

Minotaur



The Minotaur (/ˈmɪnəˌtɔːr/) is a mythical creature portrayed in Classical times with the head and tail of a bull and the body of a man or, as described by Roman poet Ovid, a being "part man and part bull". He dwelt at the centre of the Labyrinth, which was an elaborate maze-like construction designed by the architect Daedalus and his son Icarus, on the command of King Minos of Crete. The Minotaur was eventually killed by the Athenian hero Theseus.



A Gorgon (/ˈɡɔːrɡən/) is a creature in Greek mythology. Gorgons occur in the earliest examples of Greek literature. While descriptions of Gorgons vary, the term most commonly refers to three sisters who are described as having hair made of living, venomous snakes and horrifying visages that turned those who beheld them to stone. Traditionally, two of the Gorgons, Stheno and Euryale, were immortal, but their sister Medusa was not and was slain by the demigod and hero Perseus. In Ancient Greece a Gorgoneion (a stone head, engraving, or drawing of a Gorgon face) was placed on doors, walls, floors, coins, shields, breastplates, and tombstones in the hopes of warding off evil.

Cerberus

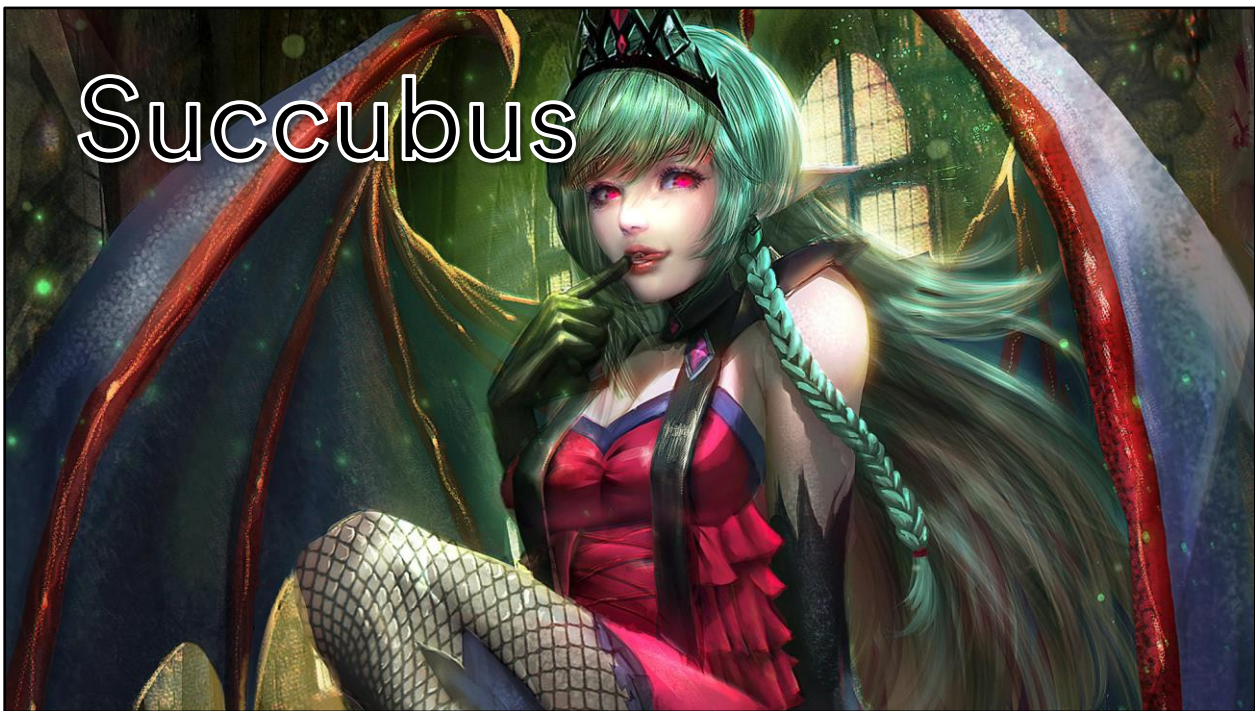


Cerberus (/ˈsɜːrbərəs/), often referred to as the hound of Hades, is a multi-headed dog that guards the gates of the Underworld to prevent the dead from leaving. He was the offspring of the monsters Echidna and Typhon, and was usually described as having three heads, a serpent for a tail, and snakes protruding from multiple parts of his body. Cerberus is primarily known for his capture by Heracles, one of Heracles' twelve labours. Cerberus ate raw flesh, had eyes which flashed fire, a three-tongued mouth and acute hearing.

Hydra



The Hydra (/ˈhaɪdrə/) is a gigantic serpentine monster in Greek and Roman mythology with nine heads (the number varies), one of which was immortal. The offspring of Typhon and Echidna, it had poisonous breath and blood so virulent that even its scent was deadly. The Hydra possessed many heads, the exact number of which varies according to the source. Later versions of the Hydra story add a regeneration feature to the monster: for every head chopped off, the Hydra would regrow two heads. Heracles killed the Hydra as the second of his Twelve Labours, but required the assistance of his nephew Iolaus to cut off all of the monster's heads and burn the neck using a sword and fire.



A Succubus (/sʌkjuːbʌs/) is a demon or supernatural entity in folklore, in female form, that appears in dreams to seduce men, usually through sexual activity. According to religious tradition, a succubus needs male semen to survive, however repeated sexual activity with a succubus can result in poor physical or mental health and might even lead to death. In modern representations, a succubus is often depicted as a beautiful seductress or enchantress, rather than as demonic or frightening. The male counterpart to the succubus is the incubus who generally targets women.



Zombie (/ˈzɒmbi/) are a mythological undead monster created through the reanimation of a corpse. Zombies are most commonly found in horror and fantasy genre works. Modern depictions of the reanimation of the dead do not involve magic but rather science fictional methods such as carriers, radiation, mental diseases, vectors, pathogens, parasites, scientific accidents, etc. They possess an insatiable hunger for human flesh and are generally attracted to noise and movement, chasing down their victims in large groups or mobs.

Werewolf



Werewolves (/ˈwɪəwʊlvz/) are humans with the ability to shapeshift into a wolf, either purposely or after being placed under a curse or affliction (often a bite or the occasional scratch from another werewolf) with the transformations occurring on the night of a full moon. They devour animals, people, or corpses but return to human form by day. While transformed, they possess supernatural speed, strength, agility and smell.

Vampire



Vampires (/ˈvæmpaɪəz/) are undead creatures that feed on the blood of the living, using their distinctive fangs to bite victims. They are generally considered immortal and possess supernatural strength, but are vulnerable to sunlight and can be killed by stabbing them through the heart. Vampire victims typically also become vampires after being bitten. Modern depictions of vampires in media often romanticise this creature as charming, beautiful and charismatic.

Kraken



The Kraken (/ˈkrɑːkən/) is a legendary sea monster of gigantic size and cephalopod-like appearance in Scandinavian folklore. According to the Norse sagas, the kraken dwells off the coasts of Norway and Greenland and terrorizes nearby sailors, capable of pulling ships down to the bottom of the ocean. The legend of the Kraken may have originated from sightings of giant squid, which may grow to 13–15 metres (40–50 feet) in length.



Dragons (/ˈdræɡənz/) are reptile-like legendary creatures that appear in the folklore of many cultures worldwide. Beliefs about dragons vary considerably through regions, but dragons in western cultures since the High Middle Ages have often been depicted as winged, horned, four-legged, and capable of breathing fire. Dragons in eastern cultures are usually depicted as wingless, four-legged, serpentine creatures with above-average intelligence. Commonalities between dragons' traits are often a hybridization of feline, avian, and reptilian features.



Wendigo

Wendigo (/ˈwɛndɪɡoʊ/) is a mythological creature originating from the United States and Canada. It is often said to be an evil spirit, sometimes shown as a creature with human-like characteristics, which possesses human beings. The wendigo is said to invoke feelings of insatiable greed and hunger, the desire to eat other humans, and the propensity to commit murder in those that fall under its influence. In some representations the wendigo is described as a giant humanoid with a heart of ice and a foul stench or sudden unseasonable chill might precede its approach.



Nucklavee

The Nucklavee (/nʌklɑːˈviː/) is a gruesome horse-like demon with no skin and black blood. It has a man's torso attached to a horse's back as if it were a rider. The male torso has no legs, but its arms can reach the ground. The horse head has an enormous gaping mouth that exudes a pungent, toxic vapour, and a single giant eye like a burning flame. The nucklavee's breath was thought to wilt crops and sicken livestock, and the creature was held responsible for droughts and epidemics on land. Active only in winter, it is unable to tolerate fresh water, therefore those it is pursuing have only to cross a river or stream to be rid of it.



A Sphinx (/ˈsfɪŋks/) is a mythical creature with the head of a human, the body of a lion, and the wings of a falcon. In Greek tradition, the sphinx has the head of a woman, the haunches of a lion, and the wings of a bird. She is mythicized as treacherous and merciless, and will kill and eat those who cannot answer her riddle. Unlike the Greek sphinx, which was a woman, the Egyptian sphinx is typically shown as a man. In addition, the Egyptian sphinx was viewed as benevolent but having a ferocious strength similar to the malevolent Greek version. Both were thought of as guardians and often flank the entrances to royal tombs or religious temples.



A Jiāngshī (僵尸) is a type of reanimated corpse in Chinese legends and folklore. It is typically depicted as a stiff corpse dressed in Chinese shroud which is sometimes mistaken as official garments from the Qing Dynasty, and it moves around by hopping with its arms outstretched. It kills living creatures to absorb their qi, or "life force", usually at night, while during the day, it rests in a coffin or hides in dark places such as caves.



The Phoenix (/ˈfiːnɪks/) is an immortal bird associated with Greek mythology that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by rising from the ashes of its predecessor. Some legends say it dies in a show of flames and combustion, others that it simply dies and decomposes before being born again. The phoenix could symbolise renewal in general as well as the sun, time and resurrection.



Kitsune

Kitsune (狐, キツネ / kitsju'nə) are foxes that possess paranormal abilities that increase as they get older and wiser. They have the ability to shapeshift into human form and use this ability to trick others. They are often portrayed as faithful guardians, friends, and lovers. Kitsune have become closely associated with Inari, a Shinto kami or spirit, and serve as its messengers. This role has reinforced the fox's supernatural significance. The more tails a kitsune has—they may have as many as nine—the older, wiser, and more powerful it is.



A fairy (/ˈfeəri/) (also fay, fae, fey, fair folk, or faerie) is a type of mythical being or legendary creature found in the folklore of multiple European cultures. Various folk theories about the origins of fairies include casting them as either demoted angels or demons in a Christian tradition, as deities in Pagan belief systems, as spirits of the dead, as prehistoric precursors to humans, or as spirits of nature. A recurring motif of legends about fairies is the need to ward off fairies using protective charms. Fairies were also sometimes thought to haunt specific locations, and to lead travellers astray. Before the advent of modern medicine, fairies were often blamed for sickness, particularly tuberculosis and birth deformities.



Angels (/ˈeɪndʒəl/) are supernatural spiritual beings who serve God. They are often depicted as benevolent celestial intermediaries between God (or Heaven) and humanity. Other roles include protectors and guides for humans, and servants of God. Abrahamic religions describe angelic hierarchies, which vary by religion and sect. Some angels have specific names (such as Gabriel or Michael) or titles (such as seraph or archangel). Those expelled from Heaven are called fallen angels, distinct from the heavenly host. Angels in art are usually shaped like humans of extraordinary beauty. They are often identified in Christian artwork with bird wings, halos and divine light.



Demons (/ˈdiːmənz/) are malevolent supernatural entities. In many traditions, demons are independent operators, with different demons causing different types of evils (destructive natural phenomena, specific diseases, etc.). In religions featuring a principal Devil (e.g. Satan) locked in an eternal struggle with God, demons are often also thought to be subordinates of the principal Devil. As lesser spirits doing the Devil's work, they have additional duties— causing humans to have sinful thoughts and tempting humans to commit sinful actions. While it is possible for a demon to be summoned and controlled, humans may also be possessed by demons - resulting in eternal damnation or death. Belief in demons remains an important part of many modern religions and occultist traditions.



Ghosts (/gəʊsts/) are the souls or spirits of dead people or animals that can appear to the living. Descriptions of ghosts vary widely from an invisible presence to translucent or barely visible wispy shapes, to realistic, lifelike forms. The belief in the existence of an afterlife, as well as manifestations of the spirits of the dead, is widespread, dating back to animism or ancestor worship in pre-literate cultures. Certain religious practices—funeral rites, exorcisms, and some practices of spiritualism and ritual magic—are specifically designed to rest the spirits of the dead. They are believed to haunt particular locations, objects, or people they were associated with in life.



Mermaids (/ˈmɜːmeɪdz/) are aquatic creatures with the head and upper body of a female human and the tail of a fish. They appear in the folklore of many cultures worldwide, including Europe, Asia, and Africa. Mermaids are sometimes associated with perilous events such as floods, storms, shipwrecks, and drownings. They can be benevolent or beneficent, bestowing boons or falling in love with humans. The male equivalent of the mermaid is the merman and both are collectively referred to as merfolk or merpeople. The Western concept of mermaids as beautiful, seductive singers may have been influenced by the Sirens of Greek mythology, which were originally half-birdlike, but came to be pictured as half-fishlike in the Christian era.



Unicorn

Unicorns (/ˈjuːnɪkɔːnz/) are legendary creatures that have been described since antiquity as beasts with a single large, pointed, spiralling horn projecting from its forehead. In European literature and art, the unicorn has for the last thousand years or so been depicted as a white horse-like animal which could only be captured by a virgin. This horn was described as having the power to render poisoned water potable and to heal sickness. The unicorn continues to hold a place in popular culture and is often used as a symbol of fantasy, rarity, purity and grace.



Manticores (/məntəkɔːz/) are legendary Persian creatures and commonly feature in western European medieval art. Traditionally it has the face of a human, the body of a lion and a tail of venomous spines similar to porcupine quills. Other depictions have it with the tail of a scorpion, wings and a more lion-like face. There are some accounts that the spines can be shot like arrows, thus making the manticore a lethal predator. It actively hunts humans, possesses exceptional speed and strength and cannot be tamed.



Ogres (/ˈəʊgəz/) are legendary monsters usually depicted as a large, hideous, man-like beings that eat ordinary humans, especially infants and children. Ogres frequently feature in mythology, folklore, and fiction throughout the world. They appear in many classic works of literature. In mythology, ogres are often depicted as inhumanly tall, and having a disproportionately large head, abundant hair, unusually coloured skin, a voracious appetite and a strong body. Ogres are closely linked with giants and with human cannibals in mythology.