

# THE CHEST GAZETTE

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## Kaunos/as

Miletos was angry and upset. As the son of Apollo, and as the king of Caria, he told his son Kaunos to leave Caria. The reason was that Kaunos became the love of his twin sister, Byblis, and that love was not unrequited love. He had to move to another place to protect himself and his love, but he caused her death of grief. Her tears became the birth of the Calbys river (today's Dalyan river) which separated the lands of Caria and Lycia. In another myth, Byblis committed suicide in despair but was saved by the Nymphs who later transformed her into a spring.

After a short travel, Kaunos came to Lycia and founded a city kingdom with his name. According to Herodotus, the city of Kaunos dated back to the 5th century BC. That city developed as a strong port because it was on the coast and the Kaunian products were highly demanded, like salt, resin, olive. When the Hellenistic influence increased, Kaunos joined the Delian League (association of Greek city states). Later the city was controlled by Persians, Romans in the history.

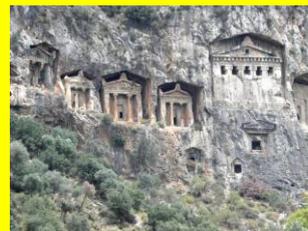
Kaunos is now an ancient city in Mugla. After centuries, the city stayed away from the coast due to the soil carried by the river, creating a big delta. That area turned to a wide reed field, with a natural canal inside passing nearby Kaunos. It reaches the sea, called Iztuzu beach which is also the breeding ground for sea turtles (caretta caretta). Because the turtles are in the list of endangered animals, the beach is a special environmental protection area. The river is also the natural zone for the blue crabs.

In another place in the history, a Roman aristocrat, Palemonas, escaped from the ancient Rome with the fear of Emperor Nero in the 1st century. He was the father of three sons, Barcus, Kūnas and Sperus. The family moved to the north and reached the tribal lands near the coast. After the death of Palemonas, the sons shared the land. Among them, Kūnas owned the area where the big rivers, Nemunas and Neris, meet. There he built a castle and founded a city named Kaunas.

Different eras, different escape routes, different waters, different lands, similar names: Kaunos founded Kaunos along a sea in the south, and Kūnas founded Kaunas along a river in the north.



Theater, sea view



Lycian king tombs



Delta and sea



Baby turtles



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09.02.2021