**Origin**

Ares (/ˈɛəriːz/; Ancient Greek: Ἄρης, Árēs [árɛːs]) is the Greek god of courage and war. He is one of the Twelve Olympians, and the son of Zeus and Hera. In Greek literature, he often represents the physical or violent and untamed aspect of war and is the personification of sheer brutality and bloodlust, in contrast to his sister, the armored Athena, whose functions as a goddess of intelligence include military strategy and generalship.

The Greeks were ambivalent toward Ares: although he embodied the physical valor necessary for success in war, he was a dangerous force, "overwhelming, insatiable in battle, destructive, and man-slaughtering."His sons Phobos (Fear) and Deimos (Terror) and his lover, or sister, Eris (Discord) accompanied him on his war chariot. In the Iliad, his father Zeus tells him that he is the god most hateful to him. An association with Ares endows places and objects with a savage, dangerous, or militarized quality. His value as a war god is placed in doubt: during the Trojan War, Ares was on the losing side, while Athena, often depicted in Greek art as holding Nike (Victory) in her hand, favoured the triumphant Greeks.

Ares plays a relatively limited role in Greek mythology as represented in literary narratives, though his numerous love affairs and abundant offspring are often alluded to. When Ares does appear in myths, he typically faces humiliation. He is well known as the lover of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, who was married to Hephaestus, god of craftsmanship.

The counterpart of Ares among the Roman gods is Mars, who as a father of the Roman people was given a more important and dignified place in ancient Roman religion as a guardian deity. During the Hellenization of Latin literature, the myths of Ares were reinterpreted by Roman writers under the name of Mars. Greek writers under Roman rule also recorded cult practices and beliefs pertaining to Mars under the name of Ares. Thus in the classical tradition of later Western art and literature, the mythology of the two figures later became virtually indistinguishable.

**Names**

The etymology of the name Ares is traditionally connected with the Greek word ἀρή (arē), the Ionic form of the Doric ἀρά (ara), "bane, ruin, curse, imprecation". Walter Burkert notes that "Ares is apparently an ancient abstract noun meaning throng of battle, war." R. S. P. Beekes has suggested a Pre-Greek origin of the name. The earliest attested form of the name is the Mycenaean Greek, a-re, written in the Linear B syllabic script.

The adjectival epithet, Areios, was frequently appended to the names of other gods when they took on a warrior aspect or became involved in warfare: Zeus Areios, Athena Areia, even Aphrodite Areia. In the Iliad, the word ares is used as a common noun synonymous with "battle." Inscriptions as early as Mycenaean times, and continuing into the Classical period, attest to Enyalios as another name for the god of war.

**Cults and ritual**

Although Ares received occasional sacrifice from armies going to war, the god had a formal temple and cult at only a few sites. At Sparta, however, each company of youths sacrificed a puppy to Enyalios before engaging in ritual fighting at the Phoebaeum. The chthonic night-time sacrifice of a dog to Enyalios became assimilated to the cult of Ares.

Just east of Sparta stood an archaic statue of Ares in chains, to show that the spirit of war and victory was to be kept in the city. At Olympia there was an altar of Ares.

The Temple of Ares in the agora of Athens, which Pausanias saw in the second century AD, had been moved and rededicated there during the time of Augustus. Essentially, it was a Roman temple to the Augustan Mars Ultor. From archaic times, the Areopagus, the "mount of Ares" at some distance from the Acropolis, was a site of trials. Paul the Apostle later preached about Christianity there. Its connection with Ares, perhaps based on a false etymology, is etiological myth. A second temple to Ares has been located at the archaeological site of Metropolis in what is now Western Turkey.

**Children**

The union of Ares and Aphrodite created the gods Eros, Anteros, Phobos, Deimos, and Harmonia. Other versions include Alcippe as one of his daughters.

Upon one occasion, Ares incurred the anger of Poseidon by slaying his son, Halirrhothius, because he had raped Alcippe, a daughter of the war-god. For this deed, Poseidon summoned Ares to appear before the tribunal of the Olympic gods, which was held upon a hill in Athens. Ares was acquitted. This event is supposed to have given rise to the name Areopagus (or Hill of Ares), which afterward became famous as the site of a court of justice.

Accounts tell of Cycnus (Κύκνος) of Macedonia, a son of Ares who was so murderous that he tried to build a temple with the skulls and the bones of travellers. Heracles slaughtered this abominable monstrosity, engendering the wrath of Ares, whom the hero wounded in conflict.

**Mythology**

## BIRTH OF ARES

In Greek mythology, Ares is the eldest and the only son of *Zeus, the King of the Gods*; and his *sister-wife Hera*. He is usually considered to have been born *naturally* as a result of union between his father and mother. However, there is another myth according to which Hera had Ares *without the help of Zeus* by using a *magical herb*. When Zeus had a daughter without a mother, Hera was enraged and wanted to have a son without a father. *Khloris*, the*goddess of flowers* and a *nymph*, made Hera *touch a magic flower*. This magic flower made her pregnant and resulted in the birth of Ares.

Ares is one of the *12 Olympian Gods* who resided *atop Mount Olympus*. The Olympians managed to become the supreme deities after a *10 year long struggle* known as *Titanomachy*. In this struggle, *Zeus,* the father of Ares, led his siblings to *victory*over the *Titans*who were the ruling deities at the time. Although there are a number of immortal residents at Mount Olympus, o*nly 12 of them are considered the most important ones*.

## ARES AND APHRODITE

Aphrodite was the *Olympian goddess* of *love, beauty, pleasure, passion* and *procreation*. In Greek mythology, she was married to *Hephaestus*, the god of*blacksmiths* and *metalworking*. Despite this fact, Aphrodite was unfaithful to him and got involved in an affair with *Ares*. Hephaestus spent every night in his workshop. Aphrodite and Ares *took advantage of this situation to make love, until dawn*. Ares was always accompanied by a young man named *Alectryon*, whose duty was to *let them know* when *Helios, the Sun*, appeared *on the horizon*. However, one day, Alectryon, tired of such exhausting daily routine, lost track of time and *failed to inform the couple*. Thus Helios saw Ares and Aphrodite locked in a passionate embrace and he immediately*informed Hephaestus*.

Hephaestus was extremely hurt and thought of revenge. Contriving to catch the illicit couple in the act, Hephaestus fashioned a*finely-knit* and *nearly invisible net* and left it on the bed. This net *trapped the lovers locked in very private embrace*. Hephaestus was present at the situation and *summoned all the Olympian gods and goddesses to view the unfortunate pair*. Although the goddesses displayed reluctance, the male gods went to witness the sight and passed lewd comments. After this incident, *the lovers were released and each of them had to go their separate ways*. Ares returned to his homeland, *Thrace*, while Aphrodite went to *Paphos*.

## ARES AND EOS

*Eos*, the Greek goddess of the *dawn*, was the daughter of the Titans *Hyperion* and *Theia*. Eos fell in love with Ares, and like so many others, he could not resist the beauty of Eos. Dressed in long robes of saffron, and sitting upon her throne she glimmered and cast an irresistible look upon Ares. Thereafter, Eos and Ares had a *very brief love affair*. During the affair, Ares was cautious of Aphrodite, his most famous lover, of finding about them. Thus the two lovers would hide in the woods. Meanwhile, on Mount Olympus, Aphrodite *wondered about the whereabouts of Ares*.

Perplexed and unsuccessful, she went to ask Athena if Ares was with her planning war strategies. Athena told *her pet owl to locate Ares for her*; and for Aphrodite to *follow the owl*. Thus Aphrodite found Ares and Eos on a cliff-side, holding hands. Out of vengeance, anger and bursting with jealousy, Aphrodite *cast a curse upon Eos* with an *insatiable sexual desire and to be perpetually in love*. This caused Eos to abduct a number of handsome young men, most notably *Cephalus, Tithonus, Orion* and *Cleitus*.

## ARES AND ADONIS

*Adonis*, in Greek mythology, was a *youth of remarkable beauty* and the son of *Theias, King of Syria*, and *Myrrha*. Due to his astonishing beauty, *Aphrodite became charmed at this young man*. Adonis was a master of the hunt. Being the favorite of Aphrodite, the goddess warned him *not to stray too far into the forest* during his hunting spree to avoid any possible mishap.

However, the heart of young Adonis was audacious, and neglecting Aphrodite’s warning, he plunged deep into the forest. All of a sudden, came upon a *wild boar* and, no matter how much he tried, he *could not scare it away*. The boar attacked Adonis and with one massive heave of its head *pierced the young man with its tusk*. According to myth, the boar that killed Adonis was no ordinary beast but *Ares*, the lover of Aphrodite. Jealous of Aphrodite’s passion for Adonis, *Ares disguised himself in the form of a boar and killed Adonis.*

ARES AND ALOADAE

*Aloadae* is the collective name for two giants namely *Otus* and *Ephialtes*. They were the twin sons of *Poseidon*, the *god of the sea*; and a mortal named *Iphidemia*. Both of the brothers were aggressive hunters and grew enormously at a young age. According to a myth, Aloadae hatched a plan to *storm Mt. Olympus*, the *home of the gods,* by piling up three mountains namely *Olympos, Ossa* and *Pelion*, one on top of the other. Their main motive was to gain access to goddesses *Artemis* and *Hera*; Otus desired Artemis and Ephialtes desired Hera. Ares, the god of war, *tried to stop* them but Aloadae *managed to defeat him*. They subsequently *imprisoned Ares inside a bronze urn* in the *island of Naxos* for *thirteen months, a lunar year*. It would have been the end of Ares, if *Eriboea, the stepmother of the giants*, wouldn’t have informed *Hermes, the herald of the gods*.

Ares was held screaming and howling in the urn until *Hermes rescued him*. The attempt of Aloadae to storm Mount Olympus was unsuccessful. Artemis, the goddess of hunt, transformed herself into a *beautiful stag* and *raced between the two giants*. Being hunters, they both cast their spears at the stag but *missed their mark and instead struck each other dead.*