



## Myth Made Fact with Dr. Louis Markos

Lesson 15: Twisted  
Passion: Meleager and  
Atalanta; Tereus and  
Philomela; Myrrha,  
Venus and Adonis

### Outline:

#### Meleager, Ovid

- Meleager is the Achilles of the boar hunt. Both are great warriors, but also hot headed.
- Meleager is a warrior who lives for battle.
- He kills the boar with Atalanta, but people did not want to give Atalanta any respect.
- Out of anger for the way Atalanta is not treated well, Meleager kills his two uncles.
- When Meleager was a baby, his mother realized that the life of Meleager reflected the life of the log. When Meleager kills his uncles, his mother holds the log in front of the fire.
  - She went back and forth trying to justify how to treat her son.
  - She eventually throws the log in the fire, and Meleager dies.

Atalanta was told that if she ever married that she would lose herself.

- To marry Atalanta you had to beat her in a foot race. Hippomenes fell in love with Atalanta. Atalanta was so moved that she wanted to help him.
- Hippomenes prayed to Aphrodite, who gave Hippomenes three golden apples that were thrown to distract Atalanta from the race.
- They forget to thank Aphrodite, and she causes a twisted passion to fall on the two.
- They are transformed into lions.

#### Tereus and Philomela

- Pandion, king, had two daughters named Procne and Philomela.
- Tereus arrived and fell in love with Procne and proposed and took her back with him. Procne loves her husband, but she is lonely.
- Procne asked Tereus to bring Philomela back with him.
- Tereus rapes and brutalizes Philomela. Tereus cuts out her tongue.
- Philomela weaves into a tapestry the story of what just happens and sends it to Procne. Procne goes to Philomela in disguise.
- She dresses Procne in Bacchic clothing and smuggles her away.



- After that Procne and Philomela decided to do something terrible. She kills her own son, cooks him, and feeds him to his son. Tereus pursues Procne and Philomela when the gods intervene and transform them.
- We need to be careful when we give way to twisted desires there is no end.
- Ovid wants to understand twisted human passion.
- When we lose fear of God and give way to base lusts, in a way, we ultimately dehumanize ourselves. We become the remains of a human being.
- The story of Nebuchadnezzar is like Ovid's stories, also Lot's wife is transformed into a pillar of salt in a metamorphosis.

## Myrrha, Venus and Adonis

- She developed a desire to sleep with her father.
- Her nurse disguises her daughter as a prostitute.
- She becomes pregnant and her father exiles her.
- Myrrha is transformed into a shrub, and her tears become myrrh.
- Out of the shrub is born, Adonis, he was handsome and athletic.
- Venus fell in love with Adonis.
- Adonis was also a hunter. Venus begged him to stay with her.
- Adonis hunts a boar, who kills him. Adonis dies in Venus' arms.
- Adonis is reborn as the Narcissus flower.
- Adonis is a Corn King.
- The picture of Venus holding Adonis the model for the Pieta.
- Who is Adonis, this dying and rising god, this Corn King. He is the son of a father who impregnated his daughter.
- When Jesus, the true Adonis, the wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- God was preparing the ancient world for the full special revelation of Christ.