

ANCIENT GREECE & GREEK MYTHOLOGY

By Issac Kwon



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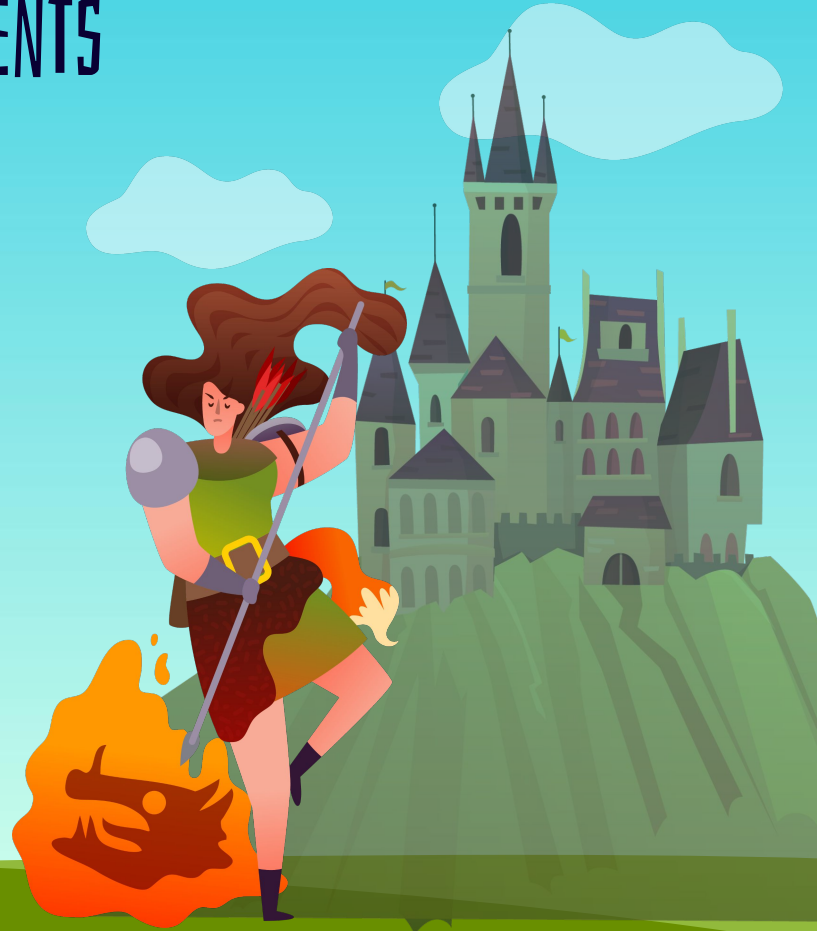
THE OLYMPIAN GODS

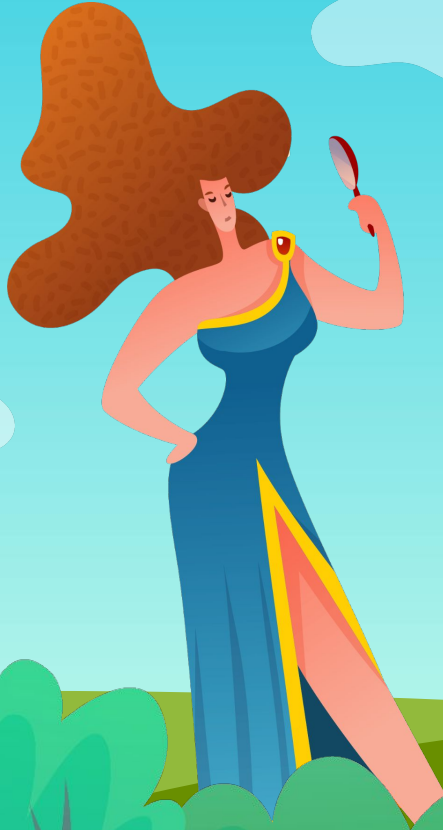
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INTRODUCTION

Greek Mythology is one of the most famous and great mythologies in the world. It includes stories of Gods and Goddesses, to often explain natural phenomena or to provide moral and ethical guidance.

01

Family Tree

Brief overview of the gods

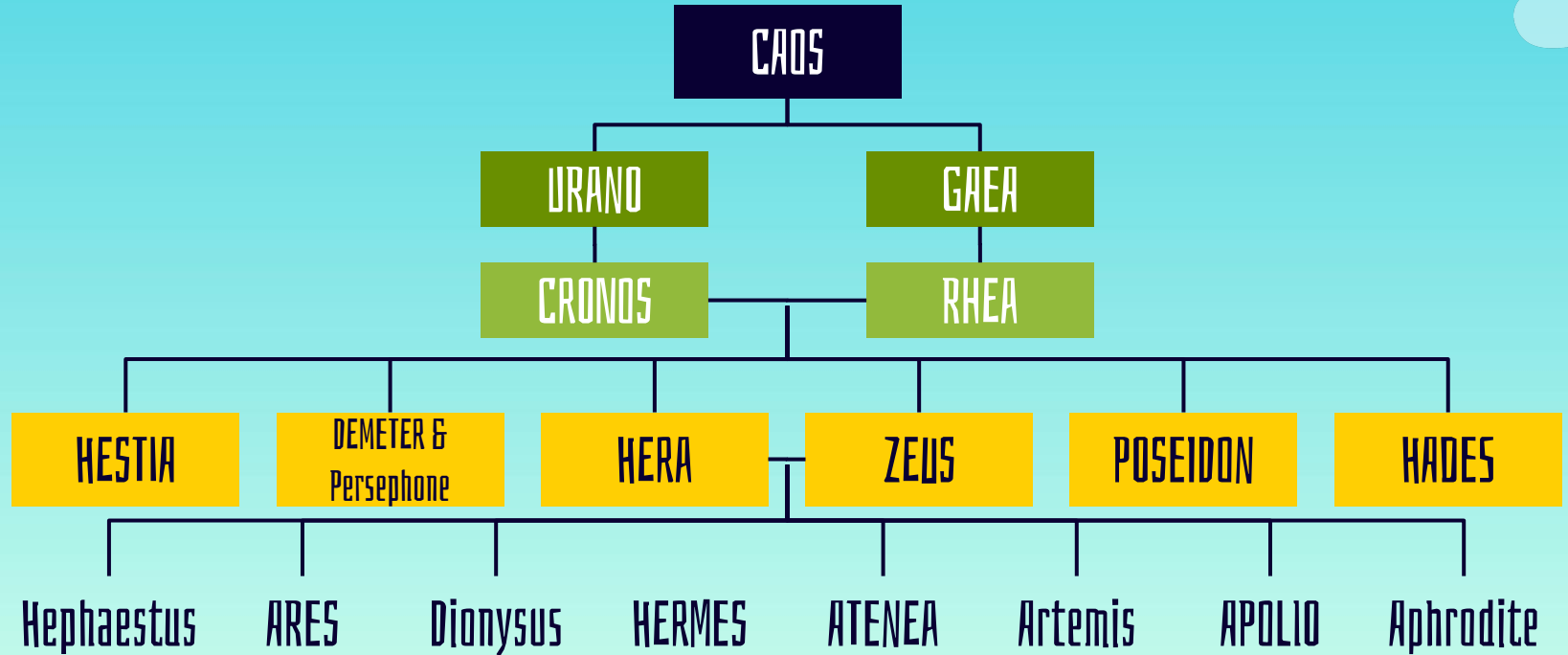


Beginning of the Family Tree

In the beginning there was no humans or gods. There was only Uranus and Mother Earth. When they had children, Uranus disliked how their children were ugly, therefore threw them into Tartarus, the deepest and darkest pit under the Earth. Mother Earth gave the youngest child, Cronus a weapon to overthrow his brother.



GODS OF OLYMPUS



A stylized illustration of the Greek god Poseidon. He has a large green beard and hair, a red tunic, and a blue robe. He holds a blue trident in his right hand and a purple serpent in his left. He stands on a white cloud above blue waves. In the background, there are more clouds and a faint outline of a classical building.

02

The Olympian GODS

Separate descriptions of the Gods

Map of Greece



ATHENS



CORINTO



TEBAS



DELFOΣ



Zeus is the son of Cronus and Rhea. When Cronus started eating his babies because he knew about a prophecy that one of his children would overthrow him, Rhea kept Zeus hidden because she new Zeus was special. Zeus succeeds in Defeating Cronus, freeing the other Gods from Cronus' stomach. Zeus traps Cronus to th

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Hades

Hades is one of the 3 brothers of Zeus and Poseidon. He is the god of the underworld, and mortals fear him. Mortals do not dare to say his name, and calls him “The Rich One”. He has a helmet called “Helm of Darkness.” Hades is one of the 3 brothers of Zeus and Poseidon. Also, he has a three headed dog called Cerberus who guards the gates of the underworld. Cerberus’s heads each represent birth, youth, and old age.



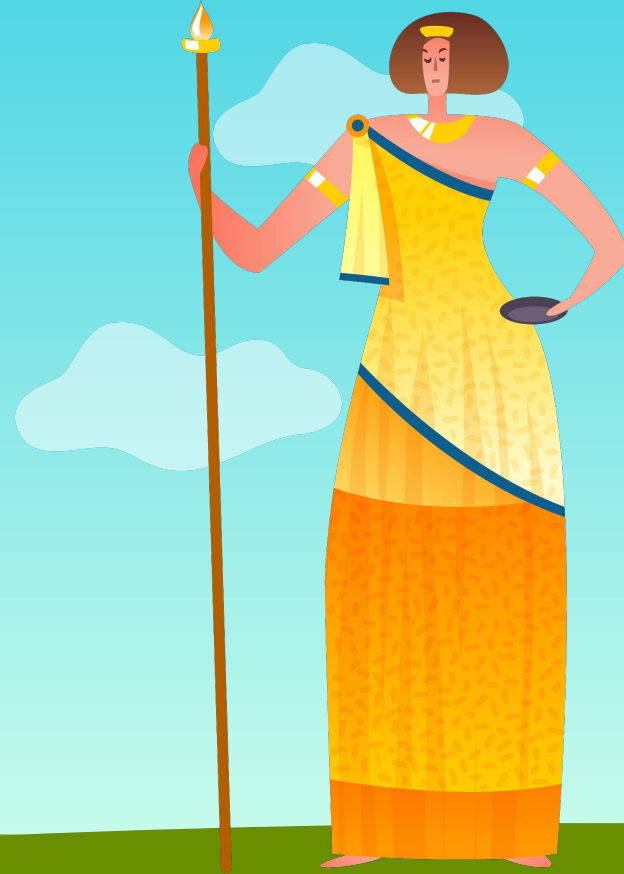
Apollo

Apollo is the god of the sun, music, poetry, prophecy, healing, and archery in Greek mythology. Apollo is depicted as a handsome young man with a lyre (a U-shaped harp). He is associated with creativity, intellect, and enlightenment. He was also thought to be a protector as he was called whenever people needed curing or healing.





Hera is the queen of gods, the wife of Zeus. She is the goddess of marriage and family. She is often depicted as a dignified figure, wearing a crown or diadem, and carrying a pomegranate, a symbol of fertility and abundance. She is known for her jealousy, often hurting Zeus' other wives. She is a fierce and powerful figure, especially in her role as a protector of marriage and women's rights





Hephaestus



Hephaestus is the god of fire, metalworking, and craftsmen. He is known for his extraordinary skills at metalworking and was the patron of blacksmiths and artisans.

Hephaestus is a respected and important god in Greek mythology. He was married to Aphrodite, the goddess of love. He was overall one of the most important roles in Greek mythology.





Poseidon

Poseidon is the God of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. He was one of the twelve Olympian gods and often depicted as a bearded man with a trident. He can control the tides and waves, and is often associated with marine life and sea creatures. He was also thought to shake the earth, causing earthquakes. He is connected to horses and is depicted riding a chariot pulled by horses.



Athena

Athena is a Goddess of war, wisdom, courage, and the arts, among other things. She was often depicted in art as a warrior goddess, wearing a helmet and carrying a shield and spear. Athena is also known for her strategic thinking and military skills. She was worshipped by many as a symbol of wisdom, courage, and justice. Although she is the goddess of war, she is known to dislike war, trying her best to avoid it.

Artemis

Artemis was a Greek goddess of the hunt, wilderness, childbirth, virginity, and young women. She was the daughter of Zeus and Leto and the twin sister of Apollo. She is a young woman carrying a bow and arrows, and is respected as the protector of wild animals. She is also sometimes associated with the moon, therefore called the goddess of the moon.

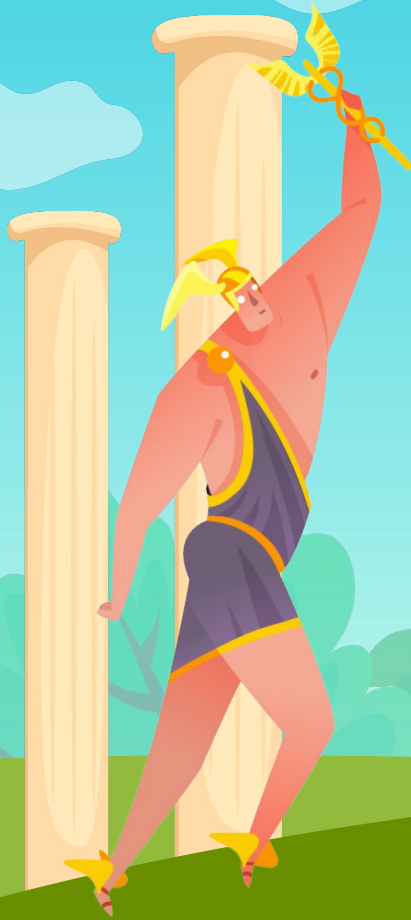




Hermes



Hermes is a God of commerce, communication, travel, sports, and trickery. He is considered the messenger of the gods and is believed to be the protector of travelers and merchants. He is associated with sports and athleticism, credited to inventing the foot race. He is also associated with cunning and trickery, sometimes associated with thieves and mischief-makers



Persephone &

Demeter



Persephone is the daughter of Demeter. When Persephone was picking flowers on the field, Hades kidnapped Persephone to the underworld. She was gifted a pomegranate to eat, which she did. However, the rules of underworld states that whoever eats the food from the death have to stay in the underworld. Hades makes Persephone come to the underworld every winter, which explains how winter is formed; Demeter's sorrow for daughter.

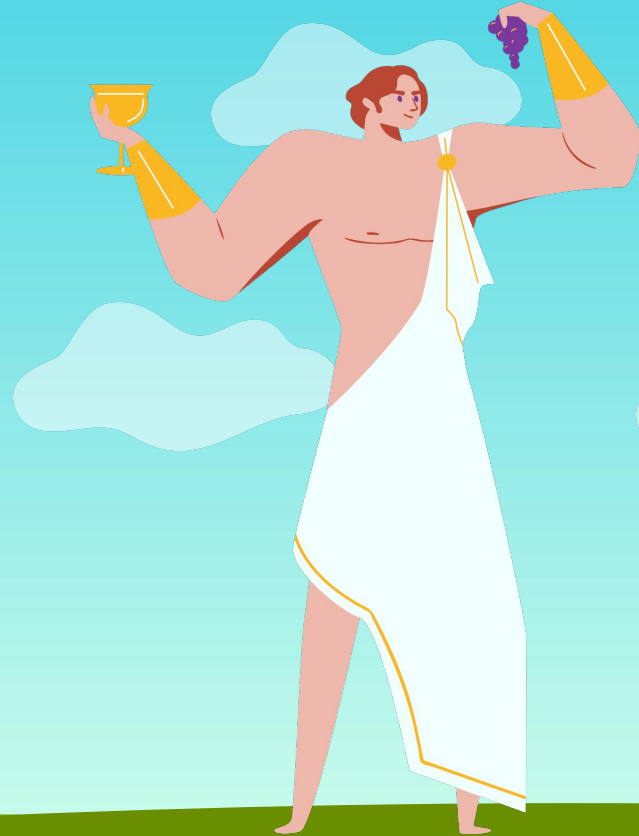




Dionysus



Dionysus is the God of wine. associated with wine and vineyards, credited with teaching man how to cultivate grapes and make wine. This association between Dionysus and wine played an important role in Greek culture, with wine production and consumption becoming. Dionysus owns a Griffin, a creature with a back leg of a lion and a head of an eagle, which he used to protect his wine.





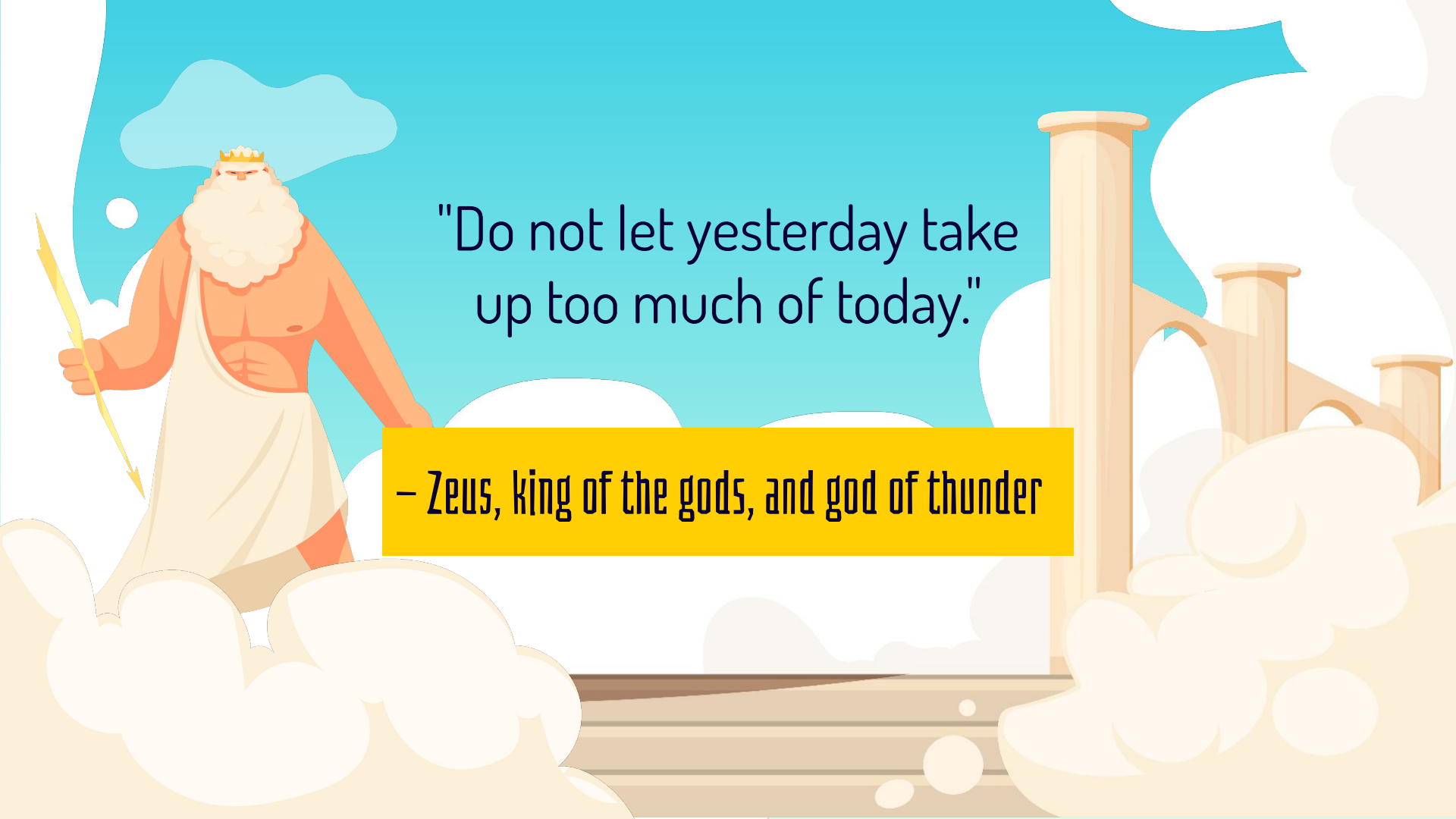
Ares, god of war, was tall and handsome but vain, and as cruel as his brother Hephaestus was kind. Eris, the spirit of strife, was his constant companion. When Ares heard the clashing of arms, he grinned with glee, put on his gleaming helmet, and leapt into his war chariot. Brandishing his sword like a torch, he rushed into the thick of battle, not caring who won or lost as long as much blood was shed. He had a love affair with Aphrodite, which gave jealousy to Hephaestus, her husband.



Aphrodite

Aphrodite is a Goddess of love, beauty, pleasure, and procreation. She is depicted as a beautiful woman. According to legend, she was born from the foam of the sea, near the island of Cyprus. She has the ability to make people fall in love. She is known to have multiple lovers, one include the god of war, Ares, and the mortal shepherd Adonis





"Do not let yesterday take
up too much of today."

– Zeus, king of the gods, and god of thunder

03

Minor Gods & their stories

Prominent literature references from stories of Minor Gods





Prometheus



Prometheus sympathized with men's suffering as humans lacked fangs or furs unlike the animals. To resolve this issue, he stole fire from the Gods and gave it humans to use it. Angered by Prometheus' action, Zeus punished Prometheus by trapping him forever on the cliff of the mountain and making an eagle eat his liver every day. His son tried to help him by trying to stop the eagle, which help decrease his suffering.



Pandora's box

Zeus was angry with the humans as well. To punish them, Zeus ask Hephaestus to make a beautiful and very adventurous women named Pandora. Although Prometheus warned Epithimies that Zeus will seek revenge on him, he did not listen and accepted Pandora as his wife from Zeus. Zeus also gifted a box to Pandora, telling Pandora to never open it. Tempted by the curiosity, Pandora opened the box, revealing pain and suffering to the world. Luckily, there was “hope” inside of the box, giving humans a chance to survive.



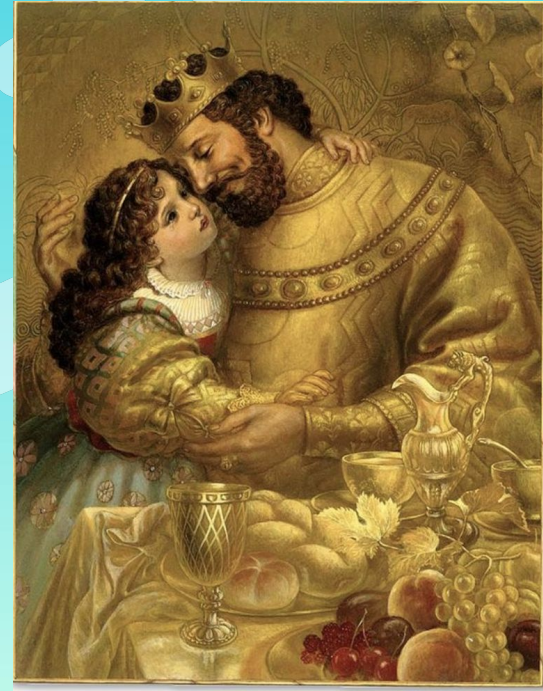
Satyr

Satyr is a part-human and part-animal with the upper body of a man and the lower body of a goat. Satyrs are known for their love of wine, music, dancing, and a follower of the God wine, Dionysus. Satyrs is a mischievous creature and has a love of playing pranks on humans and chasing after nymphs.



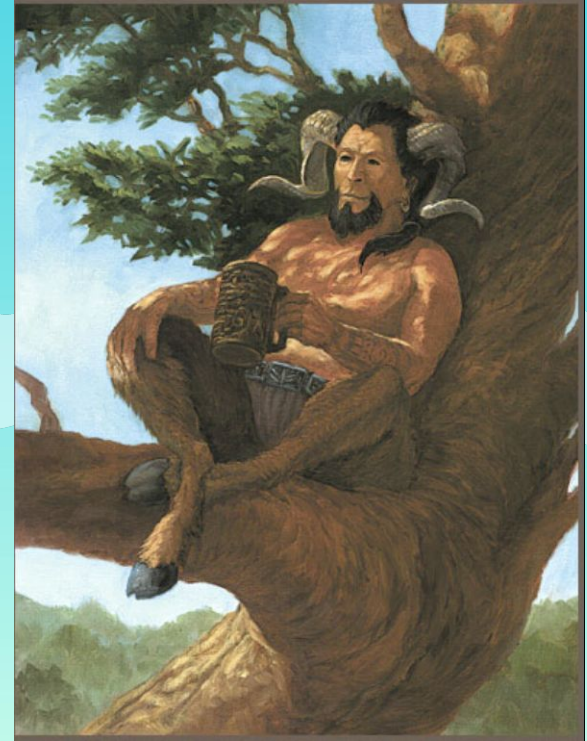
King Midas

A Satyr named Silenus once got lost, then found by King Midas. The King entertained Silenus and gave him food and drinks. Thankful for this action, Dionysus granted King Midas a wish. King Midas was very greedy, therefore wanted everything he touch turn into gold. After learning that this is a curse after turn his daughter in to gold, he begged Dionysus to take back his wish. He agreed and told King Midas to go to the River Pactolus. As he put his hands in the stream of water, the river turned into liquid gold and his power disappeared.



Pan

Pan is a creature often depicted as a half-human, half-goat creature with horns, pointed ears, and a goat's tail. He is known for playing the pan flute, which is where he gets his name. He is a mischievous god, often associated with the wild. He is not a handsome god as he is often compared with the devil. A famous story about Pan is when Pan chases after the beautiful nymph Syrinx, but she transforms into a cluster of reeds to escape him. Pan picks up the reeds and, in his sorrow, creates the pan flute from them, which becomes his favorite instrument and a symbol of his love for Syrinx.



Echo

Echo is one of the nymphs that Pan fall in love. She is a merry nymph, who chattered and talked all day long, and never let Pan win her with music and poetry. On day Hera come to Olympus for Zeus. When she saw her, Echo detained her so long with idle chatter that Zeus, who really was there, was able to sneak away. Hera was so mad that she cursed Echo to only repeat words from others.



Narcissus

When Narcissus was thirsty, he bent down to drink. Suddenly, saw a mirroring surface of the water with the most handsomest face he had ever seen. He smiled and the handsome face smiled back. “I love you” said Narcissus to the reflection. “I love you” repeated Echo, standing on the back. He did not realise that the fact in the water was actually himself. Echo stood beside the flowers and grieved until she faded away. Nothing was left of Echo but her voice, which to this day can be heard senselessly repeating the words of others.



Tantalus

Tantalus was one of the most beloved gods in Olympus. One day, he invited the Gods for a dinner. He thought his dinner would not be special, therefore cooked his son Pelops for the Gods. Because of the taboo on cannibalism when the Gods found out the the food they were about to eat was his son, Zeus send Tantalus to eternal hell in underworld. Pelops was reborn, with his missing right shoulder replaced with ivory. Tantalus, on the other hand, was stuck in a prison full of water, where as he tried to reach and grab an apple, it goes away, hence the name Tantalus.

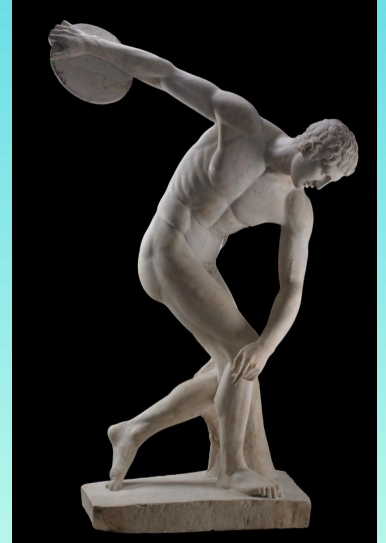




Pelops and Olympic games



There was a beautiful princess whose name was Hippodamia. Her father, the King of Elis or Oenomaüs extremely loved her. He had a team of horses given to him by Ares whose son he was, and whenever a suitor came to ask for his daughter, Oenomaüs challenged him to a chariot race. If the suitor won, he would win the princess; if he lost, he would lose his head. No horse in earth could outrun Ares', which led to 12 suitors already hung at the gates of the palace. When Pelops came to challenge, the princess fell in love with Pelops, as she made a stable boy to switch the wooden pins with a pin of wax. This led to Pelops' chariot (from Poseidon) winning, as the king, because of the pin of wax, fell off from the disassembling chariot. The stable boy got the blame and was executed. This race was held in the plain of Olympia, in Elis, and were to be repeated every four years. They were called the Olympic Games.



Minotaur

A Minotaur is a monster of Crete, with a body of a man and the head of a bull. It is a offspring of Pasiphae, the wife of Minos.

A snow-white bull sent to Minos from Poseidon for sacrifice. Minos did not sacrifice it, but rather kept it alive. Poseidon got mad and as a punishment, made Pasiphae fall in love with it. Her child was kept captive in Labyrinth, created for Minos by Daedalus.



Theseus and the Minotaur

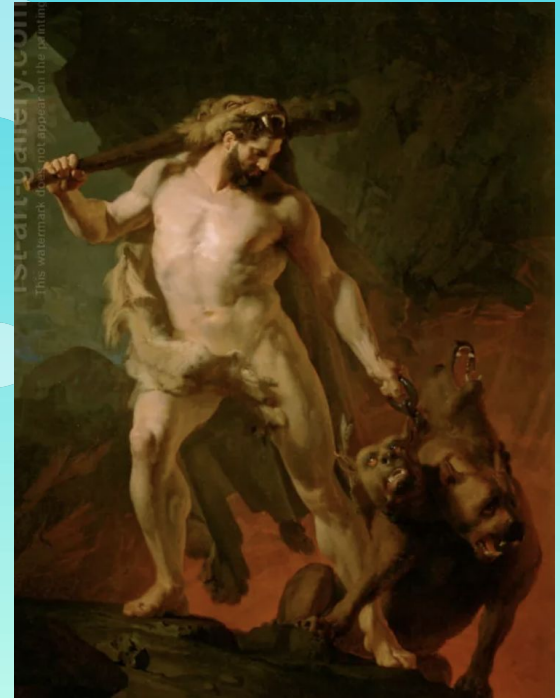
A son of Minos, Androgeos, was later killed by the Athenians; As a consequence, Minos demanded that seven Athenian youths and seven maidens should be sent every ninth year to be devoured by the Minotaur. When the third time of sacrifice came, the Athenian hero Theseus volunteered to go. With the help of Ariadne, daughter of Minos and Pasiphae, he was able to wrap himself with a piece of string, and enter the Labyrinth. He met the Minotaur and slayed him with a sword. Tracking back the Labyrinth with his string, he was able to successfully slaughter the Minotaur and escape the Labyrinth.



Heracles' first task

Heracles is the son of Zeus and Princess Alcmena, grand daughter of Perseus and Andromeda. Therefore, Hera hated Hercules very much. Therefore, Hera cursed Hercules to 12 difficult and dangerous tasks.

His first labor was to go to the valley of Nemea and to conquer a monstrous lion whose hide was so tough it could not be pierced by any weapon. It was one of Echida's offspring, which Zeus let it live for a challenge for future heroes. Echida is known to has numerous monstrous offsprings, therefore called the mother of monsters. Although it was difficult, he was able to successfully take down the lion with his own bare hands.



Hercules and Hydra

The second task for Hercules was also one of the offspring of Eridania and Typhon. He was asked to kill a monstrous nine-headed water snake.

It was a Hydra, in the swamp of Lerna. Hercules was able to defeat the beast by swinging his club, as he knocked off each head and sear the heads with a firebrand. Hydra had a immortal head that never died, but through a help of a companion, he was able to cauterizing the necks with a burning torch.



Third Labor

Third labor for Hercules was to go to the slopes of Mount Erymanthus and fight a wild and dreadful boar with tusks as sharp as swords. Eurystheus sends Heracles to bring this beast back alive.

Hercules chased the boar out of its lair with his loud yell, and drove it ahead of him all the way to the top of the snow-capped mountain. The heavy boar sank into the snow and made it easy for Heracles to catch and subdue it. He pushed, dragged, and rolled it all the way down to the gates of Mycenae. When Eurystheus saw the fearful boar, he dived into an urn and barely dared to peak out.



Fourth Labor

For the fourth labor, Hercules had to get rid of the swarm of dangerous birds in Stymphalian Lake. They had feathers of brass so sharp that when one of them fell to the ground, it killed whomever it hit.

Despite insanely sharp feather, it could not penetrate Heracles' lion skin. He made such a din with a huge rattle, that the birds took fright and flew away, never to return.



Fifth Labor

In his fifth labor, Eurystheus sent him to bring back alive one of the sacred hinds of Artemis. He thought that Heracles would harm the creature with his brute strength and thereby earn the wrath of the goddess.

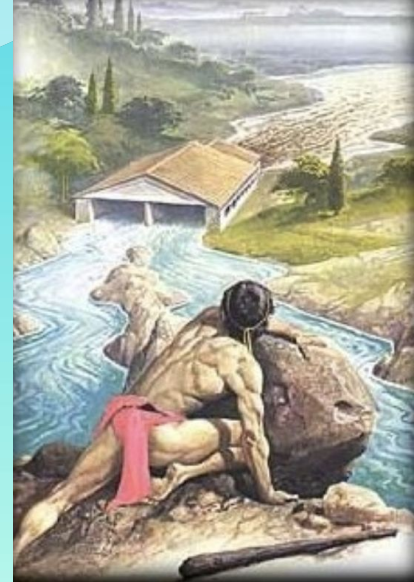
But Heracles Pursued the swift deer with patience over hills and dales. The year was almost over when at last he caught the deer. With great care, he carried it back to Mycenae.



Sixth Labor

The Sixth task was to clean the stables of King Augeas, who lived across the mountains to the west. King Augeas had huge herds and his stables and barnyards had not been cleaned for years. Heaps of dung rose mountain high. Eurystheus thought no man alive could clean his stables in a year.

However, Heracles with tremendous strength changed the course of the two rivers. The waters flooded through stables and barnyards and washed them clean in less than a day.



Seventh Labor

In his Seventh labor, he has to travel way to the east and fetch back to Mycenae the golden girdle of Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. The Amazons were a tribe of wild and warlike women who rode better and fought harder than any men. Eurystheus was sure that even Heracles would be overwhelmed by the furious women. But when Heracles arrived in Amazon, the queen, ironically, thought Heracles was strong and handsome that she gave him her belt without a fight. She would gladly have given him her hand in the bargain, but Hera, disguised of an Amazon, spread a rumor that Heracles had come to kidnap Hippolyta. The Amazons hearing this rumor, attacked Hercules. Heracles swung his mighty club, and the little Amazon husbands, who were springing and cooking and tending the babies, were amazed to see their dangerous wives overtaken by a single man. Heracles returned to Mycenae with the belt and could not bring the queen as she died in the fight with him.



Eighth Labor

In the far north lived a king whose name was Diomedes. He was a very inhospitable king and had trained his four mares to devour all strangers who came to his land. Now as the eighth task, Eurystheus sends Heracles to capture the four man-eating mares and bring them back alive. Geracles traveled to the north, slew King Diomedes, and threw him to his own mares. When the mares had eaten the evil king, they were so tame that they let Heracles drive them back to the gates of Mycenae.

Ninth Labor

Eurystheus sent Heracles south to catch a fierce, fire-breathign bull on the island of Crete. Then the Cretans, who were great bull fighters, could not catch the bull, but Heracles seized the charging bull by the horns without heeding the flames from its nostrils, flung it to the ground, and return to Mycanea, bringing the subdued beast. Eurystheus was glad he had a safe urn to hide in.

Tenth Labor

Heracles was sent to an island far out in the ocean to bring back a huge herd of red cows that belonged to Geryon, a monster with three bodies on one pair of legs. There were tall waves in his way, but as he threaten it with his poisoned arrow, they became flat. Hercules killed Greyon's watchman, two headed dog, and Geryon himself to take the herd of red cows. However, Hera sent a swarm of gadflies to sting the cows and they scattered all over Europe. Still Heracles managed to round them up and bring them to the gates of Mycenae just before the year was up.

Eleventh Labor

Find Hera's secret garden of the Hesperides and pick three golden apples from the little apple tree. Only Nereus, the old Gray Man of the Sea, knew where the garden was. Being a shapeshifter, he constantly changed shape to escape Hercules who threatened Nereus. Eventually, Nereus revealed the place. Prometheus warns Hercules to not pick up the apple by himself as it will kill him. On his way, he met Antaeus, a titan who was punished to hold the sky for eternity. Hercules knew he couldn't pick the golden apple by himself therefore asked Antaeus to pick the apples for him while he held the sky. Antaeus, no longer have to hold the sky refused to hold the sky back for Hercules. However, Heracles outsmarted him by asking him to hold the sky while he adjusted his lion cape. Antaeus agreed, but fell into Heracles trap.

Last Labor

His last labor was to go to the underworld to capture and bring Hades' three-headed watchdog Cerberus. When he went to the underworld, Hades did not dare to fight the strong Heracles. He just gave his dog to Heracles with a comment to treat him well. Eurystheus made Heracles send the dog back as he was scared of the dog he ordered to bring.

Sphinx

Sphinx is a greek monster with a the head of a woman, the haunches of a lion, and the wings of a bird, who one day came to the entrance of the Greek city of Thebes. It tasked followers a riddle, which if they could not solve, they would be eaten. If they were successful in getting it right, she would let them pass.

One day, Oedipus came to the Sphinx to defeat it. She gave him the following riddle: "What creature is it that walks on four feet in the morning, on two at noon, and on three in the evening". Oedipus was able to successfully answer the question; "Man. as a child he crawls on four. When grown he walks upright on his two feet, and in old age he leans on a staff". The sphinx was so shocked that Oedipus got the riddle right that it caused her to leave the city of Thebes.





Medusa



Medusa is a cursed monster, with snakes as hair, teeth sharp and deadly as a boar's, bronze hands, and a dragon scale neck. She lived isolated in an island called Sarpedon. Whoever dared to fight and look at Medusa was instantly turned into stone. Because of this, merchants often gathered these sculptures and sold them as decoration for the rich.

Before medusa was cursed, she was the prettiest youngest sister of the gorgons. She was especially pretty with her hair, which attracted many people. When Medusa had an affair with Poseidon in Athena's temple, Athena disliked her as she liked Poseidon although she fought with Poseidon every time they met. She cursed her by poisoning a lake she bathe in to make nobody look at her every again. Because of this, she became so ugly, writhing snakes and her skin turned a greenish hue.



Perseus and Medusa

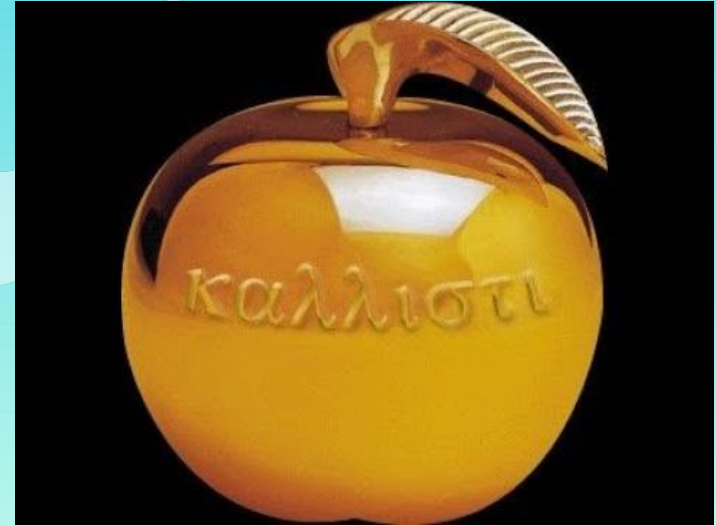
Perseus was determined to kill Medusa, with the aids and divined tools provided by the gods. One day, when the Gorgons was sleeping, the hero attacked, using Athena's polished shield to view the reflection of Medusa's awful face and avoid her petrifying gaze while he beheaded her with a harpe, an adamantine sword.

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The Golden Apple

The goddess of discord, Eris, was not invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis, and in revenge, she threw a golden apple among the goddesses Aphrodite, Athena, and Hera, written with the words "For the Fairest." All the judges wanted the golden apple. So, Zeus appointed Paris of Troy to judge which of the goddesses was the fairest. Paris chose Aphrodite as the winner, who promised him the love of Helen of Sparta, the wife of King Menelaus. Paris kidnapped Helen and took her to Troy, which angered the Greeks, who then started a war against Troy, the Trojan War. It led to ten years and resulted in the destruction of Troy.





Trojan Horse



The Trojan Horse is a mythical strategy used by Greeks to defeat the Trojans in the Trojan War. The Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse, left it outside the gates of Troy as a supposed offering to the gods. The Trojans thought the horse was a gift and a sign of victory, therefore put inside the city walls. However, the horse was actually filled with Greek soldiers who had been hiding inside. At night, the soldiers emerged from the horse and opened the gates of Troy to allow the Greek army to enter the city and conquer it.

