FANTASTIC MYTHS
Fantastic Myths

The pages that follow feature myths that explain aspects of human nature and why the world is how it is. They include stories about beauty pageants, why some children cannot sit still, why red hair exists, how greed was created and what dangers lurk for cyber bullies who believe their anonymity protects them. Following each myth is a short critical reflection on our world as it relates to the myth, highlighting the real dangers that we face, posing possible solutions or exploring the nature of myth-making itself. Each myth and reflection are accompanied by an original artwork by the author/artist.

Mr. Arthur
2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Arthur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurjon Kamali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexios Alexi El-Morr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aidan Samuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrik Ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukia Galperine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Liu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maggie (The times are not new roman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Liang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milly Kraincanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serine Chan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>florA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gajanana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Zolya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinda Kakouni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yilin kudo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackenzie Vaughan-Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carly Danics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Popadich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelina Zhang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Legend Of The Stone Horse

Aurjon Kamali

Once, when the nights were cruel and the day was bloodthirsty, conflict erupted between the gods and titans. Kronos was the least of Olympus’s worries; for they knew what the titans were harboring among them could vaporize the power of immortality and wipe them out for eternity.

Several millennia ago, after the rebirth of Zeus’s sibling’s, the gods and titans had a malicious war, resulting in Kronos being cut up into a million tiny pieces and locked away in tartarus. Just decades later Kronos was reborn and be more powerful than ever. The gods weren’t surprised, they knew what was coming. Fortunately for the gods and titans, Kronos was “reborn” meaning his memories were completely wiped but he would still have little knowledge about the gods and his environment. With a formal meeting between Zeus and his father Kronos, they decided that each of them and their tribes would keep to themselves. Zeus and the other gods decided to give the titans a peace offering; it didn’t take long for them to realize their mistake.

Hephaestus and Poseidon were in charge of creating the gift. The gods decided on giving them a horse, but not just any horse a horse with the power of all 12 olympians: the energy of poseidon, the wisdom of Athena, the charm of Aphrodite, the flames of hephaestus, the will-power of Hera, the brutality of Ares, the accuracy of artemis, the philosophy of apollo, the devilry of Hermes, the elegance of dionysus, the fertility of Demeter and the leadership of Zeus. Hi Through this, the revolutionary gift was born. The name horses was Alogo Petra, which meant ‘stone horse’ in modern-day greek for the two reasons, one being a pun for the gods: ‘he’s as solid as a rock” and the other reason being his appearance, a beautiful and wild horse with stone-like skin, molten eyes and a mane embedded with the earth.

After the gift was given, tales were spread widely throughout the mortal world and Olympus. The stories were about the bravery of the horse, defending the titans, and destroying those who opposed the horses masters. This went on for decades. The gods knew what the horse was capable of and were terrified of what was to happen if conflict approached them. Suddenly, something unexpected happened. The memory titan, Mnemosyne gave Kronos his memory back for the purpose of destruction. Immediately Kronos declared war against the gods. As if forgetting how to fight, the titans were unable to provide any effort at all in their plans and attacks. The gods knew what was happening. Relying on Alogo Petra made the titans lazy, not having to think about enemies or having any responsibility to fight intruders, monsters, minor gods or thinking of strategies. Alogo Petra did all that for them. The stone horse soon noticed what was happening to his masters and was unable to take commands from not only someone weaker than him but a whole army of titan warlords who were weaker than him.

The Gods took this as an opportunity to strike overthrowing each and every titan and finally cutting Kronos up for good in the endless pits of tartarus. Alogo Petra watched as the gods (his creators) took over all of what was once a home reduced into ashes. To make sure Kronos never escaped, reformed
or reborn, the gods asked hades (the god of the underworld) to heavily arm and guard the outskirts of tartarus having minor gods defend every part of not only tartarus but all of the underworld. After the burial of Kronos, the gods and titans lived among each other and cooperated in each other’s traditions finally becoming one whole tribe defending each other.

As for Alogo Petra, legend says he is still roaming the outskirts today of the once known land seeking a new master because of his rejection to go back to the gods or titans out of shame and embarrassment. Legend says if you can tame the stone horse you will be the most powerful man all throughout the land.

Critical Response:

Imagine titans, the father of gods, the eternal rulers, being brought down to their knees by a horse. It’s true that the horse had the power of the gods but still, the titans were completely powerless against their own kids, as a result of facing the consequences of being carefree while someone took after them. But the titans were not the only ones carefree. The gods were being “carefree” too, making an out-of-control holy grail that can kill an army of gods. This is an example for the main idea: great power comes with great responsibility. This is an example because, it teaches you that even when someone (or some horse for that matter), is taking care of you, you still have to do things yourself, and that when you have the power to do or make something, make or do it cautiously and not carefree.

Things like that happen in real life too for example: your mom and dad take care of you but you’re still expected to do your chores throughout the house, or get a job. Your parents won't do that for you. And if you don’t, you will become a lazy couch potato (or Kronos potato) living with your mom until you're 38 years old. It can also apply when you're mowing the lawn, you have to do that job cautiously because you obviously don't want uneven grass. With the main idea in these examples in real life and the text I can say that the main idea of this is that: great power comes with great responsibility in all perspectives, even the gods.
The gods were satisfied with their victory against Kronos, but what they did not hear was a cry for help. It came from Kronos’ blood, boiling on the ground. The blood created a new god named Kashlik.

Kashlik was furious at the gods and was angry that they did not help him all those years back when they killed Kronos. He wanted to kill them, but they were immortal. Instead, he started to explode parts of the ground. These started to create what is now known as volcanos. The gods disliked humans because they looked like the gods themselves, but did not want to see them die.

Poseidon was first suspected as the evil god because the volcanos were accompanied by earthquakes, but Poseidon did not use fire, so he was cleared from suspicion. The gods have eventually found out that Kashlik was behind the disasters and tried to put an end to his tyranny.

Poseidon used water to stop the lava, but it just evaporated. Zeus tried to strike him down with lightning, but Kashlik was fast and dodged all the bolts. Hades tried to sneak behind Kashlik using his helmet, but Kashlik could still see Hades and knocked him out. Demeter could not do much against fire and fled. Hera, being the goddess of family and childbirth, tried to calm Demeter and tell her that she is needed. The gods could tell they were losing and fled to Mount Olympus. Kashlik created the volcano Mt.
Vesuvius as his hiding spot and home until the gods tried to stop him again. He went into a deep sleep until the gods disturbed him again.

The gods grew in a few numbers over the years and Ares and Hephaestus were born. The gods have better equipment because of Hephaestus, the blacksmith god and are better fighters because Ares (war god) trained them. One day, Zeus had a splitting headache (no pun intended) and asked Poseidon and Ares to hold him on a table and Hephaestus to split his head open. Out came bursting Athena, the goddess of wisdom and war tactics. She had to explain to Ares that he is the god of the slaughter part of war and she is the goddess of the planning part. She helped the rest of the gods on how to plan the attack on Kashlik.

Kashlik woke up to the sound of thunder. He got out of Mt. Vesuvius and found grass everywhere on his volcano. He started to burn it, but it kept on growing back. He heard someone laughing and turned around. He saw Demeter laughing at him and said, “You fool. How could you not notice yet?” He looked up and saw just saw a lightning bolt 5 centimeters away from his face. *Zapp* He made Mt. Vesuvius explode lava everywhere, blinding the gods sight from above from all the smoke. Hades wore his helmet and went in the smoke. Kashlik could see Hades, but thought that he was dead with the smoke surrounding him Hades was not dead, he is immortal, but Kashlik thought that he was. He laughed and screamed “See what happens when you face me! You die!” Poseidon made a huge fissure on the ground beneath Kashlik’s feet and salt water sprayed at his face. Hades tripped Kashlik and fell into the fissure in the ground. Kashlik was trapped and stayed trapped under the earth. Hephaestus became the god of volcanoes because they were good workshops, except for Mt.Vesuvius, it has a great amount of evil inside it.

Kashlik was a god too, so he did not die, he just stayed trapped. He was trapped for a long time, but is starting to get out. His body projects heat and makes the world hotter when coming near it. Mt. Vesuvius is still evil and has destroyed life in Pompeii because the people disturbed it too much.

Response:

The myth I have created explains why there are volcanos, why Mt.Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii, and why there is global warming, even though science has told us how. It uses the Greek gods and my own created god Kashlik. I created two battles to explain things that happened/are happening on earth through “my god” and some Greek gods.

I think that myth-making was helpful for any myth-creators and the society they lived in because they wanted to explain things that they could not explain and wanted to blame their quality of life on the gods (e.g. Pandora’s box explains why we age, die, get sick, etc.).

It would be nice for us to study myth-making and myths to see how people that came on earth before us thought.

The Raven
Once, when the earth was new, and humans had not yet set unto the land, a problem there was faced. Apollo, the god of the sun had been wounded in battle with the titans, and since his path to recovery began, the sun had not risen. Zeus, being wounded himself after the battle was not able to fly the morning chariot through the sky either. He decided that one of the animals must be the one to restart the cycles. He called a great meeting of all of them, from that, the birds were put forth, as they were the only ones who could fly up. Zeus explained that it would be a grueling mission, a vast undertaking of which survival was slim.
Eagle stood up with courage saying “I should be the one to go. I am the strongest and therefore have the highest chance of survival.” Zeus agreed, and declared that Eagle would be the one to complete the task.

The next day, Eagle stood in a clearing, all the other animals cheering him on. He spread his vast wings, and began to flap up to the sky. As he reached the tops of the tallest mountains, even those from the ground could see that something was deathly wrong. Even more benounced to Eagle was what was happening. A strong blade of wind had hit him dead on, striking him down to earth. As he fell, he was unable to slow his fall, and the hit the ground at full impact. As he was taken away, a murmur started among the animals about who would take over the mission. Out of the mass of voices, one broke free.

“I shall be the one to take over,” said Raven as he hopped up onto a log, his bright colors glistening in the sun.

You see, at this time ravens were colorful and majestic birds, not the black crowes you know today.

“I shall be the one to do it. Eagle was my friend, and he would want me to take over for him.” It was settled. Raven would be the one to restart the sun. As he later learned, it would involve flying into the center of the sun, and whilst burning to a crisp, hitting it hard enough to put it in motion. Soon after, in the very same clearing, Raven stood and began to flap his wings. up and up he went, past the point where eagle had fallen, up to the edge of the sky and where he could see the whole earth behind him. Finally, he reached the sun. The massive wall of fire was immense and the intense heat beat down on his feathered wings. Deeper and deeper in he flew, but very soon, he found himself falling through the flames as gravity took over. His precious colorful wings were burning up, going black and jagged. Promptly, he reached the center. He hit it, feet first with incredible force. He had done it. The sun was once again in motion. Then he realized, he still had a chance. He pushed up with his feet, struggling against the extreme gravity. His toes broke and snapped, turning his small claws into greuling talons. But eventually, he made it up, flapping his wings profusely, up and out, back towards familiar soil.

Once he had reached the skies of his homelands, unlike Eagle, he was able to slow his fall, landing where all the creatures stood, marveling at the cycle’s renewance. He landed on a large rock, in the center of a small pond. At first, there was confusion, as no one recognized him. He was blackened and mangled, though at least still maintained his elegant shape. Once
the murmur had stopped, he he made his announcement, and cheers that could be heard all across the land broke out.

Raven never did look the same, though what was lost in appearance was replaced with well-deserved pride. To this day, despite their snaggled faces, all ravens keep this pride, the pride that they were the ones that made the world the way it is today.
The Black Dragon and The Druid
Patrik Ago

In a province where there is forests and plants, rivers, fountains of water, and abundant rainfall, through the woods lived wild animals and birds. Nature was very nice. People were living happy. People had food in abundance and they were healthy.

But there came a time when the people were not showing care for nature. Plants began to get destroyed and people made other new spaces for plants to grow. People began to cut down trees carelessly. Fires destroyed most of the forests. The Province was turning into a semi desert; no rain was falling, there was less water, wild animals and bird perished. People began to suffer and if this continued all lives there would disappear. The greed of people became too large. In the middle of the forest they built factories. Waste from factories was thrown carelessly, smoke rising from the chimney of factories was polluting the environment, the smoke spread many diseases in plants, animals and humans.

The cause of this was the evil black dragon. He controlled the minds of people and taught the people to cut down trees, to burn the forest, to kill wild animals and to make sure that everything bad happened to them and nature.

One day an old man begged the god Druid, god of the forest, to beat the dragon. Druid faced the black dragon and burned him then threw him at the bottom of the ocean. The god Druid gave the wise old man some advice how to fix the situation that was going on.

The wise old man gathered people and said that some parts of the province are still good and clean and they should not cut down trees or ignite fires. In these areas there must be no buildings. He asked the existing factories to create other factories where technological waste and chimney smoke were made harmless. All couples had to plant ten trees, and those who did not apply to this rule would not live a happy life. At first the rules were very hard to apply. Over time people realized the usefulness of these rules and now nature is back to normal. There was a lot of rain and snow, water resources and rivers were full of water. Forests were getting back to life, air became more healthy, people turned back to joy and happiness. There were less diseases. Near the factories was invented a device that turned technological waste to harmless substances and the smoke from the chimney was held away from people. All the couples that planted the trees were married couples. The wise old man is now a hero. For this hero began to create songs and songs being sung around the holidays, for him many stories were shown.

Critical Response
What im trying to explain with my myth is that the black dragon is basically the people's mind. What I’m trying to say with that is that greed of people is taking over and as the time passes they want more and more, like in my myth I’m saying that people are taking away nature and animals just to get whatever they want.
The Tale of Two Sisters or the First Beauty Pageant

Lukia

There was once a goddess, beautiful in every way. Her presence made the birds sing, and the prettiest of flowers bloom. Her husband was a wise and kind man, but he was not the most handsome of men. They had two children, Cassandra and Chalondra. Cassandra was beautiful, just like her mother, her eyes as blue as a clear sky, her hair the color of the sun shining. But her mother's love spoiled her, so Cassandra didn't bother to study, as she was the daughter of the most beautiful goddess. She was also very cruel to her sister, Chalondra. Chalondra was like her father, she was kind and intelligent, but she wasn't blessed with beauty, and less loved by her mother.

When the girls came of age, the gods assembled to decide how they will find suitors for all their daughters. The gods have debated and quarreled for long, but eventually they came to a decision. A contest will be held to see which daughter possessed the most beauty, with the grand prize being a handsome suitor. Many suitors from around the world have arrived to see the beautiful goddesses compete. The competition was long, but eventually the winner was proclaimed. Obviously, Cassandra was the winner of the competition, being the daughter of the most beautiful goddess. Cassandra was presented to her suitor, and they got married shortly after.

As humans looked up to the gods, they saw what the gods were doing, and followed their example. To this day, beauty pageants are held around the world, making the ones possessing the most beauty, possessing the most power.

The Tale of Two Sisters

Critical Response

The Tale of Two Sisters
Many years ago, there lived a man named Bermudetheus who was very kind and courageous. Bermudetheus’s mother had taught him that it was not good to do something that benefits himself but inconveniences others, and his father, who died in war, taught him that he should be brave and work hard to get what he wants. This resulted in him growing up to be a well-loved person who believed in fairness and bravery, and he wanted the world to have everlasting peace and joy.

In another universe, there was a kingdom of fear and destruction where the God of Obliteration lived. He was the most destructive god of all and planned on destroying the Earth, so he disguised his son, Oblitium, as a winged creature and sent him to Earth as a messenger to inform the citizens that they only had one week left to live. Powerless, the humans decided to accept their circumstances and spend the last week of their lives having fun, except for Bermudetheus who was enraged when he heard the news, so he decided that they should form an army to defend themselves.

Seven days later, the God of Obliteration had already lost interest in the Earth and was away attacking the floating island of VçpóLiçaa, but as soon as he remembered, he sent Oblitium to destroy Earth. Meanwhile, Bermudetheus had trained troops, and they were all prepared for the God of Obliteration to show up, but he never did. Bermudetheus and his followers grew tired, and by the time that Oblitium had arrived, they were all asleep. The Earth would have been destroyed within milliseconds if only Oblitium was not so focused on his mesmerizing looks and divine powers. As he was about to shoot a billion explosive scorching embers to the ground, he caught a glimpse of his reflection in the water, and got distracted for the whole night thinking about how great he was.

The army woke up the next day and heard Oblitium talking to himself, so they secretly surrounded him with mirrors and pushed him into the water, where he was hidden from his father. Since mirrors couldn’t handle the harsh everchanging climate of the Kingdom of Fear and Destruction, there were no clear mirrors and they could only use miniature pocket mirrors,
or see their reflections on shiny metals. Oblitium was overjoyed to finally be able to see his beautiful self in full and completely forgot about his mission, but The God of Obliteration was very intelligent, and he telepathically contacted Oblitium who had been missing for weeks. A few days later, the God of Obliteration came to Earth and shattered the mirrors to free Oblitium. As they were leaving, the God of Obliteration swore that they would take their revenge many years later on December 21st, 2012 at 6:11 AM sharp.

When Oblitium was trapped underwater, he realized what a unique place the Earth was, therefore he did not want this place where there were many mirrors of all different shapes and sizes to be destroyed forever. Oblitium approached his father, and asked if he could just leave the Earth as it is. The God of Obliteration did not want to, because he felt a deep hatred for Bermudetheus who dared to fight back and could get a whole army of followers for support immediately, but he agreed on one condition. He said that if Bermudetheus would sacrifice himself by jumping into the endless pit of despaired souls, he would leave the Earth as it is. Bermudetheus agreed to this, because it would save everyone else, and he was happy as long as other people were happy.

Bermudetheus was heroically sacrificed a month later, and everyone on Earth was safe forever - if the God of Obliteration was a man of his word. The Earth was put into the hands of the humans and the God of Obliteration never visited again, although he did continue to destroy everything else. As for Oblitium, he was turned into a blue creature with wings by his father, for the sake of not having the same events occur again due to his vanity.

Critical Response
The End of the World

“The End of the World” explains why the world never ended on December 21st, 2012 at 6:11 AM which was when the Earth was supposed to have ended according to predictions on the Mayan calendar where another planet should was supposed collide with the Earth. As we are still here, the world obviously did not end, but I thought to write a myth about why it didn’t end. Some main ideas that are pretty clear are vanity, bravery, and how we should not do things that others don’t like just for our own satisfaction. One main idea that is not very clear is that we shouldn’t blame things like global warming and pollution on luck or natural occurrences because we are choosing what happens to the Earth, and it will probably end because we are mistreating it. In the last paragraph of the myth, “The Earth was put into the hands of the humans”, and we are not taking care of it even though our fates are in our own hands. We should stop being wasteful and try to protect the Earth, but we aren’t doing a good job of preserving and maintaining a healthy environment. There are already predictions of running out of resources, dying of global warming, or having no more clean air and water, and in many years it might become true. Protecting the Earth should be taken more seriously, because we are taking taking too much from it, but not giving enough.
Why Apples Grow on Trees

Amy Dunne (Maggie)

Long ago, on the coast of Athens, was a village full of people. Among these people lived a demi-god named Demetrius, who was the son of Demeter. Demetrius was abandoned by his father and was an orphan. Demetrius fell in love with a fellow orphan named Neophytis at his orphanage. Neophytis was a beautiful young maidden, she had big, bright, blue eyes, a large nose, and small crimson red lips. Her skin was pale and she had long locks of curly blonde hair. She was also a demi-god and knew her mother was Aphrodite and was also abandoned by her father. Demeter has looked over Demetrius his entire life, making sure everything he wished for came, without him knowing. Demetrius constantly threw apples at Neophytis but she never caught them (A man throwing an apple at a woman was a marriage proposal and catching it meant accepting). When Demeter realized Demetrius fell in love with Neophytis, she decided to tell Demetrius about herself in a letter.

"Dear Demetrius, this may come to you as a shock but I, Demeter, the goddess of harvest, am your mother. I have been watching over you for your entire life and understand that you have fallen in love with a beautiful maidden. Since I do not have the power to control love, I have created a plan for you to get married. I will tell you in person tomorrow morning."

The next morning, Demetrius woke to the smell of fresh baked bread.

"Good morning, my beloved Demetrius," an old woman said to Demetrius as she layed a tray of bread and milk on his lap.

"Who are you and how did you get into my home?" Demetrius asked.

"You silly, forgetful boy. I am Demeter but I have to disguise myself first. I have a plan so that the next time you throw the woman you love an apple, she will have to catch it," Demeter said. Demetrius heard a creak but ignored it since he thought it was because he had just woken up.

"No woman can say no if you threw her a golden apple. I have turned one of the apples on The Great Apple Bush gold. I’m truly sorry I could not turn all the apples golden, I do not have the power and even if I did, everybody would steal them. You would have to look for the golden apple and throw it at her." Demetrius nodded and got up to get ready.

Neophytis ran after hearing Demeter’s plan. Being the stubborn woman she was, she made the decision to steal all the apples from The Great Apple Bush. She ran as fast she could leaving cuts and bruises on the bottom of her feet. Seeing that the orchard’s workers have not come, she stole all their baskets and started to pick all the apples.

After she finished picking all the apples she took out the golden apple and held it, Aphrodite came to her and told her, “I will give you a magic ladder to help you get the apples over the 5 meter fence. The ladder will go as high as possible, be careful of how high you go. When you get high enough to throw the apples over the fence, immediatley come back down. The ladder will not stop if it gets too high.”

Demetrius along with Demeter arrive at The Great Apple Bush, surrounded by enormous trees at the edge of a cliff, and see Neophytis holding the golden apple. Furious, Demeter turns the golden apple into a beast. The beast had a skinny head and upper body. It’s black, leathery skin covered it’s wings and body. It had horns at the top of it’s head that were sharp as knives. It’s glowing, piercing, red eyes stare right into your eyes as if it can read your mind. Instead of legs, it had many long legs that were like a
spider’s. The beast grabbed Neophytis by her shoulders and flew over the fence. Demetrius could only watch in horror as the beast let go of Neophytis and turned back into a normal apple.

Demetrius then spent the rest of his life looking for Neophytis, after years and years of looking, he gave up. The gods felt bad for Demetrius, as he layed on his death bed, an image of a bright green tree with fresh apples dangling from the branches with a golden aura. At the very top of the tree lay a skeleton holding a basket full of rotten apples. At the ground before the tree, read “Aneophytis” which was a combination of “Aeon and Neophytis”, Aeon meaning everlasting/forever and Neophytis coming from the word Neohpytus meaning newly-planted/new-comer. Meaning that the soul of Neophytis will stay forever in the tree of everlasting apples.