

## Derekites And The Bantagor

By Toby Webster (Year 5)

The city of Atlantis was situated in the centre of the Atlantic Ocean; the domes of its buildings glimmered with sunlight, and the streets were full of people bartering for livestock and food. Atlantis was a wealthy city with sapphire-blue oceans surrounding it; they worshipped the god Poseidon.

One day Pasiphae (the queen of Atlantis) told the citizens: "Today we shall start work on a tower – a tower higher than the clouds to reach Mount Olympus!"

The city roared with approval at the end of the speech, except one person – Derekites – who knew this would anger the gods, as he was a son of Hades. He supposed the gods would punish Atlantis, probably by sending a terrible beast.

Three long, dreary years later, the tower was complete, and the whole city had come to witness the opening ceremony. 300,000 kilometres high, the tower could be seen from all over Atlantis, and was plated with diamonds, rubies and any other gemstone imaginable.

Abruptly, a deafening roar emitted from above the clouds. **CRASH!** Rocks and rubble, which had fallen from the tower, fell from the sky. Derekites knew this destruction was caused by a monstrous creature. Like a crimson lightning bolt streaking through the sky, the creature swooped down and snatched Pasiphae from the ground.

The creature was the Bantagor – a horrifying creature kept in the dungeons of Mount Olympus to guard the Titans (a group of gods

before the Olympians). It was only released when the gods were extremely angry.

The Bantagor possessed the body of a giant horse, the legs of a lion, the wings of a dragon 1,000 chicken heads and an enormous, diamond hammer at the end of its muscular tail of a crocodile. With a roar as loud as an earthquake, the Bantagor soared up with Pasiphae, who was screaming with terror. After taking Pasiphae prisoner, the Bantagor travelled back to Mount Olympus, probably to put her in the dungeons.

That night, in a dream, Hades spoke to Derekites. He said: "You must go and slay the Bantagor. I don't know where its lair is, so you must find the Grey Sisters. They will give you the location of its lair and give you a sword impregnated with Hydra venom."

The next day, Derekites set off to find the Grey Sisters – three old crones who knew the whereabouts of the lair of any beast. They lived in a cave at the most southerly point of Atlantis, where the seas were violent and tempestuous.

One day passed before Derekites found the entrance to the cavern. Drip, drip, drip. Water fell from the stalactites as Derekites advanced into the cave.

"Someone's coming!" cackled a voice ahead.

"Give me the eye!" demanded another.

"No, I want to see first!" replied a third voice.

"There he is," exclaimed the third voice as Derekites crept round a bend in the cave.

"What do you think he wants?"

“I want information and a sword,” replied Derekites. “I wish to slay the Bantagor.”

“The sword! He wants the sword!” screamed the first voice.

“Give me the eye, I want to see him!” croaked the second voice (the Grey Sisters needed to pass an eye because none of them had their own eyes).

As the Grey sisters were passing the eye among them, Derekites took his chance and seized the eye.

“Where’s the eye?” the Grey Sisters screamed in unison.

“I have it,” answered Derekites. “If you tell me where the Bantagor’s lair is and you give me the sword, I will return the eye.”

“The Bantagor’s lair,” started one of the sisters, “is hidden under Atlantis. Enter through the south gates, take the first left towards Bob’s Bakery. Just before you reach the bakery, turn right towards the smoke-house. Inside the smoke-house is a trap-door that leads down towards the Bantagor’s lair, now give me the eye!”

“Only if you give me the sword!” replied Derekites.

One of the sisters took out a magnificent sword from her cloak and gave it to Derekites.

“Give me the eye!” screamed a sister.

“Here, catch!” answered Derekites, throwing the eye towards the Grey Sisters. The sisters failed to catch the eye, so it rolled off into the corner, neglected.

A day later, Derekites arrived at the south gate of Atlantis. He entered the city and took the first left towards Bob’s Bakery. When he reached the bakery, he realised he hadn’t had much to eat for

two days, so he stopped to get a local delicacy, the Atlantian loaf – a type of bread with chunks of tomato in it.

After he had devoured the loaf, Derekites turned right towards the smoke-house. The smoke-house was a large, rectangular block; every day the luscious smell of smoked chicken filled it.

With his sword raised, Derekites advanced into the building. The smell that was usually in the building still lingered there, but now it felt foreboding. The trap-door was concealed in a side room just off the main room.

When he opened the trap-door a musty smell floated out – he knew this was the place. Roars emitted from below as Derekites ventured down the spiral staircase; the stairs and walls were made out of jagged rock.

At the bottom of the staircase was a passage with torches fastened to its walls. Derekites followed the roars because he knew it would take him to the Bantagor.

After a while Derekites came to an opening where he saw it – a crimson creature, the Bantagor. Letting out a deafening roar, the Bantagor charged, as quick as lightning, towards Derekites. Just when the Bantagor was right in front of him, Derekites dodged.

The Bantagor roared with anger as it turned round to face Derekites. It charged again but this time it jumped over Derekites into the chamber. Derekites followed. Unsheathing his sword, Derekites charged towards the Bantagor, just as it swung a blow with its mighty hammer.

Derekites just dodged the hammer. Suddenly, he saw his chance, so he took it. He ran at top speed towards the Bantagor, sword pointing towards its heart. Roarr. The Bantagor was dead.

After killing the Bantagor, Derekites became a known hero throughout Atlantis. As Pasiphae had been eradicated by the Bantagor there was no longer a ruler of Atlantis. The whole government decided it should be Derekites, so Derekites was made king of Atlantis.

The next day Zeus and Poseidon found out about the killing of the Bantagor and they were extremely furious. Zeus sent a lightning bolt at Derekites, killing him. Also he sent all the gods of Olympus to imprison Hades in the dungeon. He found a mean, diabolical man to become ruler of the Underworld – this man was Usclention. Poseidon did his part by flooding Atlantis, the lost city.