

# Greek and Roman Mythology

## Ch3 The Earliest Heroes

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# Prometheus and Io



Jean-Louis-Cesar Lair's Prometheus



# Prometheus

- A Titan, the son of Lepetus and Themis
- A champion for mankind
- Known for his intelligence
- To whom Zeus gives the task of creating humans
- Stole “fire” to mankind and thus was punished by Zeus



Prometheus's Theft of Fire,  
Christian Griepenkerl (1839-  
1916)

# Prometheus & Epimetheus

- Brothers
- Prometheus -- Forethought
- Epimetheus -- Afterthought

# The Story Between Prometheus and Io

- Punished by Zeus, Prometheus was tied to the rocky peak on Caucasus. There, he met a special visitor, Io.
- Prometheus recognized Io. He comforted and foretold her about the future .
- Prometheus knew that Io's descendant, Hercules, would be able to set him free from the rock.

# Prometheus Being Rescued by Hercules, by Christian Griepenkerl



# Europa



Abduction of **Europa** by Jean Baptiste Marie Pierre 1750

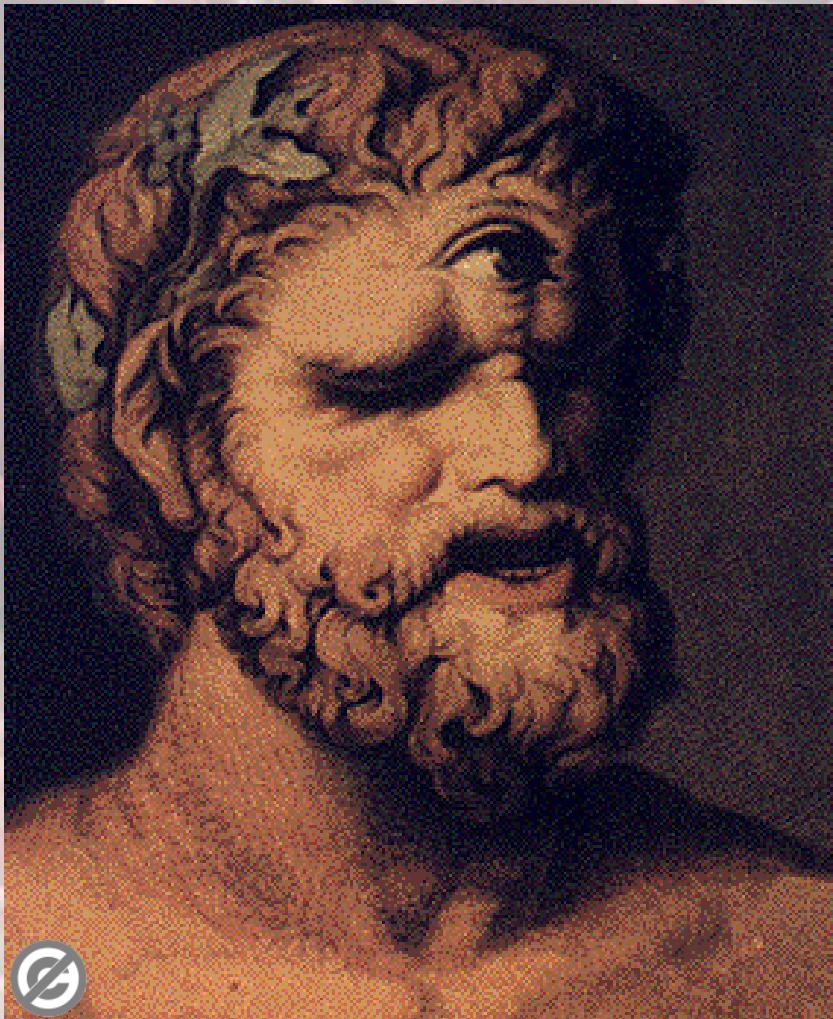
# The Story of Europa

- Zeus fell madly in love with Europa because Cupid shot an arrow into Zeus' heart.
- To approach Europa, Zeus changed into the most beautiful bull in the world.
- Zeus took Europa to Crete, where they married and gave birth to many famous men.



Europa was, by far, the most fortunate girl  
Zeus fell in love with.

# The Cyclops Polyphemus



- A pivotal role in Odyssey
- the gigantic one-eyed son of Poseidon and Thoosa, one of the Cyclopes.
- Another side of Polyphemus was in the love story with Galatea.

# Polyphemus's image as a gigantic monster in Odyssey



# Galatea and Polyphemus



# Acis, Galatea, and Polyphemus by François Perrier



# Flower Myths

- In Greek Mythology, the flowers come into being through the death of beautiful young men?

# Flower myths -- Narcissus



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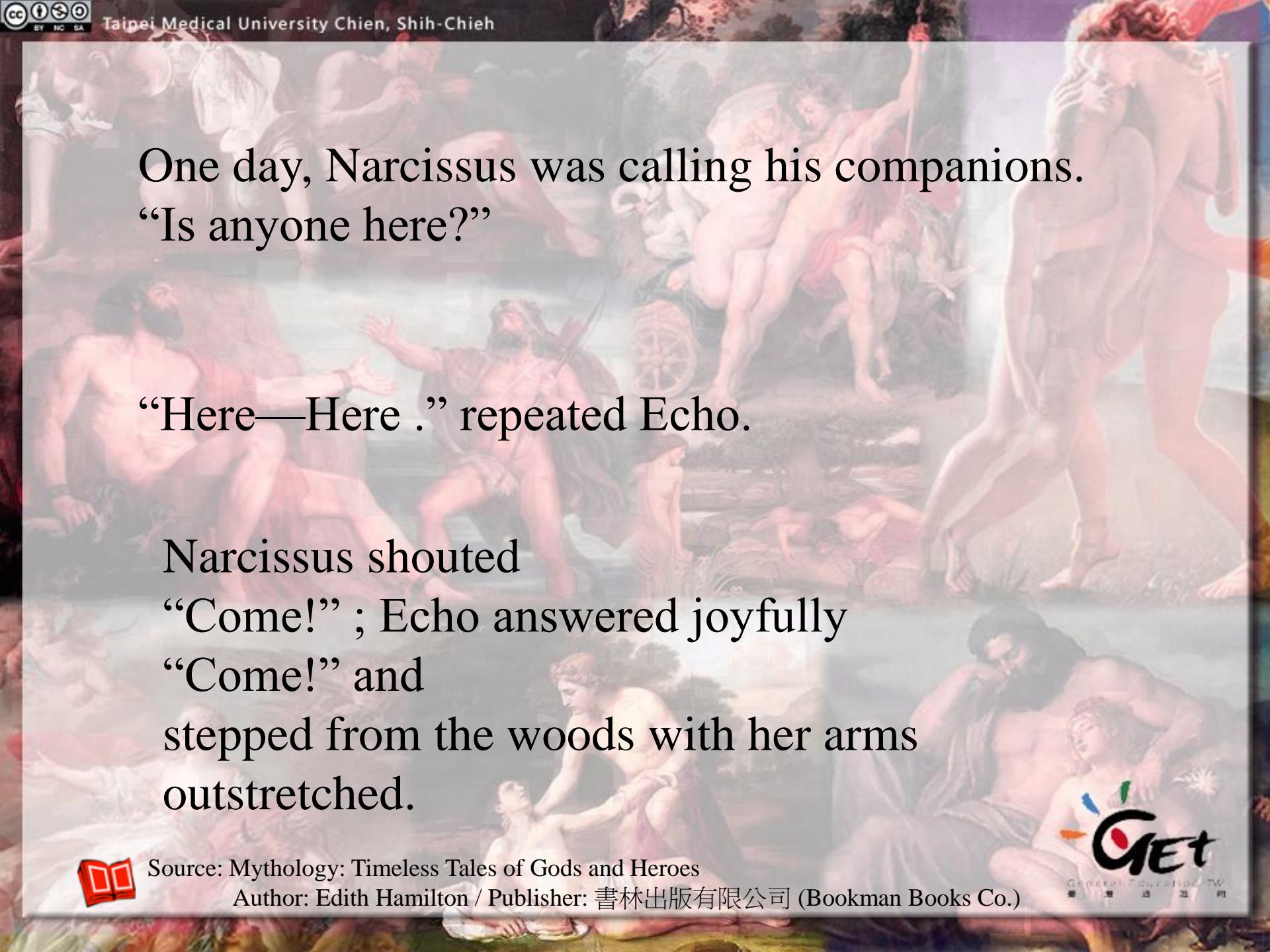
# Narcissus



- Narcissus was a scowler of love.
- His beauty was so great, all the girls who saw him longed to be his, but he loved none of them.



- Even the fairest nymph, Echo, did not move him.
- Echo had been condemned by Hera never to use her tongue again except for repeating what was said to her as a punishment for distracting Hera from investigating Zeus' affairs.



One day, Narcissus was calling his companions.  
“Is anyone here?”

“Here—Here .” repeated Echo.

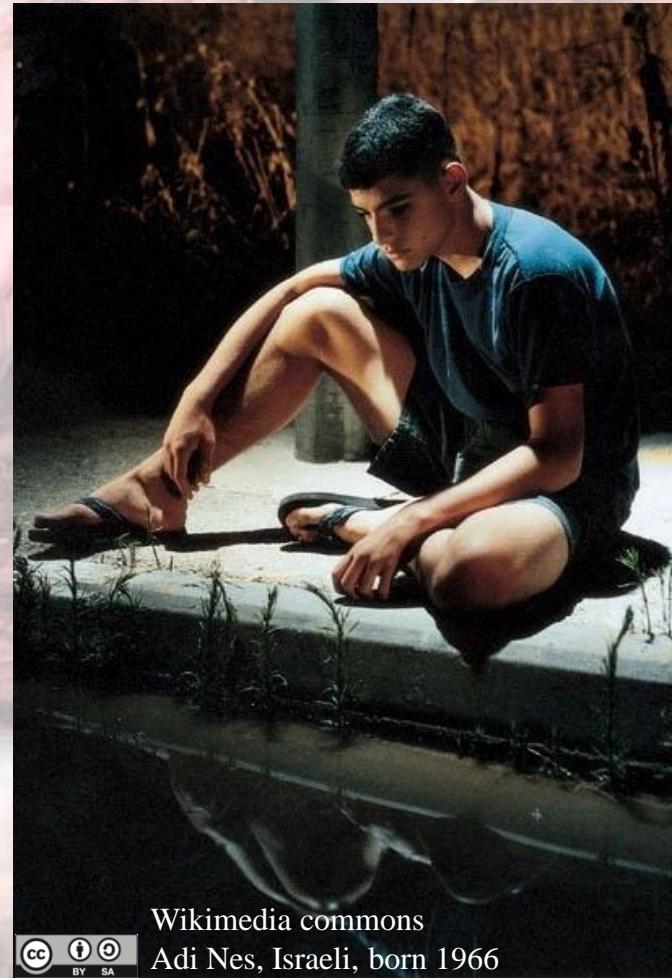
Narcissus shouted  
“Come!” ; Echo answered joyfully  
“Come!” and  
stepped from the woods with her arms  
outstretched.



Source: Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes

Author: Edith Hamilton / Publisher: 書林出版有限公司 (Bookman Books Co.)

- Receiving no complete sentences at all, Narcissus turned away with anger. And Echo has so wasted away with longing that only her voice now was left to her in the cave.
- Goddess Nemesis made Narcissus fell in love with his own reflection on the water.



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Adi Nes, Israeli, born 1966





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- Narcissus pined away because he leaned perpetually over the pool, fixing on the gaze.
- After Narcissus died, there bloomed a new and lovely flower, and people called it by his name, Narcissus.

# Narcissus and Echo



# Narcissus' death



# Flower myths -- Hyacinth



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# Hyacinth



- Hyacinth was a beautiful youth.
- He had been Apollo's dearest companion.



- Hyacinth was struck to death by the discus that Apollo threw out.
- Miracle happened, the bloodstained grass turned green again and there bloomed forth the wondrous flower that was to make the young man's name known forever.

- Another story said that Zephyr the West Wind blew upon the discus on purpose and made it strike Hyacinth out of jealousy, for he also loved Hyacinth.



# Flower myths -- Adonis



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# Adonis

- ① Aphrodite and Persephone both fell in love with him.
- ② Zeus decided that Adonis should spend half year with each goddess.
- ③ Adonis loved hunting, and he also died in the hunting of a boar.

# Aphrodite and Adonis



# The Death of Adonis



# Q&A

- ① Which word come into being to describe those who really adore themselves?
- ② Can you come up with any other examples of objects' names come into being because of the deaths of related people?

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