

# TBSRJMUN XXI

Junior Olympian  
Divine Senate



TBSRJMUN XXI

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## LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear Delegates,

As chairs of the Olympian Divine Senate, we feel immensely honoured to welcome you to this edition of the TBSRJMUN. The chairs' main aim for this conference is to create a welcoming and encouraging learning environment, where delegates can flourish their debating, critical thinking, writing, and oratory skills. Our committee represents the Olympian Divine Senate; a fictitious body that tackles conflicts involving the Olympic Gods. Considering this might be your first time partaking in a Special Committee, we made sure to outline the main procedures for this committee thoroughly throughout this Study Guide and GC material so that any uncertainties are addressed. It is important to highlight that we encourage you to use this guide as a starting point for your research, but also advise you to engage in further study to become more knowledgeable about your position within our committee.

Your primary goal as delegates is to produce a resolution that will outline what the consequences should be for Jason's and Prometheus's actions, whilst also keeping in mind that it is crucial to prevent the outbreak of war in the human world. Delegates are to figure out a way to provide peace for the Divine and Mortal realm whilst also staying true to their delegations. Moreover, remember we are here to guide and assist you in anything you need so do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We cannot wait to meet all of you!

Sincerely,

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THE OLYMPIAN DIVINE SENATE | TBSRJMUN XXI

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## Committee Description

***Disclaimer:*** *It is important to note that Greek mythology has different versions due to its origins in oral tradition, regional differences, and multiple authors contributing their interpretations. For the aforementioned reasons, the version of the myths included in this study guide should be taken as veracious.*

The Olympian Divine Senate is a fictitious body that tackles any form of conflict involving the Olympic Gods. Olympus, in Greek mythology, is the dwelling place of the twelve major gods, also known as the Olympians. In this committee, delegates will represent divine beings and defend their beliefs on what shall be the repercussions for the actions of Jason and Prometheus. Their main aim in the committee will be to formulate a resolution that will outline the consequences for the transgressions committed whilst also preventing the outbreak of war in the human world.

# Procedural Changes

As this is a special committee, there are a few procedural changes that are explained below:

## 1. Personal pronouns:

Unlike most general assembly committees, the delegates of the Olympian Divine Senate will be allowed to use personal pronouns such as "I" and "you" as well as character names when referring to themselves and their fellow delegates, acknowledging the fact that they represent individuals instead of states.

For example:

- "I, **Zeus**, believe that it is within **my** right to punish **Prometheus** for **his** violation of Divine Authority."
- "Do **you** agree that **Jason's** action should be punished as a theft?"

## 2. Special abilities:

In order to increase the stakes and dynamics of the debate, some delegations will be granted specific powers:

### ❖ God of Sky:

Grants Zeus the ability to flip the votes during the voting procedure for an amendment.

### ❖ God of the Seas and Waters:

Grants Poseidon the ability to vote twice for a final resolution during voting procedure.

### ❖ God of the Underworld:

Grants Hades the ability to vote twice for an amendment.

### ❖ Goddess of Love and Beauty:

Grants Aphrodite the ability to impede one divine being from voting (for either an amendment or a final resolution). Zeus is immune to this

special ability.

❖ **God of the Sun and Light:**

Grants Apollo the ability to impede Zeus from voting (for either an amendment or a final resolution).



Bronze 'Jason & Golden Fleece'

[TrendFirst](#)

## Topic A

### Discussing the consequences for Jason's theft of the Golden Fleece

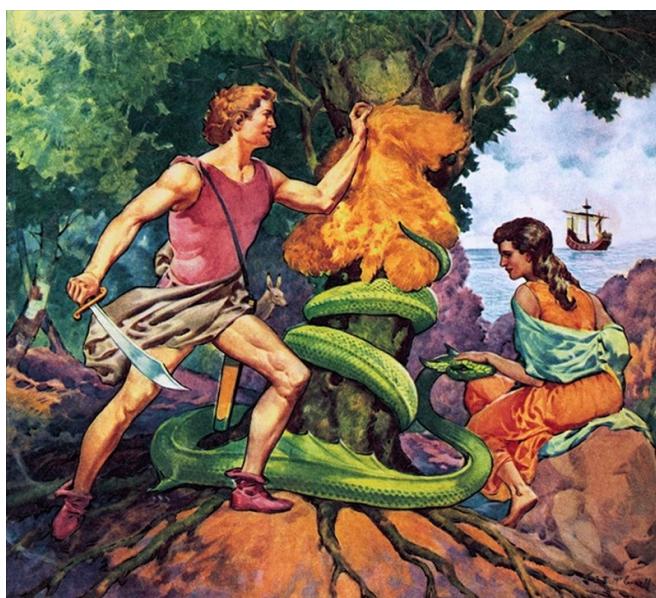
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# Background Information

## Introduction

The myth of Jason and the Golden Fleece is one of the most enduring stories in Greek Mythology. It is a story of heroism, adventure, and the pursuit of power. It is a quite complex story involving many characters and therefore, to understand it, it is important to delve into its main characters and settings.

The myth is set in the Kingdom of Iolcus, ruled by King Pelias. Pelias seized the throne from Jason's father, Aeson, and lived in fear of a prophecy that a man wearing one sandal would overthrow him. This prophecy sets the stage for Jason's quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece and reclaim his rightful place as king. Strangely, King Pelias is the one who sends him on this "impossible mission", as he believed Jason would not be successful and most likely perish during it. To fulfil his destiny, left on by his father, Jason assembles a group of 50 heroes known as the Argonauts. They embark on a perilous journey to the distant land of Colchis, where the Golden Fleece is guarded by King Aeëtes. The quest involves navigating treacherous waters, encountering mythical creatures, and overcoming various challenges. The Golden Fleece itself holds immense symbolic value. It is the woollen coat of a divine golden ram, which rescued Phrixus and Helle, the children of King Athamas, from a sacrificial offering. The ram, a gift from the gods, represents authority and kingship. Thus, retrieving the fleece becomes a quest for power and legitimacy for Jason.



Painting depicting Jason after the Golden Fleece.

[James McConnell](#)

King Aeëtes is the ruler of Colchis, the kingdom where the Golden Fleece is located. Aeëtes is a formidable and powerful figure, known for his expertise in magic and sorcery. He guards the fleece zealously, recognizing its significance and the threat posed by Jason's quest. One of the most crucial characters in the story is the daughter of King Aeëtes, Medea. Medea falls in love with Jason and uses her knowledge of magic to aid him in succeeding in his quest. She provides Jason with a magical ointment to protect him from harm and helps him overcome the challenges set by her own father. The consequences of Jason's theft of the Golden Fleece reverberate throughout the story. Medea's actions, driven by her love for Jason, lead to the betrayal of her own family and the killing and harm of innocent people. Medea dismembers her brother to bring aid to Jason's retrieval of the golden fleece. The theft also incites the rage of King Aeëtes, who pursues Jason and the Argonauts. After successfully obtaining the Golden Fleece, Jason and the Argonauts return to Iolcus. However, the consequences of their actions are not limited to the realm of Colchis. The stolen fleece disrupts the political landscape of Iolcus, leading to power struggles, revenge, and ultimately, the downfall of Jason and his family as Iolcus's people did not want Medea as their queen and had to leave. Therefore rescued the golden fleece for no thrown, which became Pelius' son, Acastus



'Jason with the Golden Fleece' by Bertel Thorvaldsen (1803)

[Wikipedia](#)

The consequences of Jason's theft of the Golden Fleece are far-reaching and shape the trajectory of the myth. The quest for power, the challenges faced, the betrayal of loved ones, and the tragic outcomes all stem from the initial act of taking the coveted fleece. Understanding the background of the myth and the characters involved enriches our understanding of the profound consequences that unfold throughout the story.

## Current Situation

Following the theft, Jason and the Argonauts embarked on a treacherous journey to return, facing new challenges and adversaries. The gods, angered by their audacity, unleashed storms and unleashed the fury of the seas upon the Argonauts. However, their resourcefulness and divine protection enabled them to overcome these obstacles, albeit with great difficulty.

Meanwhile, news of the theft spread across the realms, reaching the ears of King Pelias, who had sent Jason on the quest in the first place, hoping for his death. Learning of Jason's success, Pelias was consumed by envy and fear. Aware of the powerful allure of the Golden Fleece, he grew determined to possess it for himself, setting in motion a chain of events that would lead to tragedy.



Cartoon depicting Jason and King Pelias

Image by [Nick Hayes](#)

In addition, as word of Jason's theft spread, tensions grew among various factions and kingdoms. Many saw the Golden Fleece as a coveted prize, capable of granting immense power and prosperity. As rulers and explorers competed for ownership of the legendary artefact, this consequently sparked a surge of disputes and power struggles. Subsequently, the gods cast a number of curses and bad luck upon individuals who ventured to own the Golden Fleece because they were offended by the arrogance of other people to steal such a sacred item. Those who came into contact with the legendary artefact were under the shadow of these divine retributions, which brought disaster and despair.

The current situation surrounding the Golden Fleece is one of turmoil, as various factions vie for its possession and face the dire consequences of their ambitions.

# Major Bloc Positions

## Zeus

Zeus was involved in the prophecy that foretold the fate of Jason and the conquest of the Golden Fleece. It was predicted that a descendant of Aeolus, which would be Jason, would one day reclaim the throne of Iolcus from Pelias. This prophecy set in motion the events which Jason followed with retrieving the Golden Fleece. Throughout Jason's journey, the Argonauts received help and guidance from various gods, including Zeus. As the father of the gods, he was supportive of their quest. Note that while Zeus played a role in the larger context of the story, the main focus is on the mortal characters, particularly Jason, Medea, and the other Argonauts.

## Hercules

Hercules joined the Argonauts for a portion of their journey, contributing his immense strength to retrieving the fleece. His presence added considerable power and prowess to the crew, aiding them in their encounters. For example, during the Argonauts' journey, they encountered the Harpies, mythical creatures with the bodies of birds and the faces of women. The Harpies tormented Phineas, a seer, by stealing his food whenever he tried to eat. Hercules was the one to drive the Harpies away.

## Hermes

Hermes, as a God associated with travel, guidance and known as the mediator between Gods and mortals, assisted the Argonauts during their journey. While not a main character, he contributed to their safe navigation and provided guidance in moments of uncertainty, as a mediator and guide. In addition, Hermes was Jason's maternal great grandfather.

## Aeolus

An ancestor of Jason, Aeolus, the son of Hippotes, was the ruler of the winds encountered by Odysseus in Homer's Odyssey. Aeolus' control over the winds played a role in aiding the Argonauts throughout their sea voyage with the wind, which was a critical part of their almost impossible quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece.

## Hera

Hera, the queen of the gods and protector of heroes, played a pivotal role in Jason's quest for the Golden Fleece. Favouring Jason due to his lineage, she provided divine support, guidance, and intervention throughout the perilous journey. Hera's involvement highlights the influence of gods in mortal affairs and emphasises the

divine aspect of the story. Her actions were not without purpose, as she had her own motivations for assisting Jason. By aligning with him, Hera sought to assert her power in the pantheon and achieve certain objectives. Her character adds a supernatural dimension to the narrative, showcasing the intricate relationship between mortals and gods and the extent of divine interference in the lives of heroes.

## Timeline of Events

<b>Gathering of the Argonauts</b>	Jason assembles the Argonauts, a group of heroes and adventurers, including Heracles, Theseus, and Orpheus, among others, to join him on the quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece.
<b>Departure from Iolcus</b>	Jason and the Argonauts set sail on the ship (Argo) from Iolcus, beginning their journey to Colchis.
<b>Clashing Rocks</b>	The Argonauts encounter the Symplegades, also known as the clashing rocks, which constantly move and crash together. Through the guidance of Athena, they successfully navigate through the rocks, narrowly escaping disaster.
<b>Defeating the Harpies</b>	The Argonauts reach Thrace and encounter the blind prophet Phineus, tormented by the Harpies. The heroes help Phineus by driving away the Harpies, and in gratitude, he provides them with important information for their quest.
<b>Landing in Colchis</b>	The Argo finally arrives in Colchis, and Jason presents himself before King Aeetes, requesting the Golden Fleece. Aeetes agrees to give it to Jason but sets him a series of impossible tasks to complete as a condition.
<b>Yoking the Fire-Breathing Bulls:</b>	Jason is tasked with yoking the fearsome fire-breathing bulls, which are sacred to Ares. With the help of Medea, the daughter of Aeetes and a powerful sorceress, Jason receives a protective ointment to withstand the bulls' flames and successfully completes the task.
<b>Sowing the Dragon's</b>	Aeetes demands that Jason sow the dragon's teeth in a field,

<b>Teeth</b>	which then sprout into fully armed men known as the Spartoi. Medea advises Jason to throw a stone into the midst of the Spartoi, causing confusion among them. The Argonauts defeat Spartoi, and Jason passes the trial, winning the Golden Fleece.
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## Definition of Key Terms

### ❖ **Harpies**

Winged female creatures with the faces of women and bodies of birds, the Harpies were encountered by the Argonauts on their way to Colchis. They were repelled by the music of Orpheus.

### ❖ **Golden Fleece**

A legendary artefact in Greek mythology, the Golden Fleece was the fleece of a winged ram. It possessed great power and was sought after by Jason and his crew.

### ❖ **Argonauts**

A group of heroes who accompanied Jason on his quest, the Argonauts were skilled warriors and adventurers.

### ❖ **Argo**

The ship used by Jason and the Argonauts on their journey to retrieve the Golden Fleece. It was named after its builder, Argus.

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## Guiding Questions

- ❖ What actions should the Gods take in response to the Fleece's theft?"
- ❖ What impact should Jason's theft of the Golden Fleece have on his reputation and future adventures?
- ❖ How does the myth of Jason and the Golden Fleece reflect larger themes or lessons in Greek mythology?
- ❖ How can contradicting opinions of the Gods help bring to light biases and wrong judgements?
- ❖ Should Medea be punished for dismembering her brother?
- ❖ Should Jason be king with Medea as queen, even against people's wishes, as he did complete his mission?

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*Prometheus holding the Divine Secret of Fire*

[Mitos e Lendas](#)

## Topic B

# Tackling the Repercussions for Prometheus' Defiance of the Olympus Gods

# Background Information

Greek mythology explains that humans obtained the gift of fire because Prometheus, the son of the Titan Lapetus and the Oceanid Clymene, stole the divine secret of fire from the hearth of the Olympus and gifted it to humanity. Before such gift, humans were merely primitive and the knowledge they possessed was incomparable to the wisdom the Gods had. However, fire is a symbol of resourcefulness and advancement, so Prometheus's gift enabled mankind to progress significantly in areas such as technology, safety and agriculture. Although it is evident that Prometheus's action was greatly beneficial for humanity, it was still a grave transgression of the divine order and infuriated several Olympic Gods, including Zeus. The question of whether Prometheus's defiance of divine authority should be seen as brave or as insolent is up to you and will determine the repercussions he will face for his actions.

## Titanomachy

The Titanomachy was a substantial conflict that occurred during primordial times, between the Titans and the Olympian gods. The Titans, who were led by Cronus, ruled Cosmos before their reign was challenged by Zeus, Cronus's sixth child. The battle lasted 10 years and the Olympic Gods were victorious, becoming the new rulers of Cosmos and consolidating a rivalry between the Titans and the Gods. After their defeat, the Titans were imprisoned in Tartarus.



Painting by Francisco Bayeu y Subias - Olympus: Battle with the Giants

[Museo del Prado.](#)

### Prometheus's Plan:

Prometheus was well known for his resourcefulness, wit and intelligence. He was also very compassionate towards the human race, who were newly created, and at the time living in harsh conditions and struggling to survive due to their limited access to basic resources. His belief that humanity had potential to rise upon their primitive state and that they deserved the wisdom and benefits fire would provide motivated him to steal the divine secret of fire and bestow it upon mankind.

The Titan first came up with his scheme when he saw the divine beings utilising fire for several purposes, such as forging weapons, cooking and producing art. He saw that fire could be used for various purposes and believed humanity would benefit immensely from the resource.

Furthermore, he knew stealing the Divine Secret of Fire from Mount Olympus was a perilous task and that he had to be cautious to avoid Zeus's wrath. He proceeded in making his way up to Mount Olympus so that he could enter the forge of Hephaestus, the God of Blacksmiths and Craftsmen. There, he encountered the ever-burning flame, a long-kept secret by the Olympians and resource utilised by Hephaestus to forge artefacts and weapons. He was able to steal a glowing ember from the divine flames, which would be sufficient for him to follow through with his plan and gift humanity with fire.

So that Prometheus would not be seen by Hephaestus of any of the other Olympic Gods, he hid behind large urns throughout the process. To preserve the flame until he arrived in the Mortal Realm, he concealed the fire within a hollow fennel stalk. He was capable of going unnoticed by the Olympians and descending to the Mortal World, bestowing the gift of fire upon humanity.

Prometheus was delighted to gift humanity with the Divine Secret of Fire. He taught mankind to utilise fire for various purposes such as cooking, warmth, protection and farming. Because of his gift, humanity progressed significantly and ever since, fire has become a symbol of pursuit for knowledge and advancement.

# Current Situation

## **Humanity:**

Prometheus's gift of fire to humanity marked a turning point in human history. Before the gift, mortals were living in harsh conditions and were merely primitive as the knowledge and understanding of the world they possessed was incomparable to the Gods'. Prometheus had empathy for the Mortal realm and helped them significantly by bestowing fire upon them. After his gift, humanity advanced in numerous manners and fire became a symbol of pursuit for knowledge and progress.

One way the gift of fire helped humanity progress was by allowing them to cook their food. Previously, mortals were dying frequently from the bacteria and pathogens present in their food. This issue improved considerably as after they had fire, these harmful molecules were killed by the heat. Moreover, humans had a greater life expectancy and starvation rates decreased immensely. Also, men utilised fire to forge weaponry and as a form of defence mechanism against hostile forces, increasing their security significantly. Furthermore, the discovery of fire also sparked interest and curiosity in learning how to handle the fire and potentially utilising it for art and technology. It is evident that Prometheus's gift allowed the Mortal Realm to progress in numerous aspects and marked the beginning of a new chapter for mankind.

## **Mount Olympus**

The general reaction to Prometheus's violation of Divine Authority amongst the Gods was that they were infuriated by his actions and demanded that he should be held accountable. Considering that fire was a Divine element and represented the power the Gods held over people, sharing the Divine secret of fire with humanity elevates mankind to a level closer to the Gods and undermines the Olympians' superiority.

Zeus, the King, leader, of the Gods was especially angered by Prometheus's action as he believed what the Titan had done was a direct provocation to his authority and breach of Divine order. Zeus was seen as an authoritarian ruler. The Gods believed that Prometheus's act of stealing fire from them and giving it to humans was not just a momentary impulse, but a deliberate act of rebellion against the rule of Zeus.

## War

Despite the Olympians' negative reaction to Prometheus's action, it is crucial to note that punishing him harshly or taking away the gift of fire from humanity will lead to social calamity in the Mortal Realm, which also directly affects the Divine Realm. Additionally, the Divine Beings present in this committee are to come to a resolution that tackles the issue sensibly, keeping in mind that it is in everyone's best interest to avoid war and conflict in the human world.

# Major Bloc Positions

## Zeus

Zeus sees Prometheus' actions as appalling and audacious, and wishes to impose strong and cruel punishment for such disgraceful actions. To Zeus, fire is a divine gift that should be held only by the gods of the Olympus, and one that represents power and knowledge, thus he believes that it should not be given to humans. When Prometheus granted fire to humanity, he not only went against Zeus' orders and challenged his authority, but also gave humanity access to more power that they could use to defy the divine hierarchy and rise against the gods. This sudden change in dynamics between the gods and humanity is deemed by Zeus as extremely dangerous for his kind; consequently, he wishes to give Prometheus a harsh penalty not only to punish him, but also to warn those who think about defying his authority not to do so.

## Poseidon

Similarly to Zeus, Poseidon holds the opinion that Prometheus should be punished severely for his acts against the Olympians. As one of the gods who supports and upkeeps divine order and separation between the gods and the mortals, Poseidon also sees Prometheus' actions of giving fire - a sacred symbol of the gods' power and knowledge - to humanity as daring and rebellious against them, and as a threat to the natural hierarchy between mankind and the Olympus. Therefore, Poseidon supports his brother's position to harshly punish Prometheus in order to prevent people from conducting similar acts of rebellion against the gods' rule in the future.

## Hades

Hades has an opposing view to his two brothers' when it comes to Prometheus. Hades has a history of going against Zeus after he banished Hades from Mount Olympus and appointed him as lord of the underworld; consequently, Hades goes against Zeus' position and sees Prometheus actions with fire as having little to no

significance to the rule of the gods over humanity, and therefore he should not face any consequences for it. Moreover, he thinks that giving humans access to fire will be good for humanity, and that Olympus simply feels threatened and fearful about humans gaining more power and autonomy from them even though, according to him, humanity would have no chances of overthrowing divine rule on the earth.

### **Aphrodite**

As the goddess of love, beauty and desire, Aphrodite does not hold a particular stance on the issue surrounding Prometheus as it does not directly affect any of her focuses, typically geared towards love and relationships, unlike the former three gods discussed who have much stronger interests on the hierarchy between gods and humans. She believes that Prometheus actions against the Olympus were not as serious and threatening as Zeus and Poseidon claim it to be, but that a decision should be made on how to deal with future rebellions against their rule in order to prevent humans from defying the divine rule of the gods on earth.

### **Apollo**

As the god of the Sun and light, Apollo sees Prometheus' actions as severe and problematic, as he gave humans access to resources and knowledge that was originally gifted to Mount Olympus, and that Prometheus giving such gifts to humans was an act of betrayal against the gods as he did so without consulting or even warning anyone about what he ended up doing. That being said, he does not wish to punish Prometheus harshly because ,in his perspective, a harsh penalty could leave humans disturbed with Olympus, as they would likely side with the man who gave them fire, which could in turn lead to trouble and possibly even war in the future, especially considering the technological advancements humanity had thanks to their newfound knowledge about fire.

## Timeline of Events

<b>Titans ruled Cosmos</b>	Before the Titanomachy, the Titans were the powerful rulers of Cosmos and had influence over all other beings, including Gods.
<b>Titanomachy</b>	The Titanomachy is a conflict that took place during primordial times between the Titans and the Gods. The Gods came out victorious and became the rulers of Cosmos.
<b>Prometheus observed human struggles</b>	Prometheus observed that the newly created humanity was struggling to survive due to their limited knowledge and access to resources.
<b>Prometheus devised his plan</b>	Prometheus devised a plan to steal the divine secret of fire from the hearth of the Olympus and bestow it upon mankind.
<b>Prometheus stole fire from Mount Olympus</b>	Hiding behind large urns, Prometheus was able to make his way to the forge of Hephaestus and steal the divine secret of fire.
<b>Prometheus brought fire to humanity</b>	Prometheus bestowed fire upon humanity by giving mankind the divine secret of fire.
<b>Humans advanced significantly</b>	Now that humanity had fire they were able to progress in numerous areas, such as technology, agriculture, society, and security.
<b>Olympic Gods became unhappy</b>	Despite improvements in humanity, numerous Gods were infuriated by Prometheus' behaviour as he violated divine authority.

# Definition of Key Terms

## ❖ **Titan**

Any of the children of Uranus (Heaven) and Gaea (Earth) and their descendants. Different from an Olympic God.

## ❖ **Divine Being**

Possess power that mortals do not. Refers to Gods, Titans, Monsters and other Mythical Creatures.

## ❖ **Divine Authority/Order**

Zeus's set of rules that should be followed in Mount Olympus.

## ❖ **Titanomachy**

War between Titans and Gods. Gods won and now rule Cosmos.

## ❖ **Cosmos**

The Universe.

## ❖ **Divine Secret of Fire**

An ever-lasting flame. Long-kept secret of the Olympians.

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## Guiding Questions

- ❖ What was Prometheus's motive behind stealing the Divine Secret of Fire?
- ❖ What are your delegation's thoughts on the struggles humanity faced before Prometheus's gift?
- ❖ Should Prometheus be punished for his theft? If so, how?
- ❖ How will your delegation ensure that peace prevails in the Divine and Mortal realm?
- ❖ How does humanity's advancement impact the Divine Realm?
- ❖ Why is the Divine Secret of Fire important to your delegation?

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