

CLAS100

LECTURE 12

October 14, 2015

The Greek and Roman Gods

- They were Polytheistic (believed in many deities or Gods)
- Their Gods were Anthropomorphic(given the form of a human) rather than theriomorphic(form of an animal)
- they were also non-canonical(as in not from scripture)
- Many formal praising of the Gods: rites, festivals, hymns, temples
- And just like most common religions they had Olympian Gods(or the Gods in the sky) and the Chthonic Gods(Gods of the underworld)

Zeus or Roman Jupiter

- Son of Rhea and Kronos
- Originally a sky-god associated with lightning, and rain(commonly depicted as such in pop-culture)
- He was the ruler of Olympus (king of all the Gods)
- Upholds laws, defends justice, oaths and such among the mortals
- Was a big womanizer

Hera or Roman Juno

- The wife and sister of Zeus
- Supports the sanctity of weddings and marriage(kind of ironic given Zeus is the biggest adulterer out there)
- Has the desire for revenge(vindictive)
- She had some of the earliest temples dedicated to her
- Juno is also associated with the moon

Aphrodite or Roman Venus

- The Goddess of love and sexuality
- linked to the islands of Cythera and Cyprus
- Frequently called golden
- Flower-garlands, sweet fragrances and the Graces(minor goddesses of charm, beauty and such) accompany her

Athena or Roman Minerva

- Daughter of Zeus alone
- Masculine in stature
- The patron goddess of Athens
- Goddess of war, craftsmanship and social arts
- Bears the Aegis, helmet and spear

Artemis or Roman Diana

- Daughter of Zeus and Leto
- The virgin Huntress ("the mistress of animals)
- Youthful, shown carrying a bow and a quiver, often accompanied by a stag or doe

Apollo

- Brother of Artemis
- Young God, representing ideal youth and symmetry(Very handsome)
- God of the Oracle. Patron of music, law, medicine, poetry
- Apollo linked to the sun

Poseidon or Roman Neptune

- Brother of Zeus
- Ruler of the Sea
- Married to Amphitrite

- Associated with earth-quakes
- Horse is his favourite animal
- Serious, Powerful

Hermes or Roman Mercury

- Son of Zeus
- The messenger of the gods
- Patron of thieves and travelers
- He is the Psychopomp(the one who guides souls to the afterlife)
- Invented the Lyre(looks like a small harp) from a tortoise shell

Hephaestus or Roman Vulcan

- God of the forge
- Associated with fire, and is the blacksmith for the gods
- Patron of craftsmen
- married Aphrodite
- He is a cripple and an outsider on Olympus
- Witty and smart

Ares or Roman Mars

- The God of War
- More prominent in Roman times

Demeter or Roman Ceres

- Sister of Zeus
- A goddess of fertility with some qualities of a chthonic deity
- Mother of Persephone

Dionysos or Roman Bacchus

- God of Ecstasy or life

- Linked to wine
- Possesses his worshipers
- His cult appears irrational and emotional

Hades or Roman Pluto

- The brother of Zeus
- God of the underworld
- Married Persephone