

The story of Medusa and the Greek goddess Athena

A myth submitted to the site by Shainuja

Many years ago there was a beautiful woman called Medusa. She lived in a place called Athens in Greece. She was a very kind and she obeyed her Greek gods and goddesses. There were pretty girls there, and Medusa was one of them.

Every single day Medusa always boasted about herself. She tells every person she meets that she is the prettiest out of everyone in the whole wide world.

On Sunday, Medusa told the miller that her skin is more beautiful than fresh white snow. On Monday, she babbled to the cobbler that her hair is brighter than the sun. On Tuesday, she commented to the blacksmith's son that her eyes are greener than Aegean sea. On Wednesday, she boasted to the public that her lips are redder than the reddest rose in the world.

When Medusa wasn't busy, she would boast about herself while looking in a mirror. She thought she was the prettiest woman in the whole wide world. She admired herself.

On and on Medusa went about her beauty to anyone and everyone who stopped long enough to hear her. Until one day Medusa and her friends went to the Parthenon. It was Medusa's first time going to the Parthenon. The Parthenon was the biggest temple in Greece. In the Parthenon was the goddess of wisdom and beauty and that was Athena. There were statues of most of the gods and goddesses in the Greek culture. All the people who went there obeyed Athena, all except Medusa.

Medusa saw all the statues and she whispered "Whoever did this statue did do a good job, but it would look better if I was the statue."

When Medusa reached the altar she sighed happily and said, "My, this is a beautiful temple. It is a shame it is wasted on Athena for I am much prettier than she is. Perhaps one day people will build an even grander temple to my beauty."

Then Medusa's friend grew pale. The priestesses heard what Medusa said and they gasped. The rumor spread quickly through the whole temple, and everyone started to leave. Everyone knew Athena will get angry if anyone compared her to someone else.



Before long the temple was empty of everyone except Medusa, who was so busy gazing proudly at her reflection in the large bronze doors that she hadn't noticed the fast departure of everyone else. While Medusa was gazing the figure changed. The figure changed into goddess Athena.

"Vain and foolish girl," Athena shouted angrily, "You think you're a prettier girl than me. While other people are working, playing or learning you just boast about yourself. Medusa, there is more to life than beauty alone you see."

Medusa tried to point out that her beauty was an inspiration to those around her and that she made their lives better by simply looking so lovely, but Athena silenced her with an angry wave.

"Nonsense," screamed Athena "One day beauty will fade away. But I will make it fade away now, and all your loveliness will be gone forever."

When Athena uttered those words Medusa turned into a terrible monster. Her hair thickened into hissing snakes, and her body turned into a snake.

"Are you happy for what I have done? Now anyone who looks in your eyes will now turn into stone and no one will be able to save them," snapped Athena, "Even you, Medusa, should you seek your reflection, will turn to rock the moment you see your face."

Athena then sent Medusa with her hair of snakes to live with the blind monsters, the gorgon sisters, at the end of the earth, so that no innocent people would be turned to stone at the sight of her by accident.

The story above is the PDF version of the myth recorded on the website below. Click the link to see the text in its original format.

<http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/userstory18970-the-story-of-medusa-and-the-greek-goddess-athena.html>