

# **MYTHS AND LEGENDS ABOUT ALEXANDER THE GREAT**

## **PROPHECY ABOUT GREAT ALEXANDER'S BIRTH-PROPHET DANIEL**

The king of Babylon called Belsazar dreamt a big ram which head had a huge horn and a small one too. It was so strong that no one could fight it. But one day a capricorn with only one horn, coming from the west, attacked the ram without touching the earth! The Capricorn killed the strong ram, and the capricorn started becoming gigantic, but suddenly its horn broke. At the same part of its head four horns were appeared that they showed the four cardinal points.

And it was written, 200 years later, Alexander the Great with his Greek army to conquer the Egypt and the Asia. He died quickly after his empire's birth and four of his generals took the throne and divided it into four kingdoms!

## **REFERENCES ABOUT GREAT ALEXANDER'S BIRTH**

Olympiad was so sad because she wasn't able to give birth to children, so she was afraid as she thought that Philip could divorce her, who required her to find a way to born a baby. Olympiad pleased wizard Ektenavos to help her. Ektenavos persuaded her that he would invoke Amun-Jupiter, from who she would acquire a male baby. When Amun-Jupiter appeared in the night, he copulated with Olympiad. But he was Ektenavos transformed into a goat, who managed to get Olympiad pregnant. Certainly the child was Alexander the Great.

Plutarch states that when Alexander was to be born, his mother felt a lightning at her chest and heard thunders. From the wound, fire and flames pulled out. Philip, after his wedding, he dreamt that set at his wife belly a stamp which illustrated a lion. Wizard Telmessus interpreted the dream. He said that Olympiad would bear a son brave and strong like a lion.

## **OMENS ABOUT ALEXANDER'S BORN WHO PREDICTED HIS VICTORIOUS ACTION:**

The day Alexander was born, the Macedonia's royal horse won the Olympic games. His father, Philip the second, conquered Potidea, while a general called Parmenion won Illyrians in another expedition! These events seemed to be lucky omens, that the newborn boy would praise Greece and become a king!

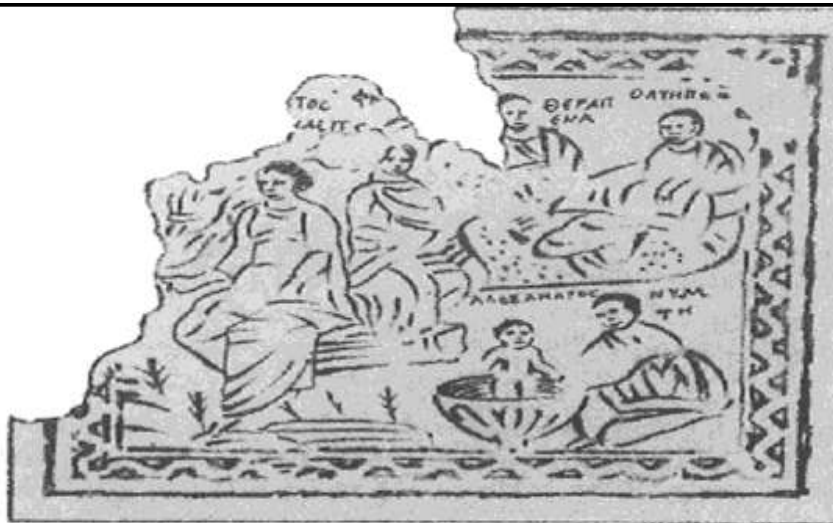
The day Alexander was born, the temple of goddess Artemis was set on fire in Ephesus. As many wizards and priests were there, they said that a big calamity was born for Asia. It is also said that the temple burnt because the goddess wasn't there, as she went to help Alexander's birth.

At his birth, two royal eagles flied from Olympus to the roof of Alexander's father home, until the end of the day, foretelling about his domination around the Asia and Europe.





2 Η γέννηση του Αλεξάνδρου. Από το Ιωάννης ο Καλός, *Miroir des histoires*, περ. 1345. Λέιντεν: χρφ Voss 44F.3a. f. 157v.



3 Η γέννηση του Αλεξάνδρου όπως απεικονίζεται σε ένα μωσαϊκό από το Σουεντιέ, στον Λίβανο. Ζωγραφική από τη φωτογραφία που δημοσιεύθηκε από τον Chéhab το 1957.



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feseu adulle  
il ferit la ro  
ine sur le nō  
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ra estre soubz mise p  
nal homme. Et telle  
maniere fut la royne  
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grossete apparcoissoit elle appella Dectane bus a suy dist Daisler

7 Η γέννηση του Αλεξάνδρου. Από την editio princeps του γαλλικού πεζού Αλεξάνδρου, Alexandre le Grant.

## SHIVA'S OASIS

Alexander was considered as Ammon's son, something that he accepted and for this reason he wanted to visit his father's temple in Shiva's Oasis, in Egypt. That's why he went to Egypt.

When Alexander arrived with his army in Shiva, according to Diodorus, heavy storms began, which quenched Alexander's army thirst. After that some ravens were appeared and they led the army deeper in the city, in a source that it's water was hot during the night and cold during the day. Later, they went at the temple of Ammun-Zeus. Alexander recognized the temple as it was his father's and then asked if he would really conquer the whole world someday. The prophet confirmed it. Then, Alexander asked if all of his father's murderers were punished. Priests who interpreted god's responses, they told him that his real father couldn't be damaged by anyone, but if he was referred to Philip who was mortal, he should be relieved because all of Philip's murderers had been punished. After this Alexander honored god with great gifts and returned to Egypt.



## ALEXANDER AND AMAZONS

Another legend for Alexander has to do with his meeting with the queen of Amazons and their mating. The Amazon's queen Thalestris went in Hyrcania, with her 300 followers to meet Macedonia's king. Alexander's reputation after his victories against the Persians was heard to Amazons who dominated the area from Phasis River to Thermodon River. As a result the Queen was interested in eugenic mating, in order to give birth in a child who would be the greatest of all.

Alexander was flattered with the queen's thought and he succumbed to her desire for 13 days. While he was leaving he gave her many valuable gifts. Unfortunately, Thalestris was killed after conflicts with neighboring tribes. So their plan failed.



## **THE GORDIAN KNOT**

Alexander the Great arrived at Gordion in February or March of 333 b.c. and he stayed there for short time to rest his army from Pisidia fights. There he found Gordian's chariot as a Zeus' offering. The scale of chariot was knit with dogwood bark and it was so complicated that nobody could find its start. According to the tradition, if someone would unbind the Gordian knot, he would conquer Asia. Alexander went there and unbound it easily.

They way he unbound it is still a mystery. The most prevalent view is that he cut it with his sword. Despite his publicity, this legend is less accepted. Aristobulus who was possibly witness, reports that he unbound it removing the wheel of the chariot which was holding the Gordian knot.

According to Robert Graves, the Gordian knot was possibly a religious symbol and it was symbolizing the God's Dionysus name. It was revealed only to the kings of Phrygia.



## ARABIC LEGENDS

### THE WELL OF LIFE

In Arab romance, Alexander started his travel to the earth of dark, short after his marriage with the queen of Amazons to find the well of life ,because he learned that the yarn of his life has almost over and he desired to live longer. In some versions he was accompanied by the cooker , who was called Andreas in Syrian version, Idriss in Arab , or by one mysterious figure called Al-Qadir . Al-Qadir means "evergreen".

The companion of Alexander found the well of life by luck, when one fish which soak inside it suddenly became alive and it swam far away .He washed in the well and after he ran to Alexander to say what had happened .Both of them returned, but they didn't manage to find the magic well again .The cooker became immortal and Alexander had to die.



**DEFILED BREEDS**

The cannibals Cynocephali were one from the 17 defiled breeds living in earth of dark, from where, according to the Arabic legend, Alexander passed in search of water that would give him the immortality .The names of 17 defiled breeds in Greek were: Gothic, Mongolia , Anaghes, Treatmenters, Cannibals ,Dogshead, Marmaithy, Asineoi. It is said that Alexander ordered to be built a bronze gate greased with siakinthi , which was a very resilient material that neither silver nor fire could destroy it, in order to close the 17 defiled breeds forever in the cage in which they were hidden from him. Another version of the legend speaks about their imprisonment from Alexander in Tartar.





## THE VALLEY OF DIAMONDS

No one else could arrive in the area that produce diamonds, but Alexander the Great did it .This valley is connected with Hind valley .It was very deep and huge in which existed snakes that nobody had ever seen again and when somebody was looking at them, he died. However, this power remained in snakes, as long as they were alive and when they died the power was lost. So, Alexander ordered to put a huge iron mirror in that place, where the snakes lived. As the snakes approached, their look fell on the mirror and because of this they died .Then, Alexander wanted to go and take diamonds from the valley, but nobody wanted to go with him. He asked for advice from the wises and they told him to throw a piece of meat in the valley. He did that and the diamonds glued to the meat and the birds from the sky pulled the meat outside of the valley. Then Alexander ordered to hunt the birds so as to take the diamonds from the meat. The attachment of the diamonds in the meat has to do with the capacity of diamonds to attach in tallow and confirms that these stones were real diamonds.



## **GREAT ALEXANDER IN KORAN**

The glorious personality of Alexander moved the Muslims, as many researchers support the presence of Alexander in Koran. Specifically, many researchers believe that the hero of Koran, Dhul-Qarnayn , whose history is consisted from 16 lyrics of Koran is Great Alexander. Well, the hero is considered from the Muslims to be a prophet, while some other researchers believe that Dhul-Qarnayn is an ancient surname of Alexander and means : «the human with the 2 horns».

According to the narration of Koran, Jews nominated the Muhammad to prove that he was a prophet, answering in 3 questions. One of these was about a man in ancient years who travelled a lot and he arrived in east and west of the world. After 15 days, Muhammad answered that this man was Dhul-Qarnayn , who, according to the Muslim historians , is Alexander the Great, who was called «human with 2 horns» because he was the king of Persia and Greece.

## **THE GATES OF THE CASPIAN**

According to Koran, the narration for Dhul-Qarnayn includes Jewish and Syrian legends about Alexander. One of the Syrian legends is called «the gates of the Caspian» and says that Alexander asked God to bring close 2 mountains. Between them he built a wall from silver, so as to prevent Gog and Magog breeds from invading in that area.

## **THE IMMORTAL WATER**

By the time Alexander with his army sat and rested in India, his sister, Kyna , thought to put forward a plan that had been in her mind for a long time. It was a great opportunity and did not want to lose it. So she went to a wise old Oriental man and asked him where she could find the immortal water and how to use it so as to make her beloved brother immortal.

After a long thought, he finally opened his eyes and replied to Kyna : « The immortal water is in the large cave of fire. But it is very dangerous and almost impossible to get in there and take the water. The cave is covered by a terrible fire and no one ever managed to get out alive». Kyna without hesitation said to the wise that for the sake of Alexander she was even ready to go down to the ruthless underworld! She was not afraid to risk her life for Alexander.

Then the wise man said that the immortal water is useful only when the one who is going to drink it is about to die or has no hope to live. However, if he happened to drink it earlier the water would be useless and could cost the human life. Kyna thanked the Asian wise and rushed, without losing a minute, for the great cave of fire, to go and get the immortal water. After several days Kyna had finally arrived in front of the scary cave. It was quite impossible for a mortal to make it into the giant flames that covered the entrance of the cave and burned everything. Kyna was not disappointed at all. Full of love for Alexander she passed so quickly between the flames that they did not even touch her! The cave was huge and deep. However, the heroic Kyna found the immortal water and filled an entire bottle. Then, she went to find her brother and his army in India. Kyna did not tell her secret to anybody.

Someday Alexander became seriously ill with fever and fell exhausted on the bed. He was about to die. Kyna was constantly on his side and took care of him. Doctors saw that Alexander was deteriorating day by day and he was approaching closely to the death. One day they said to Kyna that there was no hope for her brother to recover her brother and that soon he would pass the Acherousia Lake to get into the world of the dead.

But Kyna wasn't disappointed. She had her secret: the immortal water. So when Alexander was a step before death and asked his sister to put some wine to drink, she dropped into the glass some drops of the immortal water.

However, Alexander understood that his sister threw something into the wine and immediately realized that it was the immortal water. But he did not want to drink wine mixed with water, even if it was the water of the eternal life! So he decided to fool his

sister. He sent her out to invite the soldiers to drink the wine together. Kyna obeyed but then he changed his glass with hers so that she could become immortal and think of him forever.

When the girl returned, unsuspecting took the glass with the immortal water and drank it. When she realized what had happened it was too late. Alexander, after he drank the last drop of the wine, fell down dead. The legend wants Kyna to have been transformed into a mermaid and wander in the sea asking the captains of ships « Does the king Alexander live? » And if they answer «YES» then she gives them her blessings for a safe journey. But if the answer is «NO», then she becomes sad and causes incredible storms in the sea.

### **KING ALEXANDER AND THE MERMAID**

King Alexander fought and conquered all the kingdoms and the whole land tremble him, so one day he summoned the wizards and asked them:

*-Tell me, you that possess the fate's future, what can I do to live many years, and feel the joy of the whole world that I made mine?*

*-My king, your power is great but what history wrote cannot be undone. Only one thing can make you feel your glory and your kingdoms. But it's difficult, very difficult.*

*-I don't ask you if it's difficult, only which is it?*

*-Then my king at your commands, I tell you that it's the immortal water, who ever drinks it is immortal. But to acquire the water you must pass between two mountains hitting each other endlessly, even a bird can't pass. If you pass the two mountains, you must kill the dragon that guards the water.*

Immediately Alexander commands and they bring him his horse Vukefala that had no wings but flew like a bird. He passed the two mountains, he killed the dragon, he took the glass with the immortal water. But when he returned to his palace, his sister without knowing what the water is, she spills it on a wild onion, and that's why wild onions never dry. After hours Alexander went to drink the water and when he learned his sister spilled it, he cursed her to become a fish from the waist and below, god listen to that curse and from then, people returning with their ships see her swimming in the waves, and when

she sees a ship she grabs it and asks:

*-Does king Alexander lives?*

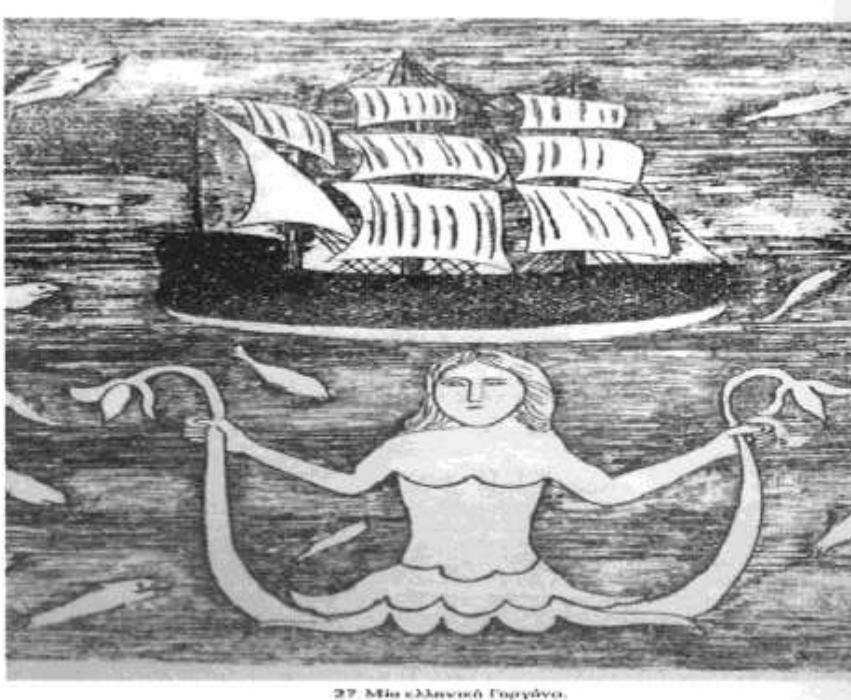
And if the captain didn't know and said:

*-He died...*

Then the mermaid sinks the ship creating big waves with her long blond hair and her arms. But the one that knows and says:

*-He lives and rules the world...*

Then the mermaid stops the winds and waves and sings sweet songs...



37 Μία ελληνική Γοργόνα.

