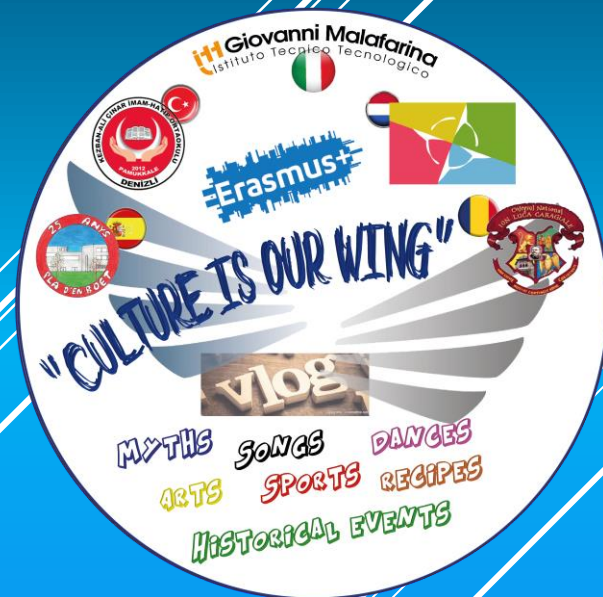


Culture Is Our Wings

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MYTHS AND LEGENDS IN CALABRIA



THE MYTH IN CALABRIA AND IN THE MAGNA GRECIA

The origins of the cities of Magna Graecia in Calabria are rooted in the very heart of the mythical tradition. Gods and heroes intervene in their foundation, guide the path of warriors in the routes of the Mediterranean. The language of myth tells the slow path of men towards the geographical knowledge of new lands and new peoples.



THE LEGEND OF FAIRY MORGANA

The Fata Morgana, an optical phenomenon similar to a mirage, can be observed from the Calabrian coast when air and sea are motionless. The legend says that Ruggero I D'Altavilla was also enchanted by the spell. To induce him to conquer Sicily, with a stroke of the magic wand the Fairy Morgana made him appear so close to it that he could touch it with his own hands. But the outraged Norman king refused to take the island by deception. And so, without the help of the Fairy, it took him thirty years to conquer the island



MYTH OF SCILLA

Scylla was a wonderful blue eyed girl, daughter of Forco and Ceto. Glaucus, the sea God, half man and half fish, had madly fallen in love with her. Scylla refused his love and Glaucus turned to the sorceress Circe who, instead, had fallen in love with him. Distressed by the refusal of Glaucus, who was hopelessly in love with Scylla, she took revenge, throwing an evil potion into the sea. Scylla plunged into the sea, turning into a huge and tall monster with six huge dog heads, with three rows of teeth each, a huge bust and legs like a snake.



LIGEIA : THE MERMAID

Ligeia, a beautiful mermaid lived, together with her sisters Leucosia and Partenope, in the sea of Positano. It is said that the mermaids were once wonderful nymphs and that by divine punishment, having refused to help Demeter, goddess of the harvest, Venus had turned them into monsters. And so the three creatures spent their time playing and singing, inventing the most beautiful melodies and captivating the sailors who passed by. Often, sailors in the attempt to reach them, shipwrecked and drowned.

Ligeia was named the melodious because her song was the sweetest ever heard on earth. The mermaids threw themselves into the deepest waters and drowned miserably. The waves of the sea threw their bodies everywhere. According to the legend, Ligeia was buried on the gravelly shore of Okinaros by the local people, who built a votive temple to the mermaid.



ERCOLE

It is said that Hercules arrived at Capo Lacinio in search of rest, hosted by the local hero Crotone. The legend says that the herd of which the demigod was in charge of was stolen by a thief; immediately Hercules, along with Crotone, went to find him in the place where he lived. Yet during the fight the thief died and the same sort affected Crotone, killed by the son of Zeus. Hercules mourned the death of his dear friend. Without delay, he provided for the construction of a real funeral monument, begging the Gods to ensure that on that tomb one of the most flourishing cities of the ancient Magna Graecia would be erected.



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