

**Arachne was a talented weaver. People would travel far and wide to see her work. She became too proud of her weaving and became arrogant, believing that her skills are better than anyone. Arachne would even tell people that she was a better weaver than Athena, who is also known for her spinning and weaving ability. Athena was offended by these claims from Arachne. The goddess presented herself as an old lady and warned Arachne never to compare to any gods and plead for forgiveness so she would be spared. Proud Arachne said that Athena herself should challenge her if she thinks otherwise. And so Athena removed her disguise and challenged her to a weaving contest. The two wove in the same room from early in the morning until it was too dark to see. When they were finished weaving, they compared what they had done. The cloth woven by Athena shows the gods and goddesses sitting together on Mount Olympus, doing good deeds for others. Arachne, on the other hand, had woven a picture of the gods and goddesses getting drunk, and the many ways they had abused mortals, particularly Zeus and his tricking and seducing of many women. Arachne's weaving was far better than Athena's, and this made the goddess even angrier. She ripped Arachne's work into shreds. Then she sprinkled Arachne with poison from the goddess Hecate. Arachne's hair fell out, her arms grew long and skinny, her nose and ears shrank and she slowly turned into a little spider.**