Part Six *The Less Important Myths*

Chapter 20 *Midas and Others* Chapter 21 *Brief Myths*

1. What wish did Bacchus grant to Midas, and what was the result?

He wished that everything he touched would turn to gold. When he tried to eat, and his

meal turned to gold, he realized the folly of his wish. He asked Bacchus to take the favor

back, which he did.

2. For what was Aesculapius honored?

People believed he healed the sick.

3. What wrong did the Danaids do, and what was their punishment?

They killed their husbands on their collective wedding night. They were sent to the

underworld, where they had to try to carry water in jars filled with holes. They were

forced to repeat this futile task time and time again.

4. What was Arachne’s misdeed, and what was her punishment?

Arachne was a weaver who declared that her work was as good as Minerva’s. Minerva

challenged her to a contest. When it appeared that the girl’s work was as good as the

goddess’s, Minerva beat her. Arachne hanged herself, but Minerva revived the body and

turned Arachne into a spider.

5. Which human lover of Zeus’ was changed into the Great Bear and placed in the sky?

This was Callisto.

6. For what was the Centaur Chiron known?

He was kind and wise. He trained many of the sons of heroes, including Achilles.

7. Who were the Myrmidons?

They were men created from ants on the island of Aegina. Zeus created them in answer to

a prayer by Aeacus, the king.

8. Which great hunter was placed in the sky as a constellation?

It was Orion.

9. Who were the Pleiades?

They were the seven daughters of Atlas. Orion pursued them. Zeus rescued them by

placing them in the sky.

10. What did Sisyphus do, and how was he punished?

He told the river god that Zeus had carried away the god’s daughter. Zeus punished him

by sending him to Hades and making him roll a rock uphill. The rock continually rolled

back downhill.