

MEDUSA

THE GORGON OF ANCIENT GREECE

Medusa was one of the most famous monsters in Ancient Greek myths.

She was one of three Gorgon sisters.

Anyone who looked directly at her would turn to stone!



THE GORGONS

Medusa had two sisters:

- Stheno
- Euryale

They were fearsome creatures often shown with wings, snakes for hair, tusks and protruding tongues.

Stheno and Euryale were immortal, but Medusa was the only mortal Gorgon.



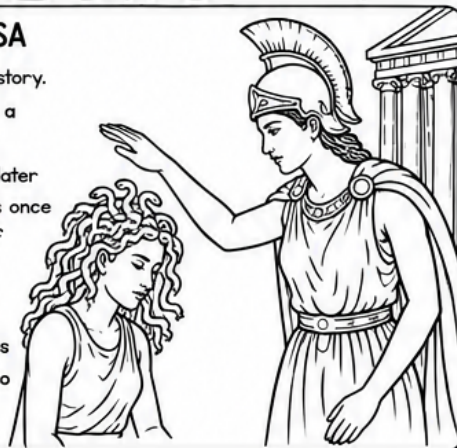
THE STORY OF MEDUSA

There are different versions of the story.

In earlier Greek myths, Medusa was a Gorgon from birth.

In one famous version written much later by the Roman poet Ovid, Medusa was once a beautiful woman and a priestess of Athena.

According to Ovid's story, Athena transformed Medusa's hair into snakes after events in her temple. Anyone who looked at her would turn to stone.



PERSEUS AND MEDUSA

The hero Perseus was given the dangerous task of bringing back Medusa's head.

With help from the gods, he used a polished shield like a mirror so he would not look at her directly. He cut off her head, placed it in a magical bag called a kibisis and escaped.

The Gorgon's head remained powerful and was used as a weapon.



POWERFUL HEAD

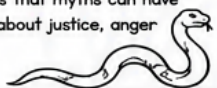
Even after she was defeated, Medusa's head kept its power.

Perseus gave it to Athena, who placed it on her shield, the aegis, to protect herself and strike fear into enemies.



FACTS ABOUT MEDUSA

- ★ The Gorgons were said to live far away at the edge of the world, beyond the great river Oceanus.
- ★ Medusa's snakes were often shown as hissing and ready to strike.
- ★ Her gaze could be both terrifying and sad.
- ★ Medusa reminds us that myths can have deeper meanings about justice, anger and power.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ The word "Gorgon" comes from a Greek word that means "terrible" or "dreadful".
- ★ When Perseus cut off Medusa's head, Pegasus (the winged horse) and Chrysaor sprang from her blood.
- ★ Medusa has been a symbol in art, books and films for thousands of years!



DID YOU KNOW?

Images of Medusa's head, called a Gorgoneion, were placed on temples, shields and buildings because people believed they could protect against evil.



Medusa is one of the most famous figures in Greek mythology. Her story has been told for thousands of years and continues to inspire people all over the world.

