

Antonio Stramaglia, The "Apuleian" Cupid and Psyche before Apuleius.

APapyrologica 38 (2024) pp. 167-188, figg.

Focuses on the origin of the story of Cupid and Psyche, as embedded at the centre of Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*. It contends that the narrative core of Psyche's adventures can be traced back to some earlier Greco-Roman source(s) rather than – or more importantly than – to North-African folklore, which has recently been claimed to be the source of Apuleius. The analysis starts from an illustrated papyrus fragment from Oxyrhynchus P.S.I. VIII, 919 (= MP3 2641.2; LDAB 10134), which portrays Psyche at the moment of disclosing the identity of her mysterious husband: the very scene depicted in *Apul. Met.* 5.22–23. This papyrus almost certainly predates Apuleius' novel and, in any case, features the same tradition evidenced by a number of iconographic items earlier than the *Metamorphoses*.

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