyre, still singing mournful songs, floated down the swift Hebrus to the Mediterranean shore. There, the winds and waves carried them on

to the Lesbos shore, where the inhabitants buried his head and a shrine was built in his honour near Antissa. There his oracle prophesied, until it was silenced by Apollo. Orpheus was one of few mortals to ever visit Hades, and return (when trying to bring Eurydice back). This time, however, he was not to return.

Tartarus (661) - A deep, gloomy place, a pit, or an abyss used as a dungeon of torment and suffering that resides beneath the underworld. In the Gorgias, Plato (c. 400 BC) wrote that souls were judged after death and those who received punishment were sent to Tartarus.

“Winged sons of Boreas” (663) – Zetes & Calais: Their death was said to be caused by Heracles on Tenos in revenge for when they convinced the Argonauts to leave him behind as he searched for Hylas.

“Neptune’s Son” (664) – Proteus. He can foretell the future, but, in a mytheme familiar from several cultures, will change his shape to avoid having to; he will answer only to someone who is capable of capturing him. From this feature of Proteus comes the adjective protean, with the general meaning of "versatile", "mutable", "capable of assuming many forms". "Protean" has positive connotations of flexibility, versatility and adaptability.

Pluto (668) – Another name for Hades.

“Revealed to mortal eyes” (669) - Heracles' final (of the 12 assigned to him by King Eurystheus) labour was to capture Cerberus. First, Heracles went to Eleusis to be initiated into the Eleusinian Mysteries. He did this to absolve himself of guilt for killing the centaurs and to learn how to enter and exit the underworld alive. He found the entrance to the underworld at Taenarum. Athena and Hermes helped him through and back from Hades. Heracles asked Hades for permission to take Cerberus. Hades agreed as long as Heracles didn't harm Cerberus. When Heracles dragged the dog out of Hades, he passed through the cavern Acherusia.

Alcides (670) – Another name for Hercules.

Oeta (671) – The place where Hercules went to die. Interestingly, he died by an anointed robe from his wife (not trying to poison him, this described more below) – much in the same way that Medea murders Creusa. However, when his body would not die, he went to face death himself building a funeral pyre on Mount Oeta.

Deianira (675) – Hercules' wife. She anointed a robe with the blood from the Centaur Nessus, thinking it would woo Hercules away from another woman. Instead, it initiated his death.

Death of Hercules Hercules was married to Deianeira. Long after their marriage, one day the centaur Nessus offered to ferry them across a wide river that they had to cross. Nessus set off with Deianeira first, but tried to abduct her. When Hercules realized the centaur's real intention, Hercules chased after him and shot him with an arrow which was poisoned with Hydra's blood. Before he died, Nessus told Deianeira to take some of his blood and treasure it, since it was a very powerful medicine and: if she ever thought Hercules was being unfaithful, the centaur told her, the blood would restore his love. Deianeira kept the phial of blood. Many years later after that incident she heard rumours that Hercules had fallen in love with another woman. She smeared some of the blood on a robe and sent it to Hercules by a servant named Leechas. When doing so, some of the blood was spilled on the floor and when the sun rays fell on it the blood begun to burn. Because of this Deianeira begun to suspect Nessus's advice and decided to send another servant to fetch Leechas back before he could hand over the blood soaked robe to Hercules. But she was too late. Hercules already put on the robe, when he did so the blood still poisoned from the same arrow used by Hercules, burnt into his flesh. When he jumped in to a near by river in hope of extinguishing the fire, it only made it worse. When he tried to rip off the robe from his body his organs were also ripped off with it. Furiously, Hercules caught Leechas and tossed him into the sea. After that he told his friend Philoctetis to build him a pyre out of hardy oak and wild olive on the mountain Oata. He was burnt to death on the pyre; the fire hurt far less than the poison. Before dying, Hercules offered his bow and arrows as a token of gratitude to Philoctetis. His father Zeus then turned him into a god. Deianeira, after hearing what she had caused, killed herself. (“double blood” 1 675 meaning the Hydra’s blood that killed both Hercules/Alcides and Nessus)

Ancaeus (676) – Son of Posiedon and Astypalae; the Argonaut who takes the helm after the death of Tiphys. Also, one of the heros of the Calydonian hunt. A boar was sent to ravage the country of Calydon by Artemis in order to punish the King, Oeneus, because he forgot her when he was sacrificing the first fruits to the gods at the harvest time. The brute devastated the land, destroyed the cattle, killed the men who tried to kill it. Oeneus called for help upon the bravest men of Greece, and a splendid band of young heroes assembles, many of whom sailed later on the Argo.

Meleager (677) – Fell in love with Atalanta, a woman who joined the hunt for the Calydonian boar. She, and he, had a hand in killing the boar and Meleager determined to give her the skin. Two of his uncles, resentful at having to bow down to a woman, resisted this. Meleager then killed them both, surprisingly. His mother Althea then killed him in response. He, finally, was an Argonaut.

Hylas (681) – The armor bearer to Hercules who was pulled into a pond by a nymph who longed to kiss him. Hercules, mad at hearing Hylas lost, searched for long and hard for him. So much so that he eventually was left behind when the Argo set sail continuing its voyage.

Idmon (688) – Son of Abas (or Apollo?); a seer who sailed in Argo but perished in Bithynia (Africa).

Mopsus (690) – Soothsayer of the Argonauts up to the time of his death in Libya.

Nauplius (693) - According to Apollodorus Palamedes fought in the Trojan War, but he died as a result of Odysseus' intrigues. Nauplius went to Troy to demand justice for the death of his son, however no one listened to him and everyone supported Agamemnon who helped Odysseus kill Palamedes. Consequently, Nauplius swore revenge against King Agamemnon and the other Greek leaders. When the Greeks were sailing home (“Argive Ships”, l 694) from Troy after the close of the war, Nauplius lit beacon fires along the perilous coastline of Euboea, and many ships were shipwrecked as a result. Before this point, he also convinced many of the lonely wives of the Greek commanders to be unfaithful to their husbands, and to conspire against them - including Clytemnestra, (Agamemnon's wife) who joined with Aigisthos, and Meda, (wife of Idomeneus) who was unfaithful with Leucos. Leucos killed Meda and her daughter Cleisithyra and drove out Idomeneus out when he had return to Troy. This Nauplius was counted among the Argonauts.

Ajax (697) – The reference here is to Ajax the Lesser, a hero of the Trojan War (not to be confused with Alax the Great or “Telamonian Ajax”). **His father was Oileus (l 697), an Argonaut.** “(Some) versions depict a different death for Ajax, showing him to die when on his voyage home. In these versions, when Ajax comes to the Capharean Rocks on the coast of Euboea, his ship was wrecked in a fierce storm, he himself was lifted up in a whirlwind and impaled with a flash of rapid fire from Athena in his chest, and his body thrust upon sharp rocks, which afterwards were called the rocks of Ajax.”

Admetus (700) – An Argonaut. The reference here is explained in the following: “The greatest aid Apollo gave to Admetus was persuading the Fates to reprieve Admetus of his fated day of death. According to Aeschylus Apollo made the Fates drunk, and the Fates agreed to reprieve Admetus if he could find someone to die in his place. Admetus initially believed that one of his aged parents would happily take their son's place of death. When they were unwilling, Alcestis (wife) instead died for Admetus.”

Taurus (727) – The Taurus mountains are a mountain complex in southern Turkey, from which the Euphrates and Tigris descend into Iraq. It divides the Mediterranean coastal region of southern Turkey from the central Anatolian Plateau.

“That serpent huge” (738) – The constellation serpens (see Ophiuchus below).

Greater & Lesser Bears (740) – Ursa Major & Ursa Minor (which contain the big and little dipper).

Sidon (742) - Sidon has been inhabited since 4000 BC and perhaps as early as Neolithic times (6000 - 4000 BC). It was one of the most important Phoenician cities, and may have been the oldest. From here, and other ports, a great Mediterranean commercial empire was founded. Homer praised the skill of its craftsmen in producing glass and purple dyes. It was also from here that a colonizing party went to found the city of Tyre. In the years before Jesus, Sidon had many conquerors – including the Greeks (and Romans).

Ophiuchus (742) - Ophiuchus is a large constellation located around the celestial equator. Its name is Greek for 'snake-holder', and it is commonly represented as a man grasping the snake that is represented by the constellation Serpens:



Hydra (746) – The 2nd of Hercules' (Alcides') tasks given by Eurystheus (at the behest of Juno, who loathed Hercules given his birth under Zeus and his mortal mother Alcmena) was to kill the Hydra who ravaged the country of Argos. He was successful though after much cunning. Hercules would chop off the Hydra's heads, but 2 new ones would then grow in its' place. Hercules was then forced to burn the heads of the Hydra, and buried the immortal one under a rock.

Eryx (753) - was an ancient city and a mountain in the west of Sicily, about 10 km from Drepana (modern Trapani), and 3 km from the sea-coast. It was located at the site of modern Erice. We find Eryx alluded to by Virgil and other Latin poets as a mountain of the first order of magnitude, and associated with Athos, Aetna, etc. On its summit stood a celebrated temple of Venus or Aphrodite, founded, according to the current legend, by Aeneas, from whence the goddess derived the surname of Venus Erycina, by which she is often mentioned by Latin writers.

Prometheus (755) – The fire-giver to mankind, forever chained to Mt. Caucasus where a vulture would prey upon his liver which was renewed as fast as devoured.

Mede (757) - According to Herodotus, "the Medes were called anciently by all people Aryans; but when Media, the Colchian, came to them from Athens, they changed their name. Such is the account which they themselves give." They were located in present day Iran.

Parthian (757) - Parthia roughly corresponds to the western half of (Greater) Khorasan. It was bordered by the Kopet Dag mountain range in the north (today the border between Iran and Turkmenistan) and the Dasht-e-Kavir desert in the south. It bordered Media on the west, Hyrcania on the north west, Margiana on the north east, and Aria on the south east.

Suabian (759) – The Suebians are of a military disposition, drafting yearly 1000 men per canton for service of one year. With these troops they raid Gaul on the other side of the Rhine river frequently, thus involving Gaul's protector, the Roman Republic, whose agent in the field is one of its greatest generals, Julius Caesar. Lacking a central government and disrespecting all authority, they rely on the services of war chiefs, who in the age of migrations will become Suebian kings. As to their location, they live next to the Cherusci, which places them between the Rhine river and the middle Elbe river. Their innermost refuge is Silva Bacenis, "Beech Wood", which various authors take to be some section of the **Hercynian Forest**, such as the Thuringian Forest, the Harz Mountains or the Black Forest.

Hyrcanian (759) - The Hercynian Forest was an ancient and dense forest that stretched eastward from the Rhine River across southern Germany and formed the northern boundary of that part of Europe known to writers of antiquity. The ancient sources[1] are equivocal about how far east it extended. All agree that the Black Forest, which extended east from the Rhine valley, formed the western side of the Hercynian.

Haemonian Athos (767) - Haemonia was another name for Thessaly, the region in which Iolcus, home of Jason, was located. Athos is a mountain on the peninsula of the same name in Macedonia, of northern Greece, or in English, "Holy Mountain".

Baetis (773) – A river in Spain now called the Guadalquivir. Lines 770-773 all include references to rivers (Hydaspes, Tigris, Danube).

Tartarus (791) - In classic mythology, below Heaven, Earth, and Pontus is Tartarus, or Tartaros (Greek, deep place). It is a deep, gloomy place, a pit, or an abyss used as a dungeon of torment and suffering that resides beneath the underworld. In the Gorgias,

Plato (c. 400 BC) wrote that souls were judged after death and those who received punishment were sent to Tartarus. As a place of punishment, it can be considered a hell.

Ixion (794) – Having pity on Ixion after a crime he committed, Zeus brought him to Olympus where he (Ixion) quickly fell in love with Hera. Seeing this, Zeus created a cloud in the form of Hera and Ixion coupled with her (Nephele) breeding a race of Centaurs. Ixion was expelled from Olympus and blasted with a thunderbolt. Zeus ordered Hermes to bind Ixion to a winged fiery wheel that was always spinning. Therefore, Ixion is bound to a burning solar wheel for all eternity.

Tantalus (795) – In mythology, Tantalus became one of the inhabitants of Tartarus, the deepest portion of the Underworld, reserved for the punishment of evildoers; there Odysseus saw him. The association of Tantalus with the underworld is underscored by the names of his mother Plouto ("riches", as in gold and other mineral wealth), and grandmother, Chthonia ("earth"). He was initially known for having been welcomed to Zeus' table in Olympus, like Ixion. There he is said to have misbehaved and stolen ambrosia and nectar to bring it back to his people, and revealed the secrets of the gods. The Greeks of classical times claimed to be horrified by Tantalus's doings; cannibalism, human sacrifice and infanticide were atrocities and taboo.

Pirene (795) - Pirene is the name of a fountain or spring in Greek mythology, physically located in Corinth. It was said to be a favored watering-hole of Pegasus, sacred to the Muses. Poets would travel there to drink and receive inspiration. Corinth, of course, is the town in which Medea is set.

Sisyphus (797) – The founder and first king of Corinth, Sisyphus was compelled to roll a huge boulder up a hill, only to watch it roll back down, and to repeat this throughout eternity. Sisyphus promoted navigation and commerce, but was avaricious and deceitful, violating the laws of hospitality by killing travelers and guests. He took pleasure in these killings because they allowed him to maintain his dominant position. From Homer onwards, Sisyphus was famed as the craftiest of men. He seduced his niece, took his brother's throne and betrayed Zeus' secrets. Zeus then ordered Thanatos (Death personified) to chain Sisyphus in Tartarus. Sisyphus slyly asked Thanatos to demonstrate how the chains worked. When Thanatos did so, Sisyphus secured them and threatened him. This caused an uproar since no human could die with Thanatos out of commission. Eventually Ares (who was annoyed that his battles had lost their fun because his opponents would not die) intervened, freeing Death and sending Sisyphus to Tartarus.

Danaus (798) – the “seed” of Danaus are the Danaides. Danaus had fifty daughters, the Danaides, twelve of whom were born to Polyxo and rest to Pieria and other women, and his twin brother, Aegyptus, had fifty sons. Aegyptus commanded that his sons marry the Danaides. Danaus elected to flee instead, and to that purpose, he built a ship, the first

ship that ever was. In it, he fled to Argos. When Aegyptus and his fifty sons arrived to take the Danaides, Danaus gave them, to spare the Argives the pain of a battle. However, he instructed his daughters to kill their husbands on their wedding night. Forty-nine followed through: "they buried the heads of their bridegrooms in Lerna;" but one, Hypermnestra (or Amymone, the "blameless" Danaid) refused because her husband, Lynceus, honored her wish to remain a virgin. Danaus was angry with his disobedient daughter and threw her to the Argive courts. Aphrodite intervened and saved her. **In some versions, the Danaides were punished in Tartarus by being forced to carry water in a jug to fill a bath and thereby wash off their sins, but the jugs were actually sieves, so the water always leaked out.**

Ister (814) – another name for The Danube river.

Phoebe (821) - Phoebe was a Greek goddess of the moon.

Typhoeus (823) - Was a monstrous, serpentine giant that battled Zeus the king of the gods for dominion of heaven. (shook the throne of Jove, aka Zeus)

Nessus (825) – See “Deianira”.

Althaea (828) – Mother of Meleager (see above). Billet = a log of wood. When Meleager was born, the Fates determined that he would live as long as this certain log of wood burned. When it turned to ash, he would die. Upon hearing the news that he had slain her (Althaea’s) brothers, she put the billet upon a fire and killed her son.

Harpies (829) – Zetes was the son of Boreas, and, along with his brother Calais, was a significant Argonaut. Z & C are commonly known as winged beings who saved Phineus, the great seer, from the horrific winged birds the Harpies who always left behind them an awful stench. They were sent to terrorize Phineus by Zeus as he (Phineus) would often give away too much information.

Stymphalian Bird (831) – The sixth challenge for Hercules was to drive the Stymphalian birds away from Stymphalus. He shot them down with arrows after stirring them out of their lair. “Lerna” (832) was where Hercules killed the horrible Hydra. Medea here has determined that Hercules took some poison with him from Lerna to Stymphalus.

Trivia (836) – Interestingly, another name for Hecate (see above).

Dictynna (845) - The Goddess of Mount Dicte, a (Minoan) Cretan goddess, whose proper name was Britomartis; she was later identified with Artemis. a nymph from whom mount Dicte in Crete was said to have received its name. She was beloved and pursued by Minos, but she threw herself into the sea, where she was caught up and saved in the nets (diktun) of fishermen. Artemis then made her a goddess. She was worshipped not only

in Crete, but appeared to the inhabitants of Aegina, and was there called Aphaea, whereas in Crete she received the surname Dictymna or Dictynna. **Britomartis was like Artemis drawn into the mystic worship of Hecate, and even identified with her.**

Stygian (855) – of, or pertaining to, the River Styx or to Hades.

Vulcan (872) – Another name for Hephaestus, The God of Fire. Among the beautiful immortals, he alone, was ugly and “lame”. In Homer, he is widely respected on Olympus and is the craftsmen of the Gods, their armorer and smith.

Chimera’s Breath (874) - the Chimaera was a monstrous fire-breathing creature of Lycia in Asia Minor, composed of the parts of multiple animals: upon the body of a lioness with a tail that terminated in a snake's head, the head of a goat arose on her back at the center of her spine. The Chimera was one of the offspring of Typhon and Echidna and a sibling of such monsters as Cerberus and the Lernaean Hydra. (Chimera’s breath was fire)

Medusa (877) - In a late version of the Medusa myth, related by the Roman poet Ovid (*Metamorphoses* 4.770), Medusa was originally a beautiful maiden, "the jealous aspiration of many suitors," priestess in Athena's temple, but when she and the "Lord of the Sea" Poseidon lay together in Athena's temple (in some versions of the mythology Medusa was raped by Poseidon), the enraged Athena transformed Medusa's beautiful hair to serpents and made her face so terrible to behold that the mere sight of it would turn onlookers to stone.

Niobe (1000) - Niobe boasted of her superiority to Leto because the goddess only had two children, the twins Apollo and Artemis, while Niobe had fourteen children (the Niobids), seven male and seven female. Using poisoned arrows, Artemis killed Niobe's daughters and Apollo killed Niobe's sons, while they practiced athletics, with the last to die begging for their lives. According to some versions, at least one Niobid was spared, (usually Meliboea). Their father, Amphion, at the sight of his dead sons, either killed himself or was killed by Apollo for having sworn revenge. A devastated Niobe fled back to Mount Sipylus and was turned into stone, and, as she wept unceasingly, waters started to pour from her petrified complexion.

Megaera (1006) – One of the 3 furies; the others: Tisiphone & Alecto.