COINS-Eur-Helios



he Greek ἥλιος is the inherited word for the [Sun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun), from [Proto-Indo-European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Indo-European_language) *\*seh₂u-el*,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-2) which is cognate with [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) *sol*, [Sanskrit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit) *[surya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surya" \o "Surya)*, [Old English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English) *swegl*, [Old Norse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Norse) [sól](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B3l_(sun)" \o "Sól (sun)), [Welsh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_language) *haul*, [Avestan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avestan" \o "Avestan) *[hvar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hvare-khshaeta" \o "Hvare-khshaeta)*, etc.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-3) The name [Helen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_of_Troy) is thought to share this etymology,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-7) and may express an early alternate personification of the sun among Hellenic peoples.

The female offspring of Helios were called [Heliades](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliades" \o "Heliades). The Greek sun god had various bynames or epithets, which over time in some cases came to be considered separate deities associated with the Sun. Most notably, Helios is closely associated with, and sometimes consciously identified with, [Apollo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo).

Among these is [Hyperion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperion_(mythology)) (*superus*, "high up"), *Elektor* (of uncertain derivation, often translated as "beaming" or "radiant", especially in the combination *elektor Hyperion*), [Phaëton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phaethon" \o "Phaethon) "the radiant", *Hekatos* (of [Apollo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo), also *Hekatebolos* "far-shooter", i.e. the sun's rays considered as arrows).

[Diodorus Siculus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diodorus_Siculus) of Sicily reported that the Chaldeans called [Cronus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cronus) (Saturn) by the name Helios, or the sun, and he explained that this was because Saturn was the most conspicuous of the planets.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-8)

## Greek mythology[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Greek mythology)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ilion---metopa.jpg)

Helios in his chariot, early 4th century BC, [Athena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athena)'s temple, [Ilion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy)

The best known story involving Helios is that of his son [Phaethon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phaethon), who attempted to drive his father's chariot but lost control and set the earth on fire. If [Zeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus) had not interfered by throwing a thunderbolt at Phaethon, killing him instantly, all mortals would have died.

Helios was sometimes characterized with the epithet **Panoptes** ("the all-seeing"). In the story told in the hall of [Alcinous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcinous" \o "Alcinous) in the [*Odyssey*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odyssey) (viii.300ff.), [Aphrodite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aphrodite), the consort of [Hephaestus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hephaestus), secretly beds [Ares](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ares), but all-seeing Helios spies on them and tells Hephaestus, who ensnares the two lovers in nets invisibly fine, to punish them.

In the [*Odyssey*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odyssey), [Odysseus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odysseus) and his surviving crew land on [Thrinacia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thrinacia" \o "Thrinacia), an island sacred to the sun god, whom [Circe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circe) names Hyperion rather than Helios. There, the sacred red[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] cattle of the Sun were kept:

You will now come to the Thrinacian island, and here you will see many herds of cattle and flocks of sheep belonging to the sun-god. There will be seven herds of cattle and seven flocks of sheep, with fifty heads in each flock. They do not breed, nor do they become fewer in number, and they are tended by the goddesses [Phaethusa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phaethusa" \o "Phaethusa)and [Lampetia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lampetia" \o "Lampetia), who are children of the sun-god Hyperion by [Neaera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neaera_(Greek_mythology)" \o "Neaera (Greek mythology)). Their mother when she had borne them and had done suckling them sent them to the Thrinacian island, which was a long way off, to live there and look after their father's flocks and herds.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-9)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Apollo1.JPG)

Solar Apollo with the radiant [halo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halo_(religious_iconography)) of Helios in a Roman floor mosaic, [El Djem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Djem), Tunisia, late 2nd century

Though Odysseus warns his men, when supplies run short they impiously kill and eat some of the [cattle of the Sun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxen_of_the_Sun). The guardians of the island, Helios' daughters, tell their father about this. Helios appeals to [Zeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus) telling them to dispose of Odysseus' men or he will take the Sun and shine it in the Underworld. Zeus destroys the ship with his lightning bolt, killing all the men except for Odysseus.

In one Greek vase painting, Helios appears riding across the sea in the cup of the Delphic tripod which appears to be a solar reference. [Athenaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athenaeus" \o "Athenaeus) in *[Deipnosophistae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deipnosophistae" \o "Deipnosophistae)* relates that, at the hour of sunset, Helios climbed into a great golden cup in which he passes from the [Hesperides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hesperides) in the farthest west to the land of the Ethiops, with whom he passes the dark hours. While [Heracles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heracles) traveled to [Erytheia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erytheia" \o "Erytheia) to retrieve the cattle of [Geryon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geryon" \o "Geryon), he crossed the [Libyan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libya) desert and was so frustrated at the heat that he shot an arrow at Helios, the Sun. Almost immediately, Heracles realized his mistake and apologized profusely, in turn and equally courteous, Helios granted Heracles the golden cup which he used to sail across the sea every night, from the west to the east because he found Heracles' actions immensely bold. Heracles used this golden cup to reach Erytheia.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-10)

By the [Oceanid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanid) [Perse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perse_(mythology)" \o "Perse (mythology)), Helios became the father of [Aeëtes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ae%C3%ABtes" \o "Aeëtes), [Circe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circe), [Perses (brother of Aeetes)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perses_(brother_of_Aeetes)" \o "Perses (brother of Aeetes)) and [Pasiphaë](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasipha%C3%AB" \o "Pasiphaë). His other children are Phaethusa ("radiant") and Lampetia ("shining").[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-11)

## Helios and Apollo[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Helios and Apollo)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mengs,_Helios_als_Personifikation_des_Mittages.jpg)

*Helios as the personification of midday* by [Anton Raphael Mengs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_Raphael_Mengs)(notice the [apollonian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo) traits absent in mythology and Hellenic art, such as the lack of a chariot)

Helios is sometimes identified with [Apollo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo): "Different names may refer to the same being," Walter Burkert observes, "or else they may be consciously equated, as in the case of Apollo and Helios."[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-12)

In [Homeric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeric) literature, [Apollo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo) is clearly identified as a different god, a plague-dealer with a silver (not golden) bow and no solar features.

The earliest certain reference to Apollo identified with Helios appears in the surviving fragments of [Euripides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euripides)' play *Phaethon* in a speech near the end (fr 781 N²) – [Clymene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clymene_(mythology)), Phaethon's mother, laments that Helios has destroyed her child, that Helios whom men rightly call Apollo (the name *Apollo* is here understood to mean *Apollon* "Destroyer").

By [Hellenistic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic) times Apollo had become closely connected with the Sun in [cult](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult_(religion)). [Phoebus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoebus) ([Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language): Φοῖβος - "bright, shining"), the epithet most commonly given to Apollo, was later applied by [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) poets to the sun-god [Sol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_(mythology)).

The identification became a commonplace in philosophic texts and appears in the writing of [Parmenides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parmenides), [Empedocles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empedocles), [Plutarch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plutarch" \o "Plutarch)and [Crates of Thebes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crates_of_Thebes) among others, as well as appearing in some Orphic texts. [Pseudo-Eratosthenes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudo-Eratosthenes) writes about [Orpheus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orpheus) in *[Catasterismi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catasterismi" \o "Catasterismi)*, section 24:

"But having gone down into [Hades](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hades) because of his wife and seeing what sort of things were there, he did not continue to worship [Dionysus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dionysus), because of whom he was famous, but he thought Helios to be the greatest of the gods, Helios whom he also addressed as Apollo. Rousing himself each night toward dawn and climbing the mountain called Pangaion, he would await the sun's rising, so that he might see it first. Therefore, Dionysus, being angry with him, sent the [Bassarides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bassarids" \o "Bassarids), as [Aeschylus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aeschylus) the tragedian says; they tore him apart and scattered the limbs."[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-13)

Dionysus and [Asclepius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asclepius) are sometimes also identified with this Apollo Helios.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-14)

Classical Latin poets also used *Phoebus* as a byname for the sun-god, whence come common references in later European poetry to Phoebus and his car ("chariot") as a metaphor for the sun but, in particular instances in myth, Apollo and Helios are distinct. The sun-god, the son of Hyperion, with his sun chariot, though often called [*Phoebus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoebus) ("shining") is not called *Apollo* except in purposeful non-traditional identifications.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-15)

Despite these identifications, Apollo was never actually described by the Greek poets driving the chariot of the sun, although it was common practice among Latin poets. Therefore, Helios is still known as the "sun god" – the one who drives the sun chariot across the sky each day.

## Helios and Zeus[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Helios and Zeus)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:0_Alexander-Helios_Capitolini_(1).JPG)

Bust of [Alexander the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) as an eidolon of Helios (*[Musei Capitolini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musei_Capitolini" \o "Musei Capitolini)*).

Helios is also sometimes conflated in classical literature with another Olympian god, [Zeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus). Helios is referred either directly as Zeus' eye,[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios" \l "cite_note-16) or clearly implied to be. For instance, [Hesiod](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hesiod) effectively describes Zeus's eye as the sun.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-17) This perception is possibly derived from earlier [Proto-Indo-European religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Indo-European_religion), in which the sun is believed to have been envisioned as the eye of [\**Dyḗus Pḥatḗr*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dyeus) (see [Hvare-khshaeta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hvare-khshaeta" \o "Hvare-khshaeta)).

## Cult of Helios[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Cult of Helios)]

L. R. Farnell assumed "that sun-worship had once been prevalent and powerful among the [people of the pre-Hellenic culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelasgians), but that very few of the communities of the later historic period retained it as a potent factor of the state religion".[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-18) Our largely Attic literary sources tend to give us an unavoidable Athenian bias when we look at ancient Greek religion, and "no Athenian could be expected to worship Helios or Selene", J. Burnet observes, "but he might think them to be gods, since Helios was the great god of Rhodes and Selene was worshiped at Elis and elsewhere".[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-19) James A. Notopoulos considers Burnet's an artificial distinction: "To believe in the existence of the gods involves acknowledgment through worship, as [*Laws*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laws_(Plato)) 87 D, E shows" (note, p. 264).[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-20) [Aristophanes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristophanes)' *Peace* (406–413) contrasts the worship of Helios and Selene with that of the more essentially Greek [Twelve Olympians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Olympians), as the representative gods of the [Achaemenid Persians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire" \o "Achaemenid Empire) (See also: [Hvare-khshaeta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hvare-khshaeta" \o "Hvare-khshaeta), [Mah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mah" \o "Mah)); all the evidence shows that Helios and Selene were minor gods to the Greeks.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-21)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Colosse_de_Rhodes_(Barclay).jpg)

[Colossus of Rhodes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colossus_of_Rhodes)

"The island of [Rhodes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes) is almost the only place where Helios enjoys an important [cult](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult_(religion))", Burkert asserts (p. 174), instancing a spectacular rite, in which a [quadriga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quadriga" \o "Quadriga), a chariot drawn by four horses, is driven over a precipice into the sea, with its overtones of the plight of [Phaethon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phaethon) noted. Their annual gymnastic tournaments were held in his honor. The [Colossus of Rhodes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colossus_of_Rhodes) was dedicated to him. Helios also had a significant cult on the [acropolis of Corinth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acrocorinth) on the Greek mainland.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-22)

However, the Dorians seem to have revered Helios, offering the central mainland cultus for Helios. The scattering of cults of the sun god in [Sicyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicyon), [Argos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argos), [Ermioni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ermioni" \o "Ermioni), [Epidaurus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epidaurus) and [Laconia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laconia), and his holy livestock flocks at [Taenarum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taenarum" \o "Taenarum), seem to suggest that the deity was considerably important in Dorian religion, compared to other parts of ancient Greece. Additionally, it may have been the Dorians to import his worship to [Rhodes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-23)

The tension between the mainstream traditional religious veneration of Helios, which had become enriched with ethical values and poetical symbolism in [Pindar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pindar), [Aeschylus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aeschylus) and [Sophocles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophocles),[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-24) and the Ionian proto-scientific examination of Helios the Sun, a phenomenon of the study Greeks termed *meteora*, clashed in the trial of [Anaxagoras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anaxagoras)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-25) c. 450 BC, a forerunner of the culturally traumatic [trial of Socrates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial_of_Socrates) for irreligion, in 399 BC.

In [Plato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato)'s [*Republic*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_(Plato)) (516 B), Helios, the Sun, is the symbolic offspring of the idea of the Good.

While the predominance of Helios in [Sparta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparta) is currently unclear, it seems [Helen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_of_Troy) was the local solar deity.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-26)

## Usil, the Etruscan Helios[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Usil, the Etruscan Helios)]

The Etruscan god of the Sun, equivalent to Helios, was *Usil*. His name appears on the bronze [liver of Piacenza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liver_of_Piacenza), next to *Tiur*, the moon.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-27) He appears, rising out of the sea, with a fireball in either outstretched hand, on an engraved Etruscan [bronze mirror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze_mirror) in late Archaic style, formerly on the Roman antiquities market.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-28) On Etruscan mirrors in Classical style, he appears with a [halo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halo_(religious_iconography)).

## Helios Megistos[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=7" \o "Edit section: Helios Megistos)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Follis-Constantine-lyons_RIC_VI_309.jpg)

Coin of Roman Emperor [Constantine I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I) depicting [Sol Invictus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Invictus)/Apollo with the legend SOLI INVICTO COMITI, c. 315 AD.

In [Late Antiquity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Antiquity) a cult of *Helios Megistos* ("Great Helios") ([Sol Invictus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Invictus)) drew to the image of Helios a number of [syncretic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncretism) elements, which have been analysed in detail by Wilhelm Fauth by means of a series of late Greek texts, namely:[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-29) an [Orphic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphism_(religion)) *Hymn to Helios*; the so-called [Mithras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithras) Liturgy, where Helios rules the elements; spells and incantations invoking Helios among the [Greek Magical Papyri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Magical_Papyri); a *Hymn to Helios* by [Proclus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclus); [Julian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_the_Apostate)'s *Oration to Helios*, the last stand of official paganism; and an episode in [Nonnus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonnus" \o "Nonnus)' *[Dionysiaca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dionysiaca" \o "Dionysiaca)*. Helios in these works is frequently equated not only with deities such as [Mithras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithras) and [Harpocrates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harpocrates" \o "Harpocrates), but even with the monotheistic Judaeo-Christian god.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-30)

In this texts, he is given a variety of cosmical attributes, such as being the creator of life, the lord of the heavens and the god of the sea. He can take the form of all animals of the [zodiac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zodiac).[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-31)

## Consorts and children[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=8" \o "Edit section: Consorts and children)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. By [Aegle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aegle_(mythology)) the [Naiad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naiad)[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-32)[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-33)    1. [**The Charites**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charites) (who are otherwise called daughters of Eurynome with Zeus[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-34) or of Aphrodite with Dionysus[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-35)):       1. [Aglaea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aglaea) "splendor"       2. [Euphrosyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphrosyne_(mythology)) "mirth"       3. [Thalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thalia_(Grace)) "flourishing" 2. By Clymene, the [Oceanid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanid) daughter of Oceanus and Tethys    1. [**The Heliades**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliades), mostly represented as poplars mourning Phaëton's death beside the river [Eridanos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eridanos_(mythology)" \o "Eridanos (mythology)), weeping tears of amber:[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-36)       1. Aetheria       2. Helia       3. Merope       4. Phoebe       5. Dioxippe    2. [Phaëton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phaethon), the son who borrowed the chariot of Helios, but lost control and plunged into the river [Eridanos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eridanos_(mythology)" \o "Eridanos (mythology))    3. [Astris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astris), wife of the river-god [Hydaspes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydaspes" \o "Hydaspes) in India, mother of Deriades[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios" \l "cite_note-37) 3. By [Neaera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neaera_(Greek_mythology)" \o "Neaera (Greek mythology)) the nymph, two daughters – guardians of the cattle of [Thrinacia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thrinacia" \o "Thrinacia):[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-38)    1. [Phaethusa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phaethusa)    2. [Lampetia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lampetia)   (other sources[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-39) list these two among the children of Clymene)   1. By [Rhodos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodos" \o "Rhodos), the [Nymph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nymph) daughter of [Poseidon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poseidon) and [Amphitrite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphitrite)    1. [**The Heliadae**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliadae), expert seafarers and astrologers from Rhodes:[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-40)[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-41)       1. [Tenages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenages)       2. [Macareus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macareus_(son_of_Helios))       3. [Actis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actis_(mythology))       4. [Triopas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triopas)       5. [Candalus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candalus)       6. [Ochimus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ochimus)       7. [Cercaphus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cercaphus)       8. Auges       9. Thrinax    2. [Electryone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electryone) | 1. By [Perse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perse_(mythology)" \o "Perse (mythology)) or Perseis, the [Oceanid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanid) daughter of Oceanus and Tethys:[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-42)[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-43)[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-44)[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-45)    1. [Aega](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aega_(mythology))    2. [Aeëtes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ae%C3%ABtes), ruler over [Colchis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colchis) and the father of [Medea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medea)    3. [Perses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perses_(brother_of_Aeetes))    4. [Circe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circe), the magician goddess    5. [Pasiphaë](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasipha%C3%AB), the wife of King [Minos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minos) of [Crete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crete) and the mother of [Ariadne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ariadne), [Phaedra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phaedra_(mythology)) and the [Minotaur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minotaur) 2. By [Ocyrrhoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocyrrhoe" \o "Ocyrrhoe) the [Oceanid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanid):[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-46)    1. [Phasis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phasis_(river)), a river-god in [Colchis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colchis) 3. By Leucothoe, daughter of [Eurynome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurynome" \o "Eurynome) and [Orchamus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchamus" \o "Orchamus):[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-47)[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-Fabulae-48)    1. Thersanon 4. By Nausidame, daughter of [Amphidamas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphidamas" \o "Amphidamas) of [Elis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elis):[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-Fabulae-48)[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-49)    1. [Augeas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augeas), one of the [Argonauts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argonauts) 5. By [Gaia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaia_(mythology))    1. [Bisaltes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bisaltes)[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-50) 6. By [Selene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selene)    1. The [Horae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horae)[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-51) (possibly; more commonly known as daughters of [Zeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus)) 7. By unknown mothers:    1. [Aegiale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aegiale_(daughter_of_Helios)), possible mother to [Alcyone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcyone)    2. Aithon, who chopped Demeter's sacred grove and was forever famished for that (compare the myth of [Erysichthon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erysichthon_of_Thessaly" \o "Erysichthon of Thessaly))[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-52)    3. Aix, a nymph with a beautiful body and a horrible face[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-53)    4. [Aloeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aloeus), ruler over [Asopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicyon" \o "Sicyon)[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-54)    5. Camirus, founder of [Camira](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Camira,_Rhodes&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Camira, Rhodes (page does not exist)), a city in [Rhodes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes)[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-55)    6. Mausolus[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios" \l "cite_note-56)    7. [Phorbas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phorbas), father of Ambracia[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios" \l "cite_note-57) |

### Notes[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=9" \o "Edit section: Notes)]

* Listed above are the most common versions of the myths considering mothers of Helios' children; other ones are known as well, for instance:
  + Rhode[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-58) or the [Nereid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nereid) Prote[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios" \l "cite_note-59) were possible mothers of Phaethon
  + Ephyra, of Aeetes[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-60)
  + Antiope, of Aeetes and Aloeus[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios" \l "cite_note-61)
  + Asterope, of Aeetes and Circe[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-62)
  + [Crete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crete_(mythology)), of Pasiphae[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-63)
  + [Hyrmine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyrmine), of Augeas[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-64)
* According to Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, [Clytie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clytie_(Oceanid)), sister of Leucothoe, also loved Helios, but didn't have her feelings answered[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-65)
* [Anaxibia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anaxibia), an Indian Naiad, was lusted after by Helios according to [Pseudo-Plutarch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudo-Plutarch)[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_note-66)

## Horses of Helios[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=10" \o "Edit section: Horses of Helios)]

Some lists, cited by [Hyginus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyginus" \o "Hyginus), of the names of horses that pulled Helios' chariot, are as follows.

• According to Homer – late 8th/ early 7th century BC: [Abraxas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraxas), \*Therbeeo.

• According to [Eumelus of Corinth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eumelus_of_Corinth" \o "Eumelus of Corinth) - late 7th/ early 6th century BC: The male trace horses are Eous (by him the sky is turned) and Aethiops (as if faming, parches the grain) and the female yoke-bearers are Bronte ("Thunder") and Sterope ("Lightning").

• According to Ovid — Roman, 1st century BC *Phaethon's ride*: Pyrois ("the fiery one"), Eous ("he who turns the sky"), [Aethon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aethon" \o "Aethon) ("blazing"), and Phlegon ("burning")[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios" \l "cite_note-67).

## Epithets[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=11" \o "Edit section: Epithets)]

* [Terpsimbrotos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terpsimbrotos)

## See also[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=12" \o "Edit section: See also)]

* [Amshuman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amshuman)
* [Black Sun (mythology)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sun_(mythology))
* [Five Suns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Suns) (mythology)
* [Guaraci](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guaraci)
* [Heliopolis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliopolis_(disambiguation)), particularly
  + [Heliopolis in Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliopolis_(Ancient_Egypt))
  + [Heliopolis in Lebanon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliopolis_(Syria))
* [Piltzintecuhtli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piltzintecuhtli) (mythology)
* [Sol (mythology)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_(mythology))
* [Helium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helium), chemical element named after the Titan god Helios

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  60. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_ref-60) [Epimenides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epimenides" \o "Epimenides) in [scholia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholia) on [Apollonius Rhodius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollonius_Rhodius), *Argonautica*, 3.242
  61. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_ref-61) [Diophantus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diophantus) in [scholia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholia) on [Apollonius Rhodius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollonius_Rhodius), *Argonautica*, 3.242
  62. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_ref-62) [*Argonautica Orphica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argonautica_Orphica), 1217
  63. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_ref-63) [Diodorus Siculus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diodorus_Siculus" \o "Diodorus Siculus), *Library of History*, 4.60.4
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  65. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_ref-65) Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, 4.194 ff
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  67. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helios#cite_ref-67) [Hyginus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyginus" \o "Hyginus) *Fabulae* 183

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## Further reading[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Helios&action=edit&section=15" \o "Edit section: Further reading)]

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Apollo Roman mosaic, El-Jem, [Tunisia](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Tunisia), author-Maciej Szczepańczyk-[user:Mathiasrex](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Mathiasrex)