



# APHRODITE

GODDESS  
OF  
LOVE, PASSION, PLEASURE AND BEAUTY



**PARENTS:** Some myths say she was the daughter of Zeus and Dione (ancient Titaness), others say she was born from the waves when the genitals of Uranus fell into the sea.

**CONSORT:** Wife of Hephaestus, but had many lovers, most notably Ares

**CHILDREN:**

Though Aphrodite did not give any child to her husband, but she was nevertheless the happy mother of many, some of them ...

- Eros and the Eros (God of Love and Attraction & smaller gods of different types of love), Harmonia (Harmony), Phobos (Fear), Deimos (Terror), Adrestia (Revolt), all fathered by Ares.
- Peitho (Seduction), Hymen (Marriage), Priapus (Male fertility), The Graces (3 goddesses of beauty), fathered by Dionysus
- Hermaphroditus (who merged himself with his love, so was a man and a woman in one), fathered by Hermes.
- Aeneas (Greek hero, main character of Virgil's Aeneid) fathered by human prince Anchises

**SYMBOLS:** Rose, Scallop Shell, Myrtle, Girdle, Mirror, Pearl

**SACRED ANIMALS:** Dolphin, Dove, Sparrow, Swan

**ROMAN COUNTERPART:** Venus

**NOWADAYS:** Friday → „Dies Veneris“ = „Day of Venus“ + the planet Venus wears the Roman form of her name

**LITTLE INTRODUCTION:**

Aphrodite knew no mercy when it came to love and beauty: she started the Trojan war for being judged as the most beautiful, she helped Hippomenes cheating in competition with princess Atalanta to win her hand and she loved to make other gods fall for humans. Zeus often had to intervene around her - it is told he gave her hand to the ugly Hephaestus to stop other gods competing for it! Although Aphrodite was not totally satisfied, but Hephaestus, the god of metal and fire covered her with breathtaking jewellery and she was still free to cause romantic troubles, so it turned out finally quite well.

# ARES

GOD  
OF  
DESTRUCTIVE WAR, BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE



PARENTS: Son of Zeus and Hera

CONSORT: Lover of Aphrodite (and many other from time to time)

CHILDREN:

- Eros (Love and Attraction), Anteros (Returned Love), Harmonia (Harmony), Phobos (Fear), Deimos (Terror), Adrestia (Revolt), fathered to Aphrodite.
- Phlegyas (King of Lapiths), Oenomaus (King of Pisa), fathered to mortal women
- The Amazons, fathered to Harmonia

SYMBOLS: Sword, Spear, Shield, Helmet, Chariot, Flaming torch

SACRED ANIMALS: Dog, Boar, Vulture

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Mars

NOWADAYS: Tuesday → „Dies Martis” = „Day of Mars” + the planet Mars wears the Roman form of his name

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Ares was the least liked god both on earth and on the Olympus, even if he was a really handsome guy, but he missed the humour – no wonder since mostly he was wandering on battlefields with his charming sons Deimos (Terror) and Phobos (Fear). His only weak point was Aphrodite, his brother's wife, with who he had a long-term relationship, which caused the most embarrassing incident of the Olympus: Once Helios, the God of Sun discovered him having some moments with Aphrodite, and ran to tell Hephaestus. He, being the God of Metal, created an armour making him invisible, then locked the pair in the room, called the other gods (only the men went) and did some old-fashioned public humiliation







# ARTEMIS

GODDESS  
OF  
HUNT, WILDERNESS, WILD ANIMALS,  
YOUNG GIRLS, CHASTITY AND MOON



PARENTS: Daughter of Zeus and Leto, twin sister of Apollo

CONSORT: Virgin Goddess

CHILDREN:

- Though Artemis never had children, she was the patron and protector of young girls - her company included 60 young girls as her choir, and 20 nymphs to be her handmaidens who she guarded closely. She was also worshipped as one of the primary goddesses of childbirth and midwifery along with Eileithyia.

SYMBOLS: Bow, Arrows, Moon

SACRED ANIMALS: Stags, Hunting dog

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Diana

NOWADAYS: Monday → „Dies Lunae“ = „Day of Moon“

(Though this day actually belongs to Selene, or more to her Roman counterpart Luna, the main goddess and actual personification of the Moon, but since Artemis is also one of the lunar goddesses, let's give her the honor!)

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Artemis was a very determined young lady - right after she was born, she presented a wish list of 10 points to her father Zeus, including her wish to never marry and to be differentiated strongly from her twin brother Apollo (oh, and to be called Light Brighter, have all the mountains and any cities). Later she became a badass goddess and punished every man who wanted to force himself on her - once she turned them into deers to be killed by their own hounds, another time she turned them into girls, but once she just simply stroke a man who only thought of approaching her.

# (PALLAS) ATHENA

GODDESS  
OF  
REASON, WISDOM, INTELLIGENCE,  
SKILL, HANDICRAFTS AND WAR STRATEGY



PARENTS: It was told that she was born from Zeus's forehead, fully formed and armored.

CONSORT: Virgin Goddess

CHILDREN:

- Tough Athena did not have children, but she was a real mother-type, being the patron of many heroes (ex. Perseus, Heracles, Bellerophon, Odysseus) and cities (Athen of course, but also Argos, Sparta, Gortyn, Lindos, Larisa).

SYMBOLS: Sword, Spear, Shield, Helmet, Chariot, Flaming torch

SACRED ANIMALS: Dog, Boar, Vulture

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Minerva

NOWADAYS: The city of Athen wears her name even now – she won it against Poseidon by creating the olive tree.

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Athena was the wisest of all the gods and one of Zeus's personal favourite. Ares often complained to Zeus that he prefers his sister among him, which was undeniable, since Athena represented the warfare strategy and war heroism, contrary to Ares who presented the aimless and violent bloodshed. Also, Athena was literally „daddy's girl“, given the circumstances of her birth! Athena liked humans and helped them where she could: she taught them arts and crafts, how to live well and also how to think clearly, so basically she started philosophy. But she was also a proud goddess and did not like to be outsmarted – a Greek princess and Athena's student, Arachne once started to spread that her skills are greater than Athena's. She engaged in a weaving contest with the goddess, but she chose to present Zeus's affairs with mortals, what outraged Athena (also the fact that it was indeed better work than her's) and turned her rival into a spider.





# DEMETER

GODDESS  
OF  
GRAIN, AGRICULTURE, HARVEST, GROWTH,  
AND NOURISHMENT



PARENTS: Cronus and Rhea, God of Time and his sister,  
who are the parents of first-generation Olympian gods

CONSORT: No

CHILDREN:

- Persephone, the Goddess of Spring and Nature, then Queen of Underworld, fathered by Zeus

SYMBOLS: Cornucopia, Wheat, Torch, Bread

SACRED ANIMALS: She was rather a vegetable person.

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Ceres

NOWADAYS: We use her name on daily basis, since the word „cereal” is coming from the Roman version of her name, Ceres.

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Demeter was a highly respected goddess, since she was responsible for the change of seasons and the growing of all things on earth, what she did happily. However, when Hades abducted her daughter Persephone, Demeter went out-of-office and started a desperate search for her daughter. While she was away, all things started to die, forcing Zeus to tell Demeter where her daughter is and to order Hades to give back Persephone. However, while she was underground, Persephone ate a pomegranate seed and that meant she can never leave. Demeter threatened Zeus to destroy life on Earth if she doesn't get back her daughter, and so Zeus made a compromise: Persephone spent one half of the year on Earth with her mother, and the other half with her husband in the Underworld – that's why half of the year is bright and warm, and the other half is cold and dead.





# DIONYSUS

GOD  
OF  
WINE, FRUITFULNESS, FESTIVALS, MADNESS,  
ECSTASY, AND THE THEATER



**PARENTS:** Zeus and Semele (Daughter of Harmonia), although it was rather just Zeus, since he had to snatch Dionysus from his mother's womb, stitched him into his own thigh and carried him until he was ready to be born

**CONSORT:** Ariadne, greek princess who Dionysus found and saved from death after her formal lover Theseus left her, despite helping him in the labirynth with the Minotaurus

**CHILDREN:** Dionysus had many offsprings, the most famous were...

- Peitho (Seduction), Hymen (Marriage), Priapus (Male fertility), The Graces (3 goddesses of beauty), fathered to Aphrodite
- Comus (Festivity), Phthonus (Romantic jealousy), fathered to smaller deities

**SYMBOLS:** Thyrsus, Grapevine, Ivy, Masks, Chalice

**SACRED ANIMALS:** Bull, Panther, Goat

**ROMAN COUNTERPART:** Bacchus

**NOWADAYS:** His Roman name Bacchus is used in form of „bacchanalia“, which refers to really crazy parties.

**LITTLE INTRODUCTION:**

Dionysus was a great favourite of ancient Greeks, which is no wonder since he taught humans how to make vine and how to party. He even had a secret culture in the Ancient Rome, the Bacchic cult. He was also liked among gods, with the exception of Hera, who feared that Zeus chose Semele, Dionysus's mother over her and chased her son during a long time of their immortal life ~ she threw Semele in the Underworld, but good-guy Dionysus saved her, as well as he saved his future wife Ariadne from death. However, Hera found a way to poison Dionysus's invention ~ she sent madness to those who consume vine and it can be stopped only with moderated vine culture, what her grand-mother Rhea taught to Dionysus...some things never change, grandmas always know best!



# EROS

GOD  
OF  
LOVE, ATTRACTION AND DESIRE



PARENTS: Aphrodite and Ares

CONSORT: Psyche (Greek Princess, then Goddess of Human Soul)

CHILDREN:  
- Hedone (Bliss)

SYMBOLS: Pomegranate, Seeds of Grain, Torch, Flowers

SACRED ANIMALS: Deer

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Amor, Cupid

NOWADAYS: He does not have any day, but for falling in love, we still use the term of „hit by Amor's arrow“

## LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

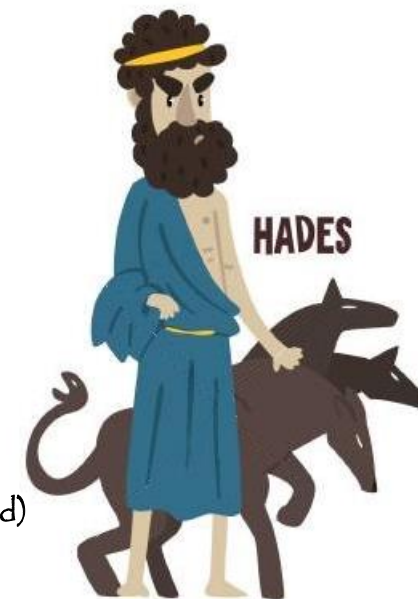
Eros's task was to plant love in the hearth of humans (and sometimes gods, like his mother). Once Aphrodite got jealous of the beauty of mortal princess Psyche, as men were leaving her altars barren to worship a mere human woman instead, and so she commanded her son Eros, the god of love, to cause Psyche to fall in love with the ugliest creature on earth. But instead, Eros fell in love with Psyche himself and spirited her away to his home. Their fragile peace was ruined by a visit from Psyche's jealous sisters, who caused Psyche to betray the trust of her husband. Wounded, Eros left his wife, and Psyche wandered the Earth, looking for her lost love. Eventually, she approached Aphrodite and asked for her help. Aphrodite imposed a series of difficult tasks on Psyche, which she was able to achieve by means of supernatural assistance. After successfully completing these tasks, Aphrodite relented and Psyche became immortal to live alongside her husband Eros – basically, the story of Eros and Psyche was the first Cinderella story, even fairies are there, since Psyche was often portrayed with butterfly wings after she became a goddess!





# HADES

GOD  
OF  
UNDERWORLD, DEAD AND WEALTH



**PARENTS:** Cronus and Rhea, God of Time and his sister, who are the parents of first-generation Olympian gods

**CONSORT:** Persephone (Goddess of Spring and Nature, Queen of Underworld)

**CHILDREN:**

- Plutus (Wealth), Macaria (Blessed Death), Melinoe (Bringer of nightmares)

**SYMBOLS:** Cornucopia, Cypress, Narcissus, Keys, Mint plant, White poplar, Chariot

**SACRED ANIMALS:** Serpent, Dog, Sheep, Screech Owl, Horse

**ROMAN COUNTERPART:** Pluto

**NOWADAYS:** He does not have a day, but the famous Pluto star/planet belongs to him.

**LITTLE INTRODUCTION:**

There are relatively little data of Hades compared to other gods, especially since he was one of the 3 main gods, along with Zeus and Poseidon. That is mainly because people did not want to talk about him for not attiring his attention. He did not even have a proper name - Hades rather refers to the underground itself, its ruler was referred as Plouton ("the Rich one,") as at the end he will have everything and everyone (that sounded more positive, also it was useful since many were afraid to tell even the word Hades). Hades was portrayed as a cold god, not caring much about the Olympus, but he was not portrayed evil either, rather neutral. However, there are stories which told that he was seen as a cunning god - he tricked his wife into staying with him, and when he learned that a Greek prince wanted to kidnap his wife, he pretended to offer him hospitality and set a feast, but as the prince sat down, snakes coiled around his feet and held him there forever. Hades also had a cloak which made him invisible - maybe that inspired the cloak of Death in Harry Potter?



# HEPHAESTUS

GOD  
OF  
FIRE, METALWORKING, AND CRAFTS



**PARENTS:** It was told that Athena was born from Zeus's forehead, fully formed and armored, Hera was so jealous, that she tried herself the same thing, and that's how she gave birth to Hephaestus who she immediately threw from the Olympus once she saw his ugliness

**CONSORT:** Aphrodite

**CHILDREN:**

- Younger Charities: Eucleia (Glory), Euthenia (Prosperity), Eupheme (Praise), Philophrosyne (Kindness) by Aglaea
- Thalia (Nymph of Plant Green and Joy)

**SYMBOLS:** Hammer, Anvil, Tongs, Volcan

**SACRED ANIMALS:** Donkey, Guard dog, Crane

**ROMAN COUNTERPART:** Vulcan

**NOWADAYS:** His Roman name stayed alive in form of every volan on the Earth.

**LITTLE INTRODUCTION:**

After Hera ejected Hephaestus from the heavens, he fell into the ocean and was found and raised by Thetis (mother of Achilles and Goddess of Water). After growing up and becoming the master of metal and crafts, Hephaestus gained revenge against Hera for rejecting him by making her a magical golden throne, which, when she sat on it, did not allow her to stand up. The other gods begged Hephaestus to return to Olympus to let her go, but he refused, saying "I have no mother". At last, Dionysus fetched him, intoxicated him with wine, and took the subdued smith back to Olympus where he became the smith of gods. Not a bad evening out ~ he woke up living again on Olympus, and the bonus was the hand of the goddess of beauty and love! Well played, Hephaestus!





# HERA

QUEEN OF GODS  
GODDESS  
OF

MARRIAGE, WOMEN, CHILDBIRTH, RULERS, AND EMPIRES



PARENTS: Cronus and Rhea, God of Time and his sister,  
who are the parents of first-generation Olympian gods

CONSORT: Zeus

CHILDREN:

- Ares (God of War), Enyo (Goddess of War), Eris (Goddess of discord), Eileithyia (Goddess of Childbirth), Hebe (Goddess of Youth), all fathered by Zeus
- Hephaestus (God of Fire and Metalwork) was born from Hera's forehead, fully formed but also deformed, out of jealousy over the birth of Athena. Once she saw his ugliness, she immediately threw him from the Olympus.

SYMBOLS: Pomegranate, Peacock feather, Diadem, lily, lotus, scepter, throne

SACRED ANIMALS: Peacock, Cow, Cuckoo, Panther, Lion,

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Juno

NOWADAYS: The popular month and female name „June“ wears the Roman form of her name

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Hera was the sister and wife of Zeus, the queen of gods and the first of goddesses, but it did not make her too happy. Mostly she raged in jealousy over Zeus's many affairs and spent a good portion of her time chasing his mistresses and children: she commanded all earths to refuse to give place to the mother of Appollon and Artemis when she was pregnant, she drove Hercules mad and made him murder his family, and she throw the mother of Dionysus into the Underworld. Zeus tried to explain her that he loves her, but he also loves Greece and he wishes to father as many Greek heros as possible, but somehow Hera was not too comprehensive. But that is not too suprising if we consider that she was the protectress of women, marriage and childbirth, frequently punishing offending husbands.





# HERMES

GOD  
OF  
TRAVEL, COMMUNICATION, TRADE, THIEVES,  
LANGUAGE AND WRITING



PARENTS: Zeus and Maia

CONSORT: Peitho (Goddess of Seduction and Persuasion)

CHILDREN: Hermes had many offsprings, the most famous were...

- Pan (God of wilderness), Hermaphroditus ((who merged himself with his love, so was a man and a woman in one)
- Autolycus (successful robber who had the power of metamorphosing both the stolen goods and himself), whose grand-son was Odysseus, greek hero known for his cunning and rethorical skills
- Angelia (Messenger of Gods),

SYMBOLS: Caduceus, Lyre, Petasos (Winged helmet), Talaria (Winged sandals)

SACRED ANIMALS: Tortoise, Rooster

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Mercur

NOWADAYS: Wednesday → „Dies Mercurii“ = „Day of Mercury“ + the name of planet Mercur wears the Roman form of his name

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Hermes was the trickster of gods, cunning without being evil – he liked to make fun of others, but being the god of communication and the deputy of gods, he could easily get along with other gods and humans. It meant also that he was a bit hyperactive, never rested (no wonder he was also the patron of athletes!): right after his birth he made a lyre of the tortoise-shell, and when he got bored with it and hungry, he stole the sacred cows of his brother Appollon, covered his act cleverly and ate two of them to finish his first day. However Appollon found out what happened, but simply couldn't get mad at his small bro, especially when Hermes apologized with big eyes and give him the lyre he made, and what Appollon adored and made his symbol. Since that day Hermes is the god of thieves and those who wander, but also of smart wit – while his sister Athena was the goddess of intelligence, but it was the task of Hermes to assing the intelligence level to each person.



# HESTIA

GODDESS  
OF  
HEARTH, HOME, HOUSE, FAMILY AND CHASTITY



**PARENTS:** Cronus and Rhea, God of Time and his sister,  
who are the parents of first-generation Olympian gods

**CONSORT:** Virgin Goddess

**CHILDREN:**

- The goddess of the home and family never had a family of her own. At one time, Poseidon and the younger god Apollo pursued her, and the competition for her favor threatened to get ugly. But her dedication to peace never allowed Hestia to take part in wars, rivalries, or other disputes. So in order to maintain peace on Olympus, Hestia turned down both rivals and swore to maintain her chastity forever. Zeus rewarded her for this sacrifice by guaranteeing her the honor of receiving the first portion of every public sacrifice.

**SYMBOLS:** Hearth, Fire, Fireplace

**SACRED ANIMALS:** Donkey

**ROMAN COUNTERPART:** Vesta

**NOWADAYS:** The second largest and the brightest asteroid of the asteroid belt is named Vesta

**LITTLE INTRODUCTION:**

The first-born of the six children of Rhea and Cronus, Hestia was the kindest, most virtuous, and most charitable of all the Olympians. It is told that when Dionysus arrived, Hestia sacrificed her Olympian status to allow the young god join the main Olympian twelve. As goddess of the hearth and fire, the symbolic center of home, Hestia watched over the private and public home of humans - some storytellers assert that Hestia invented the art of building houses, and like this she protected the civic affairs of the communal family. Since basically every home and the public hearth of every city was hers, Hestia had few shrines built to honor her in the ancient Greek, but in the ancient Rome, the cult of Vesta was a reputed group of virgins living together in a small community quietly and guarding the flame of Vesta.





# NIKE

GODDESS  
OF  
STRENGTH, SPEED, AND VICTORY



PARENTS: Pallas and Styx

CONSORT: Virgin Goddess

CHILDREN:

- She does not have any children since she was too busy flying around the battlefields with the raging Greeks.

SYMBOLS: Golden sandals, Wings, Wreaths

SACRED ANIMALS: Eagle

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Victoria

NOWADAYS: Both the Roman and Greek name of the goddess still lingers around us, as one of the most famous girl names and one of the most famous sport brands.

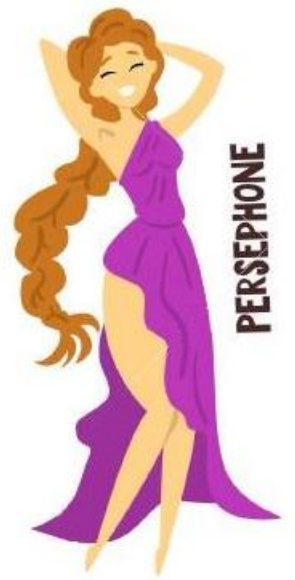
LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Nike and her siblings were close companions of Zeus, the dominant deity of the Greek pantheon. According to classical (later) myth, Styx brought them to Zeus when the god was assembling allies for the Titanomachy against the older deities. Nike flew around battlefields rewarding the victors with glory and fame, symbolized by a wreath of laurel leaves (bay leaves). Nike was also a very close acquaintance of Athena, as this latest was the goddess of war strategy, representing that mastery and strategy wins over the chaos and bloodshed of Ares.



# PERSEPHONE

GODDESS  
OF  
SPRING  
AND QUEEN OF THE UNDERWORLD



PARENTS: Zeus and Demeter

CONSORT: Hades

CHILDREN:

- Melinoë (Bringer of nightmares)

SYMBOLS: Pomegranate, Seeds of Grain, Torch, Flowers

SACRED ANIMALS: Deer

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Proserpina

NOWADAYS: Persephone today represents the mysterious woman, and the name is still used – just think of Matrix!

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Persephone was often called „The Maiden” when she was still the Goddess of Spring, representing the age of youth in a woman's life. But Hades, the God of Underworld fell in love with her, abduct her and tricked her to be his wife by offering her a seed of pomegranate to eat. Her mother Demeter went on quest to find her daughter and finally made a deal with Hades and Zeus to allow Persephone spending half of the year in the underworld, in exchange to spend the other half of it with her mother on the earth. Tough Persephone was abducted, but she eventually learned to accept her husband (some myths suggest that she ate the seed willingly) – it shows that when she found out that the nymph Minthe, associated with the river Cocytus, loved by Hades, the jealous Persephone turned her into the mint plant (though Hades kept on wearing mint leaf to annoy his wife). In fact, the story of Hades and Persephone is the first form of the story of the Beauty and the Beast. Even as the Queen of Underworld, she remained a gentle character – she was the one who let back Eurydice back to life when her husband Orpheus came down to the Underworld to beg for her life with his sweet music.





# POSEIDON

GOD  
OF  
SEA, RIVERS, FLOODS, DROUGHTS, AND  
EARTHQUAKES



**PARENTS:** Cronus and Rhea, God of Time and his sister, who are the parents of first-generation Olympian gods

**CONSORT:** Amphitrite (Goddess of Sea)

**CHILDREN:** Poseidon had countless affairs and offspring, the most famous are...

- Theseus (Greek hero), Triton (God of Sea), Polyphemus (Cyclops), Orion (Giant hunter), Atlas (the first king of Atlantis), Pegasus (Horse with wings)

**SYMBOLS:** Trident

**SACRED ANIMALS:** Horse, Bull, Dolphin, Fish

**ROMAN COUNTERPART:** Neptune

**NOWADAYS:** He does not have day, but the planet Neptunus was named after him (and he has a lot to do with Little Mermaid and Aquaman too!)

**LITTLE INTRODUCTION:**

Poseidon was one of the main 3 gods along with his brothers Zeus and Hades, the most dominant after Zeus and very sensitive about his second position. He was told to be a quickly angered and sassy god – no wonder that Zeus preferred him having under-water, where he could amuse himself with sending earthquakes and storms on those who did not respect him. He constantly tried to expand his power over the cities on the land: he contested for Argos with Hera, for Corinth with Helios and for Athen with Athena, but he lost all 3 disputes, so remained the patronage of various islands and seaports. However, his greedy nature had the good side of being very protective also with all of his children – for example he chased Odysseus for 10 years after the hero blinded his Cyclops son.



# ZEUS

KING OF THE GODS, RULER OF MOUNT OLYMPUS  
GOD  
OF  
SKY, WEATHER, THUNDER, LIGHTNING, LAW AND JUSTICE



PARENTS: Cronus and Rhea, God of Time and his sister,  
who are the parents of first-generation Olympian gods

CONSORT: Hera

CHILDREN: Zeus fell in love easily and he tried to father as many children as possible, since his love for Greece made him want to populate it with many great heroes and gods, and he was quite successful. His most famous children are...

- Gods: Aphrodite (Love), Apollo (Arts and Music), Ares (War), Artemis (Hunt), Athena (Wisdom), Dionysus (Wine), Eileithyia (Childbirth), Enyo (War), Eris (Discord), Hebe (Youth), Helen of Troy, Heracles, Hermes (Language), Persephone (Spring), the Muses and the Moirai (3 goddesses of Faith)
- Mortals: King Minos, Hero Perseus, Hero Heracles, Helen of Troy

SYMBOLS: Thunderbolt, Oak

SACRED ANIMALS: Eagle, Bull

ROMAN COUNTERPART: Jupiter

NOWADAYS: Thursday → „Dies Iovis“ = „Day of Jupiter“ + also the planet Jupiter, the biggest planet, belongs to Zeus

LITTLE INTRODUCTION:

Zeus was the first of the Olympian gods and became their king after killing Cronus, his and Olympian twelve's father who ate his children, and released all his sisters and brothers. Together they beath the ancient gods, the Titans and moved to the Mount Olympus to watch over the humans. Zeus ruled over them with justice, but he was an incorrigible Don Juan, seducing women however he could (Leda as a swann, Hera as a cuckoo, Europe as a bull) what was a constant source of conflict with his wife Hera, whose rage was the only thing Zeus feared. But beside the endless troubles, Zeus's children shaped the Greek mythology and therefore at least it ws not a ,much ado about nothing'!