



Tantalizing



Image by Clayton Cusak

*The issue of free will has always
tantalized philosophers*
(To tantalize = to torment someone
with the promise of something
unobtainable)

*This is the **tantalizing** taste of
success.*
*She smiled at him **tantalizingly**.*

Tantalus is a Greek mythological character mostly associated with the **punishment** inflicted upon him by Zeus for stealing **nectar** and **ambrosia** from one of the gods' feasts and sharing them with human beings, thus revealing the secret to the gods' immortality. His punishment consists in standing in a pool of water beneath a tree with the **fruits** forever eluding his grasp and the **water** forever receding whenever he stoops to drink. Thus, Tantalus embodies **frustrated desire** – which still connotes the English words **tantalizing**, **tantalizingly** and **to tantalize**.