

Peony-Plant of Healing Happy Life and Prosperity

It is believed that Peony is named after **Paeon (also known as Paeon)**, a healing deity, who had healed Hades' and Ares' wounds.



The flower myth related says that Paeon was a student of **Asclepius, the god of medicine and healing**. He was once instructed by Leto (Apollo's mother and goddess of fertility) to obtain a magical root growing on Mount Olympus that would soothe the pain of women in childbirth. Asclepius became jealous and threatened to kill his pupil.

Zeus saved Paeon from the wrath of Asclepius by turning him into the peony flower. However, **peony seeds were actually used by pregnant women in ancient times**.



Hellebore-Christmas Rose Madness and Delirium

In Greek mythology, **Melampus**, the great seer, used this plant as an herb to cure the madness of **King Proetus'** daughters and other Greek women, who lost their minds and roamed wildly through the mountains and the desert of Tiryns, thinking they were cows.

As a result, **Melampus and his brother, Bias**, gained a fortune (two-thirds of King Proetus' kingdom), becoming the husbands of the princesses they had cured.



Achillea-Yarrow Dispute and Quarrels

It is named after the hero **Achilles** of Homer's *The Iliad*, who was said to have been giving this plant to his soldiers (the legendary Mirmidones) **to help stop the bleeding** from their wounds during the Trojan War. Modern tests on this plant have shown that it does indeed contain chemicals that help blood to clot.

It is also called "devil's plaything" because people in the past believed that **placing yarrow under their pillow would make them dream of matters of love.**

Anemone-Wind flower

The name of the anemone plant is connected with the ancient myth, telling the famous **love story between Adonis and Aphrodite.**

This specific myth inspired great poets like **Ovidius** or, much later, **Shakespeare**, to compose hymns dedicated to love, but we will only quote the part related to the flower.

According to this myth, when Adonis lived with Aphrodite, the two lovers would go hunting in the woods. As Adonis chased game through the forest, the goddess would follow closely behind, in her swan-driven chariot, dressed as a huntress. **Aphrodite's ex-lover, the god of war Ares**, grew jealous of her affair with the mortal. While his rival was hunting alone, Ares disguised himself as a boar and attacked Adonis, causing him lethal injuries. Adonis used his spear to strike back to Ares, but was soon gored to death by the boar's great tusks. Aphrodite hurried to Adonis in her chariot, but his soul had already descended into the Underworld. In despair, she sprinkled nectar on Adonis' wounds. **As Aphrodite bore her lover's body out of the woods, crimson anemones sprung up where each drop of blood and nectar fell onto the earth.**



It is said that that the wind which blows the blossoms open will soon afterwards blow the petals away; so it is called the Anemone, or Wind Flower, for that which brings forth its life, ends it.

Adonis- Pheasant's eye

It would be an omission not to mention that there is one more flower by the name of Adonis, which possesses medicinal properties. However, it is obvious that the flower the myth refers to is another famous Greek flower. It is the field poppy, certainly the prince of weeds with the beautiful red color (Adonis blood).





Iris-Iris

The flower got its name from the **Greek goddess Iris, goddess of the rainbow**. Iris was also known to be the **messenger of Zeus and Hera**. Iris would take messages from "the eye of Heaven" to earth, travelling on the arc of the rainbow. The word iris means "eye of heaven". It was the name given to the goddess, this flower, and the center of your eye. This means that each of us carries a piece of heaven with us.

Hyacinthus-Hyacinth

A handsome Spartan youth, Hyacinthus, was loved by both Apollo, god of the sun, and Zephyrus, god of the west wind. Both gods competed to gain this handsome youth's attention. One day, as Apollo was teaching the young man how to throw the discus, the god accidentally killed Hyacinthus.

According to another legend, Zephyrus was jealous of the youth's love for Apollo and blew upon the discus, causing it to strike Hyacinthus and kill him. The truth is that the hyacinth mentioned in this myth is probably not what we call hyacinths today, as the "modern" hyacinth is not native to Greece. **In fact, the myth may not even be the true source of the word "hyacinth," as it has been traced back to even more distant antiquity, a non-Greek language spoken some 4,000 years ago, called 'Thracopelasgian.'**





Narcissus-Narcotic

This famous flower- inspired myth is perhaps more suited to the beauty of the narcissus. Narcissus was an exceptionally handsome young man. **His mother had told him that he would live a long life if he did not look upon his own beauty.** Narcissus decided, however, to see his reflection on the surface of the water coming from a spring. He was so enchanted by his own beauty that he remained there, still, admiring his image until he died by the side of the spring. According to another version, he mistakenly thought that his own reflection was the face of the nymph that inhabited the spring

and he drowned when we jumped into the water trying to catch her. **The narcissus flower supposedly grew at that spot.**



Crocus-Snow crocus

Crocus was a friend of the Greek god Hermes. One day as the two friends were playing, Hermes accidentally hit and killed his friend. **A small flower grew at the place of the accident. Three drops of Crocus' blood fell on the center of the flower and formed the spots on this plant.**

The plant took the name 'Crocus' because of this event.

According to another myth, Crocus was a young man who was transformed into a flower because of his unfulfilled love for a nymph called Smilax. At the same time, Smilax transformed into a vine-plant (*Smilax aspera*-Sarsparilla).



Daphne -Laurel tree

She was a young, beautiful nymph, daughter of the river god Peneus. She was a huntress who dedicated herself to Artemis, goddess of the hunt, and, like the goddess, refused to marry. She was pursued by many admirers, but she rejected every lover, including the powerful son of Zeus, Apollo. Apollo fell in love with Daphne, and when she rejected his advances, he pursued her through the woods. Daphne got frightened and prayed to her father for help. Whereupon her

father told her that he would protect her by turning her into a Laurel tree on the bank of his river. When Apollo came looking for Daphne, her father told him that she was transformed into a Laurel tree. Apollo then cut off some branches and made himself a wreath in memory of her beauty and his love for her. Apollo made laurel his sacred tree. He appropriated the laurel wreath, since then called Daphne in Greek, for champions and those who strived for excellence in their chosen fields e.g. in the ancient Olympic Games all the champions were crowned with a Daphne.

Rose-Rose



Many legends exist about the rose. In a Greek myth, the rose was created by the goddess of flowers, Chloris. One day, she found the lifeless body of a nymph in the woods and she turned her into a flower. She called upon Aphrodite, goddess of love, and Dionysus, the god of wine. Aphrodite gave the flower beauty as her gift and Dionysus added nectar to give it a sweet fragrance. Zephyrus, god of the west wind, blew the clouds away so Apollo, the sun god, could shine and make the flower bloom. That is how the rose was created and rightfully crowned "Queen of Flowers".

Aster-Elegance and Daintiness; Talisman of Love

It is said that this kind of flower began to grow from the tears of Asterea, the Greek goddess of the starry sky (also known as Virgo in Roman mythology), who cried because she saw no stars when she looked down upon the earth.



Agave-Mexican Agave; Century

The Greek word "agave" means admirable or highborn (in origin). This plant came to Greece from Mexico. However, its name is Greek and it was probably used because the Greek Agave was one of the "lesser" gods of the Moon; that means that she was one of the faces of the ancient Mother Earth of the Mediterranean. The ground in Jalisco, Mexico, reminds people a lot of the ground in Mediterranean countries. Agave was the daughter of Kadmus, King of Thebes, and sister of Semele, who was Dionysus' mother. When Semele was thunder-stricken by Zeus, Agave spread the rumor that Zeus killed her sister because she spoke badly of him.

Later on, Dionysus avenged his mother's death and punished Agave very severely. When Dionysus returned to Thebes, where Pentheus, son of Agave, was the king, he ordered all the women of the town to go to Mount Cithaeron and perform rituals in his honor. Pentheus, who did not approve the



introduction of such worship, tried to spy on the women. His mother noticed his shadow, but thinking he was a wild animal, she dismembered and devoured him.



Althaea-Marsh Mallow

The following legend has no connection to this plant, other than its name. Althea was the wife of Oineus, King of Kalydona, and the mother of Deianeira and Meleager. When her son turned seven days old, the goddesses of Destiny (the three Moirae) visited her and told her that her baby would die if the torch that was lit in the house was burned down to the end. Immediately, Althea put off the torch and hid it in a chest. Meleager grew up and became a famous hero, but during the quest for the Kalydon boar, Meleager accidentally killed his uncles, Althea's brothers. Althea went berserk and threw the torch into the fire. Meleager died immediately. When Althea realized what had happened

she hung herself in despair.

Fir- Greek Fir

In modern times it is known as the most suitable Christmas tree. But what do Greek myths narrate? Ancient Greeks called the Fir tree, "Pitys," and together with the Pine tree they were the god Pan's sacred trees. Pan was once in love with a nymph called Pity. The god of the north wind was also attracted to Pity, but the nymph chose Pan over him. The god of the north wind, insulted, blew her over a gorge and killed her. Pan found her lifeless body laying in the gorge and turned her into his sacred tree, the Fir tree. Ever since, every time the north wind blows, the nymph cries. Her tears are the pitch droplets that leak out of the fir cones in autumn.



Cyparissus-Cypress

According to tradition, Cyparissos was a handsome young man from the island of Kea, the son of Telephus and grandson of Hercules. He was god Apollo's protégé as well as of god Zephyrus (god of the wind). His beloved company was a holy deer. However on some summer day while the deer was lying in the sun, Cyparissos mistakenly killed it with his spear. The young man, in despair, wished that he was dead as well. He asked the heavens for a favor- that his tears would roll down eternally. The gods turned him into a cypress tree, the tree of sorrow. Since then, the cypress tree has been considered a mourning tree and has been planted in cemeteries.

Centaurea-Cornflower

It is said that this flower was named after the wise centaur, Chiron, mentor of Asclepius, Achilles, Jason, and Apollo. During the Titan war, Hiron took Hercules' side in his battle against the centaurs. But Hercules, by mistake, wounded Hiron's foot with an arrow full of Hydra poison. Chiron used the "Centaurea" plant in order to heal his wound.



Orchid-Orchis

In Greek mythology, Orchis was the son of a nymph and a satyr. During a celebratory feast for Bacchus, Orchis committed the sacrilege of attempting to rape a priestess, resulting in his being torn apart by wild beasts, then metamorphosing into a slender and modest plant.

Theophrastus was the first of the Western authors to mention orchids. It was he who first applied the name Orchis scientifically, echoing the myth of Orchis and reflecting the resemblance of the double root tubers to the male genitalia that got old Orchis in trouble in the first



place. Greek women thought they could control the sex of their unborn children with Orchid roots. If the father ate large, new tubers, the child would be male; if the mother ate small tubers, the child would be female.



Almond-Almond tree

Greek mythology tells of the **beautiful princess Phyllis**, who was the daughter of a **Thracian king**. She fell in love with Theseus' son, **Demophon**. The young man ended up there while sailing home from Troy and the king gave him part of his kingdom and married him to his daughter. After some time, Demophon missed Athens so much that he asked to go home for a while. Phyllis agreed after he had promised he would be back soon, and off he sailed.

Phyllis was left waiting at the altar on her wedding day by her intended, Demophon. Phyllis waited for years for him to return, but finally **died of a broken heart**. In **sympathy, the gods transformed Phyllis into an almond tree, which became a symbol of hope**. When the errant, remorseful Demophon returned to find Phyllis as a leafless, flowerless tree, he embraced the tree. **The tree suddenly burst into bloom, a demonstration of love not conquered by death.**