

Augé in that of Telephos, and of Ilia and Mandanê in the myths of Romulus and Cyrus. In Diktys and Polydektes we have faint reflexions, again, of the powers of light and of darkness. Polydektes is, in fact, Polydegmon, or Hades, the darkness which swallows all that comes within its grasp; Diktys is the genial light which is born in the cave of Dikte; but the light is the brother of the darkness as the sun is the child of the night, and so Diktys and Polydektes are brethren. So, again, the night is the lover of the twilight or the dawn, and thus Polydektes woos Danaê as Paris wooed the Argive Helen. On her refusal to grant his prayer, Polydektes sends Perseus away on a toilsome errand; but this errand is only a reproduction of the conflict of Apollo with Python, and of Indra with Vritra. Beginning his western journey Perseus (XXV.) reaches first the bright Argive land, and there during the still hours of night he receives the invincible weapons which are to carry him scathless through all his battles. It is scarcely necessary to say that these weapons are the heritage of all the solar heroes, that they are found in the hands of Phœbus and Herakles, of Œdipus, Achilles, Philoktetes, of Sigurd, Rustem, Indra, Isfendiyar, of Telephos, Meleagros, Theseus, Kadmos, Bellerophôn, and all other slayers of noxious and fearful things. With the death of Medusa the first part of his labours comes to an end. The night is slain, and the sun rises into the serene regions of the upper air, the beautiful Hyperborean gardens, while the dark sisters hasten after him to avenge the death of Medusa. Their chase is vain. Perseus has reached the bright land where there is no storm or tumult, the peaceful home where Penelopê weaves her web of evening clouds, to be undone again until their fairy forms are seen once more in the morning (XXVI.) Here, however, he may not tarry; but, as with the Teutonic Sigurd, his toil is now to bring with it its own reward. The good sword Gram slays the dragon Fafnir, and Sigurd wins Brynhild; the sword of Hermes smites the Libyan monster, and Andromeda becomes the bride of Perseus. But here, too, the imagery of other tales is repeated, and