

THE MYTH OF PERSEUS AND MEDUSA

This is the tale of the great Perseus,
Legendary son of the mighty Zeus.
He lived on Seriphos with Danae,
His beautiful mother, easy on the eye.

When the king met Danae, he was impressed.
He said "Marry me!" It was not a request.
Danae found the king obnoxious and mean,
She really did not want to be his queen.

The king got angry at this rejection.
So Perseus came to her protection;
He said to the king "Please drop this demand,
And I will do anything you command."

The king sneered and replied to him, "You sir,
Must bring me the head of the Gorgon Medusa."
Perseus replied "This thing that you ask
Is sure to be an impossible task.
I did promise though, so I'll do my best."
And off he marched on his epic quest.

The Gorgon sisters were nasty creatures,
Horrible hags, with hideous features.
Bodies covered in scales, sharp knifelike claws,
Big leathery wings, and tusks like a boar's.
Medusa had no hair on her head,
She had a writhing mass of snakes instead.
She really was such an ugly old crone,
Just one look at her would turn you to stone.

Young Perseus knew he had no chance,
He would be turned to stone with just one glance.
The gods, however, were watching from on high,
And they had pity on the poor guy.
They gave him a super-sharp crystal sword,
Much better than any he could afford;
They gave him a shield that shone like silver,
It gave a reflection like a mirror.

Next Perseus had to discover where
Medusa and her sisters had their lair.
The gods had given an indication
That "three grey women" knew the location.