

“Rape and Rape Victims in the Metamorphoses”



BY NALU CABRERA


1

1

What does this reading mean?

BACKGROUND

This story is about Curran's and *The Metamorphoses* and how he personally portrays rape as an important theme, with Gods and men with power being able to assault/rape women who often then escape through tragic transformations in order to save themselves. These changes symbolize the women loss of agency, raising questions about whether Ovid critiques or normalizes such violence. The reading highlights how these myths reflect Roman attitudes toward gender, power, and fate.



2

2

Author's perspective

- RAPE AS A CENTRAL THEME: many stories in metamorphoses depict sexual violence, often involving Gods and women with less power
- AMBIGUITY IN OVID'S TONE: Ovid's form of telling the story is between beauty and violence making it unclear if he criticizes or defends the idea of rape
- ROMAN GENDER NORMS: This represents how myths reflect societal attitudes, where the women in this society have little to no control over their bodies and what they do to them

3

3

How does it relate to class lessons?

ANTIGONE

- Antigone stands up to male authority (Creon) because she feels like she needs to stand up for what she believes is right, though might be wrong
- Like women in Metamorphoses Antigone faces consequences for going against societal expectations.

MEDEA

- Medea is a woman who faces betrayal and chooses to take control of her own fate
- Unlike many figures in Metamorphoses Medea actively changes her destiny rather than being transformed by others because she has the ability to do so from other Gods.

OVID'S METAMORPHOSES

- Io, a mortal woman, is pursued by Zeus and turned into a cow to protect her from the jealousy of his wife, Hera.
- Abuse of power and loss of agency. It reflects how women in Ovid's stories often experience degrading due to divine manipulation of the Gods

All women in these society face female resistance against oppressive forces with more power



4

Q&A ?

DO ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Please no... just kidding anything you want to know :)



5

THANK YOU!



6
