

## Cupid and Psyche

“Love cannot live where there is no trust.” This is my favorite quote in Cupid and Psyche’s love story. In the story, Psyche violates the promise so Cupid bids her farewell sadly. Because of faithlessness, Psyche loses the relationship. Indeed, trust is really important in a relationship just like respect. It is trust between lovers that maintain their relationship.

If there is no trust between lovers, then their love may fade over time or their relationship come to an end. Sometimes people are curious about their lovers’ past or something private when they are in love and eager to know the person well. Although this may be one of the ways people concern about their lovers, it’s easy to invade one’s privacy if we don’t know where to stop it. In the story, Psyche is curious about Cupid’s appearance, so she secretly lights a lamp to find it out. However, what she did break the faith between them. When she realizes that she was totally wrong, Cupid had fled away. Love cannot live without trust.

“It is a difficult matter to keep Love imprisoned.” It’s another quote in the story. I think the quote shows how anxious Cupid is when Psyche hasn’t gone back from the underworld. Although he was hurt by Psyche’s faithlessness, he can’t stop his heart towards her. He decides to find Psyche and take her back. I think it’s the turning point that Cupid wants to be with Psyche again because he is afraid of losing her. What Cupid did reflects the quote. If people love a person, they want to meet, accompany, and can’t wait to be with the person. They can’t control themselves from thinking of the person or talking about the person.

Loving can hurt, but it also gives people happiness. Cupid and Psyche go through sore trials and finally get everyone’s blessings. To be with lover is a happy ending that most of people want to have. However, it’s not always easy to find a truly firm relationship. Sometimes people encounter several troubles when falling in love with a person. Those troubles may be tough; they are good experiences in a relationship, though. After a relationship go through some obstructs, it becomes unswerving. And the union could never be broken.

## The Underworld

Hades, who is one of the twelve Olympians, is in charge of the underworld. Hades drew lots with his brothers for the share of the universe, and he became the god of the underworld. He is also called the god of wealth because he possesses the wealth of the earth. Although Hades is the god of the underworld, it is not his responsibility to determine Death. I think Hades is a mysterious god. He is the god of the underworld, so he doesn't show up in the Olympian often. That makes him mysterious because people seldom discuss something refer to him.

The underworld is a place where people go after they die. Usually, people are afraid of talking about or discussing the underworld because the place is not only despairing and hopelessness but also dark and full of dead people. That's how the underworld expresses people. Although the underworld in every culture gives people same expression, however, because of culture difference, it is different from place to place in some other aspects.

In Greek culture, dead people go to the underworld first, and then they would be separated to heaven or to be punished according to what they have done in their lifetime. However, in Chinese culture, dead people don't go to the underworld first. They go to heaven or the hell after they die according to what they have done in their lifetime as well.

There are some other differences between Greek and Chinese as well. Take the way they go to the underworld as example. In Greek culture, people need to pay money for crossing the river after they die, or they will wander beside the river forever. However, in Chinese culture, people walk across a bridge to go into the hell. It is also said that only kind-hearted people can walk through the bridge. In contrast, people who did evil crimes during their lifetime cannot walk across the bridge. It's interesting that different cultures have different opinion and stories about the underworld. I think the underworld in Greek mythology is more mysterious than in Chinese culture because of the expression the two gave me.

**TA's comment:**

You are absolutely right that mutual trust is an important part of a relationship. As the story shows us, love brings us joy as well as pain, and true love is not easy to get.

Your comparison between the ways spirits pass into the underground between the Chinese and the Western culture is very interesting. Chinese people actually also pay money too, but unlike coins, we pay with spirit money (紙錢).