



Cerberus, The Dog of Hades: The History of an Idea

Maurice Bloomfield

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The author traces the mythological origin and meaning of the Greek Cerberus to an Indian prototype in the dogs of Yama, mentioning also analogous figures in mythologies of other races.

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"A careful compilation of the singular views of the famous mythical dog that is guardian of the realms of the dead, as these views have been expressed in classic art, and in Roman, Hindu, Persian and other literatures. The study is certainly a curiosity, but at the same time much more than this. It is the outworking of an idea that is found securely lodged in .the literature of many nations."

—*Journal of Education*, Boston.

"In his interesting and suggestive little essay, Professor Bloomfield explains the two heads which Cerberus so frequently has in Greek vase-paintings, and accounts step by step for the transition from the sun and moon as. the gates of heaven, to Cerberus, the guardian of the doors of hell."

—*Academy*, London.

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