

Greek Creation Myth

In the beginning there was only the infinite space known as Chaos. Inside this void was a single creature, Nyx, the bird with black wings. She laid a golden egg and for ages sat upon it. When it finally hatched, out came Eros, the god of love.

One half of the shell rose up to become the sky, and the other half became the Earth. He named the Earth Gaia and the sky Uranus. Eros then made them fall in love. More... They had many children; among them were giants and Titans, one of which was name Atlas, who, due to his bad behavior was punished to forever hold the Earth and the sky apart.

Two other children were named Cronus and Rhea, who married and ruled the world. They also had children. One was name Demeter, who was the Goddess of all things that grow. Hera was the Goddess of marriage and the birth of children. Hestia, as the goddess of the home and sacred hearth. Poseidon, god of the sea, Hades, god of the dead, and Zeus who became the God of the world and ruled the air and the sky.

Before they were born, the universe prophesied that one of these children would overtake Cronus and rule the world. To avoid this fate, Cronus swallowed up each of his children as soon as they were born. All of them, except Zeus, who had been hidden by his mother Rhea. When he was fully grown, Zeus conquered Cronus in a great war and rescued his siblings. They all divided the world up and ruled together, then sent Cronus to a place called Tartarus, which is beneath the

from one of the Titans name Prometheus, who soon became intrigued with these humans. He trusted them as Zeus did not, for Zeus feared that they may one day overpower him as he had his father, and as his father had before as well.

Thus, on the command of Zeus, fire was hidden from mankind, and there was no chance for this newest race to rise higher than those before him. Without fire, they must eat raw meat, eat no bread, or make tools or weapons of metal. They would not be able to make pots or bowls of clay, as they did not have fire to harden them by.

Prometheus pitied mankind, and decided to steal fire from Mount Olympus and give it to them so that they could rise above the beasts. He knew how terrible and long his punishment would be, but he did it anyway.

One night he carried the flame from Olympus to earth. As soon as it was on earth and the first blaze was kindled, mankind had it forever.

Prometheus made haste and taught man how to use fire, and by the time Zeus saw what was happening, man was already quite civilized.

He instantly who had given this gift of fire, and decided on a most horrible punishment. A giant vulture was sent to eat Prometheus's liver as he was chained to a stone. This was not only a one-time thing, as everyday the vulture would come, and every night a new liver would grow. He was to be punished forever in this way.

Zeus also decided to give his own terrible gift to mankind. He said, I

Epimetheus, said Hermes, You have been chosen to be the luckiest of men. This is Pandora, the first woman, and she has chosen you to be her husband. Take her and she will tend to you and care for you. Take this box as well, but guard it carefully and never let anyone open it, for it could bring destruction to mankind. Above all, do not let Pandora open it!

He then flew back to Olympus, leaving Epimetheus extremely happy, for he had fallen in love with her immediately. Life was so dull and lonely without a woman he said. I have been given this beautiful creature, the first of her kind!

They were very happy at first. Pandora cooked and cleaned, and looked after Epimetheus, and was perfect for him.

But she was curious to see what was in the box that was given to her, and constantly questioned him about it.

This was the only thing he could not do for her; numerous times he told her not to touch the box, but each time her desire to know grew stronger.

They are mine, and the immortals gave them to me. My name means all-gifted, they are for me to open!

She often imagined the treasures inside that lay awaiting for her, the garments that longed to be worn, all in colors more brilliant than the sun.