

**Cecrops, a strange creature, half-man half-snake, was the founder of the city Cecropia. The gods of Olympus saw this land and wanted to name it after them and become its patron. The most persistent rivals were the sea god Poseidon and the goddess of wisdom Athena. To solve their dispute, Zeus decided that each of them would make a gift to the city and let people decide which gift was the best and therefore which god would be the patron of the city.**

**Poseidon was the first to present his gift. He struck a rock with his trident and caused a spring of water to gush forth from the ground. This signified that he was assuring the citizens with water and therefore they wouldn't face any time of drought. The people were not exactly pleased with his gift because the water from the spring tasted salty. Next was the turn of goddess Athena. She planted a seed in the ground, which grew up to become a lovely olive tree. The citizens liked this gift better because it would give them food, oil and firewood. With one voice they loudly acclaimed Athena as their benefactress. Cecropia was then named Athens after the goddess Athena; glorious temples there were built dedicated to her. But due to Poseidon's hard feelings towards the people, the city faces problems of drought, especially in summer.**