## Proper names in mythology and folklore

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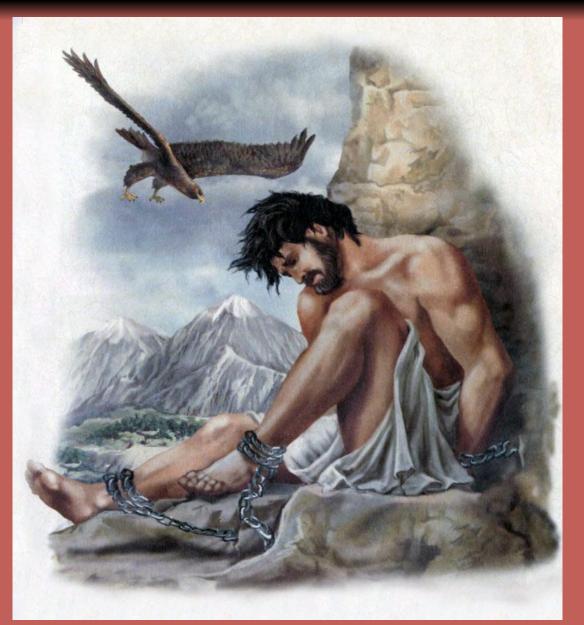
**Proper names** can be observed from semantic, cultural and social angles by establishing differences between mythology and folklore, verifying differences between common nouns and proper names, and finally, analyzing examples from different cultures to find out the commonalities in proper names' functions and informational field provided by proper names.

## Difference between mythology and folklore



The main difference between mythology and folklore lies in the notion that a myth is some knowledge about the world, society, and religion whereas folklore is based on a hard-to-find literature.

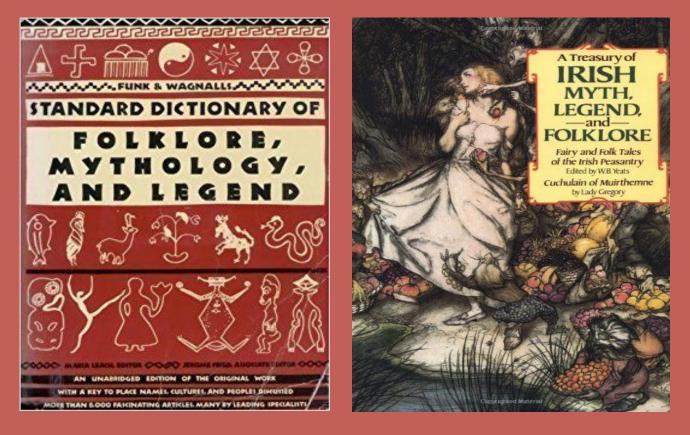




Myths of Ancient Greece. Prometheus



In myths and ancient folklore works, proper names are rarely used. Common nouns verbalize personages and geographical objects; however, they are utilized in the function of proper names. In publications, such names are capitalized as usual proper names. Since proper names have not lost their connection with common names, it is possible to apply categorization to such names.



Ginungagap was the source of everything natural on the planet. In the center of this void was Niflheim (Dark World). In Scandinavian mythology, the names of the rivers were associated with something dark, cold, fierce or with different kinds of weapons. For example Sweil (cold), Gunntra, Fierm (sudden and severe), Fimbultr, Slid (aggressive, violent), Gunntre, Fierm (swif), Hruth (storm), Vide (wide), Leith (lightning).



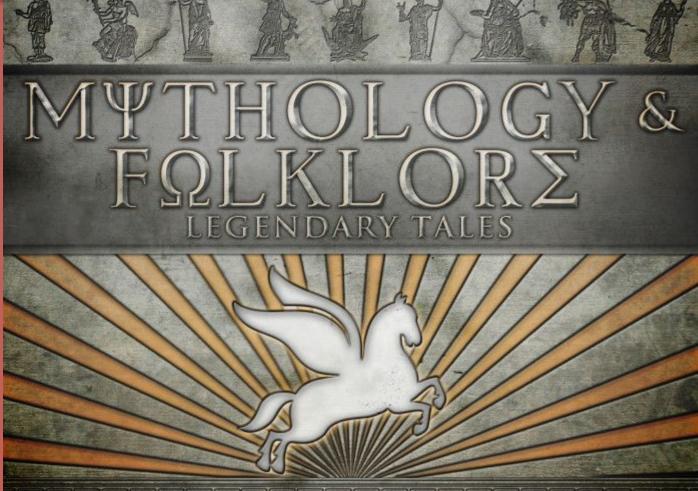
Old Germanic belief about Ginungagap



The origins of Japanese Mythology are found in the Shinto religion, Taoism and Buddhism. It is based on a belief in demons, Gods, ghosts, and Spirits.



«The Shogun» is a novel by James Clavell 1975



By analysis provided in this paper, the following findings could be drawn: there is no sharp border between common nouns and proper names in mythology and early folklore. Common nouns can easily be transformed into proper names in specific contexts.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION