

# Fictional Pagan Fables Encouraging Adultery, Incest, Murder And Abortion

In the ancient writing “Recognitions of Clement”, the writer states that the fables or myths about the pagan Roman and Greek gods and goddesses gave the pagans a false justification for living wicked lives. <sup>1</sup> This writing first lists Jupiter or Zeus’ incestual relationships with his sisters: “**Chap. XX. – Doings of Jupiter.**

*But enough of the old wife’s fables and genealogy of the Gentiles; for it were endless if I should set forth all the generations of those whom they call gods, and their wicked doings. But by way of example, omitting the rest, I shall detail the wicked deeds of him only whom they hold to be the greatest and the chief, and whom they call Jupiter. For they say that he possesses heaven, as being superior to the rest; and he, as soon as he grew up, married his own sister, whom they call Juno, in which truly he at once becomes like a beast. Juno bears Vulcan; but, as they relate, Jupiter was not his father. However, by Jupiter himself she became mother of Medea; and Jupiter having received a response that one who should be born of her should be more powerful than himself, and should expel him from his kingdom, took her and devoured her. Again Jupiter produced Minerva from his brain, and Bacchus from his thigh. After this, when he had fallen in love with Thetis, they say that Prometheus informed him that, if he lay with her, he who should be born of her should be more powerful than his father; and for fear of this, he gave her in marriage to one Peleus. Subsequently he had intercourse with Persephone, who was his own daughter by Ceres: and by her he begot Dionysius, who was torn in pieces by the Titans. But calling to mind, it is said, that perhaps his own father Saturn might beget another son, who might be more powerful than himself, and might expel him from the kingdom, he went to war with his father, along with his brothers the Titans; and having beaten them, he at last threw his father into prison, and cut off his genitals, and threw them into the sea. But the blood which flowed from the wound, being mixed with the waves, and turned into foam by the constant churning, produced her whom they call Aphrodite, and whom with us they call Venus. From his intercourse with her who was thus his own sister, they say that this same Jupiter begot Cypris who, they say, was the mother of Cupid.”*

Chapter 21 “A Black Catalogue” in “The Recognitions of Clement” then records 33 examples of Jupiter or Zeus, the so-called father of the gods committing adultery with goddesses who were the wives of other gods and 2 examples of Jupiter committing adultery with female nymphs. “The Recognitions of Clement” record that some of the children produced from Jupiter’s adulteries were the gods Mercury and Apollo and the goddess Diana.

The same writing then records about Jupiter: “**Chap. XXII. – Vile Transformation of Jupiter**

*There are also innumerable adulteries of his of which no offspring was the result, which it were tedious to enumerate. But amongst those whom we have mentioned, he violated some being transformed, like a magician. In short, he seduced Antiopé, the daughter of Nycteus, when turned into a satyr, and of her were born Amphion and Zethus; Alcene, when changed into her husband Amphitryon, and of her was born Hercules...*

## **Chap. XXIII. – Why A God?**

*He also committed adultery with Europa, the wife of his own uncle Oceanus, and with her sister Eurynome, and punished their father; and he committed adultery with Plute, the daughter of his own son Atlas, and condemned Tantalus, whom she bore to him. Of Larisse, the daughter of Orchomenus, he begot*

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<sup>1</sup> “Recognitions of Clement”, Book 10, Chapter 20.

Tityon, whom also he consigned to punishment. He carried off Dia, the wife of his own son Ixion, and subjected him to perpetual punishment; **and almost all the sons who sprang from his adulteries he put to violent deaths**; and indeed the sepulchers of almost all of them are well known. Yea, the sepulcher of this parricide himself, who destroyed his uncles and defiled their wives, who committed whoredom with his sisters, this magician of many transformations, is shown among the Cretans, who, although they know and acknowledge his horrid and incestuous deeds, and tell them to all, yet are not ashamed to confess him to be a god. **Whence it seems to me to be wonderful, yea, exceeding wonderful, how he who exceeds all men in wickedness and crimes, has received that holy and good name which is above every name, being called the father of gods and men; unless perhaps he who rejoices in the evils of men has persuaded unhappy souls to confer honour above all others upon him whom, he saw to excel all others in crimes, in order that he might allure all to the imitation of his evil deeds.**"

The following quote from "The Recognitions of Clement" shows the pagans taught foolish fables about their god Saturn involving him murdering his own children: "*But of these six males, the one who is called Saturn received in marriage Rhea, and having been warned by a certain oracle that he who should be born of her should be more powerful than himself, and should drive him from his kingdom, he determined to devour all the sons that should be born to him. First, then, there is born to him a son called Aides, who amongst us is called Orcus; and him, for the reason we have just stated, he took and devoured. After him he begot a second son, called Neptune; and him he devoured in like manner. Last of all, he begot him whom they call Jupiter; but him his mother Rhea pitying, by stratagem withdrew from his father when he was about to devour him. And first, indeed, that the crying of the child might not be noticed, she made certain Corybantes strike cymbals and drums, that by the deafening sound the crying of the infant might not be heard.*"<sup>2</sup>

Fables like the above were used by the pagans in ancient Greece and Rome to justify abortion and parents exposing their newborn unwanted infants to death on mountainsides and similar bush areas.

## **Clement on the sexual practices of the Greek gods, goddesses and heroes**

In his "Exhortation to the Heathen", Clement of Alexandria wrote about the paedophile and other sexual practices of the pagan Greek gods, goddesses and heroes: "*Call me Poseidon, and the troop of damsels deflowered by him, Amphitrite Anymone, Alope, Melanippe, Alcyone, Hippothoe, Chione, and myriads of others; with whom, though so many, the passions of your Poseidon were not satiated.*

*Call me Apollo; this is Phoebus, both a holy prophet and a good advisor. But Sterope will not say that, nor Æthousa nor Arsinoe, nor Zeuxippe, nor Prothoe, nor Marpissa, nor Hypsipyle. For Daphne alone escaped the prophet and seduction.*

*And, above all, let the father of gods and men, according to you, himself come, who was so given to sexual pleasure, as to lust after all, and indulge his lust on all, like the goats of the Thinitae.*

*Hercules, the son of Zeus – a true son of Zeus – was the offspring of that long night, who with hard toil accomplished the twelve labours in a long time, but in one night deflowered the fifty daughters of Thestius, and thus was at once the debaucher and the bridegroom of so many virgins...It is not, then, without reason that the poets call him a cruel wretch and a nefarious scoundrel. **It were tedious to recount his adulteries of all sorts, and debauching of boys. For your gods did not even abstain from boys, one having loved Hylas, another Hyacinthus, another Pelops, another Chrysippus, and another Ganymede.***

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Book 10, Chapter 18.

*But it is only the male deities, perhaps, that are impetuous in sexual indulgence. 'The female deities stayed each in the house, for shame', says Homer; the goddesses blushing, for modesty's sake, to look on Aphrodite when she had been guilty of adultery. But these are more passionately licentious, bound in the chains of adultery; Eos having disgraced herself with Tithonus, Selene with Endymion, Nereis with Æacus, Thetis with Peleus, Demeter with Jason, Persephatta with Adonis. And Aphrodite having disgraced herself with Ares, crossed over to Cinyra and married Anchises, and laid snares for Phaethon, and loved Adonis. She contended with the ox-eyed Juno; and the goddesses unrobed for the sake of the apple, and presented themselves naked before the shepherd that he might decide which was the fairest."*<sup>3</sup>

## **A pagan Nordic Viking myth justifying murder**

In the pagan Nordic legend or myth called "King On, Jorund's Son", the Swedish king murdered one of his sons every ten years by sacrificing them to the pagan god Odin in order that supposedly the god would bless him with longer life: *"In Upsal's town the cruel king slaughtered his sons at Odin's shrine – to get from Odin length of life."*<sup>4</sup>

This type of myth or fable gave the Vikings a justification for murdering their own children.

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<sup>3</sup> Clement of Alexandria, "Exhortation to the Heathen", Chapter 2.

<sup>4</sup> Leonard Sweet, "Health and Medicine in the Evangelical Tradition", Trinity Press International, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1994, page 109.