

8: King Midas

King Midas was the ruler of Phrygia.

One day, Midas found a satyr - a creature with the body of a man and legs of the goat - in need of help. So Midas took the satyr home and looked after him.



The satyr was a good friend of Dionysus, the God of wine and merriment. When Dionysus saw how well-treated his friend had been he granted Midas a wish.

Midas dreamt of being very rich. He asked that everything he touched should turn into gold. Dionysus knew it was a stupid wish but granted it anyway.

Midas touched a tree, his palace, the grass - everything instantly turned into gold.



Midas was delighted and organised a huge party to celebrate.

But as soon as Midas tried to eat the delicious food, it turned into gold. As soon as he reached out to his daughter, she too turned into gold.

Midas realised how stupid he had been and begged Dionysus to take back the wish. The god told Midas to wash his hands in a nearby river and then he would be free.

