

**Apollo, the god of light and poetry, once found Cupid dealing with his bows and arrows to struck people in love. Apollo had gotten arrogant from his victory over the earth-dragon Python that he abruptly told Cupid to leave war-like weapons to mighty gods like him and stick to his own pastimes, devaluing his duty to inflate love and passion to others. This infuriated Cupid who decided to take his revenge on the audacious Apollo. He pierced the sharp, gold-tipped arrow to the heart of Apollo inflaming his love for Daphne, a beautiful nymph, who's struck by the blunt, lead-tipped arrow creating an intense aversion for love in her heart. She constantly rejects the persistent love of the glorious Apollo, despite his repeated pleadings and cajoleries. She similarly detested all the other men who were desperate trying to get her. The poor girl, in order to escape from the god and to protect his virginity, pleaded for help from her father, Peneus who drew back to Daphne's prayers and transformed the nymph into a nice short plant with excellent smell. This plant was the laurel. Apollo was heart-broken at the loss of Daphne and to remember her forever, he made the laurel the symbol of tribute to poets.**