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For more materials and information on the project, please visit:

<https://flyingmythology.wordpress.com> <https://twinspace.etwinning.net/52491/home>



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | | Αχίλλειος πτέρνα (Greece) |
| Expression in English | | Achilles' heel |
| Background meaning in English | | In Homer's Iliad, Achilles' mother, Thetis, dipped Achilles in the water of river Styx to make him immortal. But she was holding him from the heel so that part was left out of the water and was the only vulnerable point on his body. So when Paris hurt Achilles on the heel, Achilles died. |
| Meaning nowadays | | Vulnerable or weak point, soft spot. (Greece) |
| Greece |  | Αχίλλειος πτέρνα |
| Spain |  | El Talón de Aquiles |
| Italy |  | Il tallone d'Achille |
| Finland |  | Akilleen kantapää |
| Iceland |  | Akkilesarhæll |
| Poland |  | Pięta Achillesa |
| Latvia |  | Ahileja papēdis |
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Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Original language | Το μήλο της Έριδας (Greece) | |
| Expression in English | The apple of Eris / The (golden) apple of discord | |
| Background meaning in English | Eris was the goddess of jealousy and discord. The gods didn't invite her to Peleus and Thetis' wedding and she wanted to take revenge on them. So she cast an apple among Athena, Hera and Aphrodite to be given to the most beautiful of them. As expected, a fight broke out so they asked Paris to choose. All goddesses tried to cajole Paris. Athena promised him wisdom, Hera promised to make him king and Aphrodite to give him beautiful Helen (Helen of Troy) as his wife. Paris gave the apple to Aphrodite and then the Trojan War broke out. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Something that two or more people want to get and there is a dispute over it. (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Το μήλο της Έριδας |
| Spain |  | La manzana de la discordia |
| Italy |  | Il pomo della discordia |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | Jabłko niezgody |
| Latvia |  | Strīda ābols. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Original language | Δούρειος Ίππος (Greece) | |
| Expression in English | Trojan Horse | |
| Background meaning in English | Odysseus sent the Trojans a wooden horse as a token of good will. But the horse was hollow and some Achaeans soldiers were hidden in it. So when the horse 'entered' Troy, the Achaeans entered too, opened the city gates for more soldiers to enter and looted the place. | |
| Meaning nowadays | A trick used to deceive someone. (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Δούρειος Ίππος |
| Spain |  | El Caballo de Troya |
| Italy |  | Il cavallo di Troia |
| Finland |  | Troijan hevonen |
| Iceland |  | Trójuhestur |
| Poland |  | Koń Trojański |
| Latvia |  | Trojas zirgs. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Original language | Το κουτί της Πανδώρας (Greece) | |
| Expression in English | Pandora's box | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>Hermes took beautiful and gifted Pandora to Prometheus so that they would get married, as Zeus had ordered. But Prometheus felt it was a trap by the gods and rejected her. However, his brother, Epimetheus, was attracted to her and accepted her. The box that Pandora carried with her contained wedding gifts from the gods of Olympus. She had been told never to open it. But she too curious to keep it closed. So when she opened it, all bad things came out of it, such as misery, illness and bad luck.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | When someone opens Pandora's box, many bad things happen at the same time. (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Το κουτί της Πανδώρας |
| Spain |  | Abrir la caja de Pandora |
| Italy |  | Il vaso di Pandora |
| Finland |  | Pandoran lipas |
| Iceland |  | Askja Pandoru |
| Poland |  | Puszka Pandory |
| Latvia |  | Pandoras lāde. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Original language | | Ο ασκός του Αιόλου (Greece) |
| Expression in English | | Aeolus' bag |
| Background meaning in English | | Aeolus, the god of winds, gave Odysseus food supplies and a bag so that he could have a safe voyage back home. In the bag were all the winds. Odysseus was not allowed to tell his companions anything about the bag, though. But when the boat was already near home and a favourable wind was blowing, Odysseus' companions opened the bag thinking that he was hiding something precious from them. And then, all the adverse winds burst out and pushed the boat to the opposite direction. |
| Meaning nowadays | | When someone opens Aeolus' bag, people experience actions and situations that have unexpected and uncontrollable consequences. (Greece) |
| Greece |  | Ο ασκός του Αιόλου |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Original language | Λερναία Ὕδρα (Greece) | |
| Expression in English | Lernaean Hydra | |
| Background meaning in English | Lernaean Hydra was a mythical beast with nine heads, which was killed by Hercules. When Hercules cut a head, another two emerged. He managed to stop that with fire. The last head was immortal so he cut it and buried it in the ground. | |
| Meaning nowadays | A task which cannot be completed because new issues arise all the time delaying its completion. (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Λερναία Ὕδρα |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Original language | Αλκυονίδες ημέρες (Greece) | |
| Expression in English | The Halcyon days | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>Alcyone was the daughter of Aeolus, a very beautiful woman who was so happily married to Ceyx that they believed they were equal to gods. Zeus got very angry with their arrogance and decided to punish them. He let Ceyx drown in a shipwreck. Alcyone was mourning so much for her husband's death, that Zeus felt sorry for her and transformed her into a beautiful bird, which, however, was doomed to lay its eggs in the winter. So the waves destroyed the bird's nest and the eggs on the rocks. Zeus felt sorry for the bird and ordered the winds to stop blowing and the sun to shine for fifteen days in the winter so that Alcyone's eggs could hatch.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | Usually the days between 16 and 31 of January when the weather is good. (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Αλκυονίδες ημέρες |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Original language | Το κέρας της Αμάλθειας (Greece) | |
| Expression in English | Amalthea's horn | |
| Background meaning in English | When Zeus' mother hid him in a cave to protect him from his father, Cronus, who ate his kids, Amalthea was his nurse. Sometimes she is described as a goat. Zeus was nourished with milk and honey from her horn. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Abundance (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Το κέρας της Αμάλθειας |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | Runsaudensarvi |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Pārpilnības rags. (Horn of abundance) |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | | Κέρβερος (Greece) |
| Expression in English | | Cerberus |
| Background meaning in English | | Cerberus was a dog with three heads who was the guard at Hades' doors. |
| Meaning nowadays | | Someone who is watchful and strict in whatever they do. (Greece) |
| Greece |  | Κέρβερος |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | Cerber |
| Latvia |  | Cerbers. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | Ο μίτος της Αριάδνης (Greece) | |
| Expression in English | Ariadne's thread | |
| Background meaning in English | When Theseus arrived to Crete to kill the Minotaur in the maze, Ariadne, the daughter of king Minos, liked him and gave him a ball of thread so that he could find the way out of the maze. | |
| Meaning nowadays | A solution to a problem or a person that can help someone to solve it. (Greece) When someone tells you a very detailed story.(Spain) | |
| Greece |  | Ο μίτος της Αριάδνης |
| Spain |  | Fil per randa. Different form and meaning in Spanish, but also related to Ariadne. When someone tells you a very detailed story. |
| Italy |  | Il filo di Arianna |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | Nić Adrianny |
| Latvia |  | Ariadnes pavediens. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Original language | Rīta stundai zelts mutē. (Latvia) | |
| Expression in English | The morning hour has gold in its mouth. | |
| Background meaning in English | Saying from the Latvian folklore and fairy tales. | |
| Meaning nowadays | The morning is the most productive. (Latvia) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | I mattino ha l'oro in bocca |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Rīta stundai zelts mutē. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Original language | Ne viss ir zelts, kas spīd. (Latvia) | |
| Expression in English | Not everything that shines is gold. | |
| Background meaning in English | Saying from the Latvian folklore and fairy tales. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Don't judge by the outer appearance. (Latvia) | |
| Greece |  | Ό,τι λάμπει δεν είναι χρυσός |
| Spain |  | No es oro todo lo que reluce. |
| Italy |  | Non è tutto oro ciò che luccica |
| Finland |  | Kaikki mikä kiiltää ei ole kultaa |
| Iceland |  | Ekki er allt gull sem glóir |
| Poland |  | Nie wszystko złoto co się świeci. |
| Latvia |  | Ne viss ir zelts, kas spīd. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | Kangarisms. (Latvia) | |
| Expression in English | Cangarism | |
| Background meaning in English | Kangars (a character from the national epic " Lāčplēsis") was the chief of the tribe but in reality a traitor plotting with invaders- the enemies of the country. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Betrayal of the native country or one's family.(Latvia) | |
| Greece |  | Εφιάλτης / Ephialtes was a Greek traitor who helped the Persians win the battle in Thermopylae in 480BC. |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Kangarisms. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Original language | Stiprs kā Lāčplēsis. (Latvia) | |
| Expression in English | Strong as Lacplēsis | |
| Background meaning in English | Lāčplēsis (Bear-slayer), the main character of the Latvian national epic "Lāčplēsis", was chosen by Gods to become a hero and defend the native country. | |
| Meaning nowadays | A man strong mentally and physically.(Latvia) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Stiprs kā Lāčplēsis. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Original language | Trešais Tēvadēls. (Latvia) | |
| Expression in English | The third son in the family | |
| Background meaning in English | "The lastborn son" was considered a fool by his elder brothers due to his idealism and selflessness. A common hero in Latvian fairy tales. | |
| Meaning nowadays | A person who is not very practical, he sees the surrounding world through his heart and emotions.(Latvia) The youngest kid of a family and, perhaps, the most spoilt. (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Βενιαμίν / Veniamin, a biblical person |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Trešais Tēvadēls. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | Creerse el ombligo del mundo. (Spain) | |
| Expression in English | Believe oneself to be the navel of the world. | |
| Background meaning in English | Mythology: The phrase has a mythological origin, because it was called "navel of the world" to the stone that was venerated in the sanctuary of Apollo in Delphi, the greatest center of spirituality for the Greeks, considered by then the most important place in the known world. | |
| Meaning nowadays | If you believe that you are better than the others. (Spain) | |
| Greece |  | Ο ομφαλός της γης |
| Spain |  | Creerse el ombligo del mundo. |
| Italy |  | Credere di essere l'ombelico del mondo |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Original language | Vivir una auténtica Odisea (Spain) | |
| Expression in English | To live an authentic Odissey | |
| Background meaning in English | The years that Ulysses spend going back home after ten years of war and the adventures and misadventures that his family suffer. | |
| Meaning nowadays | When you made a long and tortuous trip. (Spain) When you had a long and tortuous trip (literal meaning) and when you went through some hard time (metaphorical meaning). (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Ζήσαμε μια οδύσσεια |
| Spain |  | Vivir una auténtica Odisea |
| Italy |  | Vivere un'Odissea |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Original language | Ser un caos (Spain) | |
| Expression in English | To be a chaos | |
| Background meaning in English | The chaos was what existed before the Gods and the elementary forces what is known as confusion. | |
| Meaning nowadays | When you are a complete disaster. (Spain) When there is complete disorder (Greece) | |
| Greece |  | Επικρατεί χάος |
| Spain |  | Ser un caos |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Original language | Parecer un Adonis (Spain) | |
| Expression in English | To be an Adonis | |
| Background meaning in English | The young Adonis was extremely beautiful, to the point that the goddess Aphrodite fell in love with him madly. On one occasion when Adonis was hunting, he was killed by a wild boar. | |
| Meaning nowadays | You can say this to a man that is really handsome. (Spain) | |
| Greece |  | Άδωνις |
| Spain |  | Parecer un Adonis |
| Italy |  | Essere un Adone |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Original language | Canto de Sirenas (Spain) | |
| Expression in English | The singing of mermaids | |
| Background meaning in English | They appear in the Oddisey when Ulisses face her chants up at the sea. They cheated the sailors who were stunned by their chants. The mermaids ate the stunned sailors when they felt into the water. | |
| Meaning nowadays | When one person tricks another person. Quite ancient not many people use it nowadays. (SP) It is associated with temptation and is used - not very often - in phrases such as " Don't listen to the Sirens" or "He was lured by the Sirens". | |
| Greece |  | Οι Σειρήνες |
| Spain |  | Canto de Sirenas |
| Italy |  | Il canto delle sirene |
| Finland |  | Seireenien laulu |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Original language | El hilo de Ariadna. De la A a la Z. (Spain) | |
| Expression in English | Ariadna's thread | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>Ariadna is the daughter of Minos and Pasífae, and therefore, Princess of Crete. King Minos underwent Athens after a son of his, Androgeu, was killed. He forced the Athenians to send Crete every nine years to a group of fourteen young people - seven boys and seven girls - who would be sacrificed to the Minotaur. Once, in one of these shipments of guys, Prince Teseus, the son of Aegean, king of Athens, went voluntarily. Theseus, once arrived at Crete, dazzled Ariadna, who fell in love. Advocated by Dédalo gave him a magic sword, with which he could kill the Minotaur and a piece of wool that could not be broken that would help him find the way out of the Labyrinth.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | <p>When someone tells you a very detailed story.(Spain) A solution to a problem or a person that can help someone to solve it. (Greece)</p> | |
| Greece |  | Ο μίτος της Αριάδνης |
| Spain |  | El hilo de Ariadna. De la A a la Z. |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Original language | El mantel de Penélope (Spain) | |
| Expression in English | Penelope's cloth | |
| Background meaning in English | Penelope was Ulisses wife, the cloth was the thing she was weaving and unweaving every night to trick the men who were asking marriage to her every night. | |
| Meaning nowadays | A never ending thing. (SP) | |
| Greece |  | Ο ιστός της Πηνελόπης |
| Spain |  | El mantel de Penélope |
| Italy |  | La tela di Penelope |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological







expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Original language | Quan a creix l'ordi, ja és Sant Jordi | |
| Expression in English | When barley has grown, it's Saint George. | |
| Background meaning in English | Sant Georges' legend. | |
| Meaning nowadays | It means that Spring will bring the festivity of Sant Jordi. (CAT) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | Quan a creix l'ordi, ja és Sant Jordi |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Original language | Óhreinu börnin hennar Evu (Iceland) | |
| Expression in English | The unwashed children of Eva | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>Once upon a time, it is said that God himself visited Adam and Eva. When he visited, Adam and Eva showed him everything they owned to God. Especially their clean and tidy children. But actually, there was one thing they didn't show to God. That was their dirty and unwashed children. But God knew that Adam and Eva were hiding these children from him. Therefore he said: „The things that are supposed to be hidden from me, should also be hidden from humans“. So these dirty and unwashed children were invisible to everyone and became elves who lived in stones and hills while the clean and tidy children became humans.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | <p>Today this expression is mostly used to criticize governments, healthcare system or even societies that don't help children in need. For example children that have been waiting for a long long time for help because of their illness or disfunction of some sort. (Iceland)</p> | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | Óhreinu börnin hennar Evu |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Original language | Að liggja á einhverju eins og ormur á gulli (Iceland) | |
| Expression in English | To lie like a worm on gold | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>There is a myth about farmer named Hreiðmar that had suddenly gained a golden treasure for something he did. His sons, named Fáfnir and Reginn, killed their father because they desired the gold for themselves. In addition, Fáfnir had a double plot and also betrayed his brother Reginn and took the gold for himself and hid it under a mountain. Fáfnir was so obsessed with his gold that he guarded it at all times by laying on it. Eventually he transformed into a big and long worm. But the word worm in Icelandic can also mean dragon. Reginn got his revenge by hiring a young warrior named Sigurður to try to kill his brother Fáfnir. Which Sigurður was able to do. After that he was known as the legend Sigurður Fáfnisbani or Sigurður the bane (killer) of Fáfnir.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | This expression is used when someone is being very cheap, or holding money very tight to themselves. (Iceland) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | Að liggja á einhverju eins og ormur á gulli |
| Poland |  | |

Latvia



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Original language | Að vera týndur og tröllum gefinn (Iceland) | |
| Expression in English | To be lost and given to the trolls | |
| Background meaning in English | In Iceland there are mythical creatures that live in the mountains, called trolls. Trolls sometimes come down from the mountains are known for stealing from people and/or even stealing people themselves. When they do steal people, they usually steal kids. | |
| Meaning nowadays | This expression is used for something or someone that has been lost for a long time and nobody has seen it or them. (Iceland) | |
| Greece | | |
| Spain | | |
| Italy | | |
| Finland | | |
| Iceland | | Að vera týndur og tröllum gefinn |
| Poland | | |
| Latvia | | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Original language | Að bera ægishjálms yfir einhverjum (Iceland) | |
| Expression in English | To hold an ægishjalm over someone | |
| Background meaning in English | There is an old alphabet called Icelandic runes that was used by the vikings of old. But there are also old symbols that are considered magical in nature, they are called magic letters. These symbols can for example mean, healing, fertility, protection, guidance, fear and etc. One of these symbols is called ægishjalmur and is the symbol for protection. | |
| Meaning nowadays | The saying, to hold an ægishjalm over someone, means that you are protecting them. (Iceland) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | Að bera ægishjálms yfir einhverjum |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Original language | Að fara í jólaköttinn (Iceland) | |
| Expression in English | To be eaten by the Christmas cat | |
| Background meaning in English | In Iceland there is a myth about a particular Christmas cat which is owned by two trolls called Leppalúði and Grýla, parents of all thirteen Icelandic Santa clauses (Also known as Yule Lads). This Christmas cat is not like the ordinary fluffy and cute cat like you maybe would imagine. But an evil and ugly beast that eats humans alive. That happens when people dont get new clothes for Christmas. | |
| Meaning nowadays | The myth says, that everyone has to wear something new for Christmas or else be eaten by the cat. But it can be something simple like new socks for example. (ISL) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | Að fara í jólaköttinn |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | | Syzyfowe prace (Poland) |
| Expression in English | | Labors of Sisyphus |
| Background meaning in English | | The expression „ Labors of Sisyphus” is connected with mythical king who fell into disfavor with other Gods. As a punishment he was being forced to roll an immense boulder up a hill only for it to roll down when it nears the top, and repeat this action for eternity. |
| Meaning nowadays | | Tasks that are both laborious and futile (Poland) |
| Greece |  | Το μαρτύριο του Σίσυφου |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Fatica di Sisifo |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | Syzyfowe prace |
| Latvia |  | Sīzifa mokas |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Original language | Strzała Amora (Poland) | |
| Expression in English | Eros' Arrow | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>There are different versions about origins of Eros. According to one Eros was one of the primordial Gods which presence was necessary for the other Gods to be born. According to the other one , Eros was Afrodyta and Ares's son. He was a very handsome young man with wings, a bow and an arrow who had the ability to bind people with love using his arrow.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | To be in love (Poland) | |
| Greece |  | Τα βέλη του έρωτα |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Il dardo di Cupido |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | Örvar Erosar |
| Poland |  | Strzała Amora |
| Latvia |  | Amora bulta. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | | La speranza è l'ultima a morire (Italy) |
| Expression in English | | Hope is the last thing that dies |
| Background meaning in English | | There are different versions about its meaning. According to some, it refers to Pandora's box. When Pandora opened the box and all the world's evils came out, only hope lied at the bottom and was closed in the box again. So the world became such an evil place, that Pandora opened the box again to let hope out, the last thing left for mankind. |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | Η ελπίδα πεθαίνει πάντα τελευταία |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | La speranza è l'ultima a morire (Italy) |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Cerība mirst pēdējā. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Original language | Essere piantata in Nasso (Italy) | |
| Expression in English | To be planted in Naxo | |
| Background meaning in English | To be left alone in a situation, unexpectedly. This saying derives from the love story between Theseus and Ariane. After Ariane helps Theseus out of the maze, along with the Athenians and Theseus, she runs away and gets to the island of Naxo, where she is abandoned by Theseus for unknown reasons. | |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Essere piantata in Nasso (Italy) |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Original language | Avere la spada di Damocle (sulla testa) (Italy) | |
| Expression in English | To have Damocles's sword on one's head | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>This saying refers to Damocle, a friend of a tyrant called Dionisus II. Damocle was envious of the power and the role his friend had, so one day Dionisus said that Damocle could be the king for a day, to convince him that he was wrong. While having dinner together, there was a sword suspended on Damocle's head, tied only to a horsehair. After this episode, Damocle understood how difficult and dangerous it is to be a ruler.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | Δαμόκλειος σπάθη |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Avere la spada di Damocle (sulla testa) |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Damokla zobens virs galvas. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Original language | Andare tra le braccia di Morfeo (Italy) | |
| Expression in English | To be hugged by Morpheu's arms | |
| Background meaning in English | To fall asleep, as Morpheus was the God of sleep. | |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | Στην αγκαλιά του Μορφέα |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Andare tra le braccia di Morfeo |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Original language | Le dodici fatiche di Ercole (Italy) | |
| Expression in English | The twelve labors of Hercules | |
| Background meaning in English | To do something impossible or nearly impossible, just like Hercules' labours, ordered by King Eurystheus, to be performed in 12 years. | |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | Οι άθλοι του Ηρακλή |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Le dodici fatiche di Ercole |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Original language | L'avvenire giace sulle ginocchia di Giove (Italy) | |
| Expression in English | The future lies on Jupiter's lap | |
| Background meaning in English | Future is unpredictable, it is in God's hands (Jupiter's hands) | |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | L'avvenire giace sulle ginocchia di Giove (Italy) |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Nākotne ir Dieva rokās. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | | Bacco, Tabacco e Venere, riducon l'uomo in cenere (Italy) |
| Expression in English | | Bacchus, tobacco and Venus reduce man to ashes |
| Background meaning in English | | The combination of too much wine (symbolised by Bacchus), tobacco and sex (=Venus) will lead man to death. |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | Πυρ, γυνή και θάλασσα (= Fire, woman and sea) |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Bacco, Tabacco e Venere, riducon l'uomo in cenere |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Original language | Quando Bacco trionfa, il pensier fugge (Italy) | |
| Expression in English | When Bacchus wins, thoughts fly away | |
| Background meaning in English | If you drink too much alcohol (=Bacchus), you won't be able to think/use your mind properly. | |
| Meaning nowadays | | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | Quando Bacco trionfa, il pensier fugge |
| Finland |  | |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Original language | Sampo (Finland) | |
| Expression in English | Magical artifact in Kalevala | |
| Background meaning in English | Sampo is a mythical thing from the Finnish epic “Kalevala”. Sampo can be a machine or an item, also a wedding gift or a war trophy, but the main idea is that it increases the wealth of its owner. In Finnish traditional poems there are many stories about the sampo but in the epic “Kalevala” it is a fabulous golden machine that makes gold, grain and salt. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Something producing great (financial) wealth. (FIN) | |
| Greece |  | Το κέρασ της Αμάλθειας / Amalthea's horn (see expression in Greek) |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | Sampo |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Original language | Laulaa suohon (Finland) | |
| Expression in English | Sing into a swamp | |
| Background meaning in English | In Finnish folklore it's common to use spells or singing to make things change. Young Joukahainen (a character from the national epic "Kalevala") challenged the old but wise man Väinämöinen into a singing battle. The battle ended with young Joukahainen flying into the swamp. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Win a battle (go and sing someone into the swamp). Also used as an exhortation (Go and sing him/her into the swamp!) (Finland) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | Laulaa suohon |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Original language | Noidannuoli (Finland) | |
| Expression in English | Witch's arrow | |
| Background meaning in English | <p>In the Finnish folklore Lappish people ("finnar", "lappir") lived in the wilderness and were possibly Sami people. Among the Lappish people there were witches whose weapons were witches' arrows. The arrows were invisible and you couldn't see it striking into a person or an animal. It is also said in the folklore that you could see the arrows flying as fiery streaks in a dark forest.</p> | |
| Meaning nowadays | Back ache, lumbago, is called witches' arrow. (Finland) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | Noidannuoli |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Original language | Koputtaa puuta (Finland) | |
| Expression in English | Knock on wood | |
| Background meaning in English | In old Finnish mythological stories people believed that gnomes lived in the trees and if a man went to cut a tree he was to knock on the tree three times to warn the gnome to move out. If he didn't do it, the gnome would get angry and revenge to the person felling the tree. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Prevents unpleasant things beforehand. (Finland) | |
| Greece |  | Χτύπα ξύλο |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | Koputtaa puuta |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | Piesit pie koka. |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Original language | Suden hetki (Finland) | |
| Expression in English | Wolf's moment | |
| Background meaning in English | A wolf's moment is the moment early in the morning when a person is believed to be the most vulnerable. Folklore says that at the wolf's moment people easily fall asleep near the campfire and then the wolves can attack. It is also said that at the wolf's moment young people strengthen and go towards a new day and the old and weak people die. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Used as an explanation for sleeplessness in the early morning. (woke up/couldn't sleep at the wolfs moment. (Finland) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | Suden hetki |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |



Mythological

expressions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Original language | Lähteä soitellen sotaan (Finland) | |
| Expression in English | Go into war playing drums and whistles. | |
| Background meaning in English | In the Finnish epic "Kalevala" young Kullervo is going to war and his mother asks him not to do so because he will fail. But young Kullervo doesn't want to listen to his mother and he leaves their home singing. And fails in everything. | |
| Meaning nowadays | Doing a task with weak skills but great (unfounded) confidence. (Finland) | |
| Greece |  | |
| Spain |  | |
| Italy |  | |
| Finland |  | Lähteä soitellen sotaan |
| Iceland |  | |
| Poland |  | |
| Latvia |  | |