

Introduction to Mythology

Mythology can refer either to the collected myths of a group of people their body of stories which they tell to explain nature, history, and customs or to the study of such myths, For example, Greek mythology, Roman mythology and Hittite mythology all describe the body of myths retold among those cultures.

The biggest source of these kinds of poems is The Metamorphoses, which is a Latin narrative poem by the Roman poet Ovid, considered to be his Magnum Opus from the Latin meaning "great work" or a master piece, refers to the largest, and perhaps the best, greatest, most popular, or most renowned achievement of an artist. Comprising 15 books and over 250 myths and it is one of the main sources of classical mythology.

The Metamorphoses has inspired such authors as Shakespeare's Venus and Adonis, which expands on the myth in Book X of the Metamorphoses. As well as Chaucer, Dante and Boccaccio. Artists such as Titian have depicted numerous episodes from the poem in masterpieces of sculpture and painting, as all of these artworks were inspired of The Greek Mythology.

The Metamorphoses was probably completed around AD 8 by writing the Metamorphoses in dactylic hexameter, the meter of epic; Ovid intentionally invited comparisons with the greatest Roman poet of his age, Virgil, who had written the epic The Aeneid. In form, rhythm, and size, the Metamorphoses fall squarely in the category of epic. In content, however, the Metamorphoses have little in common with such epics as The Aeneid, which are characterized by a single story line and one main protagonist. In fact, Ovid explicitly pokes fun of the epic genre. The Metamorphoses more closely resembles the work of Hesiod and the Alexandrian poets, who favored a collection of independent stories connected by a theme.