

Catalog of One-footed Heroes



Sculpture by Filippo Abacini 1825

The Classical / Epic Hero: These are brave, larger-than-life characters with extraordinary abilities. Often possessing royal or divine ancestry, they embark on grand quests, battle monsters, and hold strong moral codes. Example: Hercules or King Arthur.—Wikipedia

Or Achilles. With him, the hero warrior with the fatal flaw entered the mythologies of the West.

Thetis, the warrior's mother, attempted to make him immortal by dipping him in the River Styx, but forgot she was holding him by his heel. Thus the term "Achilles Heel." Achilles was slain in the Trojan War by Paris with a well-placed arrow to the heel.

The absence of a foot (or heel) is not always a flaw. Among the pre-Columbian Maya, the serpent-footed K'awiil was a very powerful god:

*K'awiil, in the Post-Classic codices corresponding to **God K**, is a **Maya** deity identified with power, creation, and lightning.^[1] He is characterized by a zoomorphic head, with large eyes, long, upturned snout and attenuated serpent foot.^[2] As a creator god, K'awiil usually has a torch, stone celt, or cigar coming*

out of his forehead that symbolizes the spark of life. One of his legs does not end in a foot but in a snake with an open mouth, from which another being can emerge.

—Wikipedia



K'awiil

K'awiil bears a strong resemblance to the Aztec deity Tezcatlipoca.



Codex Borgia: Tezcatlipoca

Notice Tezcatlipoca's missing foot. He lost it in a struggle with the Earth monster while creating the current world. "Karl Taube and Mary Miller, specialists in Mesoamerican studies, write that, 'More than anything Tezcatlipoca appears to be the embodiment of change through conflict.'"

—Wikipedia

