

**STORIES OF THE GODS  
AND HEROES OF GREECE  
TOLD BY BERTHOLD  
NIEBUHR TO HIS SON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649323241

Stories of the gods and heroes of Greece told by Berthold Niebuhr to his Son by Sarah Austin

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SARAH AUSTIN**

**STORIES OF THE GODS  
AND HEROES OF GREECE  
TOLD BY BERTHOLD  
NIEBUHR TO HIS SON**



**Stories**  
of the  
**Gods and Heroes of Greece,**

told by  
**Berthold Niebuhr**  
to his Son.

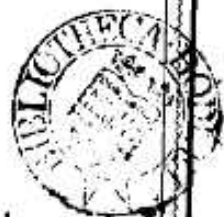
Translated from the German.

Edited by  
**Sarah Austin.**

---

London:  
**John W. Parker, West Strand.**

M. DCCC. XLIII.



LONDON:  
HARRISON AND CO., PRINTERS,  
12, MARK LANE.

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
PREFACE . . . . .	v
THE VOYAGE OF THE ARGONAUTS . . . . .	9
STORIES OF HERAKLES . . . . .	18
THE HERAKLEIDS AND ORESTES . . . . .	42

1000

100

10

1

0.1

0.01

0.001

1000

100

10

1

0.1

0.01

0.001



## PREFACE.

---

THE following stories were told by the illustrious historian and scholar Niebuhr, to his son—the Marcus of whom he speaks with so much pride and fondness in his letters. By him they were recently published. They are translated by one who was his playfellow sixteen years ago, and who then caught some reflections of the delight with which they were heard and remembered and repeated.

The translation is, as nearly as may be, literal. The translator has tried to keep to the style of those who know how to narrate for children and childlike men; where each sentence is a simple uninvolved statement, and the sentences are bound together by the most direct and inartificial links.

Having carefully ascertained the accuracy of the translation, my task was at an end. I found nothing to alter, and was rather tempted to envy the youthful freshness and courageous *naïveté* of the style.

The reader will observe that the Greek names of the gods and heroes of Greece are retained. The reasons for this deviation from long-received usage are, I think, sufficiently cogent to justify it. It is by no means indifferent whether we adopt the Roman, or adhere to the Greek names. They do, in fact, denote different personages; for Jupiter is not Zeus, nor Venus, Aphrodite, in any sense which we ought

to be content to accept. The Romans not only altered the appellations, but corrupted and disfigured the myths, of the gods they borrowed; and there is no calculating the extent to which poetry and art have suffered by the adoption of names, and with those names, associations, engrafted upon the Greek mythology by a people so inferior in imagination, and in æsthetical and philosophical culture. The sooner these associations are broken the better. It has been suggested that such an innovation is out of place in a child's book. I venture to think the contrary; though, indeed, it is much in accordance with common practice, to teach the child what the man must unlearn. To the child, one name, unincumbered with associations, is as easily learned as another; and is it not far better that he should at once acquire those which were used by the eternal masters of art, than those which can only recall the fall of Greece, and the disfigurement of the images of celestial beauty with which the exquisite imagination and unerring taste of her sons had peopled all her borders!

In this, as in everything connected with art, the Germans are much in advance of the rest of Europe; and, doubtless, the conscientious industry with which they have applied themselves to understand Greece, is one main cause of their superiority. It is time that we should follow their example; and not begin our studies of the most singular and interesting people that ever existed, in words which must introduce incurable confusion into our conceptions. The subject is surely important enough to warrant some effort to shake off the yoke of custom. A list of the Greek

names which occur in the work, together with the corresponding Roman names, is subjoined.

It has been suggested by an eminent scholar, that the corrupt use of the Roman *c*, which, as we pronounce it, entirely changes the sound of many Greek words, ought to be abandoned. In deference to such an opinion, we have replaced the *k*; though I confess this (being a difference of sound alone) appears to me unimportant, as compared with the substitution of completely different words, associated with trains of different attributes and incidents. But on the general principle of bringing back names (no unimportant part of the characteristics of a nation) to their original and authentic forms, we have thankfully availed ourselves of corrections from so learned a hand.

S. A.

*London, October 30, 1843.*

---