

CIRCE

Greek name Κίρκη

Latin name Circe

Name in your language

Parents Helios and Perse (or Hecate)

Role enchantress

Home Island of Aeaea

Attributes herbs

Pets lions, pigs

In mythology, names express the essence of the people who bear them. Κίρκω (read: kirkoo, Latin: *circino*) in ancient Greek means: 'to hoop around, to secure with rings.' Circe was a witch. She was able to transform and 'secure' one thing into another with magic, and made up all manner of magic charms and potions. Circe lived on the island of Aeaea. Sometimes she would host a company of nymphs to help her out with her magic. But a sorceress' life is mostly a solitary one. She genuinely only enjoyed being with her animals: pigs, wolves, lions. Some of them were born animals; many others were men she had once turned into animals... Things changed when the human hero Odysseus came to Aeaea.

He was not transformed by the witch (thanks to Hermes' help). After a while, Circe fell in love with Odysseus. By the time the hero had set sail back to Ithaca, his home island, the powerful witch was helpless. However, she assisted the hero by giving him precious advice on how to conquer the most dangerous sea monsters on his way home.

Notice that Κίρκη and Circe are the same name, but the Greek spelling shows the pronunciation of the letter 'c', as 'k'

