

740 Zeus *Astérios*, Zeus *Seirén*

Zeus *was* the bull that had connexion with Pasiphae in her cow<sup>1</sup>. Zeus sent, or, according to the usual version, Zeus *was* the bull that bore Europe away to Crete<sup>2</sup>; and she in her turn appears at Thebes as a cow marked on either flank with a white full moon<sup>3</sup>. Lastly, Antiope is said by the scholiast on Statius to have been driven out by Lykos owing to the designs of Dirke, and then to have been won by Zeus, who had transformed himself into a bull for the occasion<sup>4</sup>: there was thus a certain poetic justice about the vengeance that Antiope's sons wreaked upon Dirke, when they bound her to a bull<sup>5</sup>. It can hardly be doubted that these bull-and-cow myths hang together with the conception of the sun as a bull and the horned moon as a cow.

§ 8. Zeus in relation to the Stars.

Zeus as god of the bright sky was brought into various relations with the stars also, though these minor manifestations of his brightness did not often find definite expression in cult, literature, or art.

(a) Zeus *Astérios*, Zeus *Seirén*, Zeus *Oromásdes*.

Late authors attest the Gortynian cult of Zeus *Astérios*<sup>6</sup>, whose title may have meant originally 'god of all the Celestial Lights', but in the Hellenistic age would doubtless be understood as 'god of the Stars' only<sup>8</sup>, perhaps with special reference to the constellation Helike<sup>9</sup>.

Other indications connect Zeus with Seirios. Once, when the dog-star was scorching the island of Keos, Aristaios is said to have made a great altar for Zeus *Ikmaïos* and to have sacrificed on the mountains to Seirios and to Zeus<sup>10</sup>. The combination perhaps gave rise to a separate conception. Antimachos of Kolophon (c. 400 B.C.) 'called Zeus *Seirén* on account of the star<sup>11</sup>.'

<sup>1</sup> *Supra* pp. 464 ff., 544.

<sup>2</sup> *Supra* pp. 524 ff., 544.

<sup>3</sup> If I am right in my surmise *supra* p. 539 ff.

<sup>4</sup> *Supra* p. 736 n. 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Supra* p. 736. The tauriform Zeus perhaps acted as his own executioner.

<sup>6</sup> *Supra* p. 545 ff. K. Wernicke in Pauly—Wissowa *Real-Enc.* ii. 1786 argues from the existence of the hypostases Asterion and Asterios that the cult of Zeus *Astérios* was early. But see *supra* p. 547.

<sup>7</sup> *Supra* p. 495.

<sup>8</sup> *Supra* p. 547.

<sup>9</sup> *Supra* p. 547 ff.

<sup>10</sup> Ap. Rhod. 2. 516 ff. See further *infra* ch. ii § 8 (c).

<sup>11</sup> Antim. *frag.* 94 Kinkel *ap. et. mag.* p. 710, 30 f. ὁ δὲ Ἀντιμαχὸς σείρινα (Σειρήνα cj.