

The Story of Narcissus & Echo

How was Narcissus born? What was Teiresias' prophecy about him?

Once the river god Cephissus enveloped Liriope, a river nymph, in his waters and made her mix bodily with him. Soon an adorable boy named Narcissus was born out of this union.

Narcissus' mother, being curious to know what sort of life awaited her son, in course of time, sought out Teiresias, the famous blind Greek prophet and asked him how long Narcissus would live. Teiresias replied vaguely that Narcissus would enjoy a long life as long as he did not know himself.

Who was Echo? Why did she lose her power of speech?

Echo was a Greek, in Greek mythology a mountain nymph that lived on Mount Cithaeron.

Jove loved consorting with beautiful nymphs. His wife Juno being suspicious, tried to catch Jove with the nymphs. Eventually Echo ordered by Jove would keep Juno busy with her prattle to allow the nymphs to scuttle away to safety and escape the goddess' wrath. When at last Juno realised the

truth she cursed Echo saying that she would lose words completely from that moment on echo could only repeat the most recent by spoken words of another person.

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3 How did Nemesis punish Narcissus?
OR
How did Narcissus face his death?

A number of nymphs including Echo and suitors were rejected and repudiated by proud Narcissus. Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and revenge having learned of Narcissus' behavior decided to punish him. So that she did him to a fault when he got thirsty after hunting and saw himself in the waters of the pool. At once he deeply fell in love with his reflection. But he unable to make love with it eventually realised that he could not marry. He eventually made eventually that eventually by melting away from the fire of passion he turned into a gold and built flowers.

Q How did Echo gradually lose her
life? What remained of her?

Rejected in love by Narcissus and
brought to shame, Echo went to hide
her blushes in the recesses of the woods
from that time forth she lived in
lonely amidst the trees, the caves and
the mountain cliffs. Her form faded
with grief, till at last all her flesh
shrank away. Her bones were changed
into rocks. Finally her body turned
invisible through lack of bodily
ingredients.

In spite of her withered body
she loved Narcissus persistently. That
is why her voice remained, still repeating
the last few words ~~of that~~ spoken to
her.

1. The Echo is a creature...