

Orpheus

Orpheus is a hero of Greek mythology. He was considered to be the Greatest singer and musician.

He was a son of muse Kalliope and Apollo. Apollo gave his son a lyre with the help of which he could move mountains and trees, tame wild animals and make a lasting spring. His sweet music killed care and grief of heart.

Orpheus traveled much and he always helped people with his music. Returning home from his journey Orpheus married Eurydike. They loved each other and were very happy together. But their happiness was not long. Eurydike perished from the snake's bite. Orpheus went down the underground Kingdom. With the help of his music he moved the rulers of the Kingdom to tears and they allowed him to take his wife with, but under one condition only. He mustn't turn back all his way home.

Orpheus forgot about it and looked back, so he lost his wife for ever. Killed with grief Orpheus went from one place to another and sang songs of his unhappy love. One day jealous women tore him to pieces at the festival. But kind muses gathered his remains and committed to the flames. But Orpheus's head continued to sing and sailed up the Lesbos, Island-the motherland of lyrical poetry. It symbolized the idea of immortality of the poet. The poets of all times took notice of images of Orpheus and Eurydike.

Vocabulary

Muse	-муза
a lyre	-лира
to tame	-приручать
a lasting spring	-вечная весна
to perish	-погибать
the snake's bite	-укус змеи
the underground Kingdom	-подземное царство
to move smb. to tears	-растрогать до слез
for ever	-навек
grief	-горе, печаль
jealous	-ревнивый
remains	-останки
to commit to the flames	-предать огню
to take notice of smth.	-обращаться к чему-либо