

Dictionary of Greek and Roman Mythology. Gods. Heroes. Myths, Coord. Zoe Petre, Alexandra Lițu, Cătălin Pavel, Corinthian Publishing, Bucharest, 2011, 383 p.

The Greco-Roman culture and religion greatly influenced the whole Europe, representing the soil in which the seed of Christianity has grown. Although this religious tradition gave way to Christianity, especially starting with Constantine the Great, some elements of the old mythologies remained in the collective subconscious, were Christened and merged with the new teachings. A good time to reactivate the ancient Greco-Roman traditions was the Renaissance, when, elements belonging to these religious traditions were brought to light again. The Renaissance ideal was represented by the Greco-Roman antiquity with all its accomplishments.

Any dictionary represents a necessary element in any scientific approach, being the starting point of the research, helping the researcher to clarify certain concepts and finding some prime references. The Dictionary of Greek and Roman Mythology is a very useful tool for all those who are dedicated to the study of The Greco-Roman religion or want to clarify some notions about these religious traditions or mythological characters who inhabited the Greek and Roman world, especially gods and heroes.

The dictionary is the result of the work of several specialists in the Greek and Roman culture and religion, as any action of this kind is a team research. Currently, the sphere of documentation of one religion is so vast that no longer allows the coverage of the entire area just by one religious specialist. This dictionary represents the work of several authors: Valentin Botea, Alina Pascale, Florin Mișuț-Bohiltea, Răduca Tănăsescu, Cristian Oțelariu, Alexandra Țârle, under the direction of Zoe Petre, Alexandra Lițu and Cătălin Pavel. Each term is explained and the author is mentioned.

A characteristic of the dictionary lies in the fact that there are several subdivisions when explaining the terms, so that each term should be

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explained as minutely as possible. Among these subdivisions, we can mention those related to *Etymology*, which show the origin of the term, ie a first explanation, the subdivision *Mythology*, ie the actual explanation of the term, usually a mythological character: god, hero or being remaining human in the history of Greco-Roman culture, followed by the subdivision *Discussions*. The *Iconography* subdivision contains references to representations of statuary, painting, pottery or other types of the Roman and Greek culture, remaining famous to present day and being preserved in various museums around the world. These representations broaden the strictly religious concept by capturing aspects of Greco-Roman culture and civilization. The *Cult* section contains references to various aspects of worship regarding the dead. The *Posteriority* section is a completely unique one because it shows how the mythological character or the narrative presented or described and explained remained in the history of world culture since many aspects of Greco-Roman mythology were preserved in literary, musical pieces or were revived by the Renaissance humanism. The explanation of each term ends with a short bibliography adapted to that theme.

We recommend using the Dictionary of Greek and Roman Mythology, particularly useful for the understanding of religious traditions present in the European and world culture, but also as a starting point in the development of any scientific documentation on topics that fall within this sphere of concerns.

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