

# OLYMPIAN GODS

**APHRODITE-** Goddess of love, desire and beauty.

- Had a magical girdle that compelled everyone to desire her.

Two accounts of her birth:

- She was the daughter of Zeus and Dione, the mother goddess worshipped at the Oracles of Dodona.
- She arose from the sea on a giant scallop, after Cronus castrated Uranus and tossed his severed genitals into the sea. Aphrodite then walked to the shore of Cyprus.
- Married to Hephaestus; however, she had an affair with her brother Ares, god of war.
- Aphrodite represented sex, affection, and the attraction that binds people together.

**APOLLO-** God of music. Also known as the Archer, far shooting with a silver bow; the god of healing, giving the science of medicine to man; the god of light; and the god of truth.

- Son of Zeus and Leto.
- Twin brother of Artemis
- Born on Delos, where his mother Leto sought refuge.

**ARES-** God of war.

- Son of Zeus and Hera.
- The union of Ares and Aphrodite resulted in the birth of eight children, including Eros, god of love.

... the raw violence and untamed acts that occurred in wartime, in contrast to Athena, who was a symbol of tactical strategy and military planning.

**ARTEMIS-** Goddess of chastity, virginity, the hunt, the moon, and the natural environment.

- Daughter of Zeus and Leto, twin sister of Apollo.
- Born on the island of Ortygia (Delos), where Leto had found shelter after being hunted by the lawful wife of Zeus.
- Orion was also a hunting companion of Artemis and the only person to have won her heart.
- **Athena-** Greek virgin goddess of reason, intelligent activity, arts and literature.
- Daughter of Zeus
- Her birth is unique in that she did not have a mother. Instead, she sprang full grown and clad in armour from Zeus' forehead.

**HADES-** brother of Zeus and Poseidon.

- Lord of the underworld and ruler of the dead.
- Greeks decided to give him another name, **Plouton**, deriving from the Greek word for wealth,
- He also became the god of wealth.

**HEPHAESTUS-** Greek god of blacksmiths, sculptors, metallurgy, fire and volcanoes.

- Symbolized with a hammer, an anvil and a pair of tongs.
- Son of Zeus and Hera.
- Married to Aphrodite; after he learned his wife had an affair with her brother, Ares, he devised a plan with which he humiliated both lovers to the other gods.

**HERA-** Zeus' wife and sister, and was raised by the Titans Oceanus and Tethys.

- Supreme goddess, patron of marriage and childbirth, having a special interest in protecting married women.

**HERMES-** Greek god of commerce, son of Zeus and Maia.

- Protector of travelers, thieves and athletes.

**HESTIA-** Goddess of the hearth, family, and domestic life.

- She was Zeus' sister, but although initially she was included in the Olympian gods, she was later replaced by Dionysus.

**POSEIDON-** God of the sea and protector of all aquatic features.

- Brother of Zeus and Hades.
- He married Amphitrite, one of the granddaughters of the Titan Oceanus.
- He was second to Zeus in power amongst the gods.
- His weapon was a trident, with which he could make the earth

shake, causing earthquakes, and shatter any object.

**ZEUS-** god of the sky and ruler of the Olympian gods.

- He overthrew his father, Cronus.
- His weapon was a thunderbolt which he hurled at those who displeased or defied him, especially liars and oathbreakers.
- Married to Hera but often tested her patience, as he was infamous for his many affairs.
- The presiding deity of the universe, ruler of the skies and the earth, was regarded by the Greeks as the god of all natural phenomena on the sky; the personification of the laws of nature; the ruler of the state; and finally, the father of gods and men.

# TITAN S

**ASTERIA-** Goddess of nocturnal oracles and shooting stars.

- Daughter of the Titans Coeus and Phoebe and sister of Leto.
- Married to the Titan Perses, and had a daughter, Hecate.

**ASTRAEUS-** God of the dusk and the winds.

- Son of the Titans Crius and Eurybia.
- Married to Eos, goddess of the dawn, and created numerous children, including the four Anemoi (winds) and the five Astra Planeta (wandering stars or planets).

**ATLAS-** God of astronomy and navigation.

- Son of Iapetus and Clymene.
- Brother of Prometheus, Epimetheus and Menoetius.
- Married to his sister, Phoebe.
- He had numerous children, including the Hesperides, the Hyades, Hyas, the Pleiades, Calypso, Dione and Maera.

**CLYMENE-** Goddess of renown, fame, and infamy.

- Daughter of the Titans Oceanus and Tethys.
- Married to the Titan Iapetus, and they had four sons, Atlas, Epimetheus, Prometheus and Menoetius.

**COEUS-** Titan of inquisitive minds and intellect.

- Son of Uranus and Gaia.

- Also represented one of the four pillars that hold the heavens and the earth apart.

- He was the pillar of the north, while the other three pillars were personified by his brothers Hyperion, Iapetus and Crius.

**CRIVS-** Crius was considered one of the four pillars that hold the heavens and the earth apart. He represented the pillar of the south, while the other three pillars were personified by his brothers Iapetus, Coeus and Hyperion.

- Son of Uranus and Gaea.
- Married Eurybia, daughter of Pontus and Gaea, and had three children, Astraios, Pallas and Perses.
- His grandchildren were:
- From the marriage of Astraios (god of dusk) and Eos (goddess of dawn): the four Anemoi (Winds - Boreas, Notus, Eurus, Zephyrus), and the five Astra Planeta (Wandering Stars, meaning planets - Phainon, Phaethon, Puroeis, Eosphoros, Stilbon).
- From the marriage of Pallas (god of warcraft) and Styx (goddess of the homonymous river): Zelus (glory), Nike (victory), Kratos (power), Via (force), Scylla, Fontes (fountains), and Lacus (lakes).

**CRONUS-** 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.

**DIONE-** daughter of Oceanus and Tethys.

- According to some sources, she was the first wife of Zeus, with whom she had a daughter, the goddess Aphrodite.

**EOS-** goddess of the dawn.

- Daughter of the Titans Hyperion and Theia.
- Had two siblings; Helios, god of the sun; and Selene, goddess of the moon.
- She was married to Astraeus, god of the dusk and together, they had numerous children that represented everything that occurred during the union of the dusk and the dawn, i.e. the twilight. Among her children were the four Anemoi (winds), as well as Eosphorus (the Morning Star) and the Astra Planeta (wandering stars or planets).

**EPIMETHEUS-** His name is derived from the Greek word meaning 'afterthought', appeared as a foolish character.

- son of Iapetus and Clymene.
- Brother of Prometheus, Atlas and Menoetius.
- Received Pandora as a gift from the gods; a human created by the gods specifically to punish the humans.
- The marriage of Epimetheus and Pandora is not explicit in any source, but only implied; from their union, Pyrrha, their daughter, was born.

**EURYBIA-** representing the mastery of the seas.

- Daughter of the Titans Pontus and Gaea.
- Married to the Titan Crius.
- Her children were Astraeus, Perses and Pallas.

**EURYNOME-** she had the three Charites, goddesses of grace.

- Daughter of the Titans Oceanus and Tethys.
- She was the third wife of Zeus.

**HYPERION-** represented light, wisdom and watchfulness.

- He was the father of the sun, the moon, and the dawn.
- Son of Uranus and Gaia.
- Hyperion was married to his sister, Theia, and they had three children, Helios (the sun), Selene (the moon) and Eos (the dawn).

**Iapetus-** god of craftsmanship, although other sources site him as the god of mortality.

- Son of Uranus and Gaea.
- Father of Atlas, Prometheus, Epimetheus and Menoetius.

**LELANTOS-** Titan of air, hunter's skill of stalking prey, and the unseen.

- Son of the Titans Coeus and Phoebe.
- Brother of Leto and Asteria.
- Husband of Periboa, and had a daughter, Aura.

**MENOETIUS-** Titan of violent anger, rash action, and human mortality.

- Son of Titans Iapetus and Clymene.
- Brother of Atlas, Prometheus and Epimetheus.

**METIS-** goddess of wisdom, prudence and deep thought.

- Daughter of Oceanus and Tethys.
- First wife of Zeus.

**MNEMOSYNE-** goddess of memory.

- Daughter of Uranus and Gaea.
- She was the oracular goddess of the underground oracle of Trophonios in the region of Boeotia.

**OCEANUS-** an ancient Greek god.

- According to one version, he was born by the union of the primal gods Chaos and Gaea, sanctified by god Eros.
- Another version has it that he was one of the twelve Titans, thus a son of Gaea and Uranus.
- Married to his sister, Tethys, with whom he had numerous children, called Oceanids.

**OPHION-** was an elder Titan god in Greek mythology, who was the ruler of the Earth along with his wife Eurynome. The couple was later overthrown by Cronus and Rhea.

**PALLAS-** Titan of warcraft.

- Son of the Titans Crius and Eurybia.
- He had two brothers, Astraeus and Perses.
- He was married to Styx, with whom he had a number of children; Zelus, Nike, Kratos, Bia, Scylla, Fontes and Lacus.

- During the Titanomachy, Pallas was killed by the goddess Athena.

**PERSES-** represented destruction and peace.

- Son of the Titans Crius and Eurybia.
- Married to the Titan goddess Asteria, with whom he had one daughter, Hecate; she was the goddess of wilderness, witchcraft and magic.

**PHOEBE-** associated with the moon and the Oracle of Delphi, and was considered to be the goddess of prophecy.

- Daughter of Uranus and Gaea.
- Married to her brother Coeus, with whom she had Asteria (the starry one) and Leto.

**PROMETHEUS-** presented to be the protector and benefactor of mankind.

- Son of Iapetus (also a Titan) and Clymene, an Oceanid.
- His brothers were Epimetheus, Atlas and Menoetius.

**RHEA-** considered the "mother of gods"

- Daughter of Uranus and Gaea.
- She was the sister and wife of Cronus, also a Titan.
- Rhea and Cronus had six children; Hestia, Hades, Demeter, Poseidon, Hera and Zeus.

**SELENE-** goddess of the moon, which she drove every night across the skies.

- daughter of the Titans Hyperion and Theia.

- She had two siblings, Helios and Eos.
- She had an affair with a mortal named Endymion.
- Selene was one of Zeus' lovers and they had a number of children; Pandia, she who is all-bright; Ersa, the dew; Nemea, the nymph of the eponymous place; and Dionysus.

**STYX-** Daughter of the Titans Oceanus and Tethys.

- Married to Pallas, with whom she had four children; Zelus, Nike, Kratos, and Bia.

**TETHYS-** daughter of Uranus and Gaea.

- She was married to her brother Oceanus.
- Gave birth to the river gods, who lived in the rivers that were then known to the Greeks, such as the Nile and Alpheus; and to

three thousand water goddesses, called Oceanids.

- During the Titanomachy, she raised Hera as her stepchild, brought to her by Rhea.

**THEA-** goddess of light and was thought to be of considerable beauty.

- Daughter of Uranus and Gaea.
- Married to her brother Hyperion, giving birth to Helios (the Sun), Selene (the Moon), and Eos (the Dawn).

**THEMIS-** goddess that created the divine laws that govern everything and are even above gods themselves.

- Daughter of Uranus and Gaea.
- According to Hesiod, she was the second wife of Zeus, a marriage that helped the supreme Olympian to stabilise his power over all gods and humans.
- She was the human-like representation of the natural and moral order.