# Week 3

**Agenda**

1. Hesiod and the 5 Races
2. Prometheus

BREAK

1. Pandora
2. Flood

**Introduction:**

Last week, we talked about the importance of understanding the Gods and their relationships. It allows us to understand the bigger important things about the religion. But what about humans? Why care about the origin of humans? Similarly, it places humans in the wider context of the Gods. To what extent are we important? To what extent are we similar to the Gods? What separates us from them?

* Generally speaking, there are more myths about the origin of specific locations such as Troy or Thebes
* That being said, there are a few myths that deal with the origin of humans in general
* The myths we will discuss today are: The 5 races, Prometheus, Pandora, and the Flood.
* The first three come from Hesiod's *Works and Days*

**The Five Races:**

According to Hesiod, the series of different human races (of 5) began when the gods created the golden race. These beings knew not of troublesome work or old age and life was about feasting and death was like falling asleep. This happened under the sovereignty of Kronos (before Zeus) and was generally nice

When the golden race passed away, they turned into spirits that watched over the earth and their successors also made by the Gods were the silver race but they were inferior. They needed to be reared for 100 years until they were teenagers then they died and were sad because they never really reached a full kind of maturity. Zeus ended up putting an end to the silver race.

Then came the Race of Bronze who Zeus created out of ash trees (very strong) and they were warriors who devoted themselves to Ares the war-god. They ended up extinguishing themselves through their relentless fighting. This was also the race that was going to be put out by Zeus with the Flood.

The next race was not metallic but that of the Heroes (or Stone). These Heroes are who fought at Thebes and Troy and a few of them were said to be granted post-mortem existence as well. They were glorified

The last race is the Iron race which is current. Toil and misery are out lot and it will get worse. In the future there will be lack of respect, impiety, and every sort of villainy. This is where Hesiod puts himself. He used this idea to try to understand the life that he lived. He was a poor farmer/poet whose brother was an idiot basically.

**Prometheus:**

During the Tianomachy, Prometheus and his brother Epithemeus switched sides after the titans refused to use Trickery. Because of this, Zeus granted them with the task of creating life. Prometheus was given the task of creating humans and he fashioned them out of clay and Athena breathed life into them. Prometheus made them in the image of the Gods with feet to stand on but Zeus made it clear that they should worship Mount Olympus from below and be subservient to the Gods for warmth and protection. Prometheus invisioned greater things, though, for his creations so when Zeus asked him how sacrifices should be made to the Gods, Prometheus thought of a plan.

Prometheus slaughtered a bull and divided it into two parts to present to zeus. In one bowl, he hid the good meat underneath the unappealing belly of the animal and in the other hid bones underneath a thick layer of fat. When zeus chose the fat/bones bowl, he was outraged and forbade the use of fire on earth for cooking or warmth. But prometheus did not like this so he scaled mount olympus to steal fire from the workshop of Hephaistos and hid the fire inside the hollow tube of a fennel stalk and brought it down for humans to use. This allowed humans to harness nature for their own benefit and separate themselves from nature and animals. With fire, they could forge weapons, and take care of themselves- this is the birth of civilization. When zeus sees this, he decides to punish both Prometheus and the humans. For prometheus, he asked Hephaistos to fashion an unbreakable chain that would tie Prometheus to a cliff and everyday a giant eagle would come and eat out his liver. Every night, the liver would grow back and the punishment would start again the next day for eternity.

For humans, Zues sent Pandora

**Pandora**

In Hesiod’s *Works & Days* we are told that Zeus punished man for receiving the fire by instructing Hephaistos to create the first woman, [**Pandora**](https://www.ancient.eu/Pandora/), from clay and through her all the negative aspects of life would befall the human race - toil, illness, [**war**](https://www.ancient.eu/war/), and [**death**](https://www.ancient.eu/Death/) - and definitively separate mankind from the gods.

Pandora was sent to Epimetheus (Prometheus’ brother) and Epimetheus gladly accepted and got married to her. As a present, Zeus gave Pandora a large pithos which contained all the evils of the world but was told to never open it. She did and they all came roaring out and she closed it just in time to save ‘hope.’ The reason is because although there are terrible evils in the world, hope gives people a sense that if they sacrifice to the Gods, they will help the situation.

**The Flood:**

The survivors of the flood at Deukalion and Pyrrha. This comes from Apollodoros

Deukalion is the son of Prometheus and Pyrrha is the daughter of epimetheus and Pandora. In this way it seems they are doubles of Prometheus and Pandora. Zeus wanted to eliminate the race of Bronze so he flooded the earth with a deluge.

Deukalion built an arc on the advice of his father and him and Pyrrha climbed in and floated for nine days and nine nights and eventually came ashore to Mount Parnassos, above Delphi.

Deukalion sacrificed to Zeus who reciprocated by granting him a favor: To populate the earth. So him and Pyrrha picked up stones and threw them over Deuk’s head. The ones he threw became men and the ones she threw became women. It was a new beginning and many of the people ‘of stone’ were the greatest heroes and heroines of Greek mythology.

EXTRA INFO

**Archetypes: Asynchronous learning**

Carl Gustav Jung was a Swiss Psychiatrist who founded Analytical Psychology. Although he was a contemporary of Sigmund Freud, they deviated from each other in meaningful ways. The most interesting way was in the acknowledgement of the collective unconscious.

The collective unconscious is a theoretical part of the mind that is said to house ancestral memories and knowledge that is common to all humans that we are not consciously aware of all of the time. This is the place where symbolic meaning comes from. It is in this area of the mind that Jung says the idea of archetypes are.

Archetype is derived from the Greek word *arkhetupon* for first mould or model. Archetypes are images and themes which have universal meanings across cultures which may show up in dreams, literature, art or religion. (Jung, 1947) Jung, C. G. (1947). *On the Nature of the Psyche*. London: Ark Paperbacks.

We look to archetypal categories for clues into the human condition. Jung points out that stories across all cultures tend to have similar character types that resonate with humans on a deeper level. When I say ‘The Hero’ or ‘The rebel’ it does not take long to come up with a plethora of examples from video games, movies, literature or even your own life.

Jung argues that these typologies exist in the world and in our experience so profoundly that since the dawn of man, they become represented in our creations from drawings to modern film.

Some argue that the existence of archetypes is part of the reason why these stories maintain their relevancy over time. They are symbolic of the human condition. We see Herakles’ struggles and think of our own, we see the wisdom of Yoda, and feel soothed. These characters represent more than just interesting people, they represent elements of who we are as individuals and as societies.

**Recap from Last week:**

1. Who are the parents of the Titans?
2. Who are the parents of the Olympians?
3. Who is the most famous/strongest Olympian?
4. T/F The Olympian from question 3 had many children with many different women
5. T/F This same Olympian had a very jealous sister-wife named Hera
6. T/F We learned about the entire extent of the Greek Gods/Theogony last week

**In-Class Task 2:**

When prompted, please consider the four-fold framework of understanding myths:

1. Socially Powerful

2. Symbolic

3. In a narrative-based format

4. Tells of the possibilities of human experience at the time

In your group, please create paragraph-long discussion post that answers the following question:

**Which of the four categories above help you to understand your assigned myth? Why?**

Notes:

1. Please write the names of all group members in the post, since only one group member needs to actually post the paragraph

2. If you use outside resources for any reason, please always be sure to cite where you are getting information from using APA format.