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HEROES AND HEROINES

The heroes of mythology journey on our behalf. They dare to enter the dark realms, where they confront humanity's deepest fears and do battle with the monsters hidden in the mists of the unconscious. They cannot return to ordinary reality until they have attained new wisdom and knowledge to benefit their people.

In the following pages you will meet a few of these heroes. They come from around the world but they all share the challenge of the quest. Heroes can be called to adventure by visions of Holy Grails, by commanding voices, by the challenging roars of dragons, or evil kings. They are also supported and guided by wise men, by fairy godmothers, and good spirits.

#³\$⁴SIR LANCELOT

This knight's passion for Queen Guinevere and betrayal of his king led to the eventual downfall of the fellowship of the Arthurian Round Table. Even so, his legend has held great interest for later generations, greater even than the deeds of his companions. Today, his name still brings to mind the gallant and reckless lover.

Although he was born of human parentage, Sir Lancelot was reared by the same Lady of the Lake who gave Excalibur to King Arthur.

3#sirlanc

4\$Sir Lancelot

#6 GUM LIN (Golden Lotus)

Gum Lin was a mortal heroine. Together with Loy Yi Lung, the daughter of the dragon, she saved her village from hardship and drought. Like many Chinese legends, her story is one of sacrifice and redemption and teaches that the secrets of nature can be unlocked by a pure heart.

Her story reflects the Taoist belief that, like water, we can best reach our goals by flowing around opposition instead of confronting it directly.

5# gumlin

6\$ Gum Lin (Golden Lotus)

#^{\$}{ewc MVBMP2, ViewerBmp2, !sword.bmp}

7#excalibur
8^{\$}excalibur

#⁹10 TRICKSTERS

The trickster is as popular in Europe and Asia as he is in South America. He is also as foolish as he is wise. He is a nonconformist who bypasses all civilized conditioning and appeals to our animal nature. He is as charming as a child, which helps him to get away with his outrageous behavior. And he is also a teacher, who tricks us into learning while we are laughing at him.

#¹¹\$¹²**COYOTE**

The coyote resembles a small wolf, with a tawny gray coat and yellow eyes. He is a small animal who wins his battles using his wit, not his teeth. He is a trickster whose reputation for wisdom is matched only by his fame for making mischief. Stories about the coyote's exploits are told by Native Americans in the southwest and in Mexico.

#13\$14**HERMES**

There are many stories about Hermes, who was a trickster in the Greek pantheon specializing in petty theft and shrewd deals. The son of Zeus by Maia, daughter of the Titan Atlas, his name comes from the Greek word for stone cairn, or road marker. He was a messenger for the gods on Mt. Olympus. Because he traveled so frequently, Hermes became the god of the road, the guardian of travelers.

He is usually depicted in flight, with a broad hat on his head, carrying a golden caduceus and wearing his famous winged sandals.

13#**Hermes**

14\$**Hermes**

#15\$16 **Hermes and the Shepherd**

As a small boy, Hermes slipped away from his mother, Maia, and journeyed to Pieria. There he saw a fine herd of cows tended by Apollo and decided at once to steal them.

To prevent tell-tale footprints from giving him away, Hermes fashioned shoes from the bark of an old oak tree and tied them to the feet of each cow. Then he drove the herd off down the road.

Sure enough, the trick worked, and Apollo was unable to find his cows. Furious, he offered a reward for their return. A party of satyrs, led by Silenus, set out to look for the thief.

Passing by the mouth of a cave, the satyrs heard some extraordinary music, and upon entering, they found the boy in the company of his nurse, the nymph Cyllene. The music was coming from a lyre that Hermes had fashioned from the shell of a tortoise. They knew him for a thief when they saw the cow-gut strings.

When Apollo arrived and confronted Hermes, accusing him of theft and producing two cow hides as proof, Hermes confessed. Then Hermes decided to show off his tortoise-shell lyre by playing a tune. He sang a song in glowing praise of Apollo, who forgave him at once and let the youth keep the remaining cows in exchange for the musical instrument.

15#hermes1

16\$Hermes and the Shepherd