

Phoebus army with a plague and lead

[Literature](#), [Russian Literature](#)



Phoebus Apollo is one of the twelve Olympians and among the most important Greek gods. Often described as the epitome of youth and beauty, Apollo is the god of music, oracles, archery, plague, medicine and the sun. His unrivalled beauty and various talents make him one of the most loved of all Greek gods. Apollo is the son of Zeus and the Titan Leto. Zeus' wife Hera had banned Leto from giving birth on land so Apollo and his twin sister Artemis were born on the then recently formed island of Delos. Apollo is said to have immediately grown to man upon his first taste of ambrosia. The objects traditionally associated with the god are a silver bow (symbolic of his skills in archery) and a golden lyre given to Apollo by the god Hermes which symbolises his ability in music.

With his powers, Apollo bestows upon men good health and fortune but is known to bring illness and plague upon those who have displeased him. Apollo is an oracular god and serves as the intermediary between gods and men—prophesying through Pythia at the oracle of Delphi. Apollo rides his chariot every day to push the Sun so as to bring light to the world. It is said that after his birth, Apollo transformed into a dolphin and went off for Pytho where a great serpent named Python not only guarded the place but also spoke the oracle's prophecies. Python was slain by Apollo with a single arrow, who then took the oracle for himself. The name of the place was changed to Delphi as Apollo had changed into a dolphin in order to reach it.

Another very famous myth involving Apollo was his involvement in the Trojan War. It is said that Apollo infected the Greek army with a plague and led the entire Trojan army in an attack which destroyed the Achaean defensive walls.

He is also said to have guided Paris' arrow to the heel of Achilles, killing the seemingly invincible Achaean hero.

Apollo is one of the few gods that the Romans kept the same. In Roman mythology however, he is mostly known as the god of healing and prophecy, whereas the Greeks mainly worshiped him as the god of light. Many those who study Greek mythology believe that Apollo's original role may have been as a protector of herdsmen and shepherds. He is often pictured holding a lyre, and shepherds were known to play music to pass their idle hours. Apollo's identification as god of music, archery, and medicine came after his oracle was established at Delphi. Only much later did he become known as the Sun God.