



Oracle of the Mythic Heroes

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Foreword

The fourth-century Roman author Sallustius, in his treatise *On the Gods and the World*, wrote that “myths have been used by inspired poets, by the best of philosophers, by those who established the mysteries, and by the Gods themselves in oracles.”¹ In discussing the stories captured by the myths of his culture, Sallustius went on to say, “Now these things never happened, but always are,”² meaning that our mythologies consist of fictitious tales that are uniquely able to relate to eternal truths—in other words, myths are stories that were never true but always will be.

The creator of this oracle deck, Letao Wang, has immersed himself in the mythology of ancient Greece and Rome and has deftly knit together forty diverse mythic stories with the thirty-six decans of the zodiac and four lunar phases, creating a divinatory fabric that incorporates all the aspects of life covered by a complete cycle through the twelve houses of the zodiac. This merging of ancient myths with the symbolism of astrology has resulted in an

easily accessible oracular tool in the form of a card deck that can be used, as Joseph Campbell might have said, to divine where you are and the types of issues you might face in the uncharted forest of your life.

—Anthony Louis, psychiatrist, astrologist,
and author of *Tarot Plain and Simple*



Notes

1. “Sallustius: On Gods and the World” in *Five Stages of Greek Religion*, trans. Gilbert Murray (Boston: The Beacon Press, 2009), 201, <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/30250/30250-h/30250-h.htm>.
2. “Sallustius: On Gods and the World,” 205.

Preface

*Astrology was astronomy in its nascent form, and
astrology was also science in its nascent form, just like
alchemy was chemistry in its nascent form.*

Jordan B. Peterson

In the early days of humanity, the concept of the universe was completely unknown to us. Instead, our ancestors observed the night sky and sought to understand their own lives in the cycles of the moon and stars. In this way, astrology represents the accumulated fantasies and imaginations of those who came before. This is the origin of astrology: a reflection of our deep collective unconscious. When we are conducting an astrology analysis, we are analyzing our fantasies and dreams through the positions of the stars, planets, and the moon, which give us deep insights into our subconscious mind.

Part of the initial understanding of astrology for our ancestors was that stars predict our future and our fate

is (at least partially) inscribed in the stars. Some people today might argue against this claim—how the heck can one’s fate be written in the stars? While I don’t necessarily agree with the idea that our universe “decides” how we live our lives, I do believe that everything in the universe operates according to the cosmic laws, or the *universal regularities*: the moon goes through its waxing and waning across a twenty-eight-day cycle, Saturn orbits around the sun once every twenty-nine years, Uranus strangely rotates on its side with a ninety-nine-degree tilt, and so forth. Being the most intelligent species in the solar system, we are also affected by and are a part of the universal regularities. Even thousands of years ago, people believed the movement and progression of the planets and stars had some correlation with our lives, and thus to a great extent, we relied on the observation of the skies to decide when to do our planting, when to harvest, when rivers might flood, and even when the demise of a king would happen. It is this fantasy-filled night sky above that gives us guidance and clues into our own lives.

Since my early days training as an apprentice astrologer, my teacher would always spend almost half of our training session talking about Greek and Roman myths. Slowly, I started to understand the intimate connections between astrology and mythology, such as the names of our planets, asteroids, and constellations. In fact, astrology is so intimately linked to Greek and Roman myths that when we

study our natal charts, our own life experiences echo within the myths, and we can find clues to achieve our own healing through resonating with and learning from the stories.

“As above, so below,” my teacher always says.

When I grew older, I started to read more and more mythical stories. If you are an avid astrology student, you are probably already very familiar with the Olympian gods and how the Romans based their deities off Greek gods but gave them new names and sometimes differing traits: Zeus (Jupiter), the mighty King of the Olympians; Aphrodite (Venus), the Goddess of Love and Beauty; Poseidon (Neptune), God of the Oceans and Earthquakes; etc. However, in my own mythology and spiritual studies, what I am most fascinated by is the stories of the mortals. Gods are omnipotent, while humans are not. No heroes are perfect; neither are they utterly invincible in myth. They love, they hate, they struggle, they fail, and they rise again together with the cosmic wheel of fortune. The first Greek myth story I read was about Orpheus, the legendary musician who bravely descended into the Underworld to save his dead wife, Eurydice. I was immediately caught up in its mesmerizing and heart-wrenching plots. It’s so much more than just a sensational story; it is a profound representation of the human mind, psychology, subconsciousness, as well as philosophy. If you care to decipher it more, you will realize that their experiences are not very far from our lives in the twenty-first century. If the divine

gods are archetypes of the universal principles, then the mythic heroes are the practical and grounded examples of the application of those principles.

Every summer, no matter how busy I am, I find time to travel to the Sanctuary of Apollo located in Delphi, Greece, to do my prayers. The annual pilgrimage is neither easy nor cheap for me, and of course there is no Pythia (the high priestess) delivering the sacred teaching from Apollo. But the significant meaning is that this is the very place where all the ancient heroes and heroines found their life purpose and guidance. We are their descendants. We still, after thousands of years, inherit and share the similar lessons and experiences of life until we pass it to the next generation. When I am in the face of setbacks or confusion, I go back to the mythical stories to find the right values, attitudes, and virtues that I need for understanding and enlightenment. I hope that through using and learning about *Oracle of the Mythic Heroes*, you also will be able to find the important lessons you need for your own future success and happiness.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this deck of cards to all the teachers who have inspired me, guided me, and motivated me in my spiritual discovery and journey.

May the universe continue to bless and protect you,
The Kingdom Healer, Letao Wang

Introduction

You probably have used or heard of tarot, which is a seventy-eight-card deck for divination that follows a universal system encompassing twenty-two Major Arcana and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards. Oracle cards are also used for divination purposes, but each deck is unique in its stories and systems.

There are forty cards in *Oracle of the Mythic Heroes* from Greek and Roman mythology. The first thirty-six cards are assigned to the mythical heroes, and each one rules a decan of a zodiac sign with its own teaching. In astrology, each zodiac sign covers thirty degrees of the 360-degree sky; each ten degrees of a sign is called a decan. For example, Theseus, the famous king of Athens, rules the first decan of Aries; Paris, from the story “Judgment of Paris,” rules the second decan of Gemini; and Psyche, the lover of Cupid, rules the third decan of Scorpio. So, there are three heroes for each zodiac sign. Altogether, the thirty-six cards complete a full 360-degree circle on the astrological chart.