

## A Greek Myth - Apollo and the Chimera

Long ago in Ancient Greece there was a strong and handsome soldier called Apollo. Apollo had a beautiful wife called Athena, who had been kidnapped by an old king called Minos. Apollo was devastated and vowed to rescue Athena. He knew that the king would have taken her to his palace in Crete but a monster called the Chimera guarded this palace.

The Chimera was a ferocious monster with the head of a lion, the body of a goat and a long serpent as a tail. Many heroic men had travelled to his cave and tried to beat the Chimera, but had been burnt to death by his fiery flame breath. Although Apollo was a brave man, he did not know how to kill this enormous monster. His father told him to go to Mount Olympus and ask the great God Zeus for advice.



Apollo set off immediately and soon reached the great mountain, where the twelve gods lived. Apollo called for Zeus and begged for his advice. Zeus appeared before him and explained that although the Chimera was fierce and strong, his heart was full of poisoned blood. If Apollo could pierce his heart, the blood would leak into his body and the monster would die an agonising death. Zeus then gave Apollo a shield to keep the Chimera's flames away, a sharp sword to pierce the evil heart and a pair of shoes. These shoes were shoes of swiftness that made the wearer faster than the speed of light. Apollo thanked Zeus and set off on the long journey to Crete.

Apollo walked on dry roads, climbed mountains and sailed the great sea until at last he reached the palace of King Minos. He entered the cave that was home to the monster and could hear his blood-chilling roar. Apollo crept through the tunnels and edged closer to the monster's lair. When he was close enough to hear the serpents hissing, he put on the shoes of swiftness and got his sword and shield ready. With a deep breath he ran towards the Chimera with his sword in the air.

The Chimera roared and flames surrounded Apollo. He held up his shield and ran in every direction trying to confuse the monster. The serpent hissed, the lion's head roared and the flames soared into the air. He kept darting around and soon the Chimera was dizzy. Apollo ran forward and plunged his sword into the monster's heart. The Chimera let out a furious roar and fell to the floor. The monster was dead at last.

Apollo ran past the body and found his way to the tower where Athena was being held. He knocked down the door and saw his beautiful wife chained up.