

THE GREEK GODS

Before knowing about the Greek gods and the Olympian gods let's talk about how this all started. In the very beginning, chaos ruled the universe. It was full of nothingness. It was the dark void where nothing existed. The dark nothingness forced Gaia, the primordial goddess of earth, to come into existence. After being born, seeing nothing, she decided to make her own home "earth" and submerged into it. Along with Gaia came Tartarus, "The primordial god of the pit" upon seeing the surrounding of the earth, he decided that the deepest parts of earth would be his home. After being delighted with his new home, he submerged into it and became what would later be called "the torturous hell of Tartarus." The third to emerge from chaos was Nyx with black hair and two dark wings, called "The primordial goddess of night". A moment later, the last primordial emerged. He was covered in shadows, a dark fog of nothingness, he was Erebus "The primordial god of darkness". After seeing Erebus emerge, Nyx glanced at him. That glance was what we mortals call love. As Nyx and Erebus were exploring their love, Gaia felt lonely and decided to give life on earth, she gave birth to what we know as Uranus "The primordial god of the sky". After being born, he flew up in the air and made a dome that circled the earth, it was called the sky. After making the sky, he took a deep breath and blew out of his lungs what we breathe in the air. After being satisfied with his work, he fused with the sky to look over the earth. After that, Gaia gave birth to these massive creatures that reached out for the newly formed skies. They were the " Titans ". The last to be born from Gaia was Pontus "the primordial god of the sea". After being born, he took a deep breath and gushed out gallons and gallons of water out of his mouth. After covering 36% of the ocean, he stopped and made it his home. At that time, Erebus and Nyx were enjoying each other's company and saw the blue sky on top of their heads and got curious and decided to explore it. The moment they reached to the sky, it went dark and tiny sparkles could be seen from the surface. Nyx and Erebus just brought forth the night to the sky and darkness to the earth's surface. At that time, Erebus and Nyx gave birth to two twins, they were Ether "the primordial god of light and humankind" and Hestia "the primordial goddess of the day". After the twins were born, the half of the earth regained its color and gave the orange and yellow color to the earth and Hestia brought forth the day. As Ether was enjoying the openness of the sky, he decided he would have his home at the peak of the sky, there he created a barrier which divided the earth's air and air above this point was air only for the immortals. From here, he could shine his light upon all the other mortals who are yet to come. Just like their parents, Ether and Hestia had fallen in love and gave birth to Leto "the goddess of the sea", the counterpart of Pontus. She would go on to fill earth with 36% water, unknowing that Pontus was doing the same. The water of the two seas collided. In the next moment, Leto and Pontus. After meeting each other and having so much in common, the two merged into one giant ocean. After this, Gaia was satisfied of her creations. After all this, it had ended, it began the era of the golden age.

1) Cronus: the Titan god of the harvest.

Cronus, although the youngest of the first twelve Titans, became the ruler of the world after overthrowing his father, Uranus. He then married his older sister, Rhea.

2) Rhea: the Titan goddess of fertility and generation.

Rhea determines the flow of things and her name literally means "the one that flows" in Greek. Later, she married and mated with Cronus.

3) Oceanus: the Titan god of the oceans.

Oceanus was the eldest son of Uranus and Gaia. His dominion extended in every corner of the Earth and all parts of the horizon. Oceanus was the personification of water and he paired with his sister, the Titaness Tethys.

4) Tethys: the Titan goddess of the rivers and fresh water.

Tethys was the wife of Oceanus and the mother of more than 3000 River gods (rivers personified by the Ancient Greeks), the Oceanside (nymphs of springs, streams and fountains) and the Nephelai (nymphs of clouds).

5) Hyperion: the Titan god of light.

Hyperion's dazzling light shone in all directions. His name means "the one who goes above the earth" in Greek. He symbolized eternal splendor. He fell in love with his sister, the Titan goddess Theia.

6) Theia: the Titan goddess of the aether.

Theia bore the Titan Hyperion three shining children: Helios (the Sun), Eos (the Dawn), and Selene (the Moon).

7) Prometheus: the titan god of fire

Prometheus, in Greek religion, one of the Titans, the supreme trickster, and a god of fire. He stole the fire from gods and gave it to mankind. His intellectual side was emphasized by the apparent meaning of his name, Forethinker. It was believed that he could see into the future. In common belief he developed into a master craftsman, and in this connection he was associated with fire and the creation of mortals.

8) Iapetus: the Titan god of mortal life. He was symbolizing mortality and the mortal life-span.

He fathered the Titans Atlas (who was responsible for bearing the weight of the heavens on his shoulders), Prometheus (who gifted fire to men) and Epimetheus (who married Pandora, the first mortal woman). Iapetus was also considered the personification of one of the four pillars that hold the heavens and the earth apart.

9) Crius: the Titan god of constellations.

Crius was one of the Titans, children of Uranus and Gaia. As the least individualized among the Titans, he was overthrown in the Titanomachy. Crius' name in Greek means "ram" and it shows his connection with the constellation Aries.

10) Coeus: the Titan god of intellect.

He was also considered the embodiment of the celestial axis around which the heavens revolve. He married his sister, Phoebe.

11) Phoebe: the Titan goddess of prophecy and oracular intellect.

Phoebe bore the Titan Coeus two children, Leto and Asteria. The Titaness Leto later copulated with the Olympian god Zeus and bore the Olympians Artemis and Apollo. Given that Phoebe symbolized prophetic wisdom just as Coeus represented rational intelligence, the couple may have possibly functioned together as the primal font of all knowledge in the cosmos.

12) Heme: the Titan goddess of divine law and order.

She is described as "the Lady of good counsel," She also had the ability to predict the future and thus, she later became one of the Oracles in Delphi.

13) Mnemosyne: the Titan goddess of memory.

Mnemosyne was generally regarded as the personification of memory and remembrance. Later, Zeus slept with Mnemosyne for nine consecutive days, eventually leading to the birth of the nine Muses. After these twelve Titan Gods came the The Olympian Gods

1) God Zeus

Zeus was recognized as the father of gods and humans. He regulated the celestial phenomena and defined the laws that govern people. He held the lightning bolt with one hand and the scepter with the other, which had an eagle at the top. He was known as the 'Lord of Justice'. People respected and feared him at the same time. He was taking care of the families, keeping vigil in the home of every mortal and protecting strangers and passers-by from evil. Zeus' wife was the goddess Hera, to whom he was not always faithful. Greek mythology is full of love stories about Zeus and him having intercourse with random women's, he liked to transform himself into anything he could think of and mingle with other goddesses or mortals.

2) Goddess Demeter

Demeter was the Greek goddess of agriculture and protected the trees, plants and grains. She was the first to make the earth fruitful and taught people how to grow wheat, barley and other plants. Demeter is somewhat isolated from the twelve gods in ancient myths and this is because she is an even more ancient goddess herself. The Greeks received her cult from the Pelasgians, who originally lived in Greece. According to Greek mythology, Demeter's daughter is mentioned as Persephone, who was once abducted by God Hades and became his wife. The most sacred and secret religious rites of ancient Greece, the Eleusinian mysteries, were held in honor of Demeter.

3) God Poseidon

Poseidon was one of the six children of Cronus and Rhea and brother of Zeus. He was allotted the kingdom of the sea but he was also considered the god of horses and earthquakes. This is why he was called "the earth-shaker". He rarely lived on Olympus, preferring the depths of the ocean. He was sitting on a famous chariot drawn by immortal horses and holding in his hand the famous trident, forged by the Cyclops. When Poseidon was angry, he plunged the trident into the sea and shook it whole from end to end. The sailors prayed to Poseidon so that he spares them from his wrath.

4) God Hades

Hades was the brother of Zeus and Poseidon and the god of the Underworld. He was allotted this kingdom when the three brothers took a draw to decide who will take each of three (heavens, sea and the Underworld). He liked to live in the dark and shadowed world of the dead and was rarely seen on Olympus. He was also known as Pluto. They actually preferred to call him Pluto because the name Hades was another name for the Underworld and they did not like the idea of death. The entrance to the Underworld is guarded by a monstrous dog, Hades' favorite pet, the three-headed Cerberus. In order for your soul to cross the silent river, you need to pay the ferryman, Charon, to carry you to the other side on his boat.

5) Goddess Hera

Goddess Hera was the sister of Zeus, daughter of the Titans Cronus and Rhea, and at the same time Zeus' wife. Hera symbolized and protected the sacred institution of marriage. She blessed and helped the women in labor. Greek mythology presents Hera as a modest, measured and faithful woman, but at the same time very jealous. There are almost no myths that refer exclusively to Hera. Her name is almost always associated with the myths about Zeus. However, Hera does not present herself as a goddess submissive to her sovereign husband. She had a strong female personality and she was the only one that dared to object to him.

6) God Apollo

Apollo and Artemis were siblings, twins actually, children of Zeus and Leto, a Titan goddess. According to tradition, the two children were born on the island of Delos. Apollo is one of the most important and complex Greek gods. He is the god of light, music and poetry, healing and prophecy. He was the one that established the great Oracle of Delphi, which was considered the center of the ancient world. He was the teacher of the nine Muses and when they sang he accompanied them with his famous lyre.

7) Goddess Artemis Artemis

Apollo's twin sister, was the goddess of hunting, wild animals and the wilderness. She spent her time in the woods, accompanied by the Nymphs, hunting, with her bow and primary goddesses of childbirth and midwifery, relieving the women in labor from diseases. She was sometimes associated with the goddess of the moon.

8) Goddess Aphrodite

Aphrodite, the most beautiful among mortals and immortals, was born from the foam of the sea when Uranus' blood fell on it after his defeat by Cronus. This fact makes her the eldest among the Olympian Gods. Her name literally means "risen from the foam". Aphrodite was worshipped as the goddess of beauty and passion. She could inspire love in the hearts of men and women. Most myths generally present Aphrodite as a vengeful woman. Aphrodite was worshiped in all parts of Greece and many priestesses were serving her. According to Greek mythology, she married the god of fire and

blacksmiths, Hephaestus, but she was in love with the god of war, Ares, with whom she bared many children among which the winged god of love, Eros.

9) God Ares

Ares, the god of war, was the son of the Greek gods Zeus and Hera. He was always followed by two of his faithful sons and followers, the gods Deimos and Phobos. Ares was handsome and strong, young and well-armed. He loved war and battles so he was hated by people and his worship was limited. Only in Sparta he was particularly worshipped and had a statue dedicated to him. Ares was tried, according to tradition, for his many war crimes, in one of Athens' hills, the Areopagus Hill, which later became the seat of the criminal court of ancient Athens.

10) God Hephaestus

Hephaestus was the god of fire and blacksmiths. He was born ugly and that is why his mother, the goddess Hera, unable to nourish him, threw him out of Olympus. Since then he has been limping. Hephaestus fell into the sea, where he was picked up by the Nereids and raised by them. Growing up, he became a famous craftsman and set up his workshop on Mount Etna in Sicily. With his various metals, he made works of art of incomparable beauty. He once made a golden throne and sent it to his mother Hera. As soon as Hera sat down, invisible chains bound her without anyone being able to untie them. They tried to persuade Hephaestus, but they only succeeded after they got him drunk first. It was from him, that the Titan Prometheus took the fire and gave it to the people.

11) God Hermes

Hermes was the god of wealth, trade, thieves and travelers. He was also known as the Messenger God, being the herald of the Olympians and carrying messages between them. He was the son of Zeus and Maia, daughter of Titan Atlas. He was a clever, inventive and arrogant god. As soon as he was born, Hermes saw a turtle. He took her shell, placed seven strings in it and invented the lyre. He once stole the oxen guarded by god Apollo and locked them in a cave. He wouldn't admit the theft, but in the end, he confessed. To avoid punishment, he gifted the lyre to Apollo. Hermes wore winged sandals and held the caduceus, his wand which had two serpents twined around it. He was the one who accompanied the souls of the dead to Hades and for that, he was known as the "soul-bearer".

12) Goddess Athena

Athena, according to Greek mythology, was the goddess of wisdom and strategic warfare. Athena was the beloved daughter of Zeus. Her mother was the Titaness Metis, the first wife of Zeus. Zeus received a prophecy informing him that Metis would give birth to the child who would overthrow his father. To escape the prophecy, Zeus swallowed Metis while she was pregnant in Athena. Later, Zeus began to suffer from headaches and called on Hephaestus to help him. Hephaestus hit the head of Zeus with his hammer and Athena sprang out in full armor. She is always pictured to be armed, never as a child,

always a virgin. She won the battle for the patronage of Athens over Poseidon. The Parthenon in Athens is the most famous temple dedicated to her. Protector of heroes and wisest among the Gods, Athena was considered one of the most powerful and important Olympian Gods.

13) God Dionysus

Although a demi-god, Dionysus managed to win the heart of the gods and his place on Mount Olympus! As a god of wine, viticulture ritual madness and religious ecstasy, he was very beloved among the people and was considered a very important god. He was the son of god Zeus and the mortal Semele. He was the patron god of theater and taught people how to make wine. The Athenians, to honor Dionysus, held a famous celebration, characteristic of his merriment. Any use of force was prohibited during such holidays.

14) Goddess Hestia

Hestia was the goddess of domestic life, home and hearth, the flame that kept a family's home warm. She was the eldest daughter of Cronus and Rhea, and the eldest sister of Zeus. In the middle of the ancient Greeks' home, there was an altar in her honor. The women of the house had as a responsibility to keep Hestia's flame burning. The worship of Hestia was connected with the worship of Zeus who protected the strangers-travelers. Goddess Hestia was the first to invent the construction of houses, taught it to people and became the protector of family peace and happiness. She was always staying on Mount Olympus, keeping the sacred flame going.