

Chiron, the Wisest Centaur by Meredith Engel

HERMES: This is Hermes, Messenger of the Gods, reporting for the Greek Mythology News Network, live from Mount Pelion. We're lucky today to be joined by Chiron the Centaur — the extremely talented mentor who trained many of the heroes we feature regularly on our show. **(Question 1:)**

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CHIRON: It is true, my early years were not easy. As a baby, I was abandoned by my parents, Cronus and Philyra. My mother was disgusted by my half-human, half-horse appearance. Luckily, the god Apollo and his sister Artemis discovered me, and they found it in their hearts to take me in and raise me as their own. From Apollo, I learned about music and medicine. From Artemis, I learned about archery and hunting. With their guidance I have been able to master all of these skills and more.

HERMES: Fascinating! And thank the stars for Apollo and Artemis. **(Question 2:)**

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CHIRON: Well, as you can see, my two front legs are not horse legs but human legs — this is a significant difference. Additionally, I enjoy wearing human clothing from time to time, something my centaur brothers and sisters never try. I embrace civilization, that's why I've been able to develop friendships with gods, goddesses, and humans alike.

HERMES: Speaking of which, the hero Peleus speaks very highly of you.

(Question 3:) _____?

CHIRON: I've known Peleus for many years. As a young man, he was left stranded in the wilderness by the traitor Acastus. Fortunately, I came across Peleus and was able to restore him to his full strength and even give him some advice as to how to win over the woman of his dreams, Thetis the ocean nymph! Eventually, Peleus returned to me and asked me to train his son, Achilles. Now Achilles is one of the greatest archers in the world! Possibly even better than me...

HERMES: Oh, wow! I didn't know you trained Achilles! **(Question 4:)**

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CHIRON: Well, Ajax, who fought alongside Achilles in the Trojan War, was also brought to me as a young boy for training. And of course, Apollo, my adoptive

father, brought his son Asclepius to me, as well. Asclepius was particularly adept at the healing arts, and I'm honored to have had a hand in sculpting the great god of medicine. Actually, one of my favorite stories isn't about my years as a teacher but rather as a healer. You see, tragically, Phoenix — another one of Achilles' mentors — was blinded during a fight with his father, Amyntor. Using my knowledge of herbal medicine, I was able to restore Phoenix's sight. This is certainly one of my proudest accomplishments.

HERMES: Just incredible. We really are blessed to have such a talented centaur in our midst. Well, Chiron, I know your time is short, just one last question though. Seeing as you are an oracle — on top of all your other abilities — **(Question 5:)** _____?

CHIRON: I don't pretend to know anything for certain, and I try to shy away from looking into my own future. However, my gifted daughter Melanippe has foretold my death. Though she was disturbed by the vision and is not willing to speak openly about it, she did mention it involved Heracles and an arrow... My only wish is that my death is not in vain, that someone or something else benefits from my passing.

HERMES: Oh my! For the sake of the world, I certainly hope Melanippe is wrong! Well, you heard it all here first folks! Tune in after the break for *Cooking with Hestia*.

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ACTIVITY

The questions below have been taken away from the interview. Write them back to match them according to the answers:

Do you have any other stories about students of yours whom our viewers may have heard of?

Do you have any predictions about what, if anything, may ultimately cause your death?

What else do you think separates you from other typical centaurs?

Chiron, I've heard you had a challenging childhood — what happened and how did you get through it?

How long have you known him and how did you make such a strong impression on him?