

return at pleasure, all stand out with life-like fidelity as characteristics of the wind, in contrast to the absolute truthfulness, the searching glance, and the boundless knowledge of the lord of light.

The myth of the Sorrow of Dêmêtêr (VII.) brings us to the great subject of the mythology of Northern Europe. The absence of Persephonê in the dark land of Hades is the sleep of Brynhild within the coils of the dragon on the Glistening Heath. Her departure is the death of the summer, when the earth seeks in vain for the fruits and flowers which had gladdened her since the days of spring. Here, as in the myth of Hermes, Hêlios alone can tell Dêmêtêr whither her child is gone. The sun alone can see where the summer has been hidden away. The key once given, the legend explains itself. As Sigurd awakens Brynhild, so Hermes brings Persephonê to Dêmêtêr, and the six or seven months of summer begin again, when the grief of the mourning mother has passed away.

The myth of Endymiôn (VIII.) is even more transparent. Indeed, it has scarcely reached that crystallised state in which alone a myth strictly deserves the name. The rays of the setting sun rest on the peaceful valley which glistens with its radiance; the moon comes forth to gaze on the setting sun; she asks him to journey with her to other lands, but he cannot do so, and as her eyes still remain fixed upon him, he plunges suddenly into the dreamless sleep of the Latmian land.

"One who cannot guide the fiery horses sits in the chariot of the sun." So ran the phrase which, scarcely disguised in the brief myth of Phaethon (IX.), rose naturally to the lips of men when all herbage was scorched and withered in times of drought. In his brightness Phaethon resembles Hêlios, but he is not the same being; he lacks either his wisdom or his strength. The story is repeated in the legends of Patroklos and Telemachos, who faintly reflect the power and majesty of Achilleus and Odysseus. The thunderbolt which smites Phaethon in the chariot is the lightning ushering in the storm which brings rain to the parched earth.