

## **Abstract**

The aim of the present thesis is to introduce different types of cunning intelligence in Greek mythology and their role in the broader context of Greek thought. The subject matter is explored using representative mythic figures and situations. The pivotal problem is the relationship between cunning tricks and both cultural and divine order. The first part is concerned with greek expressions connected to cunning tricks and their possible meanings. The subsequent section deals with the forms of cunning as they can be seen in the characters of Hermes and Odysseus and considers the way in which cunning tricks can be beneficial to order. A comparison with other cunning characters and myths of origins of rituals follow in the final chapter. It concludes with determining in which context a cunning trick is acceptable. In conclusion it is argued that cunning intelligence bears a culturally constitutive function and may even be beneficial in existing order. However, its positive role is manifested mainly in the primordial state of the universe when cultural order is not clearly delimited. Cunning intelligence always remains ambivalent and a paradox. Its ambiguity is most apparent in clearly defined and structured cultural order.