

Hephaestus was born lame; his mother Hera was less than pleased and threw him off Mount Olympus. Hephaestus landed in the sea, where he was cared for by the sea goddesses Thetis and Eurynome as he grew. He soon proved to be a master craftsman. It is said that Hephaestus' forge was established beneath the Island of Lemnos, and volcanoes erupt whenever he is making weapons for other deities. He built a beautiful throne for his mother that trapped her when she sat on it. Other gods tried to convince Hephaestus to release Hera, but he refused until Dionysus came and got Hephaestus drunk. Hephaestus was married to Aphrodite, but it was not a happy marriage. Aphrodite had a long-standing affair with the war god, Ares. Whenever Hephaestus would leave home, Aphrodite and Ares would jump into bed. When the sun god, Apollo, informed Hephaestus of what his wife did while he was away, Hephaestus came up with a plan to catch the two in the act. He built a golden net which was so fine that it was invisible and set it up above his bed. He then told his wife that he was taking a trip to Lemnos to visit his forge and hid. Soon, Aphrodite and Ares were in the bed together and the net fell upon them, trapping them right where they were. Hephaestus came in with all the other Olympians to jeer at the two who were caught in a blazing crime.