CHLOE


CHLOE. See DAPHNIS AND CHLOE.

CHLORIS. See FLORA.

CHRYSAOR. See MEDUSA; PERSEUS, and Medusa.

CHRYSEIS. The daughter of Chryses, a Trojan priest of Apollo, Chryses was abducted by the Greek forces at Troy and given to Agamemnon as a concubine. She prayed to Apollo for release, and he set a plague upon the Greeks. The seer Calchas announced that the pestilence would be cured only if Agamemnon surrendered the captive maiden to her father. Agamemnon complied, but demanded that he receive the captive Briseis, who had been awarded to Achilles, in exchange. This demand provoked the episode known as the Wrath of Achilles, the subject of Homer's Iliad. Chryses was later called Crisyde or Cressida, and became the beloved of Troilus in some tales.

Classical Sources. Homer, Iliad 1.8–474. Hyginus, Fabulae 1.20–21.
See also ACHILLES, Wrath; TROYAN WAR, General List.


———. “Chryses Invoking the Vengeance of Apollo against the Greeks.” Painting, 1773. Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, Mass. [Ibid., no. 159—ill.]

———. “Chryses Returned to Her Father.” Painting (re-touched by another?). Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, Conn. [Ibid., no. 160—ill.]


CINYRAS. See MYRRHA.

CIRCE. The daughter of Helios and Perse, Circe was a sorceress (or a goddess) living on the island of Aeaea, off the western coast of Italy. A powerful magician, she offered visitors wine with a potion that turned them into beasts. When Odysseus landed on her island, she turned half his men into swine, then restored them after he promised to become her lover. He remained with Circe for a year, after which she allowed him to resume his homeward journey.

Circe is primarily associated with this episode from the Odyssey, but she figures in other myths as well. In some legends, she married Odysseus's son Telemaeus after his father's death. According to the Argonautic tradition, after Jason and Medea killed Medea's brother Apsyrtus in their flight from Colchis, they went to Circe to be purified of the crime. In another story, Glauce, a sea-goddess who was unsuccessfully pursuing the nymph Scylla, came to Circe to ask for a love potion. When Glauce rejected Circe's own advances, Circe poisoned the waters where Scylla bathed, turning her into a hideous monster. Circe also once loved Pius, son of Saturn, whom she transformed into a woodpecker for resisting her advances.

See also GLAUCUS; JASON, Golden Fleece; ODYSSEUS, Circe; TELEMACHUS.


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Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1828–1882. "Circe." Drawing (or painting), known only by contemporary reports. c.1866. [Larousse 1871, no. 187]


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