

The Final Myth: A new Greek legend

By Year 4, the Ants, Maybury Junior School

In the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, there is a tiny island called Sanop. Here, long, long ago, there lived a hideous, revolting lady called Zugip. She was monstrous, with terrible green, faded-orange and bright pink spots; her hair was as black as midnight yet as shiny as the sun. She had a braid of ribbon on the right side of her shoulder that gleamed in the sunlight. Her clothes were dull and old-fashioned: dark, boring crimson, red and maroon. It was like wearing a potato sack as a dress - ugh! Her eyes looked black but actually they were extremely dark navy blue. She had three husbands. One was fat, one was slim and one was like a scarecrow. She didn't like them - except when they brought her birthday presents!

Believe it or not, Zugip was not always a hag. When she sang - "la-la-li-la-la!" - she turned into the pretty and strong Amirona, with blonde curly hair and a princess hairband. Her eyes were like shimmering diamonds. She loved everybody in the world - including her three husbands! She loved the gods too. She wore brown boots and a rainbow dress with purple and yellow flowers on it. She was so elegant, like roses and daisies. She had pale, clear skin and she had no spots on her face! While she was spinning and singing, her hair grew longer. When people saw her they fell madly in love with her.

Sadly, Amirona could not sing all the time. Every day at midnight, she turned back into the hideous and gross Zugip. She felt really embarrassed about the wrinkles and spots all over her face. "Maybe I shouldn't go outside again," she thought. "I look like the oldest and ugliest woman in the universe." If you had seen her, you would have fainted in terror! But she looked so lovely when she sang and became Amirona that, if you had been there, you would have imagined she was an angel. "If only I could sing for ever," she sighed, "then I would be beautiful for ever."

One day, a passing dove heard Zugip crying on a rock. The white soft dove wiped Zugip's tears and whispered gently, "Zugip, please don't cry! I have a plan!"

"What is it?" asked Zugip, sniffing. "There is a magician called Quello who I think can help you with your problem," continued the dove.

"Where does he live?" Zugip asked quickly.

"Quello lives on the island of Hanora! If you like I can carry you there."

"Yes please," cried Zugip.

"Then hop aboard," cooed the dove. "Hold on to my legs, and off we go!"

Off they went over the blue ocean, flying high above everything. They were travelling to find help and advice.

Suddenly, an island appeared. "That is it!" cried the dove.

"Thank goodness we have arrived," called Zugip cheerfully as they landed.

The island of Hanora was rocky and bleak. The trees were deep crimson with leaves of yellow and brown, shaking in the wind and quivering like a squirrel's tail. The poisonous vegetation fluttered constantly in the breeze. Soon Zugip came across a large, deep, gloomy, twisting cave. In it were frogs' eyeballs perfectly preserved in jars full of deep-green vinegar. "Is anyone there?" shouted Zugip. There was a big echo but no reply. Walking further into the cave, Zugip discovered a huge amount of elephant intestines hanging from the ceiling, and red snakeskins lying on the shelves. Deer antlers were tied to the ceiling too, and water dripped down from them.

This place is disgusting, thought Zugip as she crept along. Finally, she crawled into an opening in the cave and there sat the magician, Quello.

"I have a problem," sighed Zugip.

"Tell me about it," said Quello.

"Well, when I sing I turn into the beautiful Amirona. But when I stop singing I go back to being like I am now, the revolting Zugip. I want to be beautiful all the time. The dove says you can help me. Oh please tell me that you can help me!"

"Hmm," muttered Quello. "Not sure."

Zugip begged and begged until Quello replied, "OK. I will agree to help you, but on one condition: you must bring me the beating hearts of your three husbands."

"What!!! I... I... I... don't know if I can!" stuttered Zugip. "They are the only husbands I have. A lady like me could never do that. I'm weak! I have no power to do such a horrid thing."

Quello got very cross. "I can only do the magic if you give me the hearts, OK?" He shouted, "GO GET ME THE HEARTS. NOW!!!"

Zugip answered, "I won't. They are my husbands, and I will never be able to kill them."

Quello replied, "Do you want to be Zugip for ever or not? You don't do you?"

"No! I don't!" babbled Zugip.

"THEN GO!" Quello screamed.

"OK," Zugip said finally.

She set off. Outside the cave, she realised she needed a weapon. Yes! She found a knife in the grass, but it wasn't deadly enough. So she scraped it on a stone until it became sharp enough to cut through steel. Zugip called



for the dove. "Here!" she cried. "Please come here!" The dove swooped down, picked up Zugip and dropped her off back at the island of Sanop.

Zugip acted normal to her three husbands. "Urgh!" they cried when they saw her. They were not interested in their hideous wife. At that moment, Zugip began to sing. Before long she had turned into the beautiful Amirona, and the three husbands fell in love with her all over again. When she saw this, Amirona slowly took out her knife while still singing. Amirona stabbed the three men one by one and reached in for their hearts.

W... W... What are you doing?" gasped dying husband number one.

"Why are you doing this?" croaked dying husband number two.

"How could you?" squawked dying husband number three.

Amirona did not reply. What was the point in talking to dead people? When she had the hearts, she stopped singing and became Zugip once more. She put on some gloves, placed the crimson beating hearts on a golden tray, and called the dove again to take her back to Hanora. While she was waiting for the dove she thought to herself, what have I done?

Holding the golden tray under her arm, Zugip returned to Hanora.

"Here! Take them, mister magician" Zugip said to Quello as she handed him the tray of hearts. "Now, please turn me back into the glorious Amirona" she asked.

Quello looked at the hearts and smiled. He kept his promise. He used his magic key to unlock a magic scroll from a locked box. He murmured, "Make this lady as beautiful as a princess - all the time!"

The magic was as amazing as a box of indoor fireworks. Zipity-zip! Wippity-wip! Wackity-woo! Cockadooodle-doo! And in an instant Zugip turned into the amazing Amirona, spinning around in relief. "I'm back to normal!" she cried. She danced and looked at herself in the mirror. "Wow! It's a miracle!" she yelled with joy. "I'm so beautiful again! So, so

beautiful! Thank you, Quello. I'm so happy that I am not Zugip anymore. I'm Amirona! Yes, this is the best day of my life! No one will call me ugly ever again."

Now Zugip had changed into Amirona, Quello could not believe his eyes. "Oh my goodness, you do look awfully beautiful," he gasped. "Will you marry me?"

Amirona was so grateful to Quello that she agreed at once. "Of course I will."

The dove was too small and weak to carry the couple over the sea to Sanop, so Quello made a spell with his magic scroll, whispering, "Bigger, bigger dove! Get bigger and stronger."

And the dove grew.

When they arrived at Sanop, the people were so happy to see Amirona. "Yay! Amirona is back!" they yelled.

"But who is that with her?" asked a young villager from a stable.

"I'm Quello the powerful magician!" said Quello.

On the day of the wedding Quello conjured a beautiful wedding dress for Amirona. "I am so happy and so excited," she cried. The dress was white and flowing, like the dove flying in the sky. Her skin was as white as snow, her lips as red as blood.

"You look so beautiful, Amirona," whispered Quello. Everyone stared at her gown and at her face. She was wearing beautiful sky-blue eye shadow and her long eyelashes were jet-black. On her wedding day, the guests scattered her with flowers. The island held a special Greek Olympics as well, just for Quello. Everyone had a great time.

Quello and Amirona still live on Sanop. The sun always shines there, too, and the people say it is because the sun is really Amirona smiling. And so our story ends in great happiness.



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