

Hyacinthus or the grace of early death

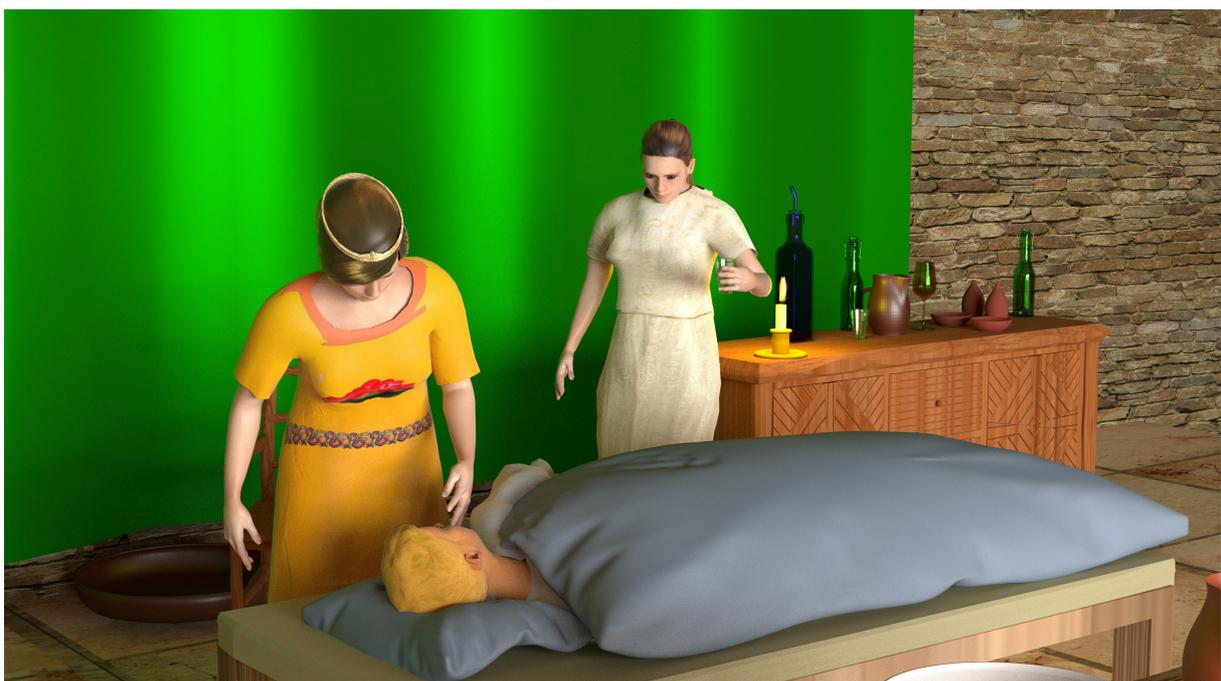
Freely adapted from Greek mythology

1 In the temple of Apollo



His mother, the Queen of Sparta admired her son: "You are beautiful like Apollo, my child, pray to him and he will come to you. It is your god and he loves all beautiful people." He had been to the temple of Apollo with his mother and had worshipped the god Apollo, wishing that he too would become such a god. That was on his eleventh birthday.

2. Zephyrus jealousy



Hyacinthus had raced with the wind over the hills as recently as last year. But Zephyrus, the god of the wind, became jealous of Apollo. When the spring wind finally came the next year, it was wet and cold. His mother was worried, "Sleep my son, sleep you back to health."

3 Nymphenhain



Hyacinthus rushed out into the sunshine, stripped off his robe, and let the wind and the sun caress his shapely body. He stormed on, over the hill to the sacred grove of the nymph, stood under the small waterfall and let his body glide through the water of the sacred pond. For him, all prohibitions were lifted. The water of the spring nymph caressed him, a pleasant rapture flowed through his body.

4. The call of Apollo



At the edge of the sacred waters, Apollo stood and held out a hand to him.
"Come to me, let us play together."
Hyacinthus grasped the outstretched hand and Apollo pulled him out of the water.
"You have called for me in your prayers, and when my darlings call me, I will come too."

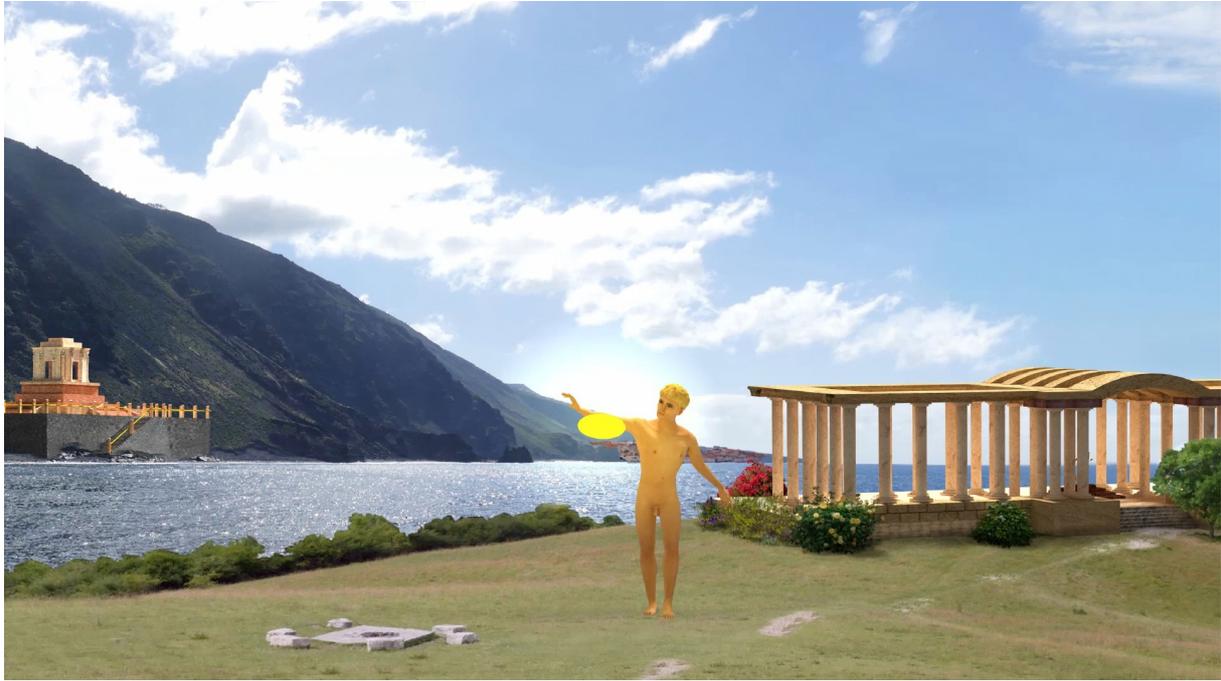
5. Apollo's love



Apollo took Hyacinthus in his arms and sat down with him on a stone. Hyacinthus was in his dream, which he had dreamed again and again since his 11th birthday in the temple. Apollo kissed

and caressed him and he surrendered to this divine feeling. A deep relaxation spread throughout his body. Hyacinthus snuggled up to Apollo and wished that this feeling would never end.

6. The sun discus



Apollo gently woke Hyacinthus, "Don't sleep yet, we want to play together." Hyacinthus opened his eyes, startled. Apollo stood on the meadow and threw him the discus, shining like the sun. He tried to catch it with his hands, but they no longer obeyed him. The sun disc came flying towards him and a radiant light never experienced before came towards him, filling all his senses and taking him from this world on a wave of happiness.

7. The grief of the queen and the king



Hyacinthus lay in the hall of the palace. Father and mother stood at his head.

"He was as beautiful and lovely as I have ever seen a child. Why has he not been able to conquer the fever?"

"Do not grieve for your son, he has had the mercy of early death. He lives now where his dreams were."

8. The Isle of the Dead



A barge is heading for the Isle of the Dead.