



The Metamorphoses of Ovid

By Michael Simpson

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Second, corrected, paperback printing, 2004.

Composed in Latin in the early years of the first century by the Roman poet Ovid, the "Metamorphoses" presents a collection of amazing tales of transformation based on Greek mythology and legend. Michael Simpson's prose translation of Ovid's masterpiece in the rapid and direct American idiom catches the swiftness and clarity of the Latin original. His introduction sketches the poet's life, describes his extant works, discusses his unusual exile to the west coast of the Black Sea (where he died), and provides a useful context for reading the "Metamorphoses."

Simpson has also prepared extensive endnotes that serve as mini-essays, illuminating the manifold aspects of the poem and offering commentary and interpretation that enable readers to enter Ovid's magical world and enjoy its richness.

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The Metamorphoses of Ovid By Michael Simpson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Ovid's *Metamorphoses* is one of the best repositories of ancient Greek and Roman mythology. Ovid is also a skilled poet and storyteller with a sly and urbane wit. A number of translations are readily available in English, including those of Rolfe Humphries (1955), Frank Miller (1977), Mary Ames (1987), Allen Mandelbaum (1987), and A.D. Melville (1998). Simpson (classics, Univ. of Texas, Dallas; *Gods and Heroes of the Greeks*) here offers a new prose version. His translation, including superb notes, is accurate, using modern English and avoiding the tendency of some translators to use archaic spellings or syntax. His version captures Ovid the storyteller but, unfortunately, misses the vigor and tone of Ovid's verse. For a poetic version, Humphries's remains preferable. Simpson's prose is serviceable, but he doesn't stand out from Miller and Ames. Suitable for academic and public libraries. T.L. Cooksey, Armstrong Atlantic State Univ., Savannah, GA

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Review

"This is by far the best prose translation of Ovid's masterpiece. It fully captures the verve, nuance, and entertainment of Ovid's narration. The extensive and up-to-date notes are an additional bonus."?Karl Galinsky, University of Texas at Austin

"This translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* is a welcome surprise amid the many translations that have appeared in the past twenty years. It makes no strained effort to find a metrical scheme and pose as the modern equivalent to Ovid's poetic form. Instead, it seeks?and achieves with remarkable success ?to render the flowing elegance of Ovid's narrative style with a sensitivity that captures the versatility of the Latin and of the stories that Ovid chose to tell. This is an especially effective text for studying Ovid."?William S. Anderson, University of California, Berkeley

"Simpson conveys the rapid flow of Ovid's wonderful mythological, epic-style poem in clear, accessible, and straightforward prose. The running commentary that accompanies the translation offers interesting and sometimes challenging interpretations, informed by recent scholarship and a concern with the meaning of the poem for a wide audience."?Charles Segal, Harvard University

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Latin

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brenda Villa:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed The Metamorphoses of Ovid? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other

opinion?

Christopher Melendez:

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Kathleen Huckaby:

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Tommy Wright:

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