

Strymon River



A river in Thrace. Today, it is called Struma in Bulgarian and Strymonas in Greek. The poetic name Kara Su, "the black waters", is Turkish.

General Information about the river.

Strymon is a river of the Balkan Peninsula with a total length of 392 metres. A great amount of its water flows in Greece, 118 metres, and more than double that length in the Bulgarian side, 274 metres. With its depth reaching 3 metres and its width at almost 300 metres, it is considered as the longest river of Serres, the Greek city in which the river exclusively flows.

Source: Vitosha (Bulgaria)

Estuary: Strymonic Bay

Position: Greece and Bulgaria

Length: 392

Average output: 80 cubic meters per second

Parapotamous: Angitis River



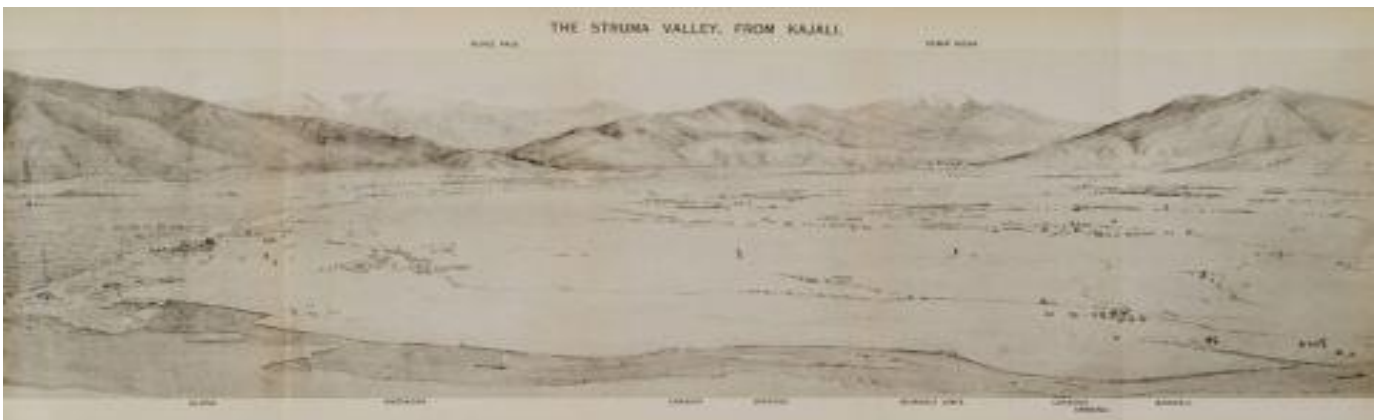
Mythology



It is said that Strymon was the king of Thrace and the son of Ares. He had a son with one of the muses named Rhesus. He sided with the Trojans in the Trojan War. Right after the Greeks attacked Troy, his country was attacked by Scythia, so he was unable to join the Trojans early. He was killed out of battle, while in his tent, and his horses were stolen by Diomedes and Odysseus. When he was killed, Strymon jumped in a river named Palaistian. The river was renamed in memory of the Thracian King.

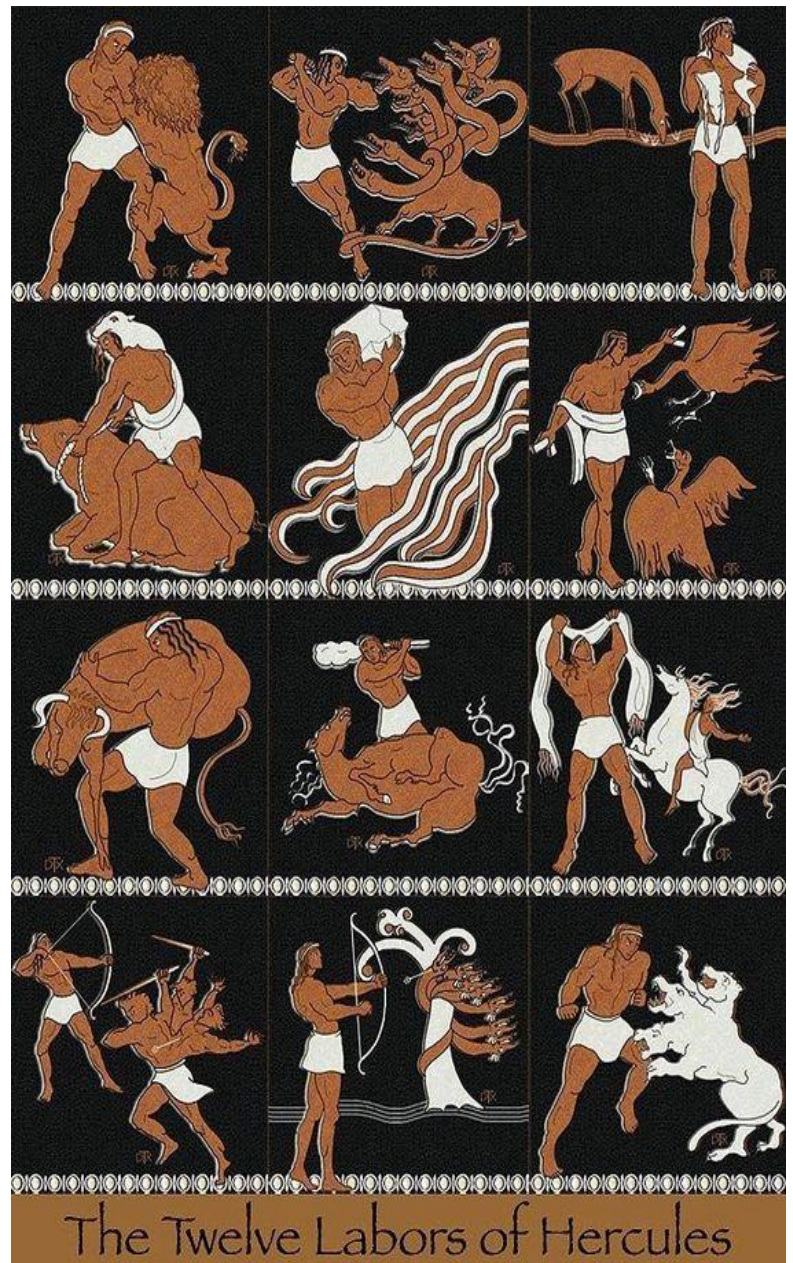
HISTORY ACCORDING TO THUCYDIDES

The Athenian historian Thucydides implies that the river was the boundary between the Paeonians (who lived to the west of the river) and the Thracians. When the Paeonians were subdued by the Macedonians, the river became the frontier between Thrace and Macedonia.



Hercules tenth labor

Hercules was ordered by Eurystheus to bring him the cattle of Geryon, the son of Chrysaor and Callirrhoe. After his adventures on the Mediterranean countries Hercules made it to the edge of the Ionian Sea, with the end of his journey finally in sight. Hera, however, was not about to let the hero accomplish this labor. She sent a gadfly to attack the cattle, and the herd scattered far and wide. Now, Hercules had to run around Thrace gathering the escaped cows. Finally, he regrouped the herd and, blaming his troubles on the river Strymon in Thrace, he filled the river with rocks, making it unnavigable. Then, he brought the cattle of Geryon to Eurystheus, who sacrificed the herd to Hera.



Sources

- <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Herakles/cattle.html>
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- http://www.komvos.edu.gr/mythology/ent1/1b_strimonas.html
- <http://www.livius.org/articles/place/strymon/>
- http://www.greek-language.gr/digitalResources/ancient_greek/mythology/lexicon/water/page_053.html
- Google Images

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