Erion – The Forgotten Hero

Back in the age before recorded history when the human race was in its infancy, Gods walked among men. To humans, these immortals embodied all that was good in the world. Cross them, however, and you would soon find that their goodness can grow quite sour. My name is William Collins, and I am here to tell of a lost hero (Option B). He is the one that time has forgotten, left to rot in the void amidst the beating of our consciousness. He was the first mortal man to defy the rule of the Gods, and the first man to suffer their wrath. His name is Erion.

Erion was born the son of a simple fisherman called Aslin. His mother, Perlione, died giving birth; she was a sacrifice. Artemis, the goddess of animals and childbirth, watched down from her place in the sky the night Erion was born, and knew he was special. Wanting to use him to her own ends, Artemis bestowed the gifts of the animals of the wilderness. Unfortunately, the gifts required sacrifice, and so Perlione had to die.

As Erion the boy soon became Erion the man, he began to recognize that he was different than others. He had the legs of the deer, the eyes of the owl, and feet of the fox. As he grew, so did Artemis watch and wait. But as she watched him grow, Artemis began to fall in love with Erion. One night, when Erion was out in the wilderness on one of his hunts, Artemis appeared before him in the form of a huntress. Artemis confessed her love, but Erion did not return the affections, angering Artemis. Artemis was the object of desire by many of the Gods, and was outraged by Erion’s lack of interest.

In her fury, Artemis took back the gifts she had given Erion, and as further punishment took out his eyes so that he could never hunt again. For years Erion stumbled across the wilderness. One day a hunting party from his village found him sleeping at the base of a hollowed tree stump, and he told them all about his suffering at the hands of Artemis. He then told them there was one thing left to do, and then told them to hide in the surrounding trees.

Fueled by his need for vengeance, Erion called Artemis out from the sky, challenging her to a hunt. Artemis, never one for refusing a challenge, accepted. The terms were simple. The first one to kill Boras, the boar king, was the winner. Erion added one condition, though. He was to be allowed to have his original gifts back, with the exception of his eyes, for the duration of the hunt. Artemis accepted.

Erion then handed out the gifts he received, one at a time, to the men of the hunting party from his village. Together, the men from his village worked together with their new talents, and together slaughtered the boar king. For losing the challenge, Artemis was condemned to watch the world from her place in the sky, never interfering with men again. Erion let the men from the village keep their gifts, and in turn pass them on to their children. And so ends the story of how Erion banished a God to the sky, and brought virtuosity to mankind.