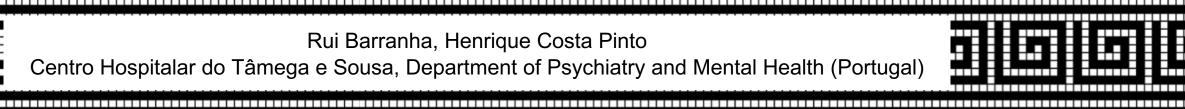
Rui Barranha, Henrique Costa Pinto Centro Hospitalar do Tâmega e Sousa, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health (Portugal)



BACKGROUND AND AIMS The ancient Greek culture is the root of many aspects of western culture. In particular, more than 90% of medical terms have Greco-Roman origins, many of them derived from Greek mythology. We aim to review how those ancient tales inspired the daily practice of modern psychiatry

PSYCHE The personification of human soul: a beautiful princess whose beauty instigated the hatred of Aphrodite, who commissioned her son Eros to revenge her. Instead he fell in love with Psyche, visited her every night and departed before dawn, not allowing her to inquire who he was. When she disobeyed him and lit a lamp Eros deserted her. Psyche then wandered long in search of him and overcame hard labours imposed by Aphrodite. Eventually they reunited and Psyche became immortal. The terms *Psychiatry* and *Psychology* owe their etymological provenance to Psyche

EROS The son of Aphrodite and god of love, gave is name to **Erotomania**

PHOBOS Another son of Aphrodite. Although he was officially son of Hephaestus, his real father was Ares the god of war, whom he used to accompany into battle. The word *Phobia* was derived from his name ('fear' in Greek)

SATYRS Inebriated and promiscuous woodland gods, half men and half goats, gave their name to <u>Satyriasis</u>

PAN One of the satyrs that, in addition to his aptitude in playing the flute and dancing, enjoyed napping. Anyone who dared to wake him was terrified by his screeching yells, what originated the term *Panic*

HEBE The daughter of the goddess Hera and of Heracles, and personification of youth. It is the root of the term *Hebephrenic*

NYMPH 5 Divine spirits who animate nature and are typically envisaged as young and amorous maidens. It served as inspiration to create the word *Nymphomania* in the XVIII century

ECHO An eloquent mountain nymph recruited by Zeus to distract his wife Hera during his extramarital activities. When Hera discovered the conspiracy, she cursed Echo to be solely able to speak the last words spoken to her. When Echo fell in love with Narcissus she was unable to express her feelings. Echo gave her name to *Echolalia* and *Echopraxia*

NARCISSUS A young man extremely proud of his beauty and indifferent to the emotions of those who fell in love with him. Nemesis cursed him by forcing him to fall in love with his reflection in the water (which he believed to belong to a spirit). After his death he was turned into a flower. The concept of Narcissism derived from this myth

OEDIPUS The king of Thebes, who unwittingly murdered his father and married his mother. When they both found out, Jocasta hanged herself and Oedipus blinded himself. It served as the basis for Sigmund Freud's Oedipus complex

ELECTRA The <u>Electra complex</u> is based on the story of the daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, who persuaded her brother Orestes to kill their mother and her lover Aegisthus, who had previously killed Agamemnon

CONCLUSION Not only has Greek mythology made a lasting contribution to the etymology of the psychiatric vernacular (in a way that symptoms, disorders and behaviours resonate the characteristics of the figures they were named after), but also some legends disclose early concepts of medical knowledge

