

An even earlier *Greek myth* associates Dragon and Ram. A Tree is thrown in for good measure.

It's the story of the founding of **Thebes in Greece** by **Cadmus**, son of a Phoenician king, and one who apparently brought *stellar wisdom* with him from the East.

Having been told by the *Oracle at Delphi* to found a city wherever the wanderings of a Cow should stop (a mythological clue to the Vernal Equinox slipping out of Taurus), Cadmus fulfills the Oracle and wishes to offer a sacrifice to Zeus for this new endeavor. He sends his men out to fetch water for the offering, but they are killed by a horrid *Serpent* with scales that glitter like gold.

This *Serpent* protects the sacred waters needed for the blessing.

Guess who?

*"The serpent, twisting his scaly body in a huge coil, raised his head so as to overtop the tallest trees, and while the Tyrians from terror could neither fight nor fly, slew some with its fangs, others in its folds, and others with its poisonous breath."*¹¹² (Fig. 218)

Coming to look for his friends later in the day, Cadmus saw the lifeless bodies of his men and the *bloody jaws* of the *Serpent* and swore to avenge them, or die trying.

He threw a boulder at it, but it made no impression. He then threw his javelin, penetrating the *Serpents' scales*, piercing him through the entrails. The *monster* bent back (Fig. 219), trying to pluck out the lance with *His jaws*.

Then, coming down to the ground, he advanced on *Cadmus*, attempting to bite his spear.

The Center of the Web marks the NCP of Heaven about 1400 BC. "The serpent, twisting his scaly body in a huge coil, raised his head so as to overtop the tallest trees..." Head and jaws are high overhead.



FIG. 218

Stellar Wisdom from the East...

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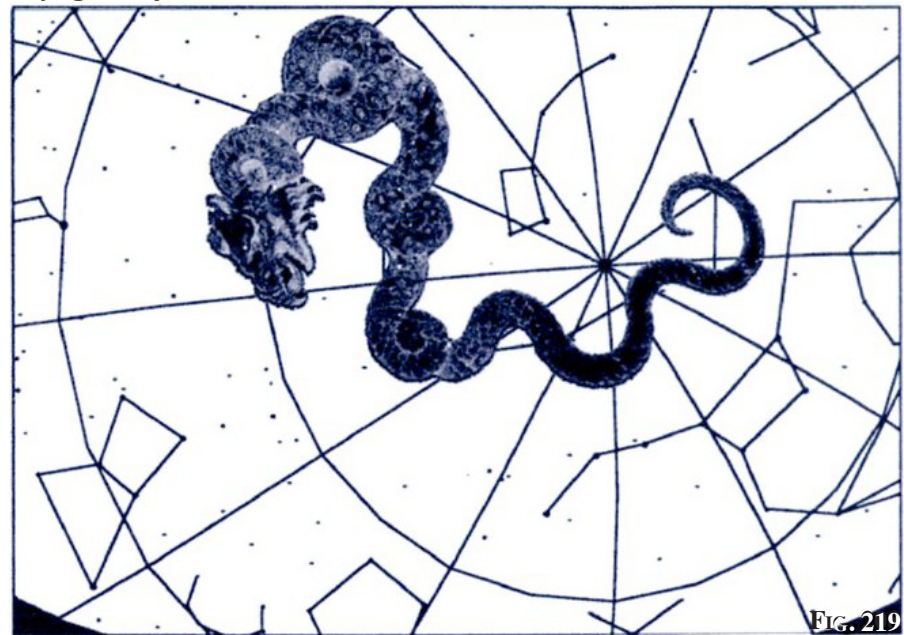


FIG. 219

Here the Dragon is bent back trying to pluck the lance with his jaws. Notice the approaching horizon, seen in the corners. Many myths of antiquity were designed with a celestial focus in mind.