

BOOK REVIEW

A Bestiary of Monsters in Greek Mythology,
by Spyros Syropoulos,
Archaeopress Archaeology (2018) 139 pages

By Prof Ioannis Liritzis, Editor-in-Chief

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If Greek mythology can be characterized as the cornerstone of the symbolic temple of inner knowledge any book dealing with this thesaurus of data is worth paying attention. How rather if a native Greek from Rhodes writes on mythological aspects concerning those mythological creatures. They typically demand some bizarre chimera: a part goat, part rooster sort of monster appropriate to an archaic bestiary or science fiction. However, the descriptive or anecdotal treatise on various real or mythical kinds of animals, from the ancient Greek World inhere moralizing tones, allegorical implications, imaginary conceptions, exaggerated or distorted 'events', a transgression from the normal and ordinary to the abnormal and awesome. All are contained in this practical guide of Spyros Syropoulos. The change of myths due to the changing society in the course of time closes his epilogue is a felicitous point.

Rightly enough the differentiation of ugly and monstrous as two different entities as Richard Buxton points, has been shown up in this book. Which is not only collection of data but a critical evaluation too. With well documented text from ancient sources.

An easy to read book of five chapters that includes humanoid monsters (1st chapter), serpentine creatures (2nd chapter), partly human (3rd chapter), monstrous animals (4th chapter), ghosts and daemons (5th chapter) and works cited at the end.