

The Marriage of Peleus & Thetis

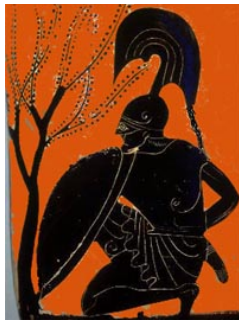
[Groton & May, Chapter 18]

Peleus

was a mortal man, the son of Endeis and Aeacus, king of Aegina. As a young man, Peleus and his brother, Telemon were involved in the murder of their half-brother, Phocus. In exile, he married Antigone, then accidentally killed her father, Eurytion. After Antigone killed herself, Peleus again went into exile where he met his next wife.

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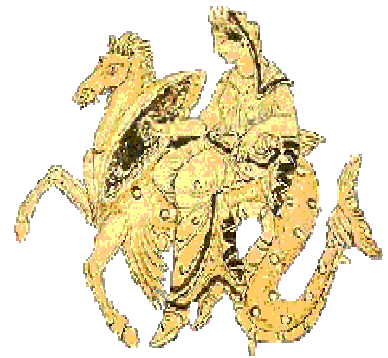
Achilles



Portrait of Achilles from a Greek Black-figure vase, c. 530 BC

Thetis

was a sea nymph, one of the fifty daughters of Nereus, termed Nereids, described by Homer as, "silver-footed."



The Nuptials

The wedding was planned by Zeus (Jupiter) himself and took place on Mt. Pelion. Mortals and immortals alike were invited and all were required to bring gifts. Poseidon (Neptune) gave Peleus a pair of immortal horses, named Balius & Xanthus. The wedding is described by the Greek playwright, Euripides, in "Iphigenia at Aulis" and by the Latin poet, Catullus in poem 64.

Discordia [Greek, Ερις]

The goddess of discord and the personification of strife, Discord was the only immortal not invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis. Angered, she threw out a golden apple inscribed with the words, "For the Fairest." Three goddesses, Hera (Juno), Aphrodite (Venus), and Athena (Minerva), immediately begin to quarrel over the apple. Jupiter handed the decision over to the Trojan, Paris, who awards the apple to Aphrodite. Venus in turn offers him Helen, wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta.



the golden apple