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Asphodelus

Asphodelaceae

[*Aloeaceae/Liliaceae*]

Asphodelus is made up of Greek *a-* (without) and *sphallo* (supplant) components or derived from a Greek word for ‘sceptre’, both with reference to the stateliness of the flowers surpassing all others, and is a Greek name for asphodel (*Asphodelus ramosus*).

The celebrated 18th Century English poet, Alexander Pope (1688-1744) relies on the classic belief that the seeds offered nourishment for the dead in *Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day* when he writes

.....
By the streams that ever flow,
By the fragrant winds that blow
O’er the Elysian flowers;
By those happy souls who dwell
In yellow meads of asphodel
Or amaranthine bowers.