

Teiresias

① Who was Teiresias? Why was he given the gift of clairvoyance?

In Greek mythology, Teiresias, son of the shepherd Euryes and the nymph Chariclo was a blind prophet of Apollo in Thebes. He was noted for acquiring sixth sense and for being transformed into a woman for seven years.

Jupiter and Juno bantered about which gender enjoys sex more. Jove said women do and Juno commented otherwise. They decided to ask Teiresias as he had reportedly experienced both enjoyments. Teiresias agreed with Jove. In their anger Juno ~~struck~~ Teiresias blind. Jupiter compensated Teiresias by giving him supernatural foresight.

② What was Teiresias's first prediction? How was Teiresias's prophesy proved to be true?

Ovid records Teiresias's first prediction, i.e. Narcissus will live a long life as long as he does not know himself.

After long span of his life Narcissus, one day stops for a drink at a small pond. When he sees reflection in the water of the pool, Narcissus falls hopelessly in love with himself. Unable to capture his reflection, Narcissus stays by the pond until he starves to death. Thus Teiresias prophesy is proved.

③ Which incident leads to Teiresias's transformation from a man into a woman? How many years did he spend in that form?

Among two ^{main} myths around Teiresias's life, the first one was his change of sex. Teiresias was on Mount Cyllene in the Peloponnese when he found a pair of snakes copulating together. He blew them with his staff and their mating had been disrupted. This incident made Hera angry and she transformed Teiresias from a man into a woman.

Teiresias spent for seven years in the form of woman serving as a priestess of Hera.

④ What made Juno angry with Teiresias and what was her curse?

There was an argument between ~~Hera~~ ^{Juno} and her husband ~~Zeus~~ Jupiter on the theme of who has more pleasure in sex: the man as Juno claimed, or as Jove claimed, the woman. As Teiresias had experienced both, he was chosen to settle this playful argument. ~~He~~ Teiresias replied "6 of ten parts a man enjoys one only." Thus Juno's ^{with jure} her bet made her angry with being defeated ⁱⁿ her bet. Juno instantly condemned Teiresias' eyes to perpetual blindness.