



The Gefion Fountain

Gefion was a Nordic goddess who once paid a visit to the mythical King Gylve of Sweden. Being very pleased with her visit, he offered her as much land as she would be able to plough out of Sweden in one day. She changed her four sons into oxen and harnessed them to the plough, and in one day carved out a very large area. And so deeply did the plough cut that this large piece of land slid out into the sea between Sweden and Denmark and is said to be the Danish island of Sealand. If you look at the map of Sweden, you may easily see a lake of approximately the same size as Sealand.

According to the myths it was quite common for the gods to reward the one who had pleased them by allowing him to keep as much land as he could plough out in one day.

The fountain, from 1908, is the work of the Danish sculptor Anders Bundgaard (1864–1937).

Gefion Springvandet

Legenden fortæller, at Gefion, der var en nordisk gudinde, kom rejsende til Kong Gylve i Sverige. Hun fornøjede ham så meget, at han skænkede hende så meget jord, som hun kunne pleje ud på en dag. Hun forvandlede nu sine fire sønner til okser, og spændte dem for ploven, og der blev trukket så godt og så dybt, at et stort stykke land røg vester ud til søs, hvor nu Øresund er. Og det land kaldte Gefion for Sølund (nutidens Sjælland). Ser man på et kort over Sverige, kan man se en stor sø, Vänern, som har nogenlunde samme størrelse som Sjælland. Så det er ganske vist!

Ifølge legenderne var det ganske almindeligt for guderne at belønne den, der havde fornøjet dem eller på anden måde behaget dem, ved at skænke ham så meget jord, som han kunne pløje ud på en dag.

Springvandet, fra 1908, blev udført af billedhuggeren Anders Bundgaard (1864–1937).

(Fra N.F.S. Grundtvig: Nordens Mythologi)