

Dryads and Other Faery Folk. Dryads, Nymphs and Other Faery Folk. Nymphs. Tales of Nymphs in Greek mythology and religion abound, there were revered as the spirits of specific natural features - and often were identified with the part of nature in which they dwelled, The Oreads, were mountain nymphs.

In Greek and Roman mythology Athena Minerva was a celestial deity. She was the daughter of Jupiter, who issued her full grown and completely armed. Athena Minerva was the goddess of wisdom, of war, and of weapons; she invented warfare chariots, spinning and weaving; and she was the protectress of the liberal arts. Athena Minerva is seen in statues as a virgin, beautiful yet stern faced, dark complexion, wearing a helmet, fully armed; waving her plume; and in the middle of her shield is Medusa with her snaky head. In ancient Rome Athena Minerva was the Goddess of reason, wisdom, the arts, and intelligence. According to Hesiod Hes. Others relate, that Prometheus or Hermes or Palamaon assisted Zeus in giving birth to Athena, and mentioned the river Triton as the place where the event took place. Other traditions again relate, that Athena sprang from the head of Zeus in frill armour, a statement for which Stesichorus is said to have been the most ancient authority. All these traditions, however, agree in making Athena a daughter of Zeus; but a second set regard her as the daughter of Pallas, the winged giant, whom she afterwards killed on account of his attempting to violate her chastity, whose skin she used as her aegis, and whose wings she fastened to her own feet. A third tradition carries us to Libya, and calls Athena a daughter of Poseidon and Tritonis. Athena, says Herodotus 4. This passage shews more clearly than any other the manner in which genuine and ancient Hellenic myths were transplanted to Libya, where they were afterwards regarded as the sources of Hellenic ones. Respecting this Libyan Athena, it is farther related, that she was educated by the rivergod Triton, together with his own daughter Pallas. In Libya she was also said to have invented the flute; for when Perseus had cut off the head of Medusa, and Stheno and Euryale, the sisters of Medusa, lamented her death, while plaintive sounds issued from the mouths of the serpents which surrounded their heads, Athena is said to have imitated these sounds on a reed. The connexion of Athena with Triton and Tritonis caused afterwards the various traditions about her birth-place, so that wherever there was a river or a well of that name, as in Crete, Thessaly, Boeotia, Arcadia, and Egypt, the inhabitants of those districts asserted that Athena was born there. It is from such birth-places on a river Triton that she seems to have been called Tritonis or Tritogeneia Paus. The connexion of Athena with Triton naturally suggests, that we have to look for the most ancient seat of her worship in Greece to the banks of the river Triton in Boeotia, which emptied itself into lake Copais, and on which there were two ancient Pelasgian towns, Athenae and Eleusis, which were according to tradition swallowed up by the lake. From thence her worship was carried by the Minyans into Attica, Libya, and other countries. We must lastly notice one tradition, which made Athena a daughter of Itonius and sister of Iodama, who was killed by Athena Paus. These various traditions about Athena arose, as in most other cases, from local legends and from identifications of the Greek Athena with other divinities. The common notion which the Greeks entertained about her, and which was most widely spread in the ancient world, is, that she was the daughter of Zeus, and if we take Metis to have been her mother, we have at once the clue to the character which she bears in the religion of Greece ; for, as her father was the most powerful and her mother the wisest among the gods, so Athena was a combination of the two, that is, a goddess in whom power and wisdom were harmoniously blended. From this fundamental idea may be derived the various aspects under which she appears in the ancient writers. She seems to have been a divinity of a purely ethical character, and not the representative of any particular physical power manifested in nature; her power and wisdom appear in her being the protectress and preserver of the state and of social institutions. Everything, therefore, which gives to the state strength and prosperity, such as agriculture, inventions, and industry, as well as everything which preserves and protects it from injurious influence from without, such as the defence of the walls, fortresses, and harbours, is under her immediate care. As the protectress of agriculture, Athena is represented as the inventor of the plough and rake: Besides the inventions relating to agriculture, others also connected with various kinds of science, industry, and art, are ascribed to her, and all her inventions are not of the kind which

men make by chance or accident, but such as require thought and meditation. We may notice the invention of numbers Liv. She was further believed to have invented nearly every kind of work in which women were employed, and she herself was skilled in such work: As the patron divinity of the state, she was at Athens the protectress of the phratries and houses which formed the basis of the state. The festival of the Apaturia had a direct reference to this particular point in the character of the goddess. She also maintained the authority of the law, and justice, and order, in the courts and the assembly of the people. This notion was as ancient as the Homeric poems, in which she is described as assisting Odysseus against the lawless conduct of the suitors. She was believed to have instituted the ancient court of the Areiopagus, and in cases where the votes of the judges were equally divided, she gave the casting one in favour of the accused. As Athena promoted the internal prosperity of the state, by encouraging agriculture and industry, and by maintaining law and order in all public transactions, so also she protected the state from outward enemies, and thus assumes the character of a warlike divinity, though in a very different sense from Ares, Eris, or Enyo. According to Homer Hom. She does not love war for its own sake, but simply on account of the advantages which the state gains in engaging in it; and she therefore supports only such warlike undertakings as are begun with prudence, and are likely to be followed by favourable results. As the prudent goddess of war, she is also the protectress of all heroes who are distinguished for prudence and good counsel, as well as for their strength and valour, such as Heracles, Perseus, Bellerophon, Achilles, Diomedes, and Odysseus. In the war of Zeus against the giants, she assisted her father and Heracles with her counsel, and also took an active part in it, for she buried Enceladus under the island of Sicily, and slew Pallas. In the Trojan war she sided with the more civilised Greeks, though on their return home she visited them with storms, on account of the manner in which the Locrian Ajax had treated Cassandra in her temple. As a goddess of war and the protectress of heroes, Athena usually appears in armour, with the aegis and a golden staff, with which she bestows on her favourites youth and majesty. The character of Athena, as we have here traced it, holds a middle place between the male and female, whence she is called in an Orphic hymn *Teircsias* was deprived of his sight for having seen her in the bath *Callim*. For this reason, the ancient traditions always describe the goddess as dressed; and when Ovid *Ov*. But, notwithstanding the common opinion of her virgin character, there are some traditions of late origin which describe her as a mother. Thus, Apollo is called a son of Hephaestus and Athena--a legend which may have arisen at the time when the Ionians introduced the worship of Apollo into Attica, and when this new divinity was placed in some family connexion with the ancient goddess of the country. *Lychnus* also is called a son of Hephaestus and Athena. Athena was worshipped in all parts of Greece, and from the ancient towns on the lake *Copais* her worship was introduced at a very early period into Attica, where she became the great national divinity of the city and the country. At *Lindus* in Rhodes her worship was likewise very ancient. Among the things sacred to her we may mention the owl, serpent, cock, and olive-tree, which she was said to have created in her contest with Poseidon about the possession of Attica. At *Corone* in Messenia her statue bore a crow in its hand. In *Ilion*, Locrian maidens or children are said to have been sacrificed to her every year as an atonement for the crime committed by the Locrian Ajax upon Cassandra; and *Suidas* s. Respecting the great festivals of Athena at Athens, see *Dict*. Athena was frequently represented in works of art; but those in which her figure reached the highest ideal of perfection were the three statues by *Pheidias*. The first was the celebrated colossal statue of the goddess, of gold and ivory, which was erected on the acropolis of Athens; the second was a still greater bronze statue, made out of the spoils taken by the Athenians in the battle of Marathon; the third was a small bronze statue called the beautiful or the Lemnian Athena, because it had been dedicated at Athens by the Lemnians. The first of these statues represented the goddess in a standing position, bearing in her hand a Nike four cubits in height. The shield stood by her feet; her robe came down to her feet, on her breast was the head of Medusa, in her right hand she bore a lance, and at her feet there lay a serpent. We still possess a great number of representations of Athena in statues, colossal busts, reliefs, coins, and in vase-paintings. Among the attributes which characterise the goddess in these works of art, we mention The helmet, which she usually wears on her head, but in a few instances carries in her hand. It is usually ornamented in the most beautiful manner with griffins, heads of rams, horses, and sphinxes. The round Argolic shield. Objects sacred to her, such as an olive branch, a serpent, an owl, a cock, and a lance. Her garment is usually the Spartan tunic

without sleeves, and over it she wears a cloak, the peplus, or, though rarely, the chlamys. The general expression of her figure is thoughtfulness and earnestness; her face is rather oval than round, the hair is rich and generally combed backwards over the temples, and floats freely down behind. The whole figure is majestic, and rather strong built than slender: She is the virgin patron of Athens.

Chapter 2 : The Norman Castle in Erice, a fortress for Venus | Italian Ways

Hercules was the son of Zeus, king of the gods, and Hercules is the Roman name for the Greek hero Herakles, the most popular figure from ancient Greek mythology. Hercules was the son of Zeus, king of the gods, and the mortal woman Alcmene.

This makes Enna one of the oldest continuously-inhabited cities on the island. Although scholars are not certain exactly when Enna was founded, most agree that a major settlement existed there as early as BC. When the Greeks arrived a bit before BC, contemporary sources described Enna as a native stronghold inhabited by the Sikels. The name "Enna" supposedly derives from the older Sicanian term Henna. The Elami, the Sicani and the Siculi. Since Enna was an established native center, the early Greeks were able to record the precious little history that exists regarding these peoples, in an epoch before extensive contact and conquest by the Greeks and other outsiders influenced their culture. This accord established Eastern Sicily as a "permanent" Siculi territory, relegating the Sicani to Western Sicily, with Enna acting as the boundary. The Greek domination of Enna continued under Agathocles. In BC, the city, led by its native son Xenodichias, rebelled against Syracuse. The revolt was successful, thanks to the aid given to the Ennans by the Greek forces from Akragas modern Agrigento. Afterwards, Enna placed itself under the protection of Agrigento, voluntarily becoming part of that community. Roman rule of Enna, and Sicily in general, was oppressive and exploitative. The island was transformed into a giant wheat farm whose sole purpose was to feed Rome and her citizens. This was the beginning of the "latifundiae" system which saw great tracts of land in the hands of a few wealthy individuals or politically-connected noblemen, who reaped profits while their slaves reaped crops. In BC, Enna became the springboard for the first great slave revolt against the Roman tyranny. Led by Eunus of Apamea, the rebellion achieved initial success, but was slowly beaten back by the Roman Legions. In BC, Enna finally fell to the Legions, and the city was, of course, sacked and nearly destroyed once again. This tragic event marked the beginning of a long period of decline for Enna. The Romans also bequeathed Enna with another lasting legacy: Enna became the focal point of Byzantine resistance to the Arab invasion of Sicily, which began in AD . Upon the capitulation of Palermo to Saracens in , western Sicily rapidly fell to Muslim control. The Byzantines adopted a strategy whereby they would protect their capital of Syracuse and Eastern Sicily by keeping the Arabs at bay in Central Sicily. The key to this plan was control of Enna. After several failed attempts, the Arabs, led by the formidable Emir, Abbas Ibn Fahdi, finally managed to take Enna in . The fall of the "Navel of Sicily" signaled the death knell for Byzantine Sicily. The Arabs did not gain total control of the Island till circa , and Enna became known as "Kasr Yannas. Other sources maintain that the fall of Enna was due to a very unwise cavalry attack by the Arabs. Their leader ordered the Arab forces to leave the shelter of their impregnable fortress to challenge the heavier armored Norman knights on open ground, where the Arabs were quickly defeated. This very decision by the Arab commander suggests that the Emir of Enna may have chosen to surrender his position to the Normans and only ordered the attack to save face. However, they are worth a look, especially if your visit there is combined with visits to other nearby places such as Piazza Armerina , Caltagirone and Morgantina. All can be visited briefly in one long day or covered thoroughly in two days. Enna is the crossroads of Sicily. The ancient Greeks called it the "umbilicum navel of Sicily. Many historians, however, agree that the castle was erected upon the ruins of an earlier fortification, possibly Arab or Byzantine. That older fortress could have been built on the remnants of an even earlier structure dating to the Roman period. It was here that he was crowned "King of Trinacria. The castle is built in three levels of courtyards which seem to run haphazardly into each other. One of these courtyards serves as an open-air theatre; archaeological excavations are being conducted in the others. It is a fine example of medieval defense-tower construction and has three floors, the top one having collapsed. The tower is built on an octagonal foundation instead of the more common round or square floor plan. Scholars are not sure why Frederick II von Hohenstaufen built the tower, though an observation post would seem to have been necessary. Local legend maintains that the Hohenstaufen had it erected to mark the exact center of Sicily and called it the "Tower of the Winds. It was built in , and almost destroyed by a serious fire in , to be restored

during the 16th and 17th Centuries. Thus its architectural styles range from medieval Gothic to late Renaissance to Baroque. The elegant apse and transept were part of the original Gothic structure, while the rest of the church boasts many lovely, if not well-known, works of art from the Baroque period. The Alessi Museum located near the duomo has the usual collection of area artifacts, none of them particularly outstanding, with the possible exception of the coin collection. The collection of the Church Treasury, however, justifies a visit to the Museum. This collection has many fine examples of Renaissance jewelry, with its showpiece the splendid gold-enameled "Crown of the Virgin. Persephone was abducted in a valley nearby, not far from the shores of Lake Pergusa. The church of San Giovanni St. John in Piazza Coppola is a fine example of Gothic lines with Arabic construction. Right near the church there is a recently opened Archaeological Museum, housed in an elegant old palace. The Museum is open daily 9 to 1 in the morning and 3 to 6 in the afternoon. Morgantina Located off Route near Aidone, in the province of Enna, Morgantina may have been settled by a certain King Morges who arrived with colonists from central Italy around BC. Therefore, the early Morgetian culture was perhaps somewhat distinct from Sikel civilisation. The Greeks absorbed the city some six centuries later. Eunus "liberated" Morgantina in BC during the slave revolt, and died a prisoner in this city. It had been a wealthy and prosperous city. The city was famous for its mint, a public building still easily identified. Its amphitheatre dates from the 3rd century BC. The ruins of a temple dedicated to Demeter and Kore have been identified. Pliny the Elder and other writers mention the particularly fine grapes of Morgantina.

Chapter 3 : Salvatore Giuliano | The Godfather Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

Son of Poseidone and of Arnea, he lived together with his 12 children (6 males and 6 female, between them married), in the volcanic islands of Sicily that from him took the Eolie name. He greeted Ulisse and gave him the closed winds in a leather bag, but his friends, they opened the leather bag causing a storm that made return the ship toward.

Text edited by Rosamie Moore. Write to romapip quipo. Page added in April The photos were taken in September and March To-morrow this letter will leave for you. On Thursday, the 29th, I go to Palermo in the corvette. The doubt whether I should go or remain made me unsettled even in the use of my stay here; now that I have made up my mind, things go on better. For my mental state this journey is salutary - indeed necessary. Palermo, April 13, Italy without Sicily leaves no image on the soul: The numbers indicate the ruins of ancient towns or monuments: The black dots indicate towns covered in this section which may e. Syracuse or may not e. Noto retain ancient monuments. The red dots indicate active volcanoes. The image used as background for this page shows the symbol of Sicily, the head of a Gorgon surrounded by three bent running legs, on an ancient dish at the Archaeological Museum of Agrigento. The island was known as Trinacria, with reference to the three capes at the North-East, South and West vertices of its triangular shape. From the Xth century until the early XIX century Sicily was divided into three administrative districts valleys each of which included one of the three capes: Archaeological Museum of Syracuse: It might have been passable for elephants during the Ice Age because the continental shelf between Sicily and Tunisia houses a number of submarine volcanoes which could have created ridges above the low sea level of that period. Skulls of dwarf elephants were perhaps found by the first Greek settlers; they might have led to the legend of the Cyclops, giants mentioned by Homer in the Odyssey. In particular the fact that the skulls had a large central opening could have originated the belief that the Cyclops e. Polyphemus had only one eye. By day, a flood of smouldering smoke, With sullen gleam the torrents pour; But in darkness, many a rock, Crimson flame, along the shore, Hurls to the deep with deafening roar. Aeschylus and others say, because of the calamity that had befallen this region, that.. Sicily was once torn apart from the continent by earthquakes. They infer from the occurrences about Aetna and in other parts of Sicily, and in Lipara and in the islands about it.. Now at the present time the earth about the Strait of Messina , they say, is but seldom shaken by earthquakes, because the orifices there, through which the fire is blown up and the red-hot masses and the waters are ejected, are open. At that time, however, the fire that was smouldering beneath the earth, together with the wind, produced violent earthquakes, because the passages to the surface were all blocked up. Sicily is situated in a very critical location from a seismic point of view as it stands on the edges of the African and the Eurasian tectonic plates. Most of the island belongs to the African plate, but its north-eastern section is on the Eurasian one. In addition to Etna, Stromboli and Vulcano, submarine volcanoes have been identified in the Tyrrhenian Sea and in the sea between the island and Tunisia. Sicily repeatedly experienced devastating earthquakes, such as that which destroyed most of the towns in Val di Noto in and those which destroyed Messina in and Volcanic ashes significantly increased the fertility of the soil and lava eruptions could lead to the creation of obsidian, a sort of hard glass, which fractured into pieces with sharp edges. Before the development of metallurgy these pieces were used as utensils and as heads for spears and arrows. The inhabitants of Lipari where obsidian was mined in ca 6, BC could trade it in return for commodities which were not available on their small island. When the first human beings settled in Sicily is still a matter of debate. Usually this was believed to have occurred in ca 20, BC, but new discoveries hint to much earlier periods. In the second millennium BC new settlers came from Spain and the Italian peninsula. Greek accounts of pre-Hellenic Sicily speak of three distinct ethnic groups: Siculi on the eastern part of the island, Sicani on the central one and Elymi on the western one. Syracuse which was founded by inhabitants of Corinth became the most important town of the island and retained this role until the Arab invasion in the IXth century AD. It is believed that in the Vth century BC it was the first Greek town to exceed 50, people and perhaps even , Other towns were founded by settlers from Rhodes , Crete and Chalkis. Links between the Sicilian colonies and Greece were very strict and Syracuse took sides in the wars between Sparta and Athens. Many famous Greek philosophers and scientists visited

Syracuse and Archimedes, the great mathematician, was born and lived there. In addition to those in Sicily the Greeks established colonies e. Paestum along the coast of the Italian peninsula. So relevant was their presence in southern Italy and Sicily that the Romans used the term Magna Graecia Great Greece to indicate these territories. Palazzo Conte Federico in Palermo: Their aim was not to relocate a large population there, but to establish some trading bases. They founded Palermo on the north-western coast of the island. The settlement was situated on a hill between the mouths of two rivers and its traces can still be noticed in medieval towers which were built incorporating the ancient ones. Greeks and Carthaginians fought many wars directly or through allied towns to expand their control over Sicily. In BC the Carthaginians laid siege to Syracuse and in the following year it was the turn of Carthage to be sieged by the Greeks. The Carthaginians were forced to abandon the island. In BC, during the Second Punic War , Syracuse sided with the Carthaginians and it was sieged and seized by the Romans who completed their conquest of the island. Sicily became a Roman province of its own and it was never attached to other territories. It was a granary of the Empire: As for the fertility of the country, why should I speak of it, since it is on the lips of all men, who declare that it is no whit inferior to that of Italy? And in the matter of grain, honey, saffron, and certain other products, one might call it even superior. There is, furthermore, its propinquity; for the island is a part of Italy, as it were, and readily and without great labour supplies Rome with everything it has, as though from the fields of Italy. And in fact it is called the storehouse of Rome. In the late IIIrd century AD the owner of a latifundium, a vast estate, in the centre of the island decorated with mosaics all the floors of his large villa. Byzantine catacomb Sicily was not affected by the events which led to the decline of the Roman Empire until the end of the IVth century. During the Vth century it was raided and eventually conquered by the Vandals ; later on it was ceded to the Italian Kingdom of the Ostrogoths. In Belisarius , a general of Byzantine Emperor Justinian, landed on Sicily and easily took control of the island. The following centuries were a period of decline for Sicily, especially after the Arab conquest of northern Africa in the VIIth century. There are records suggesting that many large and richly decorated churches were built at Syracuse, but they were all destroyed by the Arabs in Chronicles of the time and some evidence found by archaeologists indicate that the island was very impoverished and torn apart by conflicts among Byzantine officers. Although some of the finest mosaics which decorate Palermo and other towns are usually referred to as Byzantine, they were made in the XIIth century and Sicily retains very limited evidence of the direct Byzantine rule. The invaders conquered the western part of the island and established their capital at Palermo. The conquest of the whole island was very slow and it did not bring masses of Muslims to Sicily. Taormina , the last Byzantine stronghold fell in and even after this event some inland parts of north-eastern Sicily were not occupied by the Arabs. The penetration of the new religion was relatively limited, although it is said that Palermo had mosques. Arab travellers of the Xth century wrote enthusiastic descriptions of Palermo, but the main remaining evidence of the Arab rule is the maze of cul-de-sacs which characterizes some parts of the historical town and in particular its marketplaces. The examples of Islamic art which can be seen at Palermo are due to Arab architects and decorators who were employed by the Norman kings of Sicily in the design of churches and palaces in the XIIth century. The Normans with the support of the fleet of Pisa and the endorsement of the Pope conquered Palermo and were accepted by the Muslim population because they allowed them to retain their judicial system. In Roger landed on Malta which became a county of the Kingdom of Sicily until The island was repopulated with settlers coming from all parts of Italy and Europe. In he launched a campaign which led to the temporary conquest of Mahdia , Sousse , Monastir and Sfax on the coast of Tunisia. His grandson William II pursued a policy of tolerance towards his Muslim subjects, but after his death in they were persecuted by his successors. Frederick II often lived at Palermo and his interest in Italian affairs prevailed over that in German matters. During his long reign he was almost always in conflict with the Popes and was excommunicated four times. He took a hard stance towards the Muslims of Sicily; those who did not convert were relocated to Lucera in southern Italy. He set his court at Naples and this was resented by the Sicilian nobility. In a revolt in Palermo led to the massacre of the French garrison and was followed by revolts in other parts of the island. Syracuse - Palazzo Mergulese Montalto built in Charles of Anjou and his successors did not give up their rights on Sicily and continued to call themselves Kings of Sicily. In a treaty established that the Angevins would retain the title of

Kings of Sicily for their territories in southern Italy and the Aragonese would use the title of Kings of Trinacria for Sicily, but the agreement did not have lasting effects. For a long time the island was ruled by a branch of the Aragonese royal family. In the early XVth a marriage unified the two branches and the island was ruled by a viceroy, who was very often a Sicilian nobleman. The Aragonese introduced some elements of architecture e. Palermo - Quattro Canti: During his long reign he often fought against the Ottomans. In he assigned Malta to the Knights of Rhodes to strengthen its defence. After the conquest of Tunis in he spent some months in Sicily before going to Rome to celebrate a sort of triumphal procession in Piazza del Campidoglio. He promoted the construction of imposing fortifications in many Sicilian towns to protect them from Ottoman corsair raids. In he abdicated and he assigned the crown of Sicily to his son Philip II. Although Charles and his successors were also Kings of Naples they appointed separate viceroys for southern Italy and Sicily.

Chapter 4 : HERMES MYTHS 4 LOVES - Greek Mythology

In Greek mythology, Arethusa (/ ˈɛr ɛ θ ə ˈ ɪ ʒ u ˈ ɛ z ɛ ˈ ɪ m /; Greek: Ἄρθουσα Ἰλίουΐδος) was a nymph and daughter of Nereus (making her a Nereid), who fled from her home in Arcadia beneath the sea and came up as a fresh water fountain on the island of Ortygia in Syracuse, Sicily.

It was the deadliest eruption in recorded history. Two hundred years on, volcanoes are still as intriguing and mysterious as they were then. Click through to find out about volcano myths and legends of the yore. She is the Hawaiian Goddess of volcanoes. The rock has to be returned to the island. When he refused, she cursed him and turned him into an ugly tree. The other gods felt sad for the couple and to reunite them, they turned Lehua into a flower so that both can stay together. The legend has it whenever someone plucks lehua flower, it rains in the island. It is believed that due to sudden change in the environment, many cities across the world witnessed strange sunsets. The brilliant and unusual hues of the sunset inspired many artists, including William Turner pictured and Caspar David Friedrich. This sudden change helped the strain of cholera to spread to Burma and Thailand from the Ganges Delta in India. By , the disease had reached the European shores and, today, nearly three to five million suffer from the disease every year, leading to , to , deaths. Why do we call them volcanoes? The word volcano is derived from the Roman god of fire called Vulcan. According to various sources, his forge was located either on the island of Vulcano, off the coast of Sicily; in Mt Etna, on Sicily itself; or in Mt Vesuvius, mainland Italy. Regarded as an underground channel that connects this world to the next, it was believed that the souls of the condemned travelled from the crater of Hekla to hell. The eruptions and fire from the volcano were regarded as glimpse of hell. It is believed that there lived a witch at a monastery in southern Iceland. Katla, the temperamental witch, had a pair of magical shorts that could help anyone fly. Angry over loss of the magical shorts and sheep, she killed him. As the legend goes, the witch became the volcano. It is said that the demon, whose name means black or the swarthy one, will set the world on fire. The humble giant The most active volcano, Mt Etna is the highest volcano in Europe. Home to Cyclops, the one-eyed monster, the volcano is believed to be the place where Zeus buried Enceladus, the giant. It is known as a friendly giant because despite being an active volcano, only 77 deaths have been attributed to it. Between myth and reality How can we miss Mt Vesuvius when we are talking about volcanoes? The reason why Mt Vesuvius is on our list is because of the blurring lines of fact and fiction. The infamous 79 AD eruption that wiped out the city of Pompeii and Herculaneum has been etched in the human memory and has grown at a mythical porportion. The last active eruption happened in pictured. It is believed that there was a time when giant eagles used to live in the volcanoes of Alaska. One day, a giant eagle took a woman as food for her children. That woman turned out to be the wife of a famous hunter, who had killed that last of the giant eagles to save her. Since then, giant eagles ceased to live in the volcanoes. The never-dying volcano This Japanese legend tells a tale of unfulfilled love. It is said that the Emperor of Japan fell in love with a beautiful girl. She turned out to be a princess from the moon. When her people came to take her away, she gifted him an elixir of immortality. So he ordered his men to take the elixir and burn it on the highest peak. It was the birth of Mt Fuji or fushi, which means immortality. The volcano is also home to many deities such as Sengen, known as the Goddess of Fuji. Love for food or a woman? The beautiful peninsula of Kamchatka is home to a lot of folklore. One of the prominent myths by the Koryaks, the natives of Kamchatka, states that after the raven god Kutkh created the peninsula, he made a beautiful woman. All the men of the region fell in love with her and wanted to be with her. As the men died they became mountains. The mountains turned into volcanoes because they still desired the love of that woman. Another legend is about how the spirits living on the volcanoes called gomuls hunted for whales and roasted them in the night, resulting in huge fire on the mountain top. The mystery mountain There are numerous versions of how this beautiful mountain was named Kilimanjaro. According to another local legend, a secret cave atop Kilimanjaro is the resting place for elephants When an elephant realizes that his end time is near, he treks the mountain to reach that cave and die. An earthy love story The legend around this Costa Rican volcano goes back centuries. It is said that a beautiful maiden named Cira fell in love with a brave warrior from a different tribe. He ordered his men to separate the

couple but Mother Nature helped them and a cavern suddenly appeared to hide the lovers. Soon, smoke and steam could be seen from that spot, marking their union. That spot is now known as Turrialba volcano. The priest banished the devil by sprinkling holy water into the volcano. Bathers receive a massage in the Volcano de Tutumo. It is believed that in order to win battle against his rivals, the chieftain sacrificed his daughter to the gods. Immediately the mountain where she died came alive and started spewing fire, killing all the rivals. In line of fire The legend has it that the corruption and immoral behavior by the people of Atlantis enraged the gods so much that they sent a destructive night of fire and earthquakes. The twin disasters sank the city. According to several studies, the volcanic disaster of Atlantis relates to an eruption in the island of Santorini in the Aegean Sea near Greece about 3, years ago.

Chapter 5 : Naiad - Wikipedia

Their son, Holy Roman Emperor FREDERICK II, spent his childhood in Sicily. He was a child of four when his mother died and Pope Innocent III governed Sicily until when Frederick II reached the age of

Hesiod states that the genitals "were carried over the sea a long time, and white foam arose from the immortal flesh; with it a girl grew. Adulthood Edit Aphrodite is consistently portrayed as a nubile, infinitely desirable adult, having had no childhood. She is often depicted nude. In many of the later myths, she is portrayed as vain, ill-tempered, and easily offended. His revenge is to trap his mother in a magic throne. She is a contestant in the "Judgement of Paris", which leads to the war. She returns for him when he is grown and strikingly handsome, but Persephone wants to keep him. Zeus decrees that Adonis will spend a third of the year with Aphrodite, a third with Persephone, and a third with whomever he wishes. Adonis chooses Aphrodite, and they are constantly together. Adonis, who loves hunting, is wounded by a wild boar, and bleeds to death. Aphrodite can only mourn over his body. The shade of Adonis is received in the underworld by Persephone. Aphrodite wants to return him to life. Consequently, she and Persephone bicker. Zeus intervenes again, decreeing that Adonis will spend six months with Aphrodite and six months with Persephone. Zeus delegates the choice to a mortal, Paris. The goddesses offer him bribes. Hera offers him supreme power and Athena offers him wisdom, fame, and glory in battle. As the goddess of desire, she causes Paris to become inflamed with desire for Helen at first sight, and he awards the Apple of Discord to her. Aphrodite cursed her, causing her to have children by a bear. The resulting offspring, Agrius and Oreius, were wild cannibals who incurred the hatred of Zeus. Ultimately the whole family were transformed into birds of ill omen. This temple was not rebuilt when the city was re-established under Roman rule in 44 BC, but the fertility rituals likely continued in the main city near the agora. Pausanias also records that, in Sparta and on Cythera, there were extremely ancient cult statues of Aphrodite portraying her bearing arms. Hellenic polytheists of today celebrate their religious devotion to Aphrodite on two annual and monthly festival days. The fourth day of each month is considered a sacred day of both Aphrodite and her son Eros.

Chapter 6 : Sicily - Mythis and Legends

Hermes was the Olympian god of herds, trade, heralds, athletes and thieves. This page outlines the lovers of the god in myth. Most of these, however, occur only in the ancient genealogies without an accompanying story.

Giuliano was a handsome, fearless and charismatic young man, admired and respected by his fellow Sicilians. His ideals surrounding Sicily and its hopeful independence from Italy were viewed as patriotic – however, he was also considered a murderer, though many claimed that he killed only when he had to. Born a Sicilian peasant, his outlaw career began at the young age of 17. He was transporting black-market grain to give to the poor and was stopped by the carabinieri. During the encounter, he shot one of the officers. While running away, he dropped his identity card and was shot during his failed attempt to retrieve it. With no doubt about who the assailant was, Giuliano began his life on the run. For the next seven years he was hunted relentlessly by the state police until his eventual death in 1947. During that time he became a legend. Following his early encounter with the carabinieri, he put together a gang of about 50 bandits, criminals and homeless men in the Sagana Mountains. Under his leadership they became excellent marksmen and took to burglary to make money for food and weapons. The EVIS promised him that he would be pardoned of his crimes and appointed to a position in the newly developed independent state. Giuliano launched attacks on Italian government authorities and remained a problem for them for years to come. The Sicilian peasants, however, admired him and viewed him as a sort of Robin Hood because he was known for giving food and money to the poor. Anyone who crossed him was swiftly executed. If the person was a known informer he was duly executed and had a note pinned on him sending a message to any would-be future informants. When funds became limited, Giuliano and his gang of bandits took to kidnapping. He demanded ransom for prominent figures who would be returned after sizeable amounts of cash was paid. Giuliano never kidnapped children, but did not hesitate to abduct a rich duke or prince. He was said to have treated his victims in a gentlemanly manner, giving them adequate housing, food and even entertainment, all of which added to his Robin Hood appeal. He wrote two letters to then President Harry S. Truman duly documented asking for this consideration. He fought communism so that his dream of achieving affiliations with America would not be compromised. There was one legendary attack that linked Giuliano to the slaughter of innocent people, forever tarnishing his reputation. During a May Day celebration for the recent communist advances in western Sicily, 17 people were shot and killed. Giuliano maintained that his intentions were to fire over the heads of the crowd and not to kill the innocent, but that is not what occurred. After this incident, his reputation diminished among the people and he became the subject of controversy. In 1947, as Giuliano was planning to flee Sicily, he was shot and killed. The official story said that he was killed in a street battle by the soldiers of a special task force. His body was then laid out in the street and made to look as if a street battle had taken place. The official story was never retracted. Salvatore Giuliano died at the young age of 34. He was an idealistic youth who had great dreams of independence for his homeland of Sicily. Some argue that he was an outlaw, bandit and ruthless killer, while others claim he was a charitable man who fought only for the good of his country. Though some may debate his place in history, all can agree that Salvatore Giuliano is a legendary and memorable Sicilian figure. Visit Our Social Media Pages:

Chapter 7 : Folklore | High Priestess of NYX

OREIADES (Oreads) Many of the Oreiades were said to be the daughters of Hermes and other Oreiades Nymphai. PALAISTRA (Palaestra) The goddess of wrestling was a daughter of the athlete's god. PAN The goat-footed god of shepherds was a son of Hermes and the Nymph Penelopeia.

Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family. From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her. However, one of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge. He expected her to give in to his demands when she was faced with torture and possible death, but she simply reaffirmed her belief in God by praying: Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. Agatha never lost her confidence in God, even though she suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus heard of her calm strength and ordered that she be brought before him once again. During her interrogation, she told him that to be a servant of Jesus Christ was her true freedom. Enraged, Quintianus sent her off to prison instead of back to the brothel -- a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture? He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St. Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers. After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over naked over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: She is commonly featured in religious art with shears, tongs, or breasts on a plate. Agatha is the patron saint of Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer patients, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses. She is also considered to be a powerful intercessor when people suffer from fires. Her feast day is celebrated on February 5. Saint Agatha, you suffered sexual assault and indignity because of your faith and purity. Help heal all those who are survivors of sexual assault and protect those women who are in danger.

Chapter 8 : Arethusa (mythology) - Wikipedia

The legend has it that it was the forge of God Vulcan, the Roman god of fire. Home to Cyclops, the one-eyed monster, the volcano is believed to be the place where Zeus buried Enceladus, the giant.

For any supplement information or other necessity, feel free to contact us by Email or using the contact form on this page Escorted Tours in Sicily An Escorted Tour is a multiday tour that includes hotel accommodation, transportation, sightseeing and some meals. In some cases the tour can include licensed local guide as per tour details and conditions that are the only professionals, with a Regional license, permitted to conduct visits and tours in all sites and museums within a city. An Escorted Tour is ideal for people who want some freedom but still have the comfort of a Tour leader who will take care of group and will orchestrate all services. Our tours are all small size maximum 25 people and perfectly designed for those who usually enjoy traveling in a private-form and not with other tourists: Usually our staff is at your disposal from the early morning to the afternoon for approximately 8 hours per day, while the evening is at leisure. In this way you will have the opportunity to have some time on your own to relax, shopping or strolling around. If you wish more time for your own, feel free to explain your needs to our staff before booking the tour and we will be pleased to suggest you the right solution, such as adding one or more pre-nights or post-nights at your tour. Properties chosen for the tour are all first class and, when possible, centrally located, with just two or three hotel check-ins during the tour, because we wish your stay is as comfortable as possible. Around the hotel area there are plenty of pizzerias, restaurants and bars where to have dinner. We give great importance to the quality of your travel experience, which is why we have compiled a fantastic range of services specifically designed to ensure your tour fulfils all your dreams. These tours generally include a very nice schedule of touring and sightseeing and you will enjoy the real Highlights of Sicily. Can I join an escorted tour if I have walking limitation? We do not limit participation of people with walking limitation, but even if our staff will do all his best to consider your needs, we have to advice you that not all the sites you will visit during the tour are accessible with a wheelchair, because of steps, hills, or uneven ground. In such cases the path is really too difficult and we are unable to guarantee the sightseeing. About Sicily Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and it is part of Italy, but Sicily has its own distinct culture and history. Located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea in his thousand-year old history Sicily has always been considered of large interest for strategical and trading reasons. Except short periods of independence, Sicily was controlled by great powers: Each people influenced Sicilian culture, architecture, language and habits and this is the reason that makes Sicily an unbelievably unique place! Nowadays walking in the island streets you can feel this multicultural mix and admire Byzantines buildings close to Baroque churches, followed by open air market in Arab style. Sicily is also famous as olive oil and wine producer and there are a lot of farmhouses and wineries to visit that offer the possibility of a tasting or a lunch or light-lunch: Even though Sicily is very famous for his crystalline sea, landscape is various. Often people imagine Sicily as a little island, but from west side to east side there are km and more than km from North coast to South coast. The middle of Sicily is characterized by hills and mountains up to 1. Etna is the highest and most active volcano in Europe it is high around 3. What are the most tourist cities of Sicily? Palermo Palermo the capital of Sicily, is the biggest city of the island and is located on the North-West coast. It is very ancient it was founded in BC by the Phoenician and rich in history and culture, characterized by an unbelievable number of churches and palaces built along the centuries in different styles. Arabs, Byzantines, Normans and Spanish have influenced Palermo architecture more than other peoples who controlled the town and nowadays the capital is a wonderful mix of cultures and styles. During the tour you will do a walking tour of the city center, sightseeing the Cathedral and the main monuments and churches along Maqueda Street, such as Pretoria Fountain, Four Corners, Massimo Theatre and Politeama Theatre. Furthermore you will cross an open air market, heritage of the Arab culture in Sicily, full of stands of fresh fish, fruit, vegetables, spices and other and where you will have the opportunity to taste typical street food. Mount Etna Mount Etna is the highest and most active volcano in Europe approx. Located on the east cost of Sicily, Etna is a natural park that will fascinate you for its landscapes: Dotted with snow

most of the year, some of the lava is dated at , years old. Etna Volcano is not included in the routing of the tour, but we suggest to spend a full day exploring slopes and lava flows with our staff. Most of the year it is possible ascent to the top of the mountain by cable car and Uni-Mog or in alternative you can reach only 1. Please contact our staff at time of booking in case of interest. Agrigento Agrigento is an ancient town located on a plateau in the South side of Sicily and was founded by Rhodian-cretan colonists around B. The Temple of Concordia is the best preserved example of Doric art in Italy, and it is admired for its nobility and integrity. Taormina Taormina is a romantic village renowned over the world that represents an unmissable stopover for all tourists coming in Sicily. It is located on a hilltop in the east side of Sicily overlooking the wonderful Isola Bella and Mount Etna, the biggest volcano of Europe. The center is very small, from one side Catania Gate to the other Messina Gate is only meters, but you will love strolling around in this pedestrian area, discovering the picturesque streets e. Vicolo Stretto, large less than one meter or relaxing on the terraces with view. The main monuments are the Dome, Corvaja Palace and the famed Greek-Roman Theatre, dated third century BC, and after expanded by the Romans, from where you can admire an amazing panorama. Taormina has plenty of bars, restaurants and pizzerias, Taormina is also ideal for shopping. Monreale Monreale is a little town located about three hundred meters above sea level, overlooking Palermo. During the tour you will visit the world renowned Arab-Norman Dome built on the twelfth-century with golden mosaics covering the cathedral walls that represent the scenes from the Old and New Testaments. Segesta Segesta is located in the western side of Sicily and was founded by the ancient indigenous Elymian people. The Archaeological Park of Segesta includes the Doric temple and the theatre. During the tour you will have time only to visit the unfinished and well preserved temple dated late 5th century BC from where you will enjoy an impressive view of the surrounding area. Piazza Armerina Piazza Armerina is a little town renowned for the Roman Villa of Casale, one of the most beautiful villas of the Roman ever built AD , with 60 rooms and square meters of floor mosaics. The mosaics discovered here are celebrated among scholars of antiquity. Depicting scenes from daily life, such as hunting, the mosaics are as remarkable for their sociological value as for their artistry. One of these, showing women clad in two-piece swimsuits exercising with barbells, could well describe a scene typical of the twentieth century. Siracusa Siracusa is an ancient town founded by Corinthians in BC, and located in the southeastern coast of Sicily. Then you will walk around in the Ortygia island, discovering the ancient and medieval streets, the Spring of Arethusa, the Cathedral and several sites of Greek, Byzantine and Judaic civilization. The two towns are located in the Southeast side of Sicily. During the tour you will admire the Baroque architecture, visiting several stunning palaces and churches. In Modica you will taste the famous chocolate, still made the same way the ancient Aztecs made chocolate in Mexico and its tradition dates back to the 16th century, this technique was brought over by the Spaniards. Erice Erice is a medieval town located around metres above sea level that overlooks Trapani, San Vito lo Capo and Egadi islands. Founded by Elymian people, it was an important religious site associated with the goddess Venus. During the tour you will stroll around its typical ancient streets and you will have the opportunity to taste marzipan candies and other delicacies like almond and pistachio pastries. Contact us Now Compile the form and request a callback OR.

Local legend maintains that the Hohenstaufen had it erected to mark the exact center of Sicily and called it the "Tower of the Winds." The Lombard Castle, previously mentioned, lies at the extreme northeastern end of Enna, and marks the end of Via Roma, Enna's main street, on which most of the town's tourist attractions are located.

Hyades star cluster; sent rain Pleiades daughters of Atlas and Pleione ; constellation; also were classed as Oreads Dionysius I or Dionysius the Elder ca. He was regarded by the ancients as an example of the worst kind of despotâ€”cruel, suspicious and vindictive. Early life Dionysius I began life as a clerk in a public office. Because of his achievements in the war against Carthage that had begun in BC, he was elected supreme military commander in BC; in the following year he seized total power and became tyrant. In subsequent years he consolidated his position ruthlessly. He was able to increase this guard to one thousand and gradually consolidated his power and established himself as a tyrant. He imposed his mercenaries on all parts of the polis community. Such an act would have truly wiped out any suggestion that democracy was still in force. Interestingly, Sparta , which had in the past deposed tyrants from Corinth to Athens , did not damn Dionysius and his autocracy. In fact relations between the two were very positive: When the Lacedaemonians had settled the affairs of Greece to their own taste, they dispatched Aristus, one of their distinguished men, to Syracuse, ostensibly pretending that they would overthrow the government, but in truth with intent to increase the power of the tyranny; for they hoped that by helping to establish the rule of Dionysius they would obtain his ready service because of their benefactions to him. Dionysius would even have the privilege of being allowed to conscript mercenaries from lands under Spartan authority. The demise of a prominent democratic polis in the classical world and the subsequent tenure of Dionysius represented what would become a recurring norm in fourth century Greece, thanks to the prevalence of mercenaries. Conquests He carried on war with Carthage from BC to BC with varying success; his attempts to drive the Carthaginians entirely out of the island of Sicily failed, and at his death they were masters of at least a third of it. He also carried on an expedition against Rhegium capturing it and attacking its allied cities in Magna Graecia. In one campaign, in which he was joined by the Lucanians, he devastated the territories of Thurii and Croton in an attempt to defend Locri. He joined the Illyrians in an attempt to plunder the temple of Delphi , pillaged the temple of Caere then allied with Rome on the Etruscan coast. After him Adriatic became a sea of Syracuse. In the Peloponnesian War he espoused the side of the Spartans , and assisted them with mercenaries. Dionysus wanted a friendly monarch in Epirus and so sent 2, Greek hoplites and five hundred suits of Greek armour to help the Illyrians under Bardyllis in attacking the Molossians of Epirus. They ravaged the region and killed 15, Molossians, and Alcetas regained his throne. Sparta however intervened; under Agesilaus and with aid from Thessaly, Macedonia and the Molossians themselves, the Spartans expelled the Illyrians. Death According to others, he was poisoned by his physicians at the instigation of his son, Dionysius the Younger who succeeded him as ruler of Syracuse. His life was written by Philistus , but the work is not extant. Additionally, it is said that upon hearing news of his play, The Ransom of Hector.