

THE PLEIADES

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Introduction

In o.e.v lore, the Pleiades star cluster, in the constellation of Orion, is the location of the 'Home World', and from whence the Atlanteans came. Very faint echoes of the alternative history can be found in the mythology surrounding the Pleiades, especially regarding Merope.

The Pleiades

In mythology, the Pleiades were the seven daughters of the titan Atlas and the sea-nymph Pleione, and were born on Mount Cyllene.

They are the siblings of Calypso, Hyas, the Hyades, and the Hesperides.

The Pleiades were nymphs in the train of Artemis, and together with the seven Hyades were called the Atlantides, Dodonides, or Nysiades, nursemaids and teachers to the infant Bacchus.

The Seven Sisters

- 1) **Maia**, eldest of the seven Pleiades, was mother of Hermes by Zeus and Iris by Thaumias.
- 2) **Electra** was mother of Dardanus and Iasion by Zeus.
- 3) **Taygete** was mother of Lacedaemon, also by Zeus.
- 4) **Alcyone** was mother of Hyrieus by Poseidon.
- 5) **Celaeno** was mother of Lycus and Eurypylus by Poseidon.
- 6) **Sterope** (also Asterope) was mother of Oenomaus by Ares.
- 7) **Merope**, youngest of the seven Pleiades, was wooed by Orion. In other mythic contexts she married Sisyphus and, becoming mortal, she faded away. She bore to Sisyphus several sons.

How Did The Seven Sisters Become Stars?

The Seven Sisters received their "Catasterismi" (placement among the stars) when they all committed suicide because they were "so saddened" by either the fate of their father, Atlas, or the loss of their siblings, the Hyades (also daughters of Zeus). Atlas led the Titanes in a rebellion against Zeus, the ruler of the Greek gods and consequently, he was condemned to bear the heavens upon his shoulders.

Hyades Note:

The Hyades were daughters of Atlas and Pleione, and, were the sisters of the Pleiades and the Hesperides. The Hyades were very attached to their brother Hyas. Later, while Hyas was

hunting, he was killed by a lion, and the Hyades were so overcome with grief that they all committed suicide.

Zeus changed them into a cluster of stars and placed them in the constellation Taurus the Bull. Zeus had been grateful to them because they had nursed his son, Dionysus. Aldebaran, one of the Hyades, is the brightest star in the constellation and she represents the Bull's eye. The other Hyades are in a "V" shape, which forms the horns and the nose of the bull (Taurus).

Because the Hyades appear during rainy seasons, the Greeks believed them to be messengers of spring rain showers and autumn storms. In Greek, their name means "to rain", and the rain was believed to represent the tears of grief of the Hyades for their dead brother, Hyas.

Zeus immortalized the seven sisters () by placing them in the sky, and these seven stars form the constellation known as the Pleiades.

The Lost Pleiad

In the Pleiades star cluster only six of the stars shine brightly, the seventh, Merope, shines dimly because she is shamed for eternity for having a relationship with a mortal, becoming mortal herself, and then "fading" away.

This is the "Lost Pleiad" of o.e.v lore and symbolizes the great crossing, joining, and hidden departure.

Some myths also say that the star that doesn't shine is Electra; who is said to have left her place so that she will not have to look down upon the ruin of Troy.

- 1) Some say the Lost Pleiad is Electra, daughter of Atlas, mother of Dardanus. She is known as the 'Lost Pleiad', for it is said that she disappeared a little before the Trojan war, that she might be spared the mortification of seeing the ruin of her beloved city, which was founded by her son Dardanus. She shows herself occasionally to mortals, however, always in the guise of a comet. However this does not link to o.e.v lore.
- 2) Others say the Lost Pleiad is Merope, who is ashamed to show herself because she married a mortal, Sisyphus. This is the legend that links to o.e.v lore.

The Stars



The nine brightest stars of the Pleiades are named after the Seven Sisters of Greek mythology - **Sterope**, **Merope**, **Electra**, **Maia**, **Taygete**, **Celaeno** and **Alcyone**, along with their parents **Atlas** and **Pleione**.

The English name of the cluster itself is of Greek origin, though the etymology is uncertain.

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