

night, where the heavenly bodies disappear into and reemanate from, a land under the horizon. In a psychological sense it is all that is unconscious, all that is in *potentia*, not manifest; held in a cosmic womb; a land of pre-birth and after-death.

The Graiae live on a landfall that is called the Land of Rockroses, a land of pathless forest and rock. In these ancient lands it is probable that even Pallas Athene did not know her way, and it was needful for Perseus to discover the way to the Gorgons from the old gods.

In common with most of the other very ancient female figures they are generally described in an ugly and grotesque form. This is not necessarily the case, though the fact that they were called the "gray ones" and shared a single eye and a single tooth does conjure an image of grotesque senility. However, grayness does not necessarily mean physical age. Ancient these goddesses certainly are, but, as with other of the "old and lordly ones" it is possible to be ever young. Their grayness might also be conceived in terms of shimmering morning mist, under moonlight or starlight, and their single eye and single tooth conceived as organs of perception of a unique and rare character. The all-seeing eye associated with the omniscience of Godhead; and the tooth being the threefold adamant emblem of the immortal spirit (in the Qabalah the letter Shin means both "spirit" and "tooth," the latter being the hardest organic part of the physical body).

By his having attained the freedom of the inner sea and skyways as a result of his approach to the cave of the nymphs, the hero Perseus is enabled to approach this other aspect of the threefold Goddess. This is to attain the spiritual power of omniscient wisdom, the possession of which enables him to penetrate yet deeper into the heart of the mysteries of manifest existence, to the home of the Gorgons. It is a deep mystery that he attains this wisdom at the change of the tides, when, in the imagery of the story, the eye is being passed from one sister to another.

The Gorgons

Perseus then proceeds to the very Hesperides themselves, armed with a shield-mirror and a reaping-hook-shaped sword. These were both divine gifts, the shield from Pallas Athene, the sword from Hermes. It is these weapons of higher wisdom that enable him to look upon the Medusa undazzled and to cut off her head in a strange reaping action, just as the heads of the corn are reaped by the sickle. This ancient moon-shaped implement is similar to that used in the earliest Titanic days when