

Ovid's Metamorphoses

Power Point Presentation

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Author Full name: Publius Ovidius
Naso Aka: Ovid Occupation: Poet
Birth date: 43 BCE Place of birth:
Sulmona, Italy Death date: 17 Place
of death: Constanta (formerly Tomis),
Romania

meta = change morph = shape

Ovid's poem (8 A.D.) is a
chronological catalogue of myths
about shape changing. (beginning
with creation and ending with the
apotheosis of Julius Caesar)

Metamorphoses

Summary

The speaker of the poem invokes the gods. He asks them to inspire his work, which opens with the creation of the world and continues on to the present day, and is about the transformation of bodies. After this short prayer, he describes the birth of the world. A creator separated earth from heaven, sea from land, and lighter air from heavier air. He then made beings to inhabit these new spaces: Gods and stars filled the heavens, fish the seas, beasts the land, and birds the air. Man was created to rule the world.

Summary: The Golden Age

During the Golden Age, there were no laws, since the people of this period kept faith and behaved well without external compulsion. Indeed, men lived in peace, since there were no threats of violence, and they had no need for either weapons or defenses. The land freely offered its bounty without the assistance of agriculture. In short, the Golden Age was an idyllic era of peace and prosperity.

Summary: The Silver Age

Things changed in the world during the reign of Jove (or he is also known, Jupiter). His rule ushered in the both the Silver Age and introduced the seasons. In the Age of Gold, spring was everlasting, while in the Age of Silver, less gentle climates emerged. As a result, now men took shelter from the cold and heat, as well as other harsh conditions, and built houses for the first time. In addition, plants were cultivated and harvested. Toil replaced leisure.

Summary: The Bronze Age

The third age saw the race of bronze: more prone to cruelty, more quick to use fierce arms, but not yet sacrilegious.

Summary: The Iron Age

It is during this age that things go pear- shaped. And this, the worst of ages, suddenly gave way to every foul impiety; earth saw the flight of faith and modesty and truth - and in their place came snares and fraud, deceit and force and sacrilegious love of gain. War, betrayal, greed are all common in this dark age.

Theme 1. CHANGE

"Metamorphoses" means
"transformations" and there are many,
many kinds of transformations throughout
the poem.

Theme- 2. FATE

Life is like a story which has already been written. People cannot escape their destiny.

Important Quotation

"All things change, nothing is extinguished. . . . There is nothing in the whole world which is permanent. Everything flows onward; all things are brought into being with a changing nature; the ages themselves glide by in constant movement."

Analysis Based on the poem

We realized that the world will change around you even if you change. It doesn't really matter whether you change or not, as long as the world around you is concerned.

Things are constantly changing, moving. We do not have a choice whether things will change around us - - we only have the choice of whether we change to adapt or whether we stand the way we are.

molte grazie !