



Erysichthon

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The nymph curses Erysichthon as she and the tree dies.

- Erysichthon is a powerful king. He decides to cut down a tree for his palace even though it is thought to be Demeter the goddesses enchanted tree. It turns out that a tree nymph lives there and as Erysichthon cuts it down and unknowingly kills her, she curses him to always be hungry no matter how much he eats.



The image shows two clay figures on a light-colored wooden surface. On the left is a tall, thin figure with a yellow head and a blue, textured body. On the right is a shorter, wider figure with a yellow body, a red waist, and a black and white head. The background is a light-colored wooden surface with a vertical grain.

Back at Erysichthon's castle...

- Erysichthon finds out that whatever he eats he would always be starving and craving food so much it was as if his life depended on it.



He was so hungry
he betrayed his
own family.

- He sold everything just to have enough money to buy food but was so desperate he sold his own daughter. Demeter felt sorry for her so Demeter turned her into a donkey to escape but Erysichthon sold her again. Demeter turned her into a butterfly so she could escape a second time.



He was so hungry he ate himself

- The curse was so hungry he carried through until his bitter end where he, bit by bit, ate himself alive