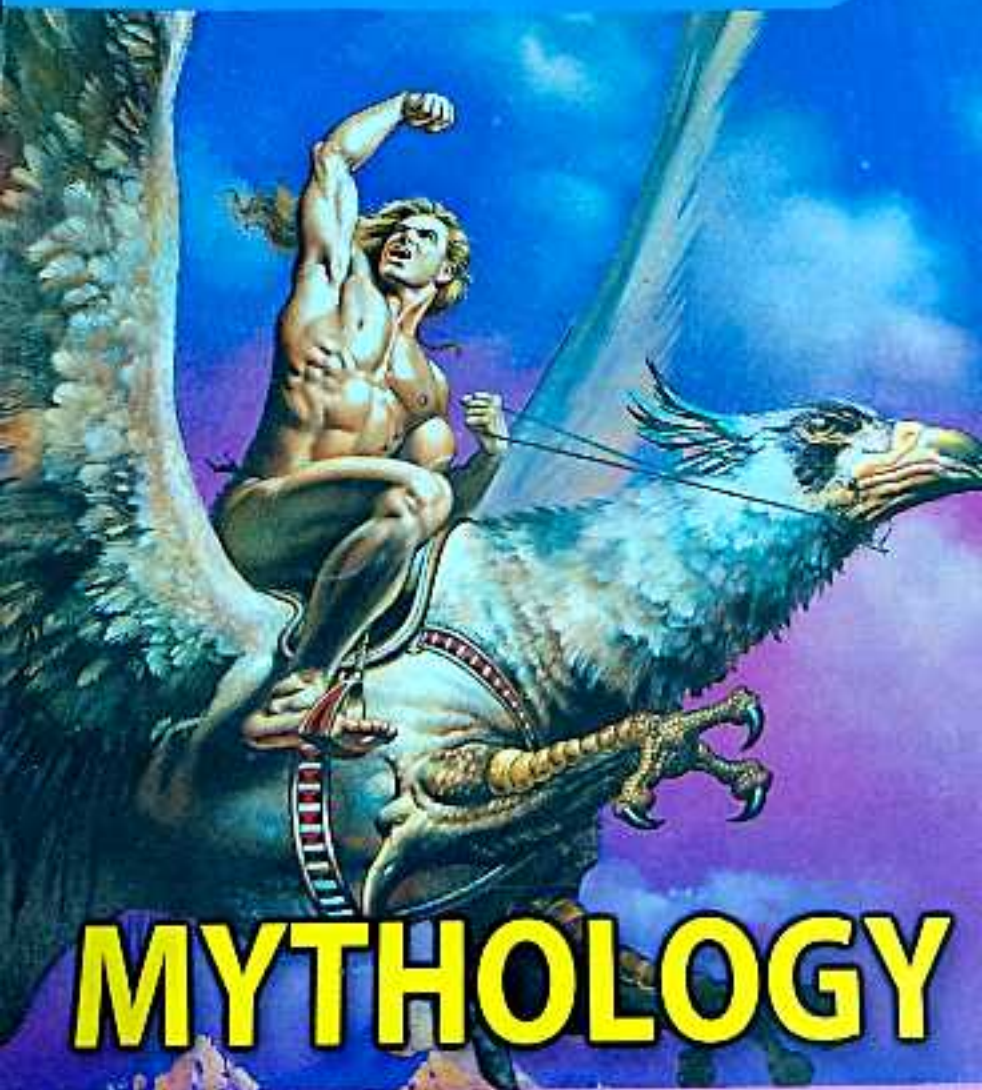


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MYTHOLOGY

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I Wonder Why? The question of the month

Aren't there many little things you have wondered about, but didn't know whom to ask? Send us your questions, and we will give you the fascinating reasons behind the incredible mysteries of life.



Why does ice float on water?

It is a matter of common experience that ice floats on water. Howsoever large the size of ice may be, it will not sink. Even icebergs keep on floating in the sea.

The law of floatation of bodies was given by the Greek scientist Archimedes. According to this law, whenever a body is placed in water, it is acted upon by two forces - the weight of the body acting downwards and the buoyant force of water acting upwards. If the weight of the body is equal to or less than the upthrust of water, the body floats on water. In other words, if the weight of the body is equal to or less than the weight of the water displaced by it, it will float on water. On the other hand, if the weight of the body is more than the weight of water dis-

placed, the body will sink in water. Hence a body floats when its weight is equal to the weight of water displaced.

A piece of wood floats on wa-



ter because its weight is less than the weight of water displaced by it. Since the weight of wood is half of the weight of equal volume of water, half of wood is under water, while the other half is above water. You can understand the floatation of ice also, on the basis of this law.

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PART 2



THE POWERS OF THE DEKATRIX REVEALED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!