

Greek Gods

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 15 Jul 1998

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mary whalen — 15 Jul 1998, 17:15

This is Sean Whalen (prion).

Rostrum, I'm always happy to elaborate.

All the gods/monsters from Greek mythology which I said had names that aren't Greek words had their names borrowed from the names of other gods who were not Greek, or else the origin of their name is unknown but doesn't seem to come from a Greek word. Tartaros is probably comes from a word that the people who lived in Greece before the Greeks came had. Thyone and her older name Semele are apparently the names of non-Greek gods who came to be worshipped by the Greeks. Catamitus is how the Romans pronounced Ganymedes (in English Ganymede) which is not a Greek word either, and it's origin is unknown.

When I say that a monster is the child of Typhon and Echidna or others, I mean that in the Greek legends it is uncertain because some legends say one thing that others disagree with. All of the people who are children of T and E on the Whorl have the names of monsters/gods who were said to be the children of the Greek T and E in at least one source, though there is disagreement concerning every single one of them. It is even uncertain if in the Greek myths T and E were brother and sister, if Typhon and Typhoeus are two different people, and if Typhon is Typhoeus' father, or vice versa.

Yes, much of the Whorl religion is based directly on Greek sources.

Tartaros being blind. Yes; and it is possible that this is a problem of his brain, rather than his eyes, which would fit in with the rest of his family. It certainly would be odd for his eyes to be irreplaceable, especially since Typhon wouldn't have minded using any available source for replacements.

I think I have some new thoughts on Pas' name. In Greek pas is the masculine form of the word "all." The neuter form of this word is pan. Wolfe said he once thought that the Greek god Pan was the word for all, and that he used to be the main god that the Greeks worshipped. He was corrected by someone who wrote a letter to him. Actually, Pan's name is a masculine word, just like the names of all male Greek gods. It would be odd for him to be the only male with a neuter name. Pan comes from a shortening of the older form Paon, which comes from the word for "feeder" and is related to his Roman equivalent Faunus. Wolfe probably had Typhon use this name because he is also not the god of all, as his name is taken by everyone else.

prion