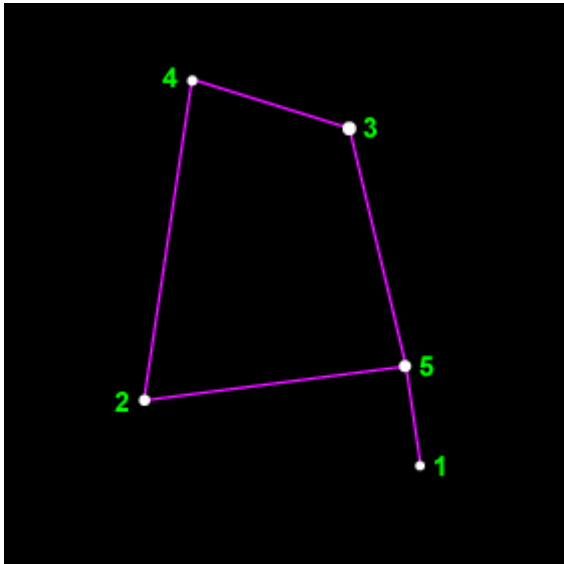


Corvus - The Crow



The Crow was the god Apollo's sacred bird. When the monster Typhon set upon the Olympian gods, the god Pan shouted a warning, and the gods changed themselves into animals to escape. Aphrodite and Eros changed themselves into fish. Pan too tried to become a fish, but ended up as only half a fish. Apollo changed himself into a Crow.

One day Apollo was about to offer sacrifice to Zeus. He sent the Crow off with the Cup to fetch water from a nearby

spring. The Crow was distracted by a fig tree bearing fruit that was almost ripe. The fruit tempted the Crow, but he didn't want to eat the unripe figs; so he waited for two or three days for the fruit to ripen.

Eventually the god tired of waiting for the Crow to return and fetched the water himself. The Crow, having eaten his fill of the ripe figs, flew back to Apollo with his long delayed Cup of water. Apollo was furious!

The Crow offered the excuse that a water snake had been blocking the spring, but the wise Apollo saw through the excuse and punished the Crow. Apollo changed the melodious voice of the bird into a raucous squawk. Some say that it was at this point that the white feathers of the crow were turned into black. But the worst punishment of all is that Apollo set the crow Corvus into the stars right beside the Cup. The water snake was commanded never to let the Crow get near enough to the Cup to drink.