



Historically Speaking

Volume 1, Number 1 January 2022

About the newsletter



This monthly newsletter will give me a chance to share the background of my research and writing as I progress with novels based in the ancient Mediterranean (primarily Greece, Egypt and Nubia (Kush)). I have found so much interesting information and most of it doesn't fit into the novels.

I have been posting a daily blog for months now, and some of the discussions found there will be addressed here as well. I will try not to duplicate too much, but this newsletter will let me cover more than I can fit into the blogs.

One friend asked about whether this newsletter would be appropriate for her ten year old daughter, who loves mythology. I informed her that it might not be. The ancient Greeks were an earthy people and the mythology of their imagination reflects that. If you sanitize it (as is too often done), it loses the meaning behind the myth. That will be the subject of a future newsletter.

When I was teaching mythology, the meaning behind the myths was a central focus. The stories are rich and the Greek mythology in particular, is more advanced and immense in content than any other mythology (in my opinion), and that is remarkable in that much of it has been lost to time. The Greeks carried it as a purely oral tradition for centuries. When it moved from oral to written language, it ceased to evolve and much of it was simply never committed to written language.

The bards of the oral tradition would sing the stories, usually accompanied by a lyre or other stringed instrument. They would include local heroes, politicians and patrons, dependent on where they were performing. They would do this for hours at a time, constructing it as they went, most often in dactylic pentameter.

Stephen's Corner

When I was a child, and I got in trouble, I had to stand in the corner. Today they call it a time-out. The story has it that one of those times I rebelled saying, "I don't want to stand in the coyner. I know what coyners look like." That got a laugh, but didn't get me out of the corner.

This corner will be more of a celebration than a punishment, thankfully, and I hope you enjoy it more than I enjoyed the 'coyner' of my childhood.

Ouranian Publishing of Spokane

304 N. Adams Rd.

Spokane Valley, WA 99216- 2062

(509) 710-7185