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The Legend of Circe

Jose Luis Lopez

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Some elements of this story were inspired by Homer's "The Odyssey"

Author Bio:

Jose Luis Lopez is a college student that is involved in many on-campus activities. In his free time, he likes reading, listening to music, and spending time with his family and friends. Creative writing is something he enjoys doing, as well as poetry. He also enjoys watching and reviewing films and TV shows, and he expresses interest in writing books in the future, as well as writing articles for publications.

Long ago, the goddess Gaia decided to create a new dimension, the Dimension of Myths. Before she finished creating it, she separated it from the first universe, the first Mount Olympus, and the first Underworld to have existed. Gaia separated the timeline of the first universe from the timeline of the Dimension of Myths, and she made the Dimension of Myths inaccessible to the beings and the gods of the first universe. In the Dimension of Myths, Gaia gave birth to different versions of the gods that were born in the first universe. She also gave birth to other versions of the people and creatures from the first universe and placed them on the Earth created in the Dimension of Myths. Gaia also created new versions of Mount Olympus and the Underworld, and created other worlds within the Dimension of Myths. Gaia allowed people and the gods in the Dimension of Myths to have new stories and new fates. When she finished creating the Dimension of Myths and every person in it, she departed from it.

Many years later in the Dimension of Myths, the god of the sun Helios and his wife, a powerful nymph of the sea named Perse, had a beautiful daughter born in Mount Olympus. She was their firstborn child, and because of this, she was destined to have great power. One day, the couple found out that the kingdom of the Oceanids, the place where Perse and her family were from, would soon be attacked by an army of evil warrior sirens who had acquired powerful magic. The couple was frightened and wanted to help defeat the army, but the army had evil sea nymphs fighting with them and the couple was not powerful enough to stop the army. So, they wanted to speak to the three supreme gods, Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades. However, at the time, a majority of the Gods on Mount Olympus were busy doing work on Earth, and the only supreme god available was Hades.

After Helios and Perse asked Hades for help, Hades explained that he would defeat the army, but first, Helios and Perse had to give up their child to him and never mention the agreement to anyone. This was a tough decision for Helios and Perse, but they accepted the offer to save the lives of the sea creatures, and the Oceanids. After this, Hades took the child and then destroyed the army of evil sirens and evil sea nymphs by having Charybdis, the hurricane mon-

ster, consume them. Hades then returned to the underworld, where he took away all the child's powers and turned her into a powerless being. Hades only cared for the child's light magic, so he took her to Earth, and enchanted her to not be able to be located or seen by magic, and other gods, and left her alone in the woods.

One day, a woman named Agnes was picking berries in the same woods and found the child. Agnes noticed the child's red hair and amber eyes and said, "What an adorable child." Agnes took the child with her and decided to raise her. Agnes worked as an animal caregiver, and she helped heal and take care of animals for others. As Circe grew up, she began to love animals and loved her mother even more. Eventually, Agnes told Circe about how she was found in the woods as an infant. Circe however did not care and had no intention to find her birth parents.

When Circe became an adult she followed in her mother's footsteps and worked as an animal caregiver as well. One day her mother gave Circe an eagle and said to Circe, "You should love it as if it were a family member" and Circe did. The following day, when Circe's mother was collecting plants that helped heal animals, she ran into a huge tiger. It came up to her and viciously attacked her, and she perished. Circe realized that her mother was taking too long, so she went to the forest to go and look for her mother and found her dead. Circe was heartbroken, and she returned home and asked for help from local villagers to bury her mother.

Weeks passed, and one day when Circe was walking by the forest, she saw a huntsman with black hair and grey eyes, and she noticed his clothes and realized he was a member of the Andino family, one of the wealthiest families in his village. She introduced herself. And he introduced himself as well, "I am Sebastian Andino, it is a pleasure to meet you." And Sebastian asked Circe if he could walk her home. After that, they dated for several years.

One day, Sebastian proposed to her and she accepted. Although she didn't love him, she decided to be with him to receive his money, so she could live a life of riches and so that she would not have to work hard to own what she wanted. After they became married,

she moved into Sebastian's home. Circe eventually grew to be very unhappy with Sebastian over time because of his lack of respect for their marriage, and because Sebastian started to be verbally and physically abusive to her.

One day when Sebastian came home, she found out that he lost all of his money in a bet after Sebastian informed her, so Circe became more upset with him, and she didn't know if she should stay with him or leave him. The next morning she found out that her eagle which was given to her by her mother was missing. She asked Sebastian where it was. He said, "I had to kill it because a wealthy woman that is obsessed with furs was looking for eagle skin. So I sold the dead eagle." Circe said, "You mean that you murdered the only thing that I have left of my dead mother, you pig!" She was so furious that she saw one of Sebastian's spears and threw it toward his arm to injure him, but the spear struck Sebastian's heart, and Circe accidentally killed him out of anger.

Circe didn't want to be punished, so she ran away to another village far away. One day, she decided that she wanted to communicate with her mother, so Circe asked a local village enchantress to cast a spell that would allow Circe to speak to the dead. When the enchantress did the spell, she accidentally summoned Hades, the lord of the Underworld.

Hades then made the enchantress fall asleep and thanked Circe for giving him Sebastian's soul and Circe then said, "I have nothing left I am ruined! I will be punished!" Hades calmed her down and told her that she was very special, that she was the daughter of the god Helios and the nymph Perse. Circe then said, "Then what am I doing here? Why am I not with them?" Hades lied to Circe and told her that her parents abandoned her. He also told Circe that her parents left her powerless on Earth. She asked if there was any way to restore her powers, and Hades said there wasn't. However, he offered to give her dark magic and he also offered her immortality. So she accepted, and she began training in the dark arts for many years and became an expert in magic thanks to Hades.

Circe wanted to have powers over animals, so Hades took a lock of

the hair of Artemis the goddess of wildlife, and used it to make a potion that would give Circe wildlife powers. Circe consumed it, and she then became a nymph of magic and had wildlife powers. Hades then explained that he wanted her to transform men into animals and after many years of hoarding them she will have to give them to him, and in return, she could keep her powers and be granted fortunes and many more things she desired. Circe agreed to this to please Hades. And over the years, Circe's soul became corrupted.

Circe had to find a place where she could hoard all the humans that Hades wanted her to, so she visited the magical island of Aeaea and realized the island was perfect for her to live in. Circe then encountered a group of young women and found out that the women were stranded on the island when their boat was destroyed in a storm. Circe offered to grant the women powerful magic as long as they worked for her. The women agreed, then they built her a home and Circe became the ruler of the Island.

After many years of Circe hoarding men on her island, Circe began to question if what Hades told her about her parents was true when Circe's friend Anastasia, who was an Oread nymph and lived near Circe's Island, visited Circe and explained to Circe many things that Hades did. Anastasia and Circe sat by the seaside and Anastasia said, "Circe I know Hades has done so much for you, but I would not trust him, I have heard that he has betrayed many and has deceived people. I hear from other nymphs that he took magical items from the dryad nymphs after lying to them and promising them new lands, in return for their magical items. From what I know, Hades ended up not holding up on his end of the deal with the nymphs and gave them nothing. I know you explained to me that Hades told you that your parents abandoned you and left you alone, but I think you should find out more about your past and not trust what Hades told you. After all, you are also a nymph and I think Hades may try to manipulate you too."

Circe thought a lot about what Anastasia told her and after many weeks had passed, Circe became impatient because after speaking to a lot of people with magic knowledge, she could not find a way to find out more about her past. However, Circe realized that she

should speak to powerful nymphs who could help her find information. She then heard about the nymph Calypso who was very wise. So Circe traveled to the island of Ogygia where Calypso resided.

Circe asked Calypso if she could help her find information about the past, so Calypso took Circe to a magical pond that could show a person anything they wished to see. Circe then asked the pond to show her the past. After Circe looked at the pond, she realized that Hades had lied to her because she found out that her parents Helios and Perse never abandoned her. She found out that they had to give her up to Hades to save the Oceanids and the creatures of the sea from being attacked by the army of evil sirens and sea nymphs. Circe became furious and told Calypso she wanted revenge on Hades.

Calypso said, "Revenge is never the answer! You should wait until we can contact others for advice." Circe disagreed and said, "No, it is the answer, I will make that deceiver get what he deserves Calypso, I promise you." Circe left Calypso's Island and returned home. Circe then formed a plan to get revenge on Hades. She planned to keep the humans turned into animals that Hades wanted her to hoard, set them all free, and make Hades lose all the mortals that he was obsessed with. So she waited many years, and she transformed men into beasts and even met the great Odysseus while doing so. And even after her encounter with him, Circe kept on hoarding humans and transformed them into animals and a majority of them were pigs, which she preferred.

When hundreds of years finally passed, Hades came to her and asked her to hand over the animals. She then turned them back into men and used a spell to send them all home. Hades became furious, then Circe said, "You lied to me, my parents never truly abandoned me, they gave me up to you so that you could save my mom's home kingdom and the people in it!"

Then Hades said, "If you want the truth, then you shall receive it. I took you from your parents because I needed you." Circe then said, "For what?" Hades responded, "Because I needed the offspring of a god with light powers. I am evil, and my powers are corrupted as well. And I wanted your light magic, so I could finally be able to

have enough evil and good power to take over Mount Olympus and the entire dimension once my army of mortals was complete. That is why I gave you the dark powers I did. I needed you to hoard all the men on your island, they were going to serve me! I had everything ready to invade Mount Olympus, including the weapons and other items that I took from those wretched nymphs I lied to. I know many of these items are powerful, and some are rumored to have been enchanted by Gaia a long time ago. These objects would have let the mortals attack the other gods in Mount Olympus successfully, I know this because I used many of the weapons to attack myself, and they worked.”

Hades also told Circe that he was the one who killed her adoptive mother and that he transformed himself into the tiger that took her life. Hades also told Circe that he disguised himself as the lady who bought Agnes’s eagle from Sebastian, in order to corrupt Circe’s soul.

Afterward, Hades commented, “And guess what Circe? I am the one who gave the evil sirens and sea nymphs the powerful magic to attack and intimidate the Oceanids so that your parents would be desperate enough to sacrifice you to me to save the Oceanid kingdom. It was all a trap, and it worked perfectly!” Circe then became furious and shouted, “You bastard, I am going to make you pay for everything you did to me!” She tried to attack Hades with magic, but Hades defeated her, took her powers, and teleported her to the underworld to trap her as a punishment for breaking the deal that they had made.

Circe was a living being trapped in a world of souls. After Circe walked around the underworld she saw a man with hazel eyes and brown hair. And Circe introduced herself. The man told Circe that his name was Theodore. And Circe asked him, “Is there any way to get out of here?” He said, “The dead cannot leave the underworld. I have tried for hundreds of years and I failed.” She then explained to him that she was alive and sent to the underworld by force. Circe then told Theodore, “I wonder if my adoptive mother is here, she was murdered, so she should be in the underworld.” Theodore responded, “I am sure she is, but I doubt you could run into her so

easily, the underworld is a very large place.”

Circe and Theodore then walked together, and they stumbled across an ancient looking book on the floor after Theodore opened it he said, “I came across this book before when I was alive, and when I opened it right now, I remembered that there is a way out of the underworld because there is a magical food called ambrosia. It is the snack of the gods, if consumed by someone, it could give them great power and immortality, and people could even leave the underworld, even if they are dead. There should be some ambrosia hidden here in the underworld”!

So Circe set off to find the ambrosia, but she realized it would be hard for her to find the ambrosia without her powers. While she walked with Theodore, she asked him, “How did you die?” Theodore then told her that it was because when he was a young adult, he was killed by a huntsman for trying to save a bear. Circe then asked him, “This huntsman, did he have fancy clothes, black hair, and grey eyes?” Theodore responded, “Yes, he also told me before he killed me that he comes from a very rich family, the Andinos.” Circe then realized that it was her late husband Sebastian who killed Theodore, and after talking more with Theodore, Circe realized that it happened before Sebastian and her met. Circe then explained to Theodore everything that happened to her in her life and how she regrets accidentally killing Sebastian, even though he was an awful person.

Circe also explained to Theodore that she regrets harming innocent people for a long period of her life. Theodore responded, “Even after all that you did, you have to learn to forgive yourself. But one thing is for sure, us meeting in the underworld was destined to happen. Especially now because that coward that you married is out of your life. And now he is likely in prison at the depths of the underworld for his treacherous acts. He might have been able to get away with some of his wrongdoings on earth, but here in the underworld, no one gets special treatment.”

Circe responded, “I hope what you are saying is true, and I also hope we can find the ambrosia because I have got to get out of here and

get to Mount Olympus, to warn the gods about Hades. He still has the ancient weapons of the nymphs, he can still find an army to use them, and I can't let him take over the dimension."

Circe and Theodore continued to search for the ambrosia. After a few months had passed, they began to bond with each other, and Circe appreciated that Theodore loved animals, just as she did. Eventually, Theodore and Circe grew very close. One day, they found the room where the ambrosia was located and saw that there was ambrosia that was glowing bright, and some that were burned, but the area had a barrier spell to keep people away from it. Circe told Theodore, "The ambrosia must be very powerful to be protected this much." As they walked in, they found a large Chimera that lived in the underworld and guarded the ambrosia. The Chimera began to attack Theodore and Circe with fire.

Circe wanted to stop the Chimera but had no idea how to, so she threw large stones at the monster, but it made it attack Theodore. Circe did not know what to do so she looked up and found a golden staff and took it, Circe realized that the staff must have belonged to the nymphs that Hades stole from, and she noticed the staff had magic, so she started to attack the Chimera with several spells.

After noticing that the staff's magic would not harm the Chimera greatly, she realized she must absorb the Chimera's power. So when the Chimera threw a fireball toward Circe, she absorbed all of it with the staff, and Circe threw the fireball back at it, finally destroying it. And because she used the Chimera's fire against it, she was able to defeat the monster. Circe proved to the underworld that she was worthy of entering the area where the ambrosia was located, and the barrier disappeared.

Theodore and Circe walked towards where the Ambrosia was located, and then they took the ambrosia, and as they were about to eat it, Hades teleported himself into the room and said, "If you give me the ambrosia I will do whatever you want!" Circe then protected herself and Theodore against Hades by using the staff to form a magical shield, but after what Hades offered her, she was unsure of what to do.

After taking time to think, Circe responded to Hades and said, "Alright Hades, I will give you the ambrosia, but first we must make a deal, you have to first free me from the underworld, and also free Theodore's soul from the underworld, and then restore the power that you took from me as a child and the new powers that you gave me, but then later took." Hades agreed, so he then made a large magical contract appear and both Circe and Hades signed it by offering drops of their blood.

Then Hades restored Circe's powers that he stole from her when she was a child and her new powers which he gave to her, and he finally freed her and Theodore. Then Hades demanded Circe to give up the ambrosia. Circe then said to Hades, "I told you that I would give you the ambrosia, but I didn't say what kind." So she took pieces of burned ambrosia that were powerless and gave them to Hades. He was furious and screamed, "No, you tricked me!" Circe and Theodore then quickly ate the unburned ambrosia and used the ambrosia's power to resurrect Theodore and then teleport themselves to Mount Olympus.

When Circe arrived at Mount Olympus she saw Helios and Perse, and Circe said, "I finally found you, I am Circe your daughter." Circe was so happy that she had found her birth parents, and she told them that she isn't mad at them because she knew that they gave her up to save the Oceanids and the creatures of the sea. Perse responded, "Thank you for not being upset, because giving you up was the hardest thing we ever had to do." Helios responded, "And we won't ever do it again! We tried to find you, but we were unable to search for you, but now you have returned to us at last."

Circe then informed her parents about everything Hades did to her and told her parents that they should tell Zeus everything that Hades had done. And that he had planned to take over Mount Olympus by forming an army of mortals with powerful weapons. Then Circe's parents informed Zeus. He became so furious at Hades, that Zeus made Hades a prisoner in the lowest part of the underworld, with the help of the other gods. And Zeus decided that Hades could never leave the underworld, enter the human world, enter Mount

Olympus, or leave the dimension as punishment for Hades's crimes.

After this, Circe thanked Zeus and asked him for a favor. Circe asked if she and Theodore could live in Mount Olympus and she asked Zeus if he could bring her adoptive mother Agnes back to life and allow her to live with them as well. Zeus agreed, and he brought Agnes to Mount Olympus. When Agnes arrived she hugged Circe and told her, "Finally I get to see you again my beautiful Circe, I was dead for a very long time, but my love for you never perished."

Circe responded, "I love you too mom, I'm happy to have you back. I am sorry I did not always make the right choices after you died, but eventually, I found the right path thanks to people like Theodore." Theodore responded, "And I am glad you crossed my path. I always knew something in my life was missing, and that missing thing was the right person to love and be with." Theodore got on his knees and said, "Circe will you marry me?" Circe said, "Yes, absolutely."

That same day, Mount Olympus had a wedding reception for Circe and Theodore, and they became married by Zeus himself. When the reception ended, Zeus said to everyone, "I am going to bring righteous deceased humans to Mount Olympus if they can prove themselves in the underworld." Everyone in the reception expressed they loved the idea.

Since Circe had her powers restored, she decided that she wanted to become a goddess of wildlife, so she became the apprentice of Artemis. Artemis even gave Circe an area to work in Mount Olympus. On her first day of being an apprentice, she stood on a tall tower and looked down, and said, "Here I will watch over, care for, and protect all the animals and creatures in this dimension."