

### **The Arachne Code**

(Actual shortened version used with my apologies to the language of Ovid)

Arachne depicts

Europa deceived by the form of the bull

Asterie, held by the eagle, struggling, and

Leda lying beneath the swan's wings.

She added Jupiter who, hidden in the form of a satyr, filled Antiope, with twin offspring and as Amphitryon charmed Alcmena and

Danae, as a golden shower;

and took Aegina, as a flame;

Mnemosyne, as a shepherd and

Proserpine, as a spotted snake.

She wove Neptune, also changed to a fierce bull for Canace.

In Enipeus's form, begot the Aloidae with Iphimedia, and

deceived Theophane as a ram,

Ceres, the golden-haired, gentlest, mother of the cornfields, as a horse and

Meduse, the snake-haired mother of the winged horse, as a winged bird.

Melantho knew him as a dolphin.

Here is Phoebus as a shepherd when he tricked Isse.

and Bacchus who ensnared Erigone with delusive grapes, and

Saturn as the double of a horse who begot Chiron.

The outer edge of the web, surrounded by a narrow border, had flowers interwoven with entangled ivy.

### **The full text: from Ovid's metamorphoses**

The Maeonian girl (Arachne) depicts Europa deceived by the form of the bull: you would have thought it a real bull and real waves. She is seen looking back to the shore she has left, and calling to her companions, displaying fear at the touch of the surging water, and drawing up her shrinking feet.

Also Arachne showed Asterie, held by the eagle, struggling, and Leda lying beneath the swan's wings. She added Jupiter who, hidden in the form of a satyr, filled Antiope, daughter of Nycteus with twin offspring; who, as Amphitryon, was charmed by you, Alcmena of Tiryns; by Danae, as a golden shower; by Aegina, daughter of Asopus, as a flame; by Mnemosyne, as a shepherd; by Proserpine, Ceres's daughter, as a spotted snake.

She wove you, Neptune, also, changed to a fierce bull for Canace, Aeolus's, daughter. In Enipeus's form you begot the Aloidae, and deceived Theophane as a ram. The golden-haired, gentlest, mother of the cornfields, knew you as a horse. The snake-haired mother of the winged horse, knew you as a winged bird. Melantho knew you as a dolphin.

She gave all these their own aspects, and the aspects of the place. Here is Phoebus like countryman, and she shows him now with the wings of a hawk, and now in a lion's skin, and how as a shepherd he tricked Isse, Macareus's daughter. She showed how Bacchus ensnared Erigone with delusive grapes, and how Saturn as the double of a horse begot Chiron. The outer edge of the web, surrounded by a narrow border, had flowers interwoven with entangled