



HELLENIC-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
ATHENS COLLEGE — PSYCHICO COLLEGE
ATHENS COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

A large, dense crowd of people's faces, filling the background of the page. The faces are of various ages and ethnicities, creating a textured, mosaic-like effect.

AS YOU LIKE IT

Names



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From The Editor

There is no obvious way to go with “Names.” There is no right way, no wrong way. When the topic for this year’s *As You Like It* was decided upon this September, we had no idea where this journey would take us. From the first moment when we sat down in the beginning of the year and started thinking about names, until today when we are presenting you with the final version of our magazine, I have to admit that we have come a long way.

Names are powerful. Names are diverse. Names constitute the very first thing we identify with. Through this very basic tool that is primarily used for recognition, we managed to explore, as you will find out in the pages that follow, all different kinds of topics, ranging from psychology and identity formation to societal stereotypes and political conflicts. But names also inspired us to produce our very own original pieces of fiction, both poetry and prose.

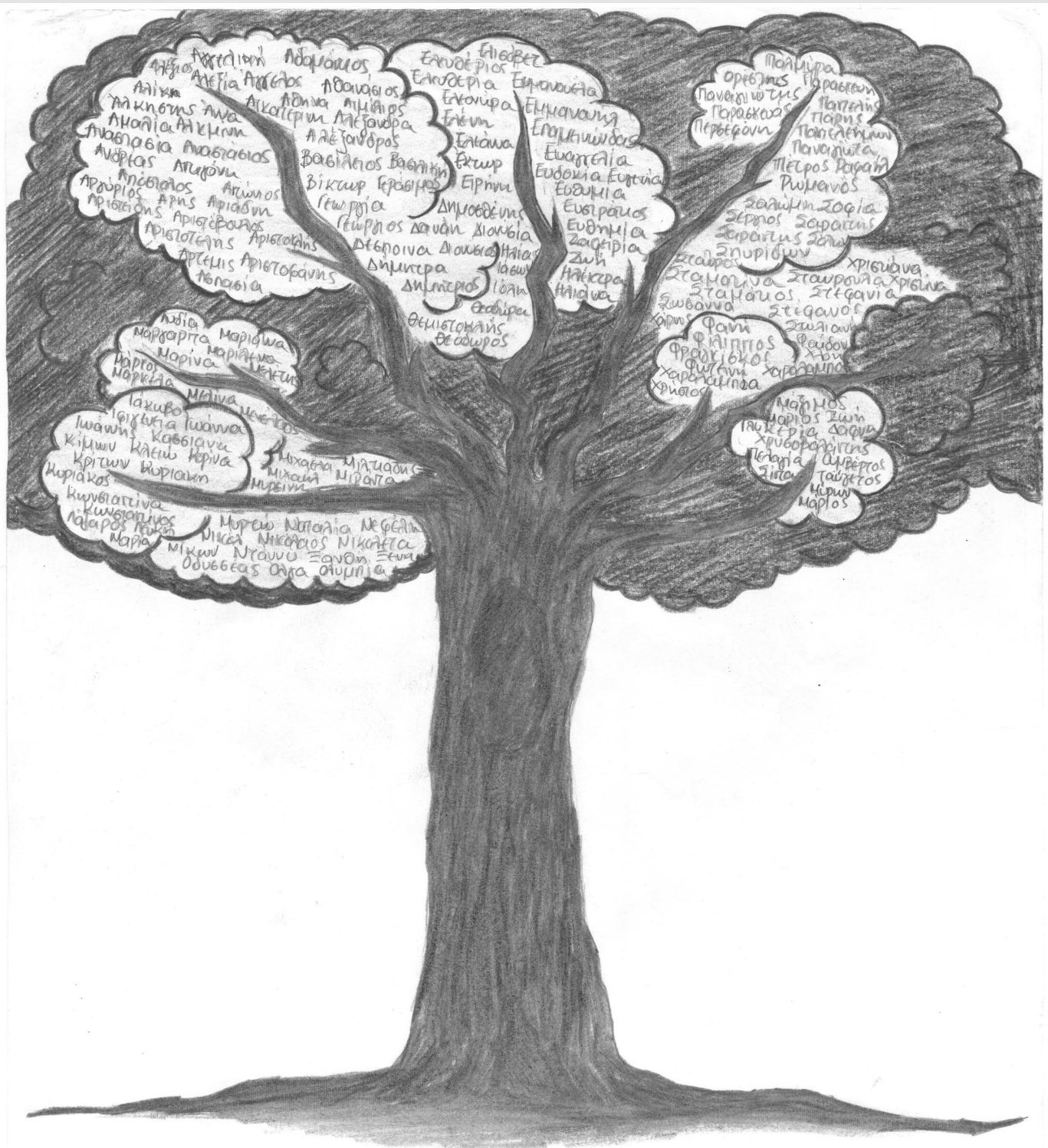
Through *As You Like It* this year, we had the opportunity to learn more about

ourselves and our classmates. We got the chance to research aspects of the topic that intrigued us. We exchanged ideas, we co-operated, we worked towards a common goal. But most importantly, through *As You Like It*, we expressed ourselves. And I think that we got to realize the true power our words can have.

Because when you have the courage to start, writing then flows. And once it starts flowing, you suddenly become aware that expression is a need, not a luxury.

A huge thank you to Ms. Basiacou, Ms. Seitanidis, and Ms. Wich for their invaluable help in making this year’s issue a reality. And a huge thank you to all the contributors as well – this magazine is yours, it’s ours and we are the ones who brought it to life! Enjoy reading!

Nefeli Ioannou



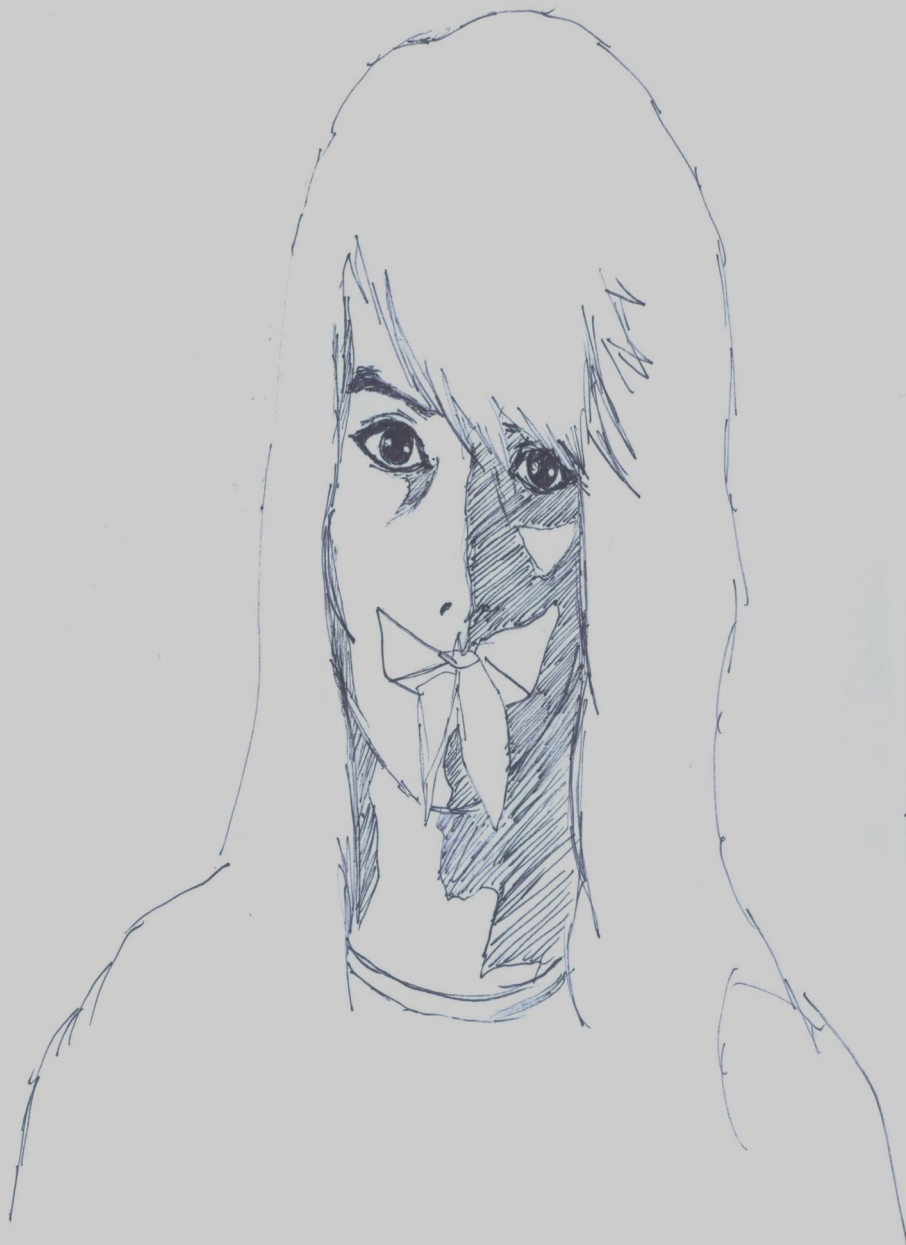
Joanna Vamvakopoulou

Joanna Vamvakopoulou
19.11.15

“Call him Voldemort, Harry. Always use the proper name for things. Fear of a name increases fear of the thing itself.”

J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

FICTION



Manos Koutsikos



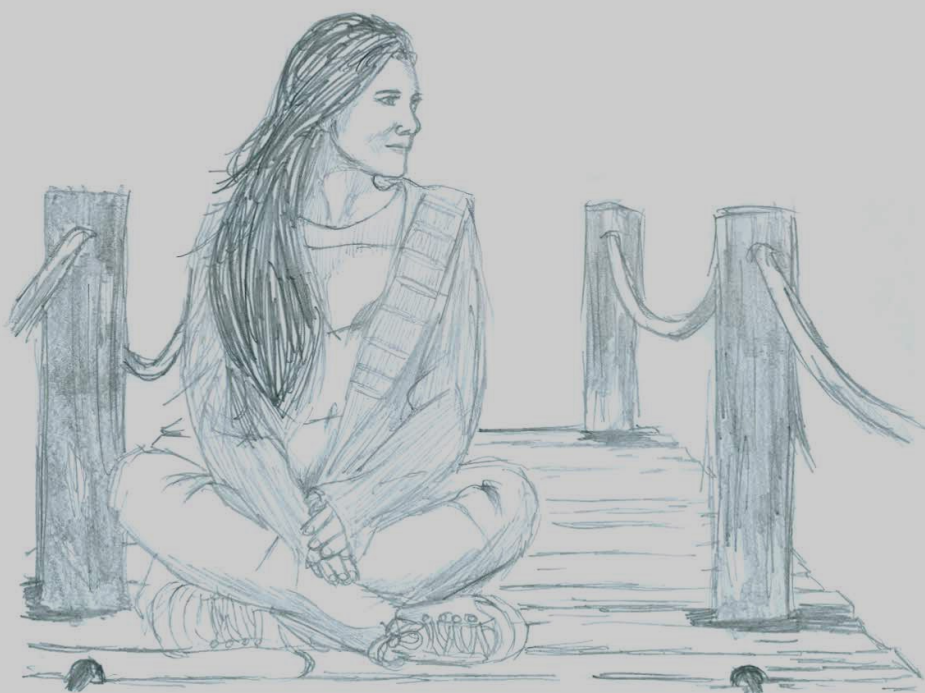
Juliet

By Maria Stamatopoulou

Juliet her name,
Beautiful as a rose bud.
Romeo her love.



Manos Koutsikos



Elizabeth

By: Konstantinos
Zorbas

Elizabeth,

yes that name has spoken
through my heart of power,
I've heard the name
in a thousand hymns
and seen the face
a billion times
through a throng bush
or some velvet flower.
And the miles of difference
from Roman Greece
to Paris, France of the Eiffel Tower
is so little
compared to the name
I have thought.
And so long
have you been called
that world Elizabeth,
the world that drowns me
in a deep brook
of the forbidden woods,
that name that explodes
to my tongue whenever said,
that word that's forever longed



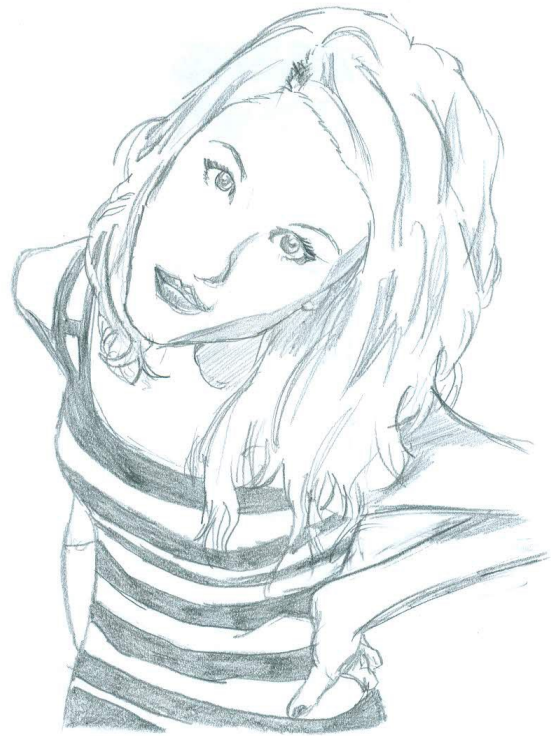
Manos Koutsikos



MARIA

By Stavros Athanasopoulos

The sun, the moon,
and the stars
They chose together
Your name to be
Maria
And your father to
be a thief
In order to steal all
the stars
And put them in your eyes



Manos Koutsikos

ROSE

By Nickolas Diamantis

Rose was a lovely girl,
That loved to read a book named The Pearl.
She had a boyfriend she loved,
but she lost him when her family moved.
She started singing songs of sorrow,
hoping that all would be forgotten by tomorrow.
She felt desperate when she heard that her boyfriend was
dead,
and she hugged her pillow full of dread.
Now Rose feels depressed and alone
Seeing the future with no hope.
Her boyfriend is in heaven longing to see her again,
So much so, that he wrote with big letters on her desk :
“Rose, it’s me, Ken!”



The Name That Gives Fame

By John Pantelidis

My Classmates

By Eva Nomikou

A is for Angelos, Alex and Ari

Also for Andrew who talks all the time.

D comes for Dimos who sits next to Dora

And then comes "E" which matches with Eva

G is for George who sits in the corner

And in front of him is Hector whose name starts with an "H"

Like Hlias and Hlias

Bypass one letter and here comes "J" for Jimmy who only gets As

Next to him is Katherine which starts with a "K"

Like Kyriakos whose name sounds like a day.

M is for Michael who rides a motorcycle

And N comes for Nick who knows all the words.

My parents couldn't find another name

So they thought of giving me the name John

Because my grandfather's name was the same

And they wanted to give it to their son

I actually like to be named like this

I prefer it to names like Paul or Steve

It is a name that is a masterpiece

It gives pleasure like gifts on Christmas Eve

It's a name that is not weird or bizarre

It is a name that you should remember

No matter what you do or where you are

You always know John as a good member

You might say that the name John is just bad

But you are probably jealous and mad.

Names and Bullying

By Nickolas Galanos

Names: everybody has one; Nick, Georgia or Tom.

Sometimes two; Mary-Ann or Chris-Bill.

But there are some

Who unfortunately have more.

Do they like them? No!

Do they want them? No!

They close their ears

But they are loud, they are strong.

They are always there;

When you feel alone

When you are asleep.

Names: people are calling you names

People are laughing at you.

Innocent words, bad games

Words that become cruel.

"You are fat, you are ugly.

You are stupid, you are short"

And then names become BIG

Big, like heavy rocks that hit you.

And you are hurt, you cry.

Are you afraid? Yes!

Are you alone? No.



Manos Koutsikos

Hatfields and McCoys

By Raphael Moissis

Outside thunders roar

Brother's blood was spilled today

No McCoy shall live

Name, forgotten

An anonymous contribution

Would she hear me if I called her name?

Would she hold me if she knew my shame?

I have written her name in a piece of art.

Since the last time I talked to her I am falling apart.

It was night when she came;

I met her but I don't even know if she remembers my name.

At the end of the tunnel, I can see no light

Whatever I do, I cannot win this fight.

I hear your calling my name again and again,

I don't believe this can be the end.

Me, Myself and I

By Aristotelis Siozios

Me, myself and I

Lost in the flow of time

Please show to me how it is done

In this new world for which I know none

To protect those I care about



I follow these lions without doubt

A herald of light or a harbinger of dark

Down the path of no hope after this arc

March onward, along the rail

Searching for my new self in this disarray

Spooky, scary, and terrifying

Is to confront the truth eye-to-eye

I can't believe what I have done

Me? Raising the blissful gun?

Was it an accident? Was it for fun?

Losing myself in this reality I began

Is there escape? Somewhere to hide

From the monster known as I.

Hey, Paul!

By Athena Frangoulis

I met a man who tried to sell me a ball.
He wasn't so tall,
And looked like Robert Duvall.

I wasn't sure at all,
As he was leaning against the wall,
Near a shop inside the
mall,
If I should trust a man
with a ball.

As I was walking
down the hall,
He shouted out "Hey,
Paul!"

Which nearly made
my skin crawl.

How could a man, not so tall,
Leaning against a wall, in the mall,
Know my name is Paul?

I decided to talk to him after all! Back to my
point, as I recall,
He tried to sell me his ball.

I thought it was odd because it was quite
small.

I wasn't sure of the kind of ball,
Golf ball, Ping Pong ball, or Tennis ball.
I soon found out, after all,
It was just an ordinary baseball ball.

An Easton Baseball Ball, he said, and that's
not all!

It didn't amaze me at all.

What nerve he had to give me a call.
He said it was a special ball,
That would give me ideas, when I had none
at all.

I didn't believe the man about the ball,
But decided to give him a chance after all.

I would never have expected what would be-
fall,
By buying this rather ordi-
nary ball.

Many years later, during
the fall,
On the top bookshelf sat
this ball.

It never did anything spe-
cial at all.

Until that one day, in the fall,
When my daughter called it a magic ball,
Which I assured her it wasn't at all,
And surely just an ordinary ball.

Right then it hit me, like a curve ball. had an
idea that would beat them all. My company
name would be Eastball!

It rattled my brain, for this ordinary ball,
Brought me an idea when I had none at all.
The name of my company would conquer all!
That's all I needed to get on the ball.

I'll never forget the man at the mall,
Who changed my life when he said "Hey,
Paul!"



Her/Win

By Vanessa Liakopoulou

Her

I

t was a Friday.

A chilly breath of wind rushed underneath her skirt as she hastily made her way to the bus stop, the cold air burying itself deep beneath her clothes. It was still dark, and her eyes struggled to adapt to the flimsy luster of the sky that always precedes sunrise. She tentatively looked up, careful not to lose her step, and noticed that the moon was, even now, scantily visible, appearing and disappearing after sporadic splashes of sunlight.

“It’s funny, how stubborn the moon is,” she thought to herself. She liked to think of herself as the moon, sometimes. She only appeared in the dark, it seemed, with all her majestic radiance. But during the day, she was nothing but a dim star, washed out and faded, doomed to exist only parenthetically, at fixed intervals, despite her most earnest attempts. She wasn’t sure whether it was this thought or today’s cold weather that made her hair stand on end.

Suddenly, her shoe caught in a small pebble, and she stumbled momentarily, before restoring her balance. She bent down to tie her shoelace, but decided against it when her gaze fell on her watch: 6:25. Haste sent her mind contemplating on alternatives, were she to miss the bus.

But she quickly reminded herself it was a Friday.

She couldn’t afford to miss the bus.

She had to see him.

And there he was, like he had always been, every single Friday. His head leaned slightly against the grey, metallic post. His eyes were closed, but she knew they were blue – she had observed them on multiple times, when he thought she wasn’t watching: when he got off the bus on his way to basketball practice, or when he lazily looked out the window in search of a distraction. She knew how he liked to draw trees and flowers and naked people; she knew how he had those dark circles under his eyes, a bit like perpetually smudged eyeliner; she knew how he read Dostoyevsky and how he listened to old-school rap at the same time; she knew how he had a girlfriend, but she also knew how he never answered her calls, or made her mixtapes, or drew her portraits; she knew, with the utmost certainty, that he was critically and emphatically sad.

And yet, she didn’t know his name.

Him

It was a Friday.

You’d think that the sound of the Beastie Boys would be enough to wake you up, but he’d disagree; in fact, he was so tired that he barely even registered the lyrics. To him, they were nothing but sterile noise, a loud indifference, a monotonous soundtrack to his equally monotonous life. He pushed the ear buds deeper into his ears and leaned his head against the bus stop post, allowing himself to close his eyes. A piercing brush of wind made his skin freeze under his thin cotton blend hoodie, but he didn’t bother to zip it up.

He found consolation in monotony, in the repetitiveness of musical patterns, in the quiet scratching of graphite on paper, in waiting for the bus to arrive at exactly 6:30 every Friday. This overwhelming repetition, this decisive absence of variation made him imagine that he was starring in the high school remake of Groundhog Day.

He opened his eyes slightly, half-expecting to hear the mechanical jiggle of the doddering bus edging near the stop. Instead, he discerned loud steps and faint panting. He saw the girl, that same Friday girl, running towards him – or was it towards the bus stop? He quickly sat on the cold bench behind the post, feeling the moisture of the surface dampening his pants. He pretended not to notice that she sat next to him, her legs dangling nervously off the seat as she wrapped a patterned scarf around her neck.

She never talked much, that girl, nor did she pry into his monotonous life as other girls did, much to his relief. He’d tried talking to her, once. It had been raining cats and dogs, he remembered, and he could feel the raindrops mercilessly punching his uncovered hair as he walked down the road to the bus stop. She was already there, standing in that quirky awkwardness he had come to associate her with, holding a grey polka dot umbrella that matched her woolen coat. He’d glanced at the umbrella longingly.

Can we share?, he’d meant to say.

Sure, she’d meant to respond.

And after this wordless exchange, she’d approached him with tentative, bouncy steps and held the umbrella over their bare heads. He’d searched for a way to start a conversation, but nothing had presented itself. Instead, he’d chosen to pretend the sidewalk was more interesting than any interaction between them. Every once in a while, though, he’d feel the gripping urge to peek at her, unable but to notice the way the floaty material of her skirt hugged her body around her hips. His mind had dwelled on that thought more than he’d paid attention to. At the time when he’d finally shifted his gaze back to the sidewalk, he knew that it was too late for the long moment to go unnoticed. She’d smiled, a warm rosiness spreading across her cold, damp cheeks. The warmth seemed to be contagious.

He’d mumbled a thank-you.

Her

It was 6:37 and the bus hadn’t arrived yet. Its delay made her restless. She shifted her weight from one foot to another, fidgeting with the tasseled edges of her scarf. At that point, the presence of the sun had started to become more regular despite the laid-out mist, the specks of sunshine now

transforming into consistent eruptions, tinting the sky gold and pink and purple. The colors reminded her of his drawings, and particularly one of them: a set of blue eyes, the left of which was bruised and swollen and colorful – it looked a bit like the delta of a river, a red watercourse with blue brooks and streamlets. She found it intriguingly odd, how he could make pain and torment look so beautiful.

She hadn't meant for them to fall into her hands – the drawings, that is. That particularly sunny day, she remembered, he'd been late for basketball practice – again. Her eyes had been closed when she'd heard the muffled sound of his seat's cushion as he stood up impatiently, even before the bus had turned around the corner to his stop.

And then, she'd noticed it; the precious sketchbook, fallen out of his bag, abandoned right under his seat like a carcass left there to decompose. The thought made her panic.

You dropped your sketchbook, she'd wanted to tell him. *Are you just gonna leave it there?*

But the doors had opened, and he'd rushed outside, and the jingle of his half-closed bag had faded more and more into the distance, and she'd kept shouting silently: *You dropped your sketchbook, you dropped your sketchbook!*

"Well, finders keepers", she'd finally concluded.

She'd quietly bent down, snatched the sketchbook from the floor, and opened it, eyes wide with ticklish excitement. It'd been not what she'd initially expected. The first page was blatantly dull, but she'd kept flicking through the remaining ones regardless. And right there, on the seventeenth page, was a sketch of a scantily-clad girl that looked oddly familiar. She'd felt a dozen needles dancing their way across her forehead. She'd diverted her gaze to the glass window, momentarily discerning the moving blur that passed by her, once to come across the very same characteristics she'd seen in the drawing: her reflection.

She'd turned back to the portrait. Suddenly the notebook felt heavy, somehow illicit. Although her instinct had been telling her to toss the sketchbook away, to pretend she'd never even seen it, the sight of the picture captivated her – and most of all, its sordid beauty, in all its raw simplicity. The small details made her heart flutter. Why would he even bother to draw her? That meant he'd been thinking of her, right? Had she been art to his eyes, or just a one-off specimen for his own art? Did it even matter?

And as she mused on the incident, she once again felt the familiar weight of the notebook burdening her back.

Oh, but it matters, whispered the wind just when another breath of cold air clasped the edge of her patterned scarf.

Him

He kept looking around, unsure of what to focus on. Sometimes he found it difficult to concentrate. He wouldn't consider himself a daydreamer, but for some reason he associated far-fetched fantasies with an eerie sense of affection.

Case in point: his drawings. He had spent all this unimaginable

time conceiving ideas, indulging in fantasies, turning art into his weapon of choice against the ugliness of the world around him, and all he had managed to do was add a little bit of beauty into this ugly mixture. No one had ever seen the drawings, no one had ever cared about their existence. They were his little whims, his little secrets, hidden inside a little unassuming notebook. So unassuming, in fact, that he had managed to lose it. He'd searched everywhere, far and wide, inside drawers and behind pillows and under tall heaps of papers, but to no avail. The thought of someone coming across it terrified him more than no one ever doing so.

Suddenly, a violent gust of wind punched him in the face, making his nose blow like a trumpet. The short, velvety sound of her laughter reached his ears before the sneeze did.

"You should have gotten a flu shot", he caught her say quietly, probably to herself. It was the first time he had ever heard her voice. He found it melodious despite its sharpness. He did not respond to the remark. A moment passed.

"So, um...", she started. Her tone was peppy and timid at the same time, as if responding to a question whose answer she wasn't quite sure about. "I... You know, um. I think I have something that belongs to you". She reached for her messenger bag, but the words did not register.

"Here", she said and revealed the notebook out of her bag.

He stared at her, then at it, then back at her, his mouth slightly agape, his heart pounding like a gong, his mind trapped into a recursive string of swear words.

"It's yours, right?"

How on earth had it fallen into *her* hands, of all people's? She'd probably seen everything, all the shoddy drafts and the withered flowers and the nude sketches – and the portrait, oh God, the *portrait!* He knew he should have torn the page, or smudged it, or at least drawn something else over it – but he'd thought it was pretty, the idiot, he'd thought it was pretty.

"Yeah, it *is* mine". With a swift motion, he snatched the notebook from her grasp. "Thank you", he mumbled under his breath, and secretly hoped she hadn't heard him.

But she had. A nervous smile appeared on her face, which he thought made her look pretty. He smiled back, equally nervously.

"Hey, I... I don't think we've ever met officially", he said.

"That's because we haven't", she replied.

Names

By Dora Papara

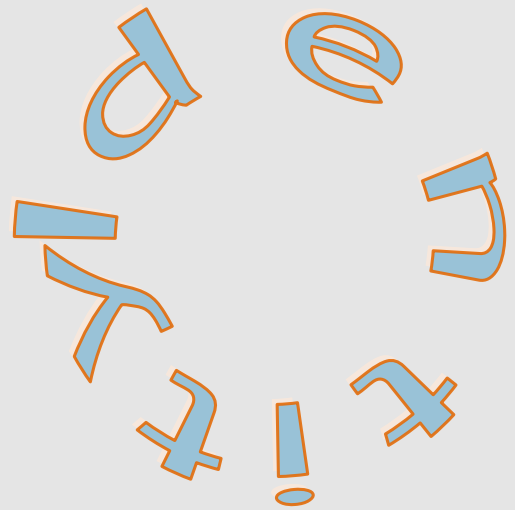
Necessary, how could you refer to someone if he does not have a name?

Associate a person with a word!

Mystery, what does my name mean?

Encompass what and who each of us is.

Separate you from the others.



By Anais Hadjistavrou

Where is the poetry in my name?

Does it mean I'm courageous, beautiful, and brave?

Is it possible to become the symbol of my name?

As the years pass, my name will lead the way

to maturity, graciousness, and joy.

NAMES

By Katherine Bampagiouris

In the name

*Of the soldiers, who sacrifice their life to conserve
peace for you*

*Of some dreamers, who imagine a better world for you
And of the politicians and activists, who work to create it*

*Of your teachers, who fight to provide you
with a bright future*

Of your friends and your relatives who stand like a shield

In front of your enemies and your worst nightmares

In the name of all these heroes,

Do never forget the names

Of those who live protecting yours.

Mon-Fri. 9-5 at John

As You Like It

What's in a Name?

By Panagiota Parasyri

What comes first? The name followed by the personality, or the personality that is born to a name? Having a quite long and definitely difficult, if not unusual, name as a child, I've always found it difficult to accept the fact that I would have to live the rest of my life with it. Proud of their glorious past, Greeks remain people of tradition, one of which is alive to this day: name-giving. I, for example, was given the name of my grandmother, Panagiota: PA-NA-GI-O-TA. It's not that I didn't like it, but I didn't adore it either. I knew the uniqueness of it and the difficulty, of course, in pronouncing it in English (pronounced "*panayota*"), and even though it was longer than the names of my friends, it was the name of a person that I admired and loved all my life. This was mainly the reason that kept me from turning it to Yota or Naya. The truth was, though, that I didn't want to stick out like a sore thumb and Panagiota wasn't the name to help me ensure this. Every year, I remember having to explain to new acquaintances that I didn't have a nickname, and that I definitely wasn't called Yota. Panagiota, however, was too long, too "holy," too unique for me.



As I grew up, I realized that to a certain extent, our names may create some stereotypes, images or expectations with regards to the people that they belong to. In

reality, though, what really counts is the power of the personality and the way the person feels about himself. Let's be realistic; Pericles wasn't the greatest name that a parent could give to his child. However, this did-



n't prevent the development of a brilliant political leader, a great mind, and a charismatic personality that left a permanent mark on the history of Greece. What I'm trying to say is that a name cannot prevent you from being who you are or becoming the person you were meant to be; it cannot prevent you from expressing your thoughts and ideas; on the contrary, it can become a part of your identity, which you have the ability to formulate and define by yourself.

To conclude, I must admit that I am happy that I never changed my name. I am happy with the fact that I did not let others influence me with their own thoughts and opinions or let myself become a victim of fashions and trends. After all, why should everyone bear a name that is convenient, easy, quick, and common, when an unusual name is what always catches people's attention and, thus, surely adds to the feeling of uniqueness each one of us desires?

A Name in Jest?

By: Dimitris Giannakos

One stormy night, an ordinary Greek family is waiting anxiously in the waiting room of a maternity hospital. Nicolas, the future father, is pacing up and down the long white corridor. His sister, Marina, is sitting beside her husband, George. Their mother, Ariadne, is babbling with their family friend, Dimitris. Finally, in a nearby room, Maria is lying on a bed surrounded by doctors, feeling that she will faint, partly because of her anxiety and fear, since a living being will actually come out of her in a short while, but mostly because of the constant pain, which sometimes strikes her like lightning.

In the waiting room, there is dead silence. In the hospital's spick and span waiting lounge, there is nothing to distract the visitor. Marina breaks the silence with the obvious question to the father- to-be:

-What will you call the baby?

Months ago, while performing the ultrasound scan, the doctor announced that they were expecting a boy.

Now, Nicolas, extremely anxious, stunned, excited, and amazed that he would become a father, decides to play a joke on them.

-Guess.

-Antony, says Marina.

-Giannis, says George.

-Evangelos, says Ariadne.

-You are all wrong. Although it is fun having you guess my child's name, I will help you a bit. The first letter is V.

They remain silent for a moment, and then they burst out with excitement, shouting different names.

-Vasilis, shout Marina and George simultaneously.

-Good guess, but no, answers Nicolas.

-Vlassis, says Dimitris with a giggle.

-Come now! That is a shepherd's name!

-Come on, Nick, don't make us beg for an answer, moans Ariadne visibly annoyed.

-Ok, says Nicolas. We have decided to call him Velerephontes.

Dead silence hangs in the air for a minute. The only thing that can be heard is the steady tic-toc of the clock in the waiting lounge.

Then, Dimitris starts laughing and says, - Oh, you almost had me fooled there...

-Who says I'm fooling?

-What? shouts Marina. Clearly, you are joking. You cannot name your child that.

-Why can't I? It is a nice, archaic, manly name.

-Yes, but it sounds so dated! Nobody is called Velerephontes, except maybe some old man who fought in 1821 and has one foot in the grave! shouted his sister furiously.

-Marina, calm down, remarked her husband. Now, Nick, you do realize that your child will have to face the mockery of his classmates.

-It's not so much an ugly name, but, boy, it is a really weird name, added Ariadne. Even I find it ridiculous. It is out of the question that you will name your son Velerephontes.

-Everything and everybody evolves, so do names. Imagine your child being ridiculed by everybody. His whole life will be a nightmare, shouted Dimitris with anger. I know it is your choice, and that friends don't count as much as family, but come on, man! You are not going to destroy your child's



life because you like a name which, I am sure, nobody else likes!

Nicolas could see that his joke was getting out of hand, so he decided to stop.

-Ok, he says. I'll admit, I was merely joking. I am not crazy enough to call my child that.

-I almost had a stroke, cried out Ariadne.

-I have always known you were an idiot, said Marina calmly now.

-So what is his name going to be? asks George.

- We have decided to call him Achilles.

-Wow, that is a really beautiful name! I am impressed, remarks Marina.

-Well, it was not my idea; Maria came up with it.

-Speaking of dear Maria, isn't it time they told us what is going on? asks Dimitris.

Just at that very moment, a midwife runs down the long corridor to the waiting lounge and says to Nicolas :

-Your wife is giving birth right now! Come quick!

Everybody stands up immediately, and Nicolas runs after the midwife.

The waiting room is full of tension! All of them are anxious for Nick to return with the happy news. Meanwhile, in the delivery room, Nick and Maria are in for a shock. The child isn't a boy but a healthy girl. The midwife asks them what they will call her, but they are not ready to answer. They have a name for a boy, as that was what the doctor had told them they were having, but not for a girl. They are completely unprepared. They have to choose an appropriate name for their newborn girl, and only have a few minutes to decide.

Having patiently but anxiously waited, Nick's family spring from their chairs as he enters the waiting room. He looks stunned and amazed.

-What happened? asked his mother, highly concerned by the look on her son's face.

-Well, he said, I have good news and strange news.

-What is it? Tell us the good news first! Marina cries out impatiently.

-Ok, the child is healthy and chubby. Maria did brilliantly!

-Well, that is marvelous!, Dimitris says.

-What is the strange news then? George asks.

-Well....the baby is a girl, he says.

-Wow, that is a surprise, says Ariadne.

-Why is it strange news then? asks Dimitri. Are you disappointed?

-Not at all! It is just that we've already painted the baby's room blue, and we bought some boy's toys and clothes. With a sigh he adds, I guess I should paint the room pink now and buy new clothes and toys.

-Well, that's not the end of the world , says Ariadne. I will help with the clothes and the toys.

-I will be in your eternal debt, says Nicolas with appreciation.

-What will you name her? asks George.

-We decided just now, he says, and after a short pause he adds - We will call her Afroxylanthi.

Everybody laughs for a moment.

-You never stop joking, do you? chortles George.

-Who said I'm joking...?



Name-Giving Traditions Around the World

By Anthony Kriezis and Chloe Lambrinidou

Our name is a very important part of who we are. Our name is not just a label, a tag wrapped around our wrist. Our name can influence the way our personality develops, the way we behave, the way we think, and the way we view the world. Many cultures name their children according to the values that most reflect the culture. For example, cultures who value their immediate relation to nature tend to name their children based on physical and natural characteristics. More individualistic cultures that emphasize the importance of family tend to use the family name as identification for the child. Other cultures that are arguably more communal in nature may use generational or communal identification for the child's name.

Cultures around the world, depending on the gravity they give to the importance of name giving, use a combination of traditional naming structures. While African, Japanese, Indian, Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Native Americans cultures all have different name-giving traditions, each of them is equally interesting in their own way.

In Africa, people are named based on the details surrounding their birth, such as the season, day of week, number of family members, or the emotional state of the family dur-

ing birth. For example, the names Mwanajuma "Friday", Esi "Sunday", Khamisi "Thursday", and Wekesa "harvest time" refer to the time or day when the child was born.



Namakarana- Name Giving Ceremony

heriting your first name from a relative is considered a forbidden act. Sibling names share a similar theme, for example, the sun and the moon. Different family members

share the same character in their names, signifying that they come from the same generation. Traditionally, an individual of Chinese origin could assume additional names at other times in his or her life. These include the zì, called a courtesy or style name, acquired upon reaching maturity, and thehào, called an art name, a self-selected nickname.

Additionally, Indian names have a special meaning. Birth names often vary from official names. Their first letter comes from their horoscope and the last one from their family. Usually, by looking at someone's name, you

In Japan, children are given a family name and a given name. These given names are related to nature. For women they usually end in -ko or -mi which mean child and beauty, -ka which means flower or -na which means greens. Male names might include -ichi or -kazu if they are the first sons or -ji if they are second sons.

Chinese cultures, unlike Western traditions, believe that in-

can tell where in India an individual is originally from.

In Indonesia, one obtains his or her name depending on which island (out of 13,000) they originate from. Children either receive a single name, which means a name without a family name (surname), or a name with a family name. The higher a person's social standing, the longer his or her name. Long names, however, are often shortened for everyday use. A person with two names often uses one name plus the initial of the other name.

In Vietnam, most names stem from China. All Vietnamese first names are unisex. Some parents name their child after attributes that they wish it will acquire, while others use feminine notions to name female children. Middle names can indicate generation, a separate branch of a larger family or birth order, and tend to be the same throughout the culture.

In the United States, you can name children in any way you like. It is common for middle names to be a family tradition, so a whole family can have the same middle name. Also, because the last name on the mother's side is usually lost, many mothers name their children with their last name. This has become common nowadays and so it is very common to see last names converted to first names (e.g. Tucker, Tanner, Anderson, Kramer, Presley, Jefferson).

Native American names, similar to other cultures, stem from tribes and take on qualities of nature or animals. Native American cultures also include naming ceremonies. In the Hopi tradition of the Southwest, tribes will place an ear of corn near a newborn, and for twenty days rub the corn on the baby's body, naming the child as the rising sun hits the baby's forehead. On the other hand, other tribes have more subtle name giving structures. For example, the Cherokees left naming to the

father and the grandmother of that father's clan to name any Cherokee child born to the tribe.

In Turkey, the most popular names are of religious descent. Names like Muhammet, Mustafa, Ayse, Fatma, Isa, and Ismail, which come from prophets and their wives, are very common. Also, in the past, grandparents used to give children a middle name, which was announced after the baby's umbilical cord was cut and was therefore called belly name. However, this tradition is rare in present time.

Name giving traditions vary from culture to culture. Nevertheless, they all have something in common. Naming a child is an important action, one that can determine character traits. In various cultures and cultural practices, name giving isn't simple, it holds a deeper meaning, a whole planning process hidden behind this simple gesture.



*Secular Baby Naming Ceremony
in the UK (photo above)*

YOUR NAME AFFECTS YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS

By Evina Koutsouveli

Numerous studies reveal that people with common names, as well as people with white sounding names, are thought to be hired more easily than people with rare names that are less likely to be hired. Additionally, it is said that people tend to favor those that have names that are easy to pronounce. On the other hand, people with rare names are said to be delinquents. According to studies, if you have a unique name, you are more likely to be related to juvenile delinquency, although names are not the cause of criminal activities.

Another interesting theory is that people whose name starts with a letter which is closer to the beginning of the alphabet may have studied in a better school. Furthermore, it is said that one has a greater chance to work in a company that its name is similar to one's initials. For example, Amanda may have a better chance to work for Amazon. According to a research published in the European Journal of Social Psychology, people that use their middle name are considered to be more sophisticated, clever, and competent. In addition, it is said that if your last name sounds noble and refined, you may be presented with more opportunities to work for a company in a high ranking position. For example, looking at employee names in a company, some of the last names of the people working in higher positions were Kaiser ("emperor") and König ("king") while some of the employee last names in lower ranking positions were Koch ("cook") and Bauer ("farmer"). The cause for this may be the fact that your name can actu-

ally influence the way others see you.

Moreover, another research shows that women with a sexually ambiguous name, are more likely to succeed in the future. Finally, it is thought that women that use their full first names are employed in higher positions in companies. For example, a study found that some of the most common names of women who worked as CEOs (presidents, managing directors, chief executives) were Deborah, Cynthia, and Carolyn. It may be that these women use their full name to sound more professional, sophisticated, and experienced, contrary to men who don't tend to do that.

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HOW TO NAME YOUR BUSINESS

By Orestis Metaxas

Are you an entrepreneur? Do you aspire to be one? Have you been struggling to find a name for your business? Stop worrying.

Naming a company is indeed one of the hardest tasks a businessman needs to tackle before embarking on his entrepreneurial journey, since the name of the business reflects the business itself. It provides potential customers with an image of the company and the product or products it offers. It is therefore crucial that it reflects the company's values and goals.

To begin with, the first thing you should do, when it comes to naming

your business, is to consult an expert who can provide advice, help determine what would be a good or bad choice of name, and clarify trademark laws etc. Consulting an expert can be really helpful as it can save one a considerable amount of money, considering that naming a company without expert help, can come with a price tag of \$80,000.

Now, when it comes to naming a company, there are a number of issues to consider. The name must appeal to the customers and consist of real words that people can relate to, not dry and impersonal numbers or initials. You shouldn't use specific geographical locations for a name either, since the business may expand to more areas than the one you are thinking of selecting.

Overall, the ideal name should be one, some, or all of the following:

- * Catchy, funny, or evoking.
- * Short and clear, easy to pronounce and remember.
- * Should connect with customers in an emotional way, i.e. bring up pleasant memories while remaining relative to the basics of the business.
- * Should appeal to the consumers that you are trying to attract and not be related with notions or ideas that only you or a selected few understand.

An example that engulfs all of the above is an account of Steve Cecil, an expert in the advertising industry. Mr. Cecil was once asked to come up with a name for two new yogurts of "Yoplait yoghurts". Company marketing executives told him

the first type of yoghurt had just six simple ingredients, so he decided to name it *Simplait*. The second one had twice the fruit, so he named it *Fruplait*.

Naming a company or product certainly entails considerable creativity. Specifically, a good idea is to use foreign words in order to appeal to an international audience should you wish to sell abroad. Take *Ubuntu* for example, an operating system which has taken its name from an African type of philosophy dealing with interpersonal allegiances and relations. Another smart thing to do is to create a catchy name by playing around with

phrases. Such an example is "lightmyfire.com", the name of the website of a company named "Fireworks" which sells candles.



Another important issue regarding creativity is that you think out of the box and not persist on old solutions. An example that proves the importance of creativity in naming a company or product, is that of a company named "Spoon me". While every other frozen yoghurt company would be called "-berry", copying famous dairy company *Pinkberry*, marketing expert Alexandra Watkins suggested naming the business *Spoon me*, a name that was so successful, that the company ended up making a greater profit selling T-shirts and bumper stickers than by selling frozen yogurt.

Continuing the search for a name, you must be fully aware of trademarks and relevant legislation. In case of trademark infringement, even if such as action is involuntary, the consequences may be severe. To be more specific, you can be liable for monetary damages, such as lost

What's In a Name?

By Celia Konstantellou

This year, more than 120 million babies will be born throughout the globe. Those who survive will sooner or later be given a name. At one time, anthropologists thought that some groups of people were so "primitive" and unorganized that they didn't use names. However, we now know that these anthropologists were

mistaken. The truth is that names form a part of every culture and are of enormous importance both to the people who receive them and to those who select them.

Despite their universality, there are significant differences in how names are given from one culture to the other. Among most preliterate people, names are determined according to very definite and specific rules. In general, children of societies with a keen sense of ancestry, get their names from the family trees of their parents. In other cultures, a child's name may refer to an event which happened during the mother's pregnancy or shortly after the birth of the child.

On the other hand, a name doesn't merely show the variety of customs and traditions of a culture or the diversity of its ethical values, but it is also closely related to the personality and behavior of the person bearing that name. The choice of name tends to affect the development of one's character. More specifically, the most important aspect of personality affected by one's name is self-concept. This notion develops as children grow up, and is "learned" from the verbal and non-verbal messages their loved ones send to children.

Parents are the most important message-senders, but, as children mature and become more independent, the messages of teachers, other people all contribute to their developing concept of self. In a sense, self-concept works as a kind of scenario based on which people act. Research has established that certain names are considered more preferable and are associated to positive feelings, whereas others are looked upon as rather negative. For example, Curt, David, Diane, Jeff, Judy, and

Linda are all considered desirable and positive, while Agatha, Edgar, Francis, Mabel, Marvin, and Phoebe are all thought to be the opposite.

Quite often, we try to live up to our names or sometimes we try to run away from them. Either way, your name is a crucial factor in helping propel you forward in your academic and professional career, as well as your personal life. Name stereotypes can often lead one to assumptions about a person. When someone new (let's call him Spencer) introduces himself to you, your

first instinct is to create a rough, mental sketch of everyone you have ever known named Spencer. As a result, you subconsciously judge this new Spencer, at least a little, based on all the other Spencers you have ever known. Maybe someone named Spencer helped you through a difficult time, making you associate his generosity with very positive feelings and thoughts. On the other hand, another Spencer might have been hostile and antagonistic towards you, a fact that may trigger a quite negative reaction on your

part.

Hence, a name is not only a combination of letters put together as a convenient way to refer to someone. Ideally, it should be a "definition" of the individual, a description of his personality, an interpretation of his traits. Some may even think one's name to be a portent of one's future or a picture of how others view him in everyday life. A well-known proverb from the Bible says: "A good name is more desirable than great riches, to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." Indeed, names are a gift. They contain power, life, and joy. They define who we are. They define us.

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**You're going to
call me WHAT!?**



Reasons Behind Changing Names

By George Diamantopoulos

For a great many years, in Greece, wives would take on the names of their husbands, even renewing all of their public documents. However, this is no longer the case, for Greece has moved well into the 21st century.

Family values are very strong in Greece, and culture bears considerable significance to the family structure. A few decades ago, Greek society could be charac-



terized as a paternal one. However, the tradition of the wife giving up her family name and adopting that of her husband holds no longer. Women now have the right to choose and in most cases, they opt for their maiden name.

Indeed, changing names is not practical, nor is it desirable in some cases, due to the paperwork involved. In a recent ruling, the Hellenic Supreme Court ruled that “although the name is an element of the individuality of each person, its change should no longer be a matter of private agreement between the couple, as it affects citizen-state correspondence and security of

transactions”. This means that with the extended use of electronic record keeping, in the age of Information Technology, it has become increasingly difficult for the system to keep track of changes in names. Furthermore, the increasing number of divorces makes name records update even more challenging.

On the other hand, couples now have a choice as far as their children’s surname is concerned. Upon birth, and registration at the Public Records Office, parents have the option to give their children either the father’s or the mother’s family name. Once more, however, in the Greek, traditional society, it is usually the father’s name that the child is given.

As already mentioned, it has taken Greece a few decades to allow women to keep their name. However, on the other side of the Atlantic, in the United States, there are states which allow husbands to take on the names of their wives (California, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, and North Dakota). I suppose this would be possible here in Greece as well, but would it ever be socially acceptable? Perhaps in a few decades, our society could be ready to accept this as well.

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The History Behind Famous Company Names

By Nick Fragoulis

We all know the names of *Google*, *Microsoft*, and *Apple* as three of the most successful companies in today's modern society who consistently use their services and products in our everyday lives. Nevertheless, have we ever thought about what their names represent and why they were chosen? Did you know that *Google* used to be called *BackRub* when the first beta was released? PhD students Larry Page and Sergey Brin brainstormed the idea of creating a search engine; a site which could provide the user an enormous amount of data. In 1996, the parents of *Google* decided to find a new name; a name that related to the indexing of an immense amount of information. They both brainstormed ideas for a long time until they came up with the name "googolplex", a name consisting of a word that refers to a specific large number (googol). Larry shortened it to "googol" and within hours he registered the name, *Google*.

Paul Allen and Bill Gates, two friends sharing their passion for computer programming, decided to make a business using their shared skills. Nowadays, the name of their company *Microsoft* can be recognized by everyone as the company has a revenue of \$ 86.83 billion dollar as well as 128,076 employees. But where does this name come from? The original name of *Micro-Soft* was invented by Allen; a combination of the words microprocessor and software, a coined phrase befitting for a computer and software company. Although everyone knows the former *Ap-*

ple Computer and now just *Apple* was named after the famous fruit, it is not quite clear why this name was chosen for the company. Steve Jobs, its founder, has never publicly discussed where the name came from. It is possible that it refers to one of his fruitarian diets, as he was incredibly cautious with his health and nutrition, or refers to the legendary apple that fell from Isaac Newton's head. Either way, both the name *Apple* and the logo of the bitten fruit will remain in history: this fruit-termed company has revenue of \$ 182.795 billion dollars!

None of us could have imagined the origins of these names or the reason why they were chosen in the first place but it is sure that they will remain in history as they represent companies which are, not only worth billions of dollars, but also have offered great innovation and intelligence in humanity.



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By Steven Frisiras

A
S
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We are all curious about our past, our ancestors. Where did they live? What did they do for a living? What were their personalities like? How did they look hundreds of years ago? Questions like these have been plaguing people's minds for ages. The answer lies under our nose.

Surnames can provide us with various types of information regarding our family's history. Today, a surname, which is also known as a family name and last name, is a hereditarily fixed name that you share with your family members. In Europe, individual first names were developed

800 hundred years ago and were used in order to distinguish people with the same first name.

Thus, a noble ruling from Savoy may have been known as Umberto de Savoy, a blacksmith may have been known as John le Smith and a bald man may be known as William the Bald. These names were not necessarily hereditary, but were defined by specific situations or characteristics. So, the son of the noble, Umberto de Savoy, may rule at Lorraine and be known as Lothair de Lorraine, the son of John le Smith may be a cheese-maker and known as Dominic Cheeseman and the son of William the Bald may have a head shaped like an onion and known as Darren Onionhead. However, as the years passed, some families decided to obtain a "pseudo-surname" and gradually last names were passed down from generation to generation until today.

Nowadays, surnames can show us the progenitor's social class. People with uncommon surnames originate from higher social status while those with common surnames originate from lower social status. It

originate from the location in which the ancestor lived e.g. Hill-a person who lived near a hill, Kirk-a person who lived near the church, Muir-a person who lived near the moor and Stone- a person who lived near a large stone.

Other surnames originate from the ancestor's occupation e.g.



Fischer-a fisherman, Smith-a person who hammers metal, Taylor-a clothing maker, Wagner-a person who made wagons.

Furthermore, there are surnames that used to describe the ancestor's look or personality e.g. Barret-a deceitful person, Peele-a bald-headed person, Power-a person who is poor and Reid-a red-haired person.

There are also surnames that

...Finally, there are surnames that originate from an ornament or a decorative word that sounds nice e.g. Stern-star, Engle-Angel. So, next time a stranger makes fun of your surname, feel free to punish him for insulting your ancestors!

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As You Like It

More than a Name

By Mark Gazepis

In 2013, a Tennessee judge ordered the name of a baby changed from Messiah to Martin. The judge defended her decision, stating that the name Messiah was a name that is limited for the religious reference to Jesus Christ and no common person. The parents chose to appeal and another judge ruled the decision unconstitutional. The parents have thus continued to call their son Messiah DeShawn McCullough.

This event, however unusual and uncommon may seem, reveals a trend. More parents than ever, have started to name their children after religious or other figures, hoping that the children will follow in their footsteps in the future. According to Reuters, the name "Messiah" is the 387th most popular name in the United States with applications that have doubled since 2013; other popular names include Noah, Elijah, Joshua and Jacob. In Greece, most popular names include Maria, Anastasia, Joanna and Chris. These names refer to The Virgin Mary, The Resurrection and Jesus Christ himself. As is obvious, naming children after holy individuals or events that are relevant to religion is a common phenomenon both in Greece and in the United States

However, at this point a question arises: Should children be named after religious figures in an attempt for them to follow similar paths in their lives?

On the one hand, naming children after religious figures provides them with a sense of guid-

ance. Children who have lead difficult lives and have endured many hardships in their lives may have a role model to which they could emulate and whose example they could follow. They may look up to the holy individual's way of life and way of thinking, thus, displaying it in the way they live and behave. They may try to live by the ideals and values that these individuals lived by and so lead a better life and find guidance through rough times and hardships.

Alternatively, some argue that the name follows an individual throughout their lifespan, effectively trapping them and forcing

them to follow the example of the original name holder. Some state that they feel forced to follow the highroad without being able to veer away from it and follow their own path to success.

A name is much more than a way of identifying each other. It is a blessing and a curse. It may provide guidance or it may trap an individual and not allow him to follow their dreams and aspiration. Even though a name can assist an individual and provide him with guidance, it is up to him or her to decide and work on his or her future aspirations.

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Alluring Power of Names

By Despina Gamili and Nadia Vossou

Among most primordial cultures, names are determined according to very definite and specific rules. Generally, in cultures with a keen sense of ancestry, children get their names from the family trees of their parents. In more industrialized countries, parents must record the child's name when registering his or her birth and the name becomes more of a matter of liking without any significant purpose. From a strictly objective point of view, giving a person a specific name has absolutely nothing to do with his or her personality or the preferences he or she will display in the future.

Many people, nowadays, believe that names reflect certain aspects of personality. There are even parents who choose their child's name based on his or her traits. How could they possibly do that, though, knowing that the baby's character won't be completely formed for another two decades at least? It is commonly known that one's personality is a result of several factors combined, such

as heredity and environment, but none of them include the "name" as a factor.

People, however, would expect a Grace to be graceful, a Bella to be beautiful, maybe even a Sophia to be wise. But why should a name define us? Shouldn't we have to be the ones who determine the way others see us? No one should feel pressured to live up to the expectations of a name he didn't even choose to begin with. It is after all, just a tag, a coined phrase people created to differentiate each other. It doesn't necessarily have to coincide with any trait of our personality.



Our name is as familiar and as close to us as our own skin; indeed, we are more frequently aware of our name than we are of the unique living body that it identifies. We write it, speak it,

and answer to it-often, immediately, surely, unreflectively. We generally take our name for granted. We name ourselves and others, but do we really know what we are doing when we do so? Are names merely conventional handles that serve



simply to designate and uniquely pick us out of a crowd? Or do our names have power to shape our lives? Virtually everything that is in existence has a name attached to it. Such names are always used when referring to these things to bring to memory the thing in question. Of course, every name has some sense of power associated with it.

Some think that their name influences, except for their personality, their future too. They perceive it as a vehicle to their destiny, which is completely naïve and unjustified of them. They let themselves believe that a single word they are

given when born can determine their whole existence and purpose in life. But does a name hold such influence over our lives? Or should we be the ones who are responsible for its path.

It is true that names play a major role in the lives of people. Different names hold different meanings. So what's in a name after all? A lot. A name has a mysterious power to somehow capture a piece of our soul. For me, both my name and nicknames hold some control over me, some magic which reflects my essence. And yet, I know some people who have legally changed their names more than once. What sort of tortured souls they must be! A name is not a pair of shoes one can change to suit a mood or circumstance. Everyone's name represents a significant part of his or her life and identity, but this doesn't necessarily mean that he or she should let it control others' perceptions of their identity. It is our choice whether we are going to let our name define us or not. If a person feels comfortable with it he or she will represent it well and will eventually grow to like it.

Because after all, I believe that it's the person who makes the name, not the other way around.

Why do Authors use Pen Names?

By Evi Prousanidou

In today's society, celebrities, famous writers in particular, choose to hide their true names from the public. Indeed, many writers of famous novels have their book published under a different name to their original one. There are multiple reasons why such a celebrity may choose to alter his name when having even a single literary work published.

Many authors believe that their names do not suit the particular genre they are writing. This self-consciousness stems from stereotypes present in society, with regards to one's sex and other cultural references. And hence they resort to name changing before getting published. Such an author is the author of *The Third Eye*, a supposedly authentic autobiography of a monk born in Tibet. His real name was Cyril Henry Hoskin but decided in 1958 to write the bestseller as Lobsang Rampa. He was finally unmasked as a British plumber who claimed that his body hosted a spirit.

On the other hand, when a name represents another culture of that from the novel, it seems awkward to the reader who is unable to identify himself with the author. Such a writer is William Kennedy who wrote the famous novel, *The First Wife*, under the name Diana Diamond, adopting a feminine side, thus making his book more appealing to a female audience.

Another reason for why authors use pen names is the author's reluctance to expose him or herself to a society of readers who tend to

be very critical at times. Many writers are ashamed of their works and do not think that a specific work meets his or her readers' expectations. Moreover, a writer may want to keep his or her true name unknown in order to avoid popularity and protect their private life. For example, the writer of the globally acclaimed series of fiction novels *Harry Potter* tried to escape her fans and live the life of a less prominent writer by writing under the pen name of Robert Galbraith. But J. K. Rowling's plan did not work as everyone found out about her alternative persona.

While many people consider pen names useless, authors do have some good



reasons for using them. Those reasons, as already mentioned, do not only concern the writer himself or herself but also the readers and the critics both. The use of pseudonyms makes the readers more comfortable to their reading, and can protect the integrity and private life of the author.

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FYROM vs. Greece: The Name Dispute

By Victor Dimas

The dispute concerning the name of “the country that shall not be named” (FYROM or the Republic of Macedonia - according to one's position) has been in existence ever since it was a part of the communist Yugoslavia, under the rule of Tito. It was an unanticipated evolution of what people call the Macedonian Dispute, also apart of the Eastern Matter. It does not take much research for somebody to understand why this issue has become a major concern for the whole Balkan region, especially for the two most interested parties: Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

The difficult and initially quite intangible question is why two well-respected countries make such a fuss over a name. How someone is called is a semantic and consequently, a rather provincial issue. When this claim is applied to people it is absolutely true; however, when the claim has to do with countries, things can get very complex.



In politics, and especially in geopolitics, symbols are a matter of substance. The symbolism of the name “Macedonia” derives from a geographical area and its corresponding history. Us-

ing the name “Macedonia” is like claiming to have “property” of the whole geographical area and thus to the Macedonian history as well. Such claims can very easily be translated into national security issues, mainly of territorial integrity. This means that a name is for some countries adequate



justification to annex considerable areas that belong to other countries. A fitting example could be the recent case of the annexation of the Crimea from the Ukraine to the Russian Federation. In that example, the language of the inhabitants of Crimea was the first justification Russia had to intervene in the Ukraine domestic matters. Another big issue, very relevant to why the name of FYROM is an issue of utmost importance, is the concept of falsification of history. History is the documentation of the past based on all available resources. Despite this, the fact that it is mainly concerned with the distant past creates a big problem: no one is alive to tell us the absolute truth. Because of this problem, history is susceptible to changes; changes that are usually the result of propaganda. The Slavophone populations of FYROM were subjects of continuous propaganda attempts by their socialist and post-socialist governments. That resulted in the extensive belief, and seeming justification for the name claims, that the Kingdom of Ancient Macedonia had been revived with the independence of FYROM.

It is very interesting to analyze the current official policies of both countries concerning the issue and to try to acknowledge their compatibility, or lack thereof, with the core meaning of the

dispute. The current position of Greece, as explained in the website of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is that the country desires “a compound name with a geographical qualifier for use in relations to everyone (erga omnes)”. This viewpoint is only natural if we consider the logic behind the arguments and the profound reasons for this seemingly superficial dispute. Greece wants to protect both its historical integrity and its territory. Consequently, a geographical qualifier serves both these aspirations.

On the contrary, the official policy of “you know where” is that the preservation of its constitutional name both for domestic and international use is of utmost importance. This aspiration, they claim, derives from the principle of the right to self-determination. This basically means that people can call themselves any way they want without being censored by foreign state or non-state actors.

According to the vast majority of people abroad as well as in both these countries, the name dispute is not going to be resolved in the foreseeable future. It is not, unless both countries open a new round of actual negotiations, because up until now the negotiations were mere disagreements, with a mood of readiness to start compromising and true willingness to reach the so-much-desired “balance point.”

In the occasion that the name dispute is solved, FYROM and Greece can start a new chapter in their bilateral relations; a chapter which can extend to cooperation in many other spheres of common problems both these countries face. A chapter which can possibly open the way for them in becoming fellow members in the European Union and the NATO organizations; a chapter which is ultimately going to lead to a better future for them, the Balkan region and our world as a whole. This is what every reasonable person should be hoping for.

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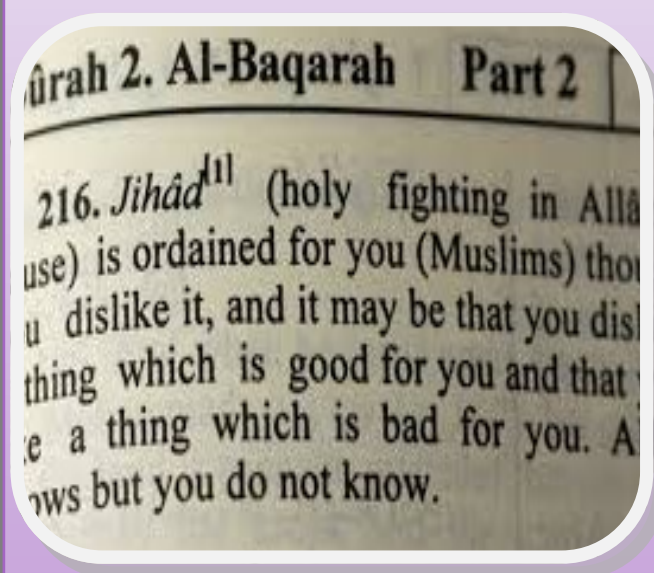
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Jihad: Then and Now

By Olivia Tsoutsopli

A couple of days ago, the infamous terrorist group of jihadists threatened to invade the White House, behead Barack Obama, and turn America into a Muslim caliphate. A month ago, France experienced the deadliest terrorist attack it had in at least two decades when jihadists forced their way into the offices of a satirical newspaper in Paris killing 12 people. Last November, Jihadist attacks killed more than 5,000 people in just one month. It is undisputable that the extremist Muslims have declared a Jihad on the whole world. On the other hand, it is debatable up to what extent their actions are justified by the doctrines of the very religion they claim to be fighting for. After reading passages of the Quran, one will realize that the word Jihad also has another entirely different dimension from the one that has prevailed today. In my opinion, global jihadists have restricted and thus distorted the true meaning of this term to provide their repulsive actions with a spiritual basis and disguise reality for the eyes of the world.



Starting with a thorough look into the Quran's teaching, Jihad is another form of expression of an ideology, which is more familiar to the Christian world than one would imagine. By definition, *jihad* means struggle or resisting in Arabic and refers to the duty every practicing Muslim has towards Allah and embraces every kind of striving for Him be it intellectual, spiritual, or physical. The ultimate goal of spiritual Jihad is to remove ego, selfishness, anxiety, de-

pression, and loneliness from the soul of the believer and uplift his state to that of serenity, satisfaction, and companionship with God. In addition, Jihad is not equivalent to war as many claim since the Arabic word for war is *qital*. It is important to note that there are two aspects of jihad, both of which have the same purpose; the believer be purified of sins and achieve true humanity. One is fighting to overcome carnal desires and evil inclinations, which is called the *greater jihad*; the other, the *lesser jihad*, refers to the encouragement of others to also strive for the same objective. While this "encouragement" is interpreted and promoted by the global jihadists as the declaration of war to all the non-believers throughout our world, we see that the Quran sets a very specific context; the anticipated conquest of the sanctuary city of Mecca where fighting was usually forbidden, and the permission of the political and religious leader. In other words, Muslims are not compelled to kill non-Muslim believers; they are allowed to and will be forgiven by merciful God only if someone impedes them from loving their God or attack them first. In the case of protecting faith against others, Islam allows the use of violence only if there is no peaceful alternative, and even then, they must never harm the innocent - women, children, and the elderly. Consequently, concerning the Islamic terrorist groups' attacks, not only are they not apart from their duty, but they are also unjustifiable in the context of jihad.

Ever since the creation of Al-Qaeda and later on of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), who have called for a global jihad by spreading violence and fear, the word Jihad has only had negative connotations. Here is a real life example of an old man in Tunis; he was an imam of a small mosque and he decided to name his granddaughter Jihad, which was similar to Christians naming their children Grace for instance. However, after the 9/11 attack, Bin Laden's idea of jihad had gained so much ground that the Tunisian Intelligence service suspected the old man for being connected to Al-Qaeda. In less than a decade, a word so sacred to the Muslim world became a synonym to weapons. This is not surprising when up until now *Jihadists* have carried out more than 24,959 deadly terror attacks since 9/11, have laid a dozen of children on the floor, and have shot them because this "encourages" unbelievers to love Allah. There is also an estimated 950 jihadists who have died in clashes or blown

themselves up. Finally, US officials believe the ISIS could have 31,000 fighters in Iraq and Syria out of which the 70% is joining out of fear or coercion.

Having all this evidence, it is hard for anyone to be convinced that these people are indeed fighting for their God. If the true purpose of Jihad, as Prophet Muhammad said, is to be purified from sins and attain humanity, then I cannot find a more ineffective and hideous way to do it from torturing and killing innocent people. Name it as you like, terrorism is not religion.

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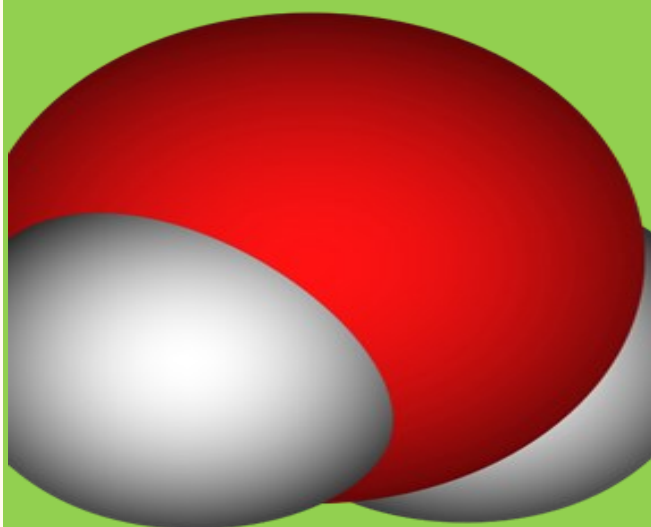
The Qur'an

Names in Science

By Nick Stathas

Moving away from names of people, animals, and so on, one comes across many impressive facts when it comes to the name of the most important elements and compounds we have discovered.

A primordial and the most significant known element is Hydrogen ($_1\text{H}$), as it is the most abundant in the universe. The name is of French origin and comes from Hydro- + -Gen, because its combustion produces water, the most important compound for living creatures.



The names used for water (H_2O) are quite fascinating and vary greatly from each other. The ancient Greeks used the term “ὕδωρ” while in Latin the term “aqua” was used for this particular colorless and odorless substance. The English word “water” primarily comes from the German term “wasser” and it is a modification of the Old English word “wæter.”

Another element that is also essential for life, as we know it, along with a great deal of

items vital to our survival and expansion is Carbon ($_6\text{C}$). Originating from the Latin word carbo (nium),

coal. Car- adapted French carbone. We know that went many



bon was by the and named We do not this name through changes to

reach its final version, even though the Chinese, who were the first to discover and use charcoal, named it 炭 (Sumi) which means Charcoal.

A sweet compound whose origin is quite simple is sucrose or table sugar ($\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$). Both terms, sugar and sucrose, originate from the French word “sucre”. Glucose ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$) is similar to sucrose and its name comes from the Greek word “γλυκός”, meaning sweet.

Some names of olfactory elements, like Osmium ($_{76}\text{Os}$) and Bromine ($_{35}\text{Br}$), are both of Greek origin coming from “οσμή” which is the Greek term for “smell” and “βρόμος” which means stench, respectively.

Another interesting element with which we come into every day ($_{63}\text{Eu}$).

circulating within the Monetary Union contain tiny europium, very met-



contact is Europium Bank notes in countries European Union contain amounts of a hard, sil-

al, as an anti-counterfeiting measure, hence the name Europium.

Finally, medical terminology incorporates the names of diseases that have a specific meaning behind them, usually related to said disease.

Cancer, being the Latin word for “crab”, was used by ancient physicians to refer to malignant tu-

mors. Just as a crab grabs its prey and does not let go, malignant tumors are also very tenacious as they invade the body's tissues, most often leading to inevitable death.

The name leprosy comes from the Greek word "λεπρός" meaning "scaly." Leprosy is also known as Hansen's Disease since Gerhard Hansen, a Norwegian doctor, was the one who discovered the bacteria (*Mycobacterium leprae*) which caused the disease.

Most names of the elements and medical terms are of Latin and Greek origin and have been modified throughout time in languages such as French and German. The name of an element reveals either a property it possesses ($_{76}\text{Os}$), its origin, or the scientist it was named after ($_{99}\text{Es}$). It is notable that in the world of science, we rarely find names that are irrelevant, as there is always a logic behind them, contrary to a majority of the names given to people or objects.

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HOW DO AUTHORS CHOOSE THE NAME OF THEIR CHARACTERS?

By George Pavlou

The dilemma many writers face all over the world is which is the appropriate name for their fictional characters, as that name will remain theirs throughout the whole series of books they write.

The name of a character sometimes is made to be catchy, so that people may find it interesting enough and choose to read the actual book. To that end, a novella writer must take the setting of his novel into account because the names of the characters have to somehow belong to the universe which is created in the story itself. More specifically, when writing a science fiction book that depicts an imaginary world, the names of the characters can't be common, names like Peter or Mary; they have to match with that



world. For example, in *The Lord of The Rings*, no character has an ordinary name, but we come across names like Gandalf and Frodo, which are made up and sound fictitious so that they run parallel, and add to the story's mood.

In addition, one must take into consideration the meaning of the name he means to give one of his characters because writers often try to either build a story around a certain name or give their characters names carrying a special mean-

ing to the writers themselves. For instance, George Lucas named his character *Indiana Jones* after his own dog, Indiana.

An author must take into consideration the personality of the character he is naming, so as to give that character a fitting name that befits his personality and actions. Writers must consider the cultural and historical background of their characters because if the story is set in Ancient Greece for example, a character cannot have the name of Jake, as it does not fit the cultural or historical context of the piece.

Age is another factor one needs to be considered when naming characters, as names tend to vary across age groups. For instance, authors who write children's books need to name their characters in a certain way that appeals to children. Suck names as those like that of Winnie the Pooh. On the other hand, authors who write books oriented for more mature audiences tend to have more realistic names for their characters. Moreover, when naming a character, authors tend to focus on the connotation that the name projects because a villain and a hero in a novel cannot have names with similar connotations, like that of Darth Vader which gives out an eerie vibe.

Overall, we can see that writers try hard to select the names that most fit each and every character in their works, be they novels, plays, films or television scripts.

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FUN FACTS ABOUT NICKNAMES

By Angelos Stampoulglou

A nickname is a humorous name which is meant to replace the proper name in a fun way. Nicknames are often invented by people who want to tease a friend. A nickname can also be the familiar form of one's proper name, used simply for convenience. Another common term for nicknames are hypocoristics, which people in love or otherwise emotionally involved may call each other. There are slight differences between the two, and the terms are often mixed up. A nickname is sometimes considered to be desirable, and symbolises the acceptance between friends but, on the other hand, it can also be a form of ridicule.

Nicknames have rooted origins way back in history. The compound word "ekename," meaning "additional name," was first used by ancient civilizations as early as 1303. The word derives from the Old English phrase "eacian," which means "to increase." By 1600, the word had changed to "nekename." Although the spelling between Old and New English has changed greatly, the meaning remains the same up to today. But how are nicknames used and perceived culturally in different societies?

In the Viking society, nicknames were standard and not made up. As a result, many people had nicknames like "heiti," "vionefni," or "uppnefni" which replaced their family names but not their first names. However, the fact that makes Viking nicknames so unique is that a formal ceremony was followed to give a nickname to a person. Additionally, slaves used nicknames in a very peculiar way; the nickname had to be easy to remember and pronounce. Why? The reason was because nicknames were only given to people who had accomplished something and the nickname was for the master to know when a person was not a slave. However, in a Brazilian martial art, Capoeira, slaves had nicknames in case they were arrested as for decades Capoeira was thought to be illegal and a sign of disrespect towards one's master.

In Anglo-American culture, nicknames derive from shortening one's proper name, which in other cultures is not the case. Nicknames have a special place in Indian society. As a rule, Indians

have at least one nickname. The most common ones are Bablu, Dabbu, Banti, Babli, Gudiya, Golu,



Sonu, Chhotu, Raju, Adi, and Ritu. In this culture, nicknames do not represent a particular personality trait or quality but are used only by relatives, parents, and teachers. Moreover, in Australian society, men will often use ironic nicknames referring to someone's defect.

Despite these cultural variations in the definition of a nickname, the true meaning of nicknames lies in the human need to feel accepted by his peers. As a result, we sometimes have the tendency to "cut" or change our names so that they don't sound so awkward. It is safe to conclude that nicknames are not only more "user friendly" but also serve a greater purpose to invoke a sense of membership and community.

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Names of Continents

By **Christiana Lembessi**

We all know there are seven continents in the world; Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Africa, Antarctica, and Australia/Oceania. The etymology of each of the continent's name is usually unknown. However, not all continents were named during the same time period nor were they named by the same person. The etymology of each continent's name is special as it differs significantly from the names of the other continents. Thus the etymology of the names of the world's continents is a very interesting subject, one that is definitely worth exploring.

The first continent the name of which has a unique etymology is Europe. The name Europe comes from the Latin *Europa*, which in turn, derives from the Greek *Εὐρώπη*. The first morpheme of the word is *eurys*, which means "wide and broad" and the second morpheme of the word is *ops*, which means "eye" or "face." Additionally, in Greek mythology, Europa was the beautiful daughter of a Phoenician king named Agenor. When Zeus saw her, he transformed himself into a white bull and approached her. She climbed onto the bull's back, and they swam off to Crete, where she fell in love with the transformed version of Zeus and had three sons with him, Minos, Rhadamanthus, and Sarpedon. In fact, the term "Europe" was first used as a geographical term in the 6th century B.C.E., by Greek geographers, such as Anaximander and Hecataeus.

Not only is Asia the Earth's largest and most populous continent, but also the word "Asia" has the most etymologies. The word "Asia" originated from the Ancient Greek word *Ἀσία*, first attributed to Herodotus (about 440 B.C.E.) in reference to Anatolia or the Persian Empire. Furthermore, the word Asia may have originated from the Aegean root "Asis" which means "muddy" as a de-



Amerigo Vespucci

scription of the eastern shores of the Aegean Sea. It could also derive from the borrowed Semitic root "Asu", which means "rising" or "light", referring, quite evidently, to the sunrise, Asia thus meaning 'Eastern Land'. Indeed, Asia is called the "continent of contrast or extreme," because it has the world's highest mountain peak, Mount Everest, and the lowest land depression, the Dead Sea.

North America and South America may be treated as separate continents in the seven-continent model, but the etymology of their name "America" is the same. Unlike the other continents, the origin of the word "America" is absolutely clear. America was named after the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci who first proved that Brazil and the West Indies did not represent Asia's eastern outskirts as it was claimed after Columbus' voyages, but instead it was an entirely separate land unknown to Afro-Eurasians. America was originally referred to as the New World, deriving its name from Americus, the Latin version of Vespucci's

first name. Today, the citizens of North and South America do not consider themselves as citizens of two different continents, but the differentiation between the two is considered essential in geography mostly because the two continents together would make up too huge an area to be studied and explored.

Moving on to another continent now. Why is the geographic region of Africa named Africa? Some people may know that “Africa” comes from *Afru-ika*, which means “Motherland,” but there are also many other ways to interpret this name. Firstly, “Africa” may come from the Greek *aphrike*, which means “without cold” or from the Latin *aprica*, which means “sunny.” Secondly, some believe it to have derived from two Phoenician terms either referring to corn or fruit (*pharika*), meaning “land of corn or fruit”. The origin of *Afer* may be the Phoenician *afar*, which means dust or may come from the “Afri tribe,” who dwelt in Northern Africa around the area of Carthage (814 BCE). Finally, it may have derived from the name of Yemenite chief “Africus” who invaded North Africa in the second millennium BCE and founded a town called Afrikyah.

Antarctica is yet another continent whose name comes from the Ancient Greeks. The name “Antarctica” comes from the Greek word “ἀνταρκτική,” meaning “opposite to the Arctic,” “opposite to the north.” The term Antarctica was used after 530 B.C. when the ancient Greeks, beginning with Pythagoras believed the earth to be round. This idea gave rise to the name we give the southern continent today: Antarktos, or “opposite Arktos,” the constellation in the northern sky.

Finally, the last continent we are going to discuss is Australia or Oceania. The official name of the

continent is Australia, but Oceania refers not only to the country but New Zealand also. When referring to the Australian continent, New Zealand is considered in geography a different part of the continent, called Zealandia. The word “Australia” derives from the Latin *australis*, meaning “southern.” Although the term “Australia” was first used by British explorer Matthew Flinders in 1814, this continent is claimed to have been called “Australasia” before 1814. Lastly, the name “Oceania” comes from the English word ocean for ‘a large body of water.’ In Greek, “ocean” means the “big river or sea surrounding the dry land of the Earth”.

In conclusion, the names of the continents are made, based on factors such as geographic location and its characteristics, history, mythology, or the continent’s founder. When studying the etymologies of the names of continents, one can easily appreciate

how there are hundreds of interpretations, half of which derive from Greek.

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By Aris Mordo

✓ How does one go about changing their name?

Michael (Μιχαήλ) on paper, Micky at home, Mike at university in Greece, and Michael in the States, the man now referred to as *Alexis* had more names than he wished for, but nine of them really described him. He was sometimes made fun of at school called "Mickey Mouse" but then got to introduce himself as Mike and Michael in the Greek and American Universities respectively. None of these suited him too well, and because it is entirely legal to change one's name in the U.S.A. as long as it offends no one, he decided to change his to Alexis. His friends there had no problem with calling him that, as did his mother, who as a "good sport," caught on immediately and nearly never mistakenly called him Mike. His father was more reluctant and slow in accepting the change while his brother was determined to keep teasing. Naturally, his father's death brought universal understanding.

Nevertheless, his last name was much more challenging. In his original name "Mordoh" (Hebrew: מֹרְדֹּחַ) the "h" is no longer pronounced. This is a problem for in the Greek system for passport names the "h" turns to an "χ" which is obligatorily pronounced. A name change was thus in order and the reason for which Dr. Mordo as well as his brother claimed to need a name change. In Greece the State has to be presented with such a reason to even consider changing someone's name - was "unpleasant acoustics". With such an opportunity to slip in his newly changed name -he was still Michael in Greece, officially at least- Dr. Mordo tried swapping Michael with Alexis but finally got stuck with both. This resulted in a very strange sounding Michael - Alexis Mordo/Mornto even though he simply introduces himself as Alexis Mordo. Moreover, he finds it amusing when an old classmate of his calls him Mickey or Mike.

✓ Why should one change their name?

According to Dr. Mordo, at the time of the change and to this day, his belief remains firm and unchanged that everyone has the right to a name they like whether that means being given it or giving it to themselves.

Furthermore, apart from disliking the name he had then in its sound, he also found the "multiple aspects" of the name: family name, school name, university name: Mike, and so on, as rather more of a burden than a convenience.

In addition to that, changing his name was the symbol or realization of the development of a new "differentiated identity" in his words. It paired well, perhaps, with his seeing the world from a different scope as one does when in a foreign land, such as the States are to Greece. He adds that "it was all about passion;" for instance, biking in the Colorado mountain

range, mountain climbing, skiing, dancing and forging intense relationships. He said that those days made it clear that "one should enjoy what they do and do what they enjoy doing".

✓ How does someone chose their new name?

For Dr. Mordo, there was no particular reason at that time. It was rather more of an impulse than a choice; however, he later saw a connection between the name he had chosen and the time he chose to change it other than "it just came from the inside." The connection he saw had to do with the circumstances of his life in the two years preceding his name change. In particular, having been late in handing in some assignments, he had been told it was likely that he would be leaving university. This strongly motivated him to work hard for two psychologically strenuous years during which he attended several therapy sessions as well. In those difficult times, his companion was a copy of the well known book *The Life and Times of Alexis Zorbas* by Nikos Kazantzakis, in which the main characters' personality strongly contradicts that of the mild narrator by being bold, daring, and adventurous. That the characters' name is Alexis heavily influenced the choice of Dr. Mordo.

Just to give a firm grasp of the otherwise obvious once more, Dr. Mordo identified with Zorbas's bold behavior and felt compelled by his passionate ways and thus connected Zorbas's name to his renewed self.

✓ How does one feel after changing their name?

Dr. Mordo bears no regret; nevertheless, he fears it must have been difficult for his parents to accept the fact that their son had rejected the name they gave him, especially his father. In addition to that, he now enjoys relief, as he no longer needs to experience the confusion of multiple names, and pointless passports, and awkward explanations at friends' parties. He has fully transitioned from one name to the other and feels the sound of Mickey is associated so terribly much to the fictional Disney character he is glad not to have kept it.

✓ Thoughts on ones' last name?

For Dr. Mordo in particular, his last name has two aspects. In the U.S.A., people would mostly react to the name by saying: "It doesn't sound Greek" while in Greece, where the population is certainly more homogenous, peoples' reactions have a more inquisitive nature, in the lines of, "Where are you from? France? Germany?" Such occasions seem to have a trivial meaning to many observers but anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of one will almost definitely explain how this severs them from the rest of the population bit by bit.



Anastasia Maroudia

Nadine Paspoti

What's in a name? That
which we call a rose,
by any other word
would smell as sweet

- Shakespeare

Constantinos Lionel Lucas Simon Stefani
 Manos Theosilos Jessica Amalia
 Jimmy Nicos
 JORDAN STUARD Elizabeth ANN
 PANOS SANDY EDD Angeliki Francis
 Michael TIM HUBERT Foteini
 SARA Pavlos STA MATIS Gregory Silvia
 Alex Panos Eleni Philip LEFTERIS
 Christopher SEBASTIAN Billy SOTIRIS
 Anostasis JORDI Stavros Mairy LAURA
 Nick Simon Wayne
 Peter Dimitris PA LUIS
 And Louis BILLY
 ANTONIS

Names, once they are in common use, quickly become mere sounds, their etymology being buried, like so many of the earth's marvels, beneath the dust of habit.

Salman Rushdie