

1 Psyche was the daughter of a king and queen. Psyche was so beautiful and graceful that people compared her to Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. Aphrodite was very jealous and angry. She asked her son Eros to make Psyche fall in love with the ugliest creature on Earth. However, when Eros saw Psyche, he couldn't help but fall in love with her. He got married with her. However, she was not allowed to know who Eros was and what he looked like. Later, Psyche's two sisters tricked her into believing that her husband must be a horrible monster. Psyche thus lighted a candle at night to see Eros's face. Knowing that his wife had broken the promise, Eros left Psyche. In the end, Psyche went to Aphrodite and completed four tasks from the goddess with the help of Zeus. She was granted immortality and became the Goddess of the Soul.

2 In Greek mythology, Narcissus was adored by every youth and girl, but he refused to accept any of them, including a nymph. Because Narcissus broke so many people's hearts, the goddess of retribution decided to punish him. She made Narcissus fall madly in love with the reflection of himself when Narcissus drank at a pool. Not realizing that it was merely his own reflection, he loved the face so much that he drove himself mad and died at last. Beside the river where Narcissus died, some white flowers grew. These flowers were named after him as "Narcissus."

3 One day, a man called Sisyphus revealed Zeus's secrets. (Zeus kidnapped a river nymph and Sisyphus was the witness. Although he promised to keep it a secret, he didn't.) Zeus was furious and asked Thanatos, daemon of death, to chain him. However, Sisyphus played a trick on Thanatos by asking Thanatos to demonstrate how the chains worked. When Thanatos did so, Sisyphus secured the chains and Thanatos couldn't untie himself. Since Thanatos was tied up, no humans died on the earth, which annoyed Ares, the god of war, because no one would die in battles. Ares came to Thanatos' rescue and took Sisyphus to the underworld. Sisyphus told his wife not to bury him and to throw his dead body into a square. After he got to the underworld, he complained to Persephone, the queen of underworld, that his wife didn't respect him and that he should be sent back to arrange a proper funeral. Persephone agreed, so Sisyphus returned to the human world. He stayed there until his second, final death. After he died, for tricking the gods time after time, he was punished to roll a huge rock up to a steep hill. Every time he was about to reach the top of the hill, the rock would fall down and he had to roll it up again. The task was thus called "Sisyphean Task."

4 In Greek mythology, Zeus was attracted by Europa's beauty. He turned himself into a white bull and abducted Europa when she was gathering flowers. Zeus took Europa to the island of Crete and revealed his true identity to her. Europa became the first queen of Crete and had three children with Zeus. Among the women who were seduced by Zeus, she was the only one who was not harmed by Hera. Her name even became the source of the continent Europe.