

GREEK GODS

and

GODDESSES

SEM- 1, CC-2, European Classical Literature

Cronus (Saturn) • Cronus was the ruling Titan who came to power by castrating his father Uranus. His wife was Rhea, while their offspring were the first of the Olympians. To ensure his safety, Cronus ate each of the children as they were born. • This worked until Rhea, unhappy at the loss of her children, tricked Cronus into swallowing a rock, instead of Zeus. • When he grew up, Zeus revolted against Cronus and the other Titans, defeating

Zeus (Jupiter) • King of the gods. • Ruler of Mount Olympus. • Symbols include; thunderbolt, eagle, oak tree, scepter, and scales. • Zeus was carefree and loved to LOL. • He possessed the perfect knowledge and was just, merciful and prudent. However, he was

- Youngest child of the Titans Cronus and Rhea.
- Husband and brother of Hera.
- Had many children with different women, including Aphrodite, Apollo, Artemis, Athena, Hermes, Hephaestus, Persephone, Hebe, Heracles, Dionysus, Helen of Troy, Perseus, Aglaea, Aletheia, and Dike.

Poseidon (Neptune) • God of the seas, earthquakes, and tidal wave. • Symbols include the horse, bull, dolphin, and trident. • He was considered to be the bad-tempered, moody and greedy god among the

• Middle son of Cronus and Rhea. • Married to the nereid Amphitrie. • Also had many lovers like the other gods. • Also had children to different women. His children are; Triton, Pegasus, Areion, Polyphemus, The Aloadai.

Hades (Pluto) • God of the underworld, dead and the riches. • His sacred symbol is his helmet. • He owns a three-headed dog namely, Cerberus. • Hades means “invisible” in ancient Greek.

• He was born into the first Olympian generation. • The elder brother of Zeus, Poseidon, Hera , and Demeter, and Younger brother of Hestia. • He lives in the Underworld rather than on Mount Olympus. • His wife is Persephone whom he abducted.

Dionysus (Bacchus) • God of wine, celebrations, and ecstasy. • Patron god of the art of theater. • Symbols include the grapevine, ivy, cup, tiger, panther, leopard, dolphin, and goat. • Known for his light-heartedness and always offered his help to anyone in need. • He was very popular among gods and mortals.

- Son of Zeus and the mortal Theban princess Semele.
- Married to the Cretan princess Ariadne.
- The youngest Olympian.
- The only Olympian to have a mortal mother.

Apollo (Apollo) • God of light, knowledge, healing, plague and darkness, the arts, music, poetry, prophecy, archery, the sun, manly youth, and beauty. • Symbols include the sun, lyre, bow and arrow, raven,

- Son of Zeus and Leto.
- Twin brother of Artemis.
- Had a relationship with the Nymphs Cyrene and Daphne, and the mortal Coronis.
- Father of Asclepius, Orpheus and Troilus.

Hermes (Mercury) •Messenger of the Gods. •God of commerce, thieves, and games. •Symbols include the caduceus (his staff), the purse (or leather pouch), the winged sandals, the ram and the petasus (his hat).

•Hermes was the only Olympian god who was authorized to visit Heaven, Earth and also the Underworld and enjoyed this way popularity among all the Greek gods and spirits.

•Son of Zeus and the mountain Nymph Maea.

•He was born inside a cave on Mount Cyllene in Arcadia, southern Greece. •He had a relationship with Merope, Aphrodite, Dryope, and Peitho.

•Father of Pan, Tyche, Abderus, Autolycus, Angelia and Hermaphroditus.

Ares (Mars) • God of war, violence, and bloodshed. • His symbol is his spear. • His sacred animal is a dog. • Ares had a very difficult character to deal with and was therefore rather unpopular among the other deities and mankind. • He often had conflicts and fights with his half-sisters Artemis and Athena.

- Son of Zeus and Hera.
- Had an affair with Aphrodite.
- Father of Eros, Himeros, Pothos, Phobos, Deimos, Armonia and Anteros.
- Ares had his residence up on Mount Olympus and his throne was upholstered with human skin. Usually he was accompanied by Eris, the goddess of discord.
- Usually he was riding a chariot, wearing a helmet on his head.

Hephaestus(Vulcan) • Master blacksmith and craftsman of the gods. • God of fire and the forge.

- Symbols include fire, anvil, axe, donkey, hammer, tongs, and quail.
- He was a very kind and loveable god, but was the only deity who was physically ugly
- Son of Zeus and Hera.
- Husband of Aphrodite.
- When his mother Hera saw him for the first time, she was so frustrated that she took her son and threw him from Mount Olympus to the depths of the seas, causing a deformity to his leg.

Eros (Cupid) • God of sexual love and beauty.

• He was also worshiped as a fertility deity.

• He was depicted often carrying a lyre or bow and arrow.

• He is often accompanied

• Son of Aphrodite and Ares. • Husband of Psyche. • Father of Hedone.

• He is represented as a blindfolded child.

• Eros was depicted as an adult male.

Rhea(Ops) •Rhea was a Titan goddess of fertility and motherhood. She was very gentle and comfortableShe became mad when Cronus forced her to give him their children to swallow upon birth.

•She started plotting against him and by the time he had swallowed Hestia, Hera, Poseidon, Hades, and Demeter, Rhea decided that enough is enough. She gave birth to her last child Zeus in secrecy and gave Cronus a rock, wrapped in a blanket.

Hera (Juno) • Queen of the gods. • Goddess of marriage and family. • Symbols include the peacock, pomegranate, crown, cuckoo, lion, and cow. • Hera was a beautiful, mature woman with big eyes and pierced lobes. She always took care of her appearance, dressing elegantly and decently in a feminine, but not exotic fashion.

- Wife and sister of Zeus.
- Youngest child of Cronus and Rhea.
- Hera used to stay in high places in order to keep an eye on her husband's doings. There were times she would also interfere, causing harm to Zeus' mistresses, since Zeus himself was invincible.
- Mother of Hebe, Eilithya, Ares.

Demeter (Ceres) • Goddess of fertility, agriculture, nature, and the seasons. • Symbols include the poppy, wheat, torch, and pig. • Her Latin name Ceres gave us the word “cereal”. • Demeter was most appreciated for introducing wheat to mankind, making man different from animals. • Middle daughter of Cronus and Rhea. • Had a child with Zeus. • Mother of Persephone. • Demeter was a peace-loving deity and the source of all growth and life; she was the goddess who provided all nutrition on the earth and taught mortals how to cultivate the earth.

Artemis (Diana) • Goddess of hunt, virginity, childbirth, archery, the moon, and all animals. • Symbols include the moon, deer, hound, she-bear, snake, cypress tree, and bow and arrow. • Artemis had absolute sovereignty over nature and was said to bring fertility to all places that worshipped her.

• Daughter of Zeus and Leto. • Twin sister of Apollo. • Artemis was born before Apollo and helped her mother give birth to her little brother. • She never married. • Artemis had asked from her father Zeus to remain an eternal virgin and therefore became one of the three Virgin Goddesses in Greek mythology.

Athena (Minerva) • Virgin goddess of wisdom, handicrafts, defense, and strategic warfare. • Symbols include the owl and the olive tree. • The patron deity of the city of ancient Athens and the Parthenon was built in her honour.

- Daughter of Zeus and the Oceanid Metis.
- She rose from her father's head fully grown and in full battle armor after he swallowed her mother.
- Athena never married and had no children.

Aphrodite (Venus) •Goddess of love, beauty, and desire. •Symbols include the dove, bird, apple, bee, swan, myrtle, and rose. •Aphrodite may have been the most attractive goddess.

•Daughter of Zeus and Oceanid Dione. •Or perhaps Aphrodite was created from the foam of the crystal waters of Paphos in the fragrant island of Cyprus, when the Titan Cronos slew his father, the major Titan Ouranos, and threw then his genitals into the sea. •Married to Hephaestus.

Hestia (Vesta) • Goddess of the hearth and of the right ordering of domesticity and the family. • One of the three Virgin goddesses. • Hestia was a kind, forgiving goddess and had a discrete character. She never left her residence, the sacred mountain of Olympus and never participated in any disputes or wars.

• Eldest daughter of Cronus and Rhea. • Belong to the original twelve Olympians until she gave her throne to Dionysus in order to keep the peace, making her the most generous and gentlest of the gods. • Eldest of the Olympians.

Persephone (Proserpina) • Queen of the Underworld • Goddess of spring time.

- Persephone was usually depicted as a young goddess
- Daughter of Demeter and Zeus.
- She became the consort of Hades when he kidnapped her.
- Persephone ate six of the twelve pomegranate seeds, therefore she had to spend six months in the underworld each year.

The end

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