



Cupid – the love cherub



In ancient Rome, Cupid was the god of love. His image has changed through time and has evolved into the image we have today of a chubby cherub, flitting about zapping people with his arrows. In particular, he enjoyed matching people up with odd partners. Venus was Cupid's mother and Mars was his father.

Cupid fell in love with a maiden named Psyche. Originally, Cupid was ordered by Venus to make Psyche fall in love with the vilest thing in the world. Venus was jealous of the mortal woman's beauty. While Cupid was sneaking into her room to shoot Psyche with a golden arrow, he accidentally scratches himself with his own arrow. Once he laid eyes on her Cupid was completely smitten. Head over heels in love, Cupid visited Psyche every night. However, he did this in disguise, so although she returned his love, she never actually saw what he looked like. Her sisters were so jealous of her happiness that they taunted her, saying that her new lover must be hideous indeed to hide his true appearance from her. One night, Psyche's sisters convinced her to follow Cupid as he left her. He awoke and saw her standing there, and told her he must leave her, for "love cannot dwell where there is no trust." Realizing what a fool she was, Psyche went to Venus for her help. Venus, naturally, thought this was hilarious, and set about making Psyche perform a number of seemingly impossible tasks. In each case, a god helped Psyche, and so she performed all the jobs assigned to her by Venus. The gods were moved by the love Psyche had for Cupid and decided to make her an immortal goddess. Psyche and Cupid were reunited and allowed to marry.

Today, Cupid is seen on Valentine's Day cards and decorations, and is seen as a god of pure love and innocence -- a far cry from his original form.

After reading the information about Cupid, answer the following questions.

1. True or false;

- a. Cupid was a Greek god. _____
- b. Psyche was a very beautiful woman. _____
- c. Psyche's sisters were happy that she had found true love. _____
- d. Venus was happy that Cupid had fallen in love. _____

2. Explain the meaning of the following words:

- a. Cherub - _____
- b. Maiden - _____
- c. Mortal - _____
- d. Smitten - _____
- e. Taunted - _____
- f. Hideous - _____

3. Why did Venus want to have Psyche killed?

4. Why do you think Cupid only allowed Psyche to see him in disguise?

5. Why were Psyche's sisters jealous?

6. What did Cupid mean when he said, "love cannot dwell where there is no trust."?

7. Why do you think Psyche was able to complete the impossible tasks that Venus set for her?

8. Do you think Cupid trusted Psyche when they got married? _____

Give a reason for your answer.

9. Fill in the missing collective noun.

- a. a _____ of arrows
- b. a _____ of angels



Memo:

1. True or False

- a. False
- b. True
- c. False
- d. False

2. Meaning of words

- a. cherub – a winged angel usually a child
- b. maiden – an unmarried woman or girl
- c. mortal – a human being
- d. smitten – an overwhelming feeling of love
- e. taunted – to mock, insult or tease
- f. hideous – very ugly to look at

3. Venus was jealous of her beauty.

4. He did not want Psyche to see him as the god of love.

5. Psyche's sisters were jealous because they could see that she was very much in love with Cupid and very happy.

6. Cupid realised that Psyche did not trust him because she wanted to see him without disguise.

7. Psyche was able to complete the tasks because she had the help of a god and she wanted to be reunited with cupid so she had the motivation.

8. Yes. She had proved herself to be trustworthy by completing the impossible tasks set by Venus. Cupid would not have married her if he did not trust her.

9. a. a quiver of arrows
b. a host of angels