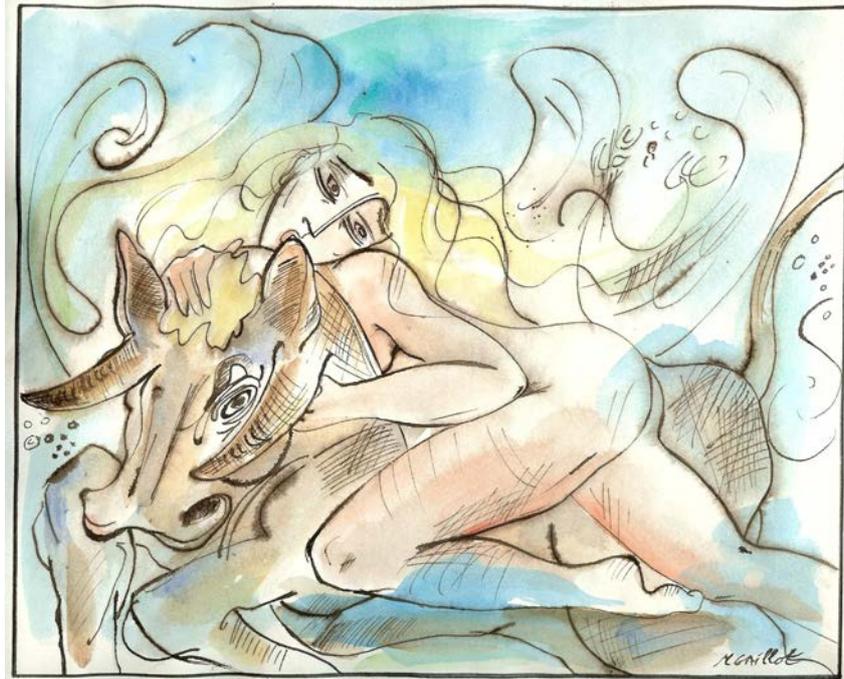


The legend of Europe



by

Heleen Jansen and Marie Gaillot

Translated by Paula Askew

Language Level: B2

The legend of Europe



In ancient Greece, a very important country at this time, in a picturesque castle in Tyre lived a beautiful Princess with her parents and her brothers. Her father was King Agénor, King of Phoenicia. Her mother, Queen Téléphassa who both loved their daughter Europe. The little girl loved nature, flowers, animals, dolphins. Often, walking on the beach with her grandfather, the famous God Poseidon. Her grandfather liked to tell stories to his granddaughter. Especially about the gods living on Olympus and how they spent their days and about which Gods descended onto Earth. Europe loved listening to the stories of her grandfather.

Her grandfather Poseidon is the famous God of the sea. He has a beautiful Palace in the depths of the Ocean. Poseidon is a powerful, great and strong God. He always holds a large Scepter with three prongs, his famous trident. When he is in a good mood, the sea is calm. But oh, then, when he gets angry, he can cause high waves, very high waves! Europe likes to watch the sea, she enjoys a calm sea, but she loves the rough seas. She knows the difficult nature of her grandfather. She knows he likes to chat with the other gods. But when he is angry he can cause earthquakes. She also knows that many people are afraid of Poseidon, mainly fishermen at sea. Europe is not afraid of her grandfather; on the contrary, she admires him! She knows that her grandfather is fond of children and that she is his favorite granddaughter.



Poseidon loves to see his granddaughter. They are often together on great journeys on his aquatic chariot pulled by dolphins and seahorses. Europe loves petting the dolphins and seahorses, but her favorite animal is her grandfather's Bull. This beautiful Bull white, large and strong, follows her grandfather around like a dog. ! Poseidon likes to amuse his granddaughter. When he is in a good mood, Europe can even hold his trident. With this weapon Poseidon can cause very high waves. And in an instant, he can calm the sea with his trident. He can also cause earthquakes by placing his trident into the ground and he can even create Islands in the sea. Often, Poseidon proudly displays the powers of his trident to his granddaughter. Europe loves her grandfather

who can do miracles and who can tell what is happening in the Palace at the Summit of Olympus. Europe loves listening to the stories of the gods and goddesses who live in the Palace of Olympus. Especially the stories about Zeus, the brother of Poseidon.

Zeus, the God of Justice and forgiveness protects his brothers and the weak. Zeus, the God who descends from Olympus and who is famous for his many amorous adventures with beautiful girls.

Europe also likes to listen to stories about Hera, the jealous wife of Zeus. She is the Queen of heaven and Olympus, the goddess of marriage, fidelity and the protector of married women. Obviously, Hera does not support her husband Zeus's cheating. Yet, despite all the betrayals of her husband, Hera remains faithful to Zeus.



One day, Zeus and his inseparable Eagle are in his palace on Olympus. Zeus is a little bored. He doesn't know what to do. Suddenly, he hears happy melodies that seem to come from the Earth. A few beautiful girls play on the beach and sing. Zeus loves this clear voice. He looks good and sees among girls the beautiful daughter of the King Agénor. « She has grown up and has become beautiful! » I'm going down to make her acquaintance" he whispers. "What did you say?" ask Hera, always on guard? "Oh nothing" says Zeus. "I see Europe, the granddaughter of my brother Poseidon playing on the beach with her friends. Today is her birthday

"Zeus, ignited by the beauty of the young Europe descends from Olympus without waiting. Once on the beach, Zeus approaches the girls without getting noticed! He looks with admiration at the young Europe. He discovered a true beauty, a girl with long blond hair of gold, with large eyes of aquatic blue. She has the face of an Angel and the body of a Goddess. Zeus falls immediately in love with this beautiful girl. It really is love at first sight! He decided to approach her. To avoid the gaze of Hera and not to frighten the young girls, Zeus decides to use a ruse. He will turn. into a Bull!



A few minutes later, a beautiful white Bull approached the girls on the beach. "What a beautiful Bull!" shouted the girls and they immediately stop their games. "Look, a silver disc adorns his forehead, his great horns form a Crescent Moon!" says Europe. "It looks much like the Bull of my grandfather. Watch as he has a soft look and silky hair. I'll try to stroke it! "The animal remains still, no longer moving. Europe is slowly approaching the great beast, and blows a few words in his ear and the animal goes down on the sand. Curious, Europe approaches nearer, she caresses the bull again and dares even to sit on his back. Her friends also approach and begin stroking the animal. "It's nice, isn't it, like my grandfather' bull!" says Europe. The bull rises and runs in the direction of the sea. There is panic on the beach! The friends of Europe screaming 'help, help...



The bull runs at a high-speed leaving a large trail of foam behind him. The poor Europe! She closes her eyes, she is afraid of drowning. She clings to the crescent moon big horns. The bull runs faster, he surfs on the waves! Seahorses follow the bull, Dolphins jump beside him, sperm whales salute with their large fins. The beautiful Sea Nymphs, with their blue hair stand up wave, sing and welcome Europe. The sea is festive.

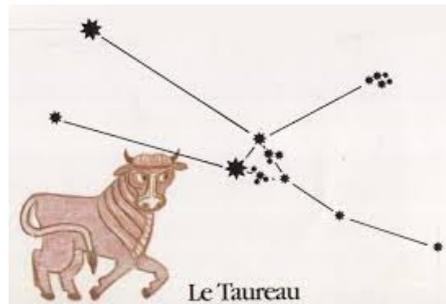
Europe begins to understand that it is not risky, that the gods will protect her. She relaxes and starts to admire the beautiful spectacle offered by the sea. Yet, she wonders where they are going? What is their destination? Will she see her family, her father Agenor, her mother Téléphasa, her grandfather Poseidon again after this mad race? ...



Finally, on the horizon, Europe sees an island. The Bull is moving in this direction. Several dolphins continue to accompany the Bull. Just off the coast, Europe sees a crowd of Tritons forming a guard of honor. On the beach, she sees some Sea Nymphs who carry small baskets of flowers. A true Welcoming Committee! Suddenly, and to her great surprise, Europe sees Poseidon, God of the sea, her beloved grandfather emerging from the waves. With his trident, he calms the waves. He smiles at his granddaughter and he whispers: "don't be afraid, you'll have great happiness! The large white Bull finally slows and walks slowly on the beach. The Sea Nymphs, who recognize the great god Zeus, politely greet and offer flowers to Europe. The bull continues on

its way on this island which Europe does not know. He stops in a clearing where there are the most beautiful sycamores. Here, in this romantic place, the great god Zeus reveals his human self...

He apologizes for the abduction and he declares his sincere love for Europe. The girl, full of emotion, is very pleased to be chosen by the most powerful God of Olympus. It is a huge honor for a simple Princess! Zeus and Europe spend a few years of an intense love on the island of Crete with their children, Minos, Rhadamanthus and Sarpedon. But after a few years, this period of intense love ends! Zeus must return to Olympus where the gods and his wife Hero have waited patiently.



Epilogue

Before returning to Olympus, Zeus married Europe to Asterion, King of Crete, who recognized the children of Zeus as his own. Europe gives her name to the European continent. Today her image appears on the 5 euros note. And when the stars shine in a clear sky, you can see the constellation Taurus which recalls this great love story.

The legend of Europe



by

Heleen Jansen and Marie Gaillot
Translated by Paula Askew

Language Level: A2

The legend of Europe



In ancient Greece, in a castle lived a beautiful Princess called Europe with her parents and her brothers. Her father was King Agénor and her mother Queen Téléphassae. Her grandfather liked to tell stories to his granddaughter Europe about the gods living on Olympus. Europe loved listening to the stories of her grandfather about Earth.

Her grandfather Poseidon is the God of the sea. He has a beautiful Palace in the Ocean.



Poseidon loves to see his granddaughter. They are often together on great journeys in the sea. Her favorite animal is her grandfather's Bull. Poseidon likes to amuse his granddaughter. Europe loves listening to the stories of the gods and goddesses who live in the Palace of Olympus. Especially the stories about Zeus, the brother of Poseidon.

One day, Zeus and his Eagle are in his palace on Olympus. Zeus is a little bored. Suddenly, he hears happy sounds that come from the Earth. Beautiful girls play on the beach and sing. Zeus loves the sounds and he sees Europe, the granddaughter of his brother Poseidon playing on the beach with her friends. Today is her birthday.

Zeus falls immediately in love with this beautiful girl. It really is love at first sight! He decided to talk to her and change himself into a Bull so that he is not recognized!

A few minutes later, a beautiful white Bull walked towards the girls on the beach. "What a beautiful Bull!" shouted the girls and they stop their games. Europe said: "It looks like the Bull of my grandfather. Europe strokes the bull and sits on his back. Her friends also

approach and begin stroking the animal. Then suddenly the bull rises and runs in the direction of the sea. There is panic on the beach! The friends of Europe scream 'help, help...'

Poor Europe! She closes her eyes, she is afraid of drowning. The bull runs faster, he surfs on the waves! Seahorses follow the bull, Dolphins jump beside him.



Europe begins to feel that it is not risky. She relaxes and starts to admire the beautiful view.

On the horizon, Europe sees an island. The Bull is moving in this direction. Europe sees Poseidon, her grandfather coming out from the waves. He smiles at his granddaughter and said: "don't be afraid, you'll have great happiness!" The white Bull slows and walks slowly on the beach. The great god Zeus reveals his human self...

He declares his sincere love for Europe. The girl is very pleased to be chosen by the most powerful God of Olympus. It is a huge honor for a simple Princess! Zeus and Europe live on the island of Crete with their children, Minos, Rhadamanthus and Sarpedon. But after some years, Zeus has to return to Olympus.



Epilogue

Before returning to Olympus, Zeus married Europe to Asterion, King of Crete, who recognized the children of Zeus as his own. Europe gives her name to the European continent.

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Language Level B1

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In ancient Greece, a very important country at this time, in a castle in Tyre lived a Princess with her parents and her brothers. Her father was King Agénor, King of Phoenicia. Her mother, Queen Téléphassa. The little girl Europe loved nature, flowers, animals, dolphins. She often, walked on the beach with her grandfather, the God Poseidon. Her grandfather liked to tell stories to his granddaughter. Europe loved listening to the stories of her grandfather.

Her grandfather Poseidon is the famous God of the sea. He has a beautiful Palace in the depths of the Ocean. Poseidon is a powerful God. He always holds his famous trident. When he is in a good mood, the sea is calm. But oh, then, when he gets angry, he can cause high waves, very high waves! Europe likes to watch the sea, she enjoys a calm sea, but she loves the high waves. She knows the difficult nature of her grandfather. When he is angry he can cause earthquakes. She also knows that many people are afraid of Poseidon, mainly fishermen at sea. Europe is not afraid of her grandfather, she admires him! She knows that her grandfather likes children and that she is his favorite granddaughter.



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Europe also likes to listen to stories about Hera, the jealous wife of Zeus. She is the Queen of heaven and Olympus.



One day, Zeus and his inseparable Eagle are in his palace on Olympus. Zeus is a little bored. He does not know what to do. Suddenly, he hears happy melodies that seem to come from the Earth. Beautiful girls play on the beach and sing. Zeus loves this clear voice. He sees among girls the beautiful granddaughter of his brother « She has grown up and has become beautiful! » I'm going down to meet her "he whispers." "What did you say?" ask Hera? "Oh nothing" says Zeus. "I see Europe playing on the beach.

"Zeus descends from Olympus without waiting. Once on the beach, Zeus approaches the girls without getting noticed! He looks with admiration at the young Europe. He discovered a true beauty, a girl with long blond hair of gold, with large eyes of aquatic blue. She has the face of an Angel and the body of a Goddess. Zeus falls in love with this beautiful girl. It is love at first sight! He decided to approach her. To avoid the gaze of Hera and not to frighten the young girls, Zeus decides to turn into a Bull!



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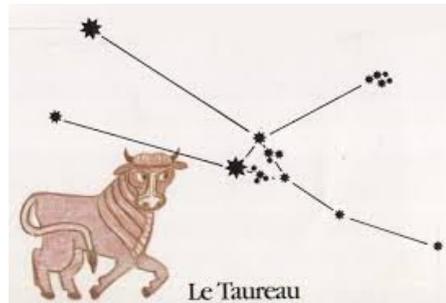
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Europe begins to understand that it is not risky, that the gods will protect her. Yet, she wonders where they are going? What is their destination? Will she see her family again?



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He declares his sincere love for Europe. The girl, full of emotion, is very pleased to be chosen by the most powerful God of Olympus. It is a huge honor for a simple Princess! Zeus and Europe spend a few years of an intense love on the island of Crete with their children, Minos, Rhadamanthus and Sarpedon. But after a few years, Zeus must return to Olympus where the gods and his wife Hera have waited patiently.



Epilogue

Before returning to Olympus, Zeus married Europe to Asterion, King of Crete, who recognized the children of Zeus as his own. Europe gives her name to the European continent. Today her image appears on the 5 euros note. And when the stars shine in a clear sky, you can see the constellation Taurus which recalls this great love story.

La légende d'Europe



Par

Heleen Jansen et Marie Gaillot

Version pour élèves dyslexiques

La légende d'Europe



Nous sommes dans la Grèce antique. Dans un beau château à Tyr, vit une princesse avec ses parents et ses frères. Son père est le roi de Phénicie. Les parents adorent leur fille **Europe**. La fille aime la mer et les dauphins.

Souvent, elle fait une promenade avec son grand-père, le Dieu Poséidon. Son grand-père aime raconter des histoires. Il raconte comment les Dieux vivent sur l'Olympe. Europe adore écouter les histoires de son grand-père.

Son grand-père Poséidon est le fameux Dieu de la mer. Il a un beau palais tout au fond de l'Océan. Poséidon est un Dieu puissant. Il porte toujours un grand sceptre à trois branches. Quand il est de bonne humeur, la mer est calme.

Mais oh la, la, quand il est en colère, il peut provoquer de hautes vagues ! Europe aime quand la mer est calme, mais elle adore aussi quand la mer est agitée. Elle connaît le caractère de son grand-père.

Elle sait que beaucoup de monde a peur de Poséidon, surtout les pêcheurs en mer.



Poséidon aime voir sa petite-fille. Souvent, ils font ensemble une grande promenade sur son char aquatique. Le taureau de Poséidon est l'animal préféré d'Europe.

Poséidon aime amuser sa petite fille. Avec son sceptre, Poséidon peut provoquer de hautes vagues ou calmer la mer. Il peut même créer des îles dans la mer. Europe adore aussi écouter les histoires sur les Dieux et les Déesses qui vivent dans les palais de l'Olympe. Surtout les histoires concernant Zeus, le frère de Poséidon. Zeus, le Dieu qui est célèbre pour ses nombreuses aventures amoureuses.

Un jour, Zeus se trouve dans son palais sur l'Olympe. Zeus s'ennuie un peu et il regarde la terre. Tout à coup, il entend de la musique. Quelques belles filles jouent sur la plage et chantent. Zeus regarde bien et il aperçoit parmi les filles la princesse Europe. « Comme elle est belle ! Je veux la voir ! » murmure-t-il.

Zeus descend de l'Olympe sur la plage et il approche les jeunes discrètement ! Il regarde la jeune Europe. Il découvre une jolie fille avec de longs cheveux blonds. Zeus tombe tout de suite amoureux. Il

décide de l'approcher et pour ne pas faire peur aux filles, Zeus décide d'utiliser une ruse. Il va se transformer ... en taureau !



Quelques minutes après, un taureau blanc s'approche les filles. « Quel beau taureau ! » s'écrient les filles. « Il ressemble au taureau de mon grand-père » dit Europe. Je vais essayer de le caresser ! »

Europe s'approche doucement, souffle quelques mots à son oreille. L'animal se couche sur le sable. Europe caresse le taureau et prend place sur son dos. « Il est gentil, n'est-ce pas, comme le taureau de mon grand-père ! » dit Europe. Mais tout à coup, le taureau se lève et court vers la mer. Panique sur la plage ! « Au secours, au secours ! » crient les filles. « Un taureau enlève Europe ! »



Le taureau court très vite. Pauvre Europe ! Elle a peur ! Le taureau court de plus en plus vite. Il surfe sur les vagues ! Les hippocampes suivent le taureau, les dauphins sautent à côté de l'animal. Toute la mer est en fête.

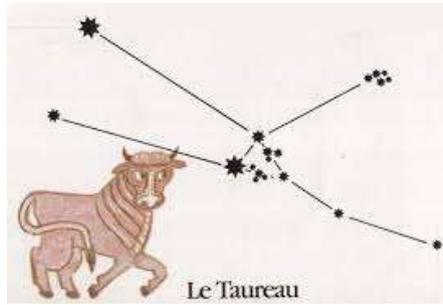
Europe commence à admirer le beau spectacle. Elle se demande où ils vont.



Soudain, à l'horizon, Europe voit une île et elle voit Poséidon, son grand-père. Il calme les vagues et il sourit. Il dit : « Tu vas être heureuse! » Le taureau continue sa route sur l'île et s'arrête près d'une source.

Là, Zeus retrouve sa forme humaine. Il s'excuse pour cet enlèvement et il déclare son amour à Europe. Europe est très heureuse d'être choisie par le Dieu le plus puissant de l'Olympe. C'est un grand honneur pour une simple princesse !

Zeus et Europe passent quelques années d'un amour intense sur l'île de Crète avec leurs enfants, Minos, Rhadamanthe et Sarpédon. Hélas, cette période de bonheur s'achève ! Zeus doit retourner sur l'Olympe.



Épilogue

Avant son retour à l'Olympe, Zeus marie Europe à Astérion, roi de Crète. Europe donne son nom au continent européen.

Et quand les étoiles brillent dans un ciel très clair, on peut voir la constellation du taureau. Cette constellation rappelle cette histoire d'amour.

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