



Search

HALLOWEEN

[Sign Up](#) [Log In](#)[Mom](#)[Style](#)[Food](#)[Tech](#)[Home](#)[Money](#)[Health](#)[Crafts](#)[More](#) [Experts](#)[eHow](#) » [Culture & Society](#) » [Legends & Folklore](#) » [Folklore](#) » [Myths About Mirrors](#)

Myths About Mirrors

By Michelle Key, eHow Contributor

Share Pin Tweet Stumble Share

Mirrors have long been a source of metaphor for self-examination. People reflect on the past or see themselves mirrored in others. This imagery has spawned myth and folklore surrounding reflective surfaces since ancient times.



Before mirrors, people used water to see reflections.

Other People Are Reading



[DIY Oval Mirror Frame Ideas](#)



[How to Make Portable Mirrors](#)

Related Ads

[Vanity Mirrors](#)[Best Glass Mirrors Stores](#)[Table Mirrors](#)[Mirror Mirrors](#)

Origins

Superstition holds that breaking a mirror can bring bad luck. In "The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets," author Barbara Walker suggests this belief and other mythology surrounding mirrors results from the ancient notion that part of a person's soul was contained in his reflection.

Features

In Greek mythology, the Titans disposed of Dionysus by using a mirror to trap his soul, and Narcissus' vanity was his undoing when he wasted away while staring at his own reflection. The idea that demonic creatures such as vampires lack souls and are therefore invisible to mirrors persists even in modern-day literature.

History

Tezcatlipoca of the Toltecs was "lord of the shadows" according to author Roy Willis. In "World Mythology," Willis explains that the god's mirror allowed him to see not only the future, but "the hearts of men." This belief of second sight granted by gazing into mirrors carries over into literature in the Brothers Grimm's story of Snow White, where the evil queen's magic mirror answers her questions truthfully, turning her wrath toward her more beautiful stepdaughter.

Sponsored Links

[The Perfect Mirror TV](#)

Looking for a mirror with TV?
Made to size.
evervuetv.com

[Joss & Main Official Site](#)

Everything Home. Over 11 Million
Satisfied Customers and Counting!
www.jossandmain.com

[Ink Pixi - Sale Page](#)

New Items Just Put on Sale

Venetian Mirrors



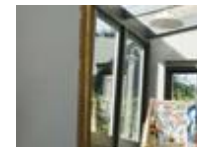
[VIEW BLOG POST](#)

Last-Minute Halloween Costume:
9 Ds/90s

You May Like



About the Goddess of Death



DIY Infinity Mirror Illusion Wall



How to Reflect a Laser Beam
With Mirrors

How to Get Smudges Off an Antique Mirror

Free Shipping on 6+ Items.

www.inkpixi.com

[Mirror at Sears®](#)

Shop Sears® for Great Deals and a Big Selection of Bedroom Mirrors.

www.sears.com/Bedroom-Mirrors

Related Searches

[Vanity Mirrors](#)

[Best Glass Mirrors Stores](#)

[Table Mirrors](#)

[Mirror Mirrors](#)

[Venetian Mirrors](#)

References

"The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets"; Barbara G. Walker; 1983

"World Mythology"; Roy G. Willis; 1993

"The Annotated Brothers Grimm"; Jacob Grimm, Wilhelm Grimm, Maria Tatar; 2004

Photo Credit mirror of spring 2 image by Krzysztof Szargiej from Fotolia.com

More Like This



How to Identify a Spirit or Ghost



How Is Silver Used in Mirrors?



Myths & Legends of the Giraffe



What Minerals Are in a Mirror?





About Media Violence Myths



Myths About the Sex of a Baby



Myths & Facts About Smoking

Comments



Add a comment...

☒ Also post on Facebook

Posting as Skyler DeGrote ([Change](#))

[Comment](#)

Facebook social plugin

You May Also Like

About Mirrors

From vanity to superstition, mirrors have had an impact on society and culture. Throughout the ages, this simple invention has gone from...



Featured



Others Also Viewed

[The History of Funhouse Mirrors](#)

[Why Do We Need Mirrors?](#)

[Why Cover Mirrors When Someone Dies?](#)

[Myths on Roses](#)

[How to Help a Christian With Self-Reflection](#)

VIEW BLOG POST

5 Ways to Celebrate Day of the Dead with Kids

VIEW BLOG POST

9 Ways to Fit More Travel Into Your Life and Career

VIEW BLOG POST

The Budget Traveler's Guide to Safaris

© 1999-2014 Demand Media, Inc.

[About eHow](#)

[eHow UK](#)

[eHow en Español](#)

[eHow Brasil](#)

[eHow Deutschland](#)

[eHow Blog](#)

[How to by Topic](#)

[How to Videos](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Report Copyright](#)

[Ad Choices en-US](#)

Connect with us:

