

Barbarian O'Clock

Today: The meaning behind the word barbarian, images of the powerful uncivilized primitives of the past, and finally an interview with the esteemed female Barbarian leader: Artemisia of Caria.

Sarah Speller here for Barbarian O'Clock with a little English lesson for you today. The word barbarian comes from the Greek word: *bárbaros* which means *babbler*. This signifies that early Neanderthals talked a lot, and another Sanskrit word also shows where the word is derived from called *barbara*, means *stammering*. To sum it up, barbarian means: a stammering babbler. However, they were respected during the time of the Romans, but have come to be known as an uncultured breed of people nowadays.

Next up we have Polly Picture here with some photographs displaying the daily life, families, and war of ancient times.



Now, it's time for what you've been waiting for all afternoon, we have Ivan Interviewer here with possibly the greatest female barbarian of all time, Artemisia of Caria. Let's get right into this.

II: To start us off, please give us a brief introduction about yourself as well as information about where you came from today.

AC: I am Artemisia of Caria, naval commander and ally to the King of Persia. My father was Lygdamis I, a part of the Cimmerians, an Indo-European people. I am the fifth-century BCE queen of Halicarnassus. My mother hails from Cretan descent.

II: Where is your name derived from?

AC: Named after the Goddess of the Hunt, known as Artemis, (daughter of Zeus), my Roman mythological name means heavenly or divine, and the proper name is *Diana*.

II: Your battle approach is quite impressive, including many decisive, tricky, and truly intelligent strategies, what runs through your mind as you are preparing for an attack, up until and in the midst of it?

AC: I am sure to keep my infantry close, but my enemies closer, thinking ahead of what they might try to spring and attack on us, in order for us to be seen as powerful, we must have a constant edge on the opposition, because if we don't win, we die, and that cannot happen. When I go into battle, I remember I must stay merciless and put up a good fight, as I would hope others would do the same against me, but the difference is, that they don't come out victorious.

II: Please, enlighten us with the details of your soon to be famed flag tactic, if possible.

AC: My favorite tactic involves carrying both Greek and Persian flags on the ship, in order to confuse my intended targets. Often, the confused warship would be unknowingly caught off guard, after which I attack with full, blunt force.

II: Now did you use tactics such as these in the recent mark you made on history? It was quite impressive, would you care to elaborate more on the battle you and your troops won?

AC: Yes, my soldiers and I recently in the Battle of Salamis, and the fleet I was commander of was being approached by a Greek vessel, so I steered our craft into the direction of a vessel of the Persians, and made the Greeks believe I was one of them. The Greeks let me go, and the Persian ship sank. Xerxes, my ally watching from ashore believed I had sunk a Greek ship, not one of his very own, but little did he know I would spare no one to be triumphant. That crusade as well, I came out vanquishing.

II: What with all the accomplishments you have received it comes as no surprise that you have been featured in the works of writing by the great Herodotus, could you expand on this for the readers?

AC: I have been referenced by the Father of History himself several times in relation to the Greco-Persian wars, outlining my tactics and achievements.

II: Something we haven't touched on much is the fact that you are a queen, and of Halicarnassus no less. Can you clarify how that came to be, and how your ruling is proceeding?

AC: Quite an emotional story, it will be one hard to retell, but I shall. I took the throne after the death of my now late husband, because my son Pisindelis was just a youth. I was dealing with the grief of my loved one dead, raising my son, and ruling the city of Halicarnassus, as well as leading the naval forces of Halicarnassos, Cos, Nisyros and Calyndos

II: How impressive, I am in awe of all that you have done, but it seems many people express differing views on your beliefs, actions, and all that you stand for, could you explain those who may have doubts about you and why they should join your forces?

AC: Yes, while that is true, many people simply cannot understand the affairs I have gone through, but I must admit to *each their own*. Thessalus, son of Hippocrates seems to have his doubts, even stooping to a level of calling me a "cowardly pirate", after going to an island to plot my attack, but fleeing after my ships were struck by lightning, and I experienced hallucinations. But, I later returned and conquered the island for myself, in spite of his words.

II: I find that truly inspiring, rising above the level of others, I appreciate your wisdom and I thank you for coming in with Barbarian O' Clock today.

AC: Thank you for this opportunity, hopefully I will be back.

II: For the readers at home, we are now celebrating the 2,518th year anniversary of Artemisia's death, with this interview taken when she was alive we held on to as a commemoration of her life.

Artemisia of Caria passed away in Lefkada, Greece in 500 BC (not a specific date). Her death has been unfortunately recounted in an old sexist legend, in which she fell hard for a man named Dardanus, and when he ignored her, she apparently blinded him while he was sleeping, yet her love for him kept growing. An oracle told her to jump off the top of a large rock in Leucas, a rock that supposedly cleared you from your passion of love after you jumped off of it. She was killed after she jumped off the rock, and was buried nearby.

Information on Ms. Artemisia of Caria found here:

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/59287/9-female-warriors-who-made-their-mark-history>

<https://classicalwisdom.com/artemisia-caria/>

<https://classicalwisdom.com/artemisia-caria/>

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/59287/9-female-warriors-who-made-their-mark-history>

<https://www.history.com/news/where-did-the-word-barbarian-come-from>