



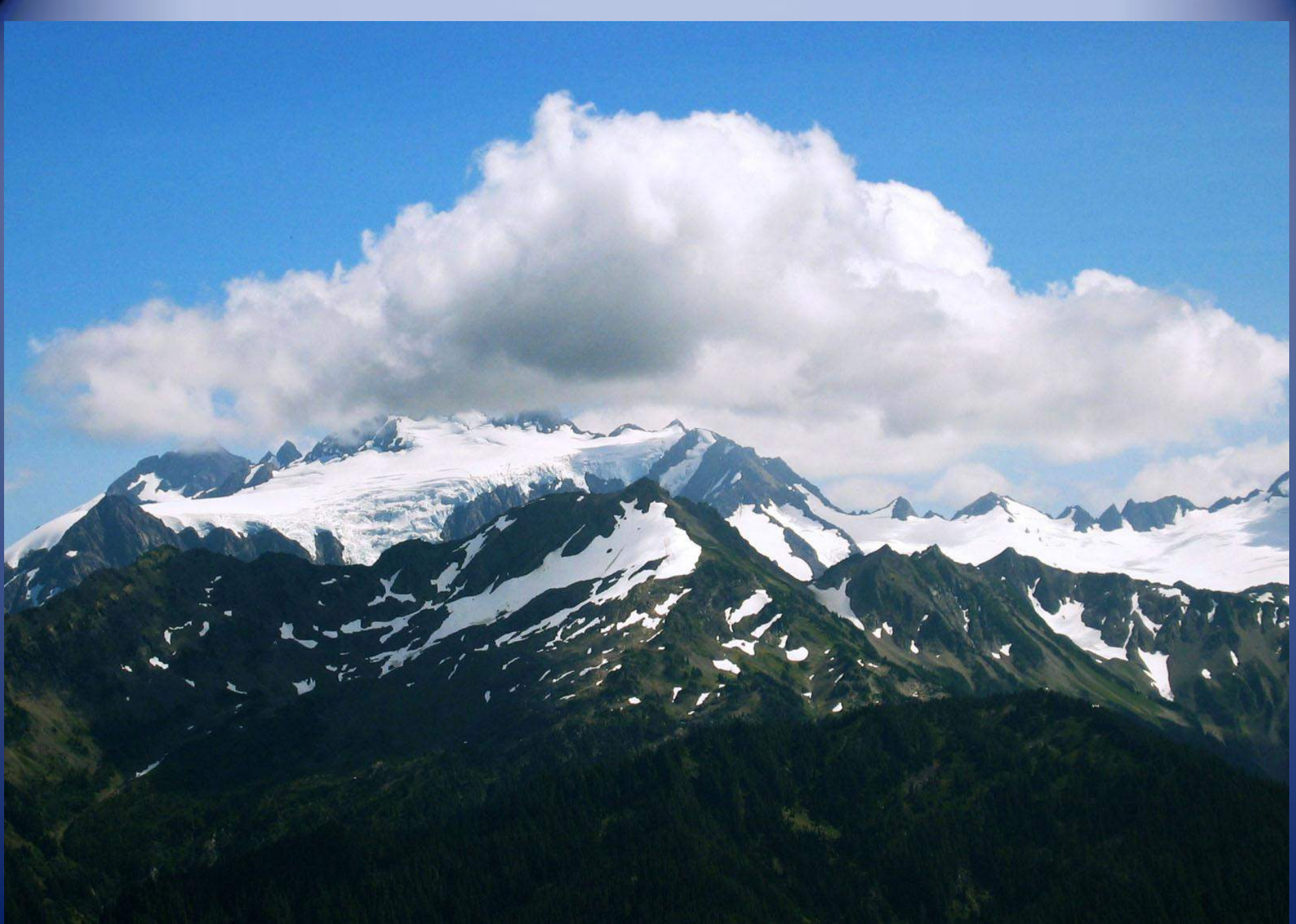
The Gods of Olympus

Olympian Gods

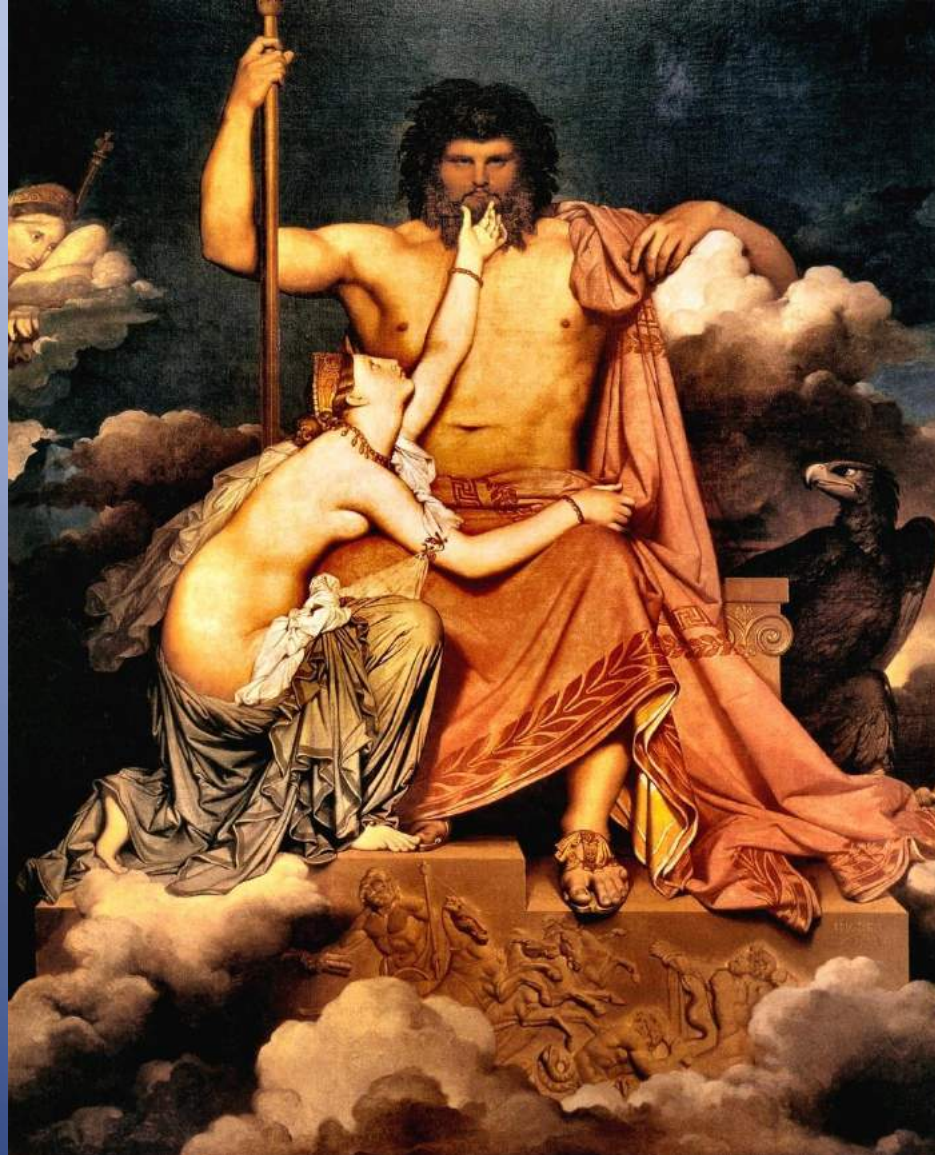
- Zeus
- Poseidon
- Apollo
- Ares
- Hermes
- Hephaestus
- Hera
- Hestia
- Demeter
- Athena
- Aphrodite
- Artemis

Mount Olympus



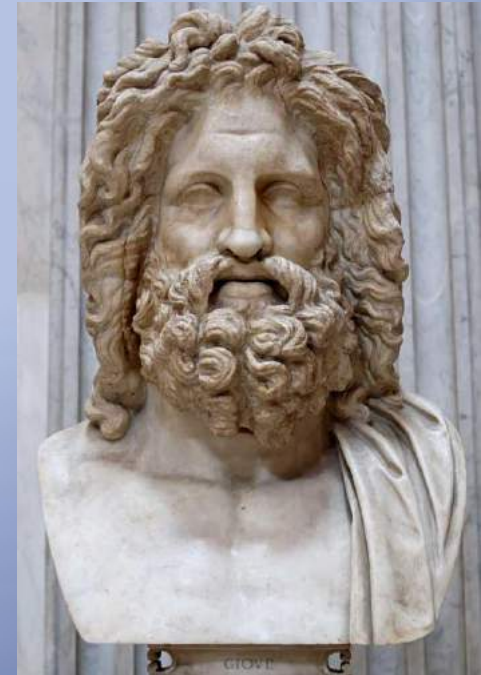


Zeus



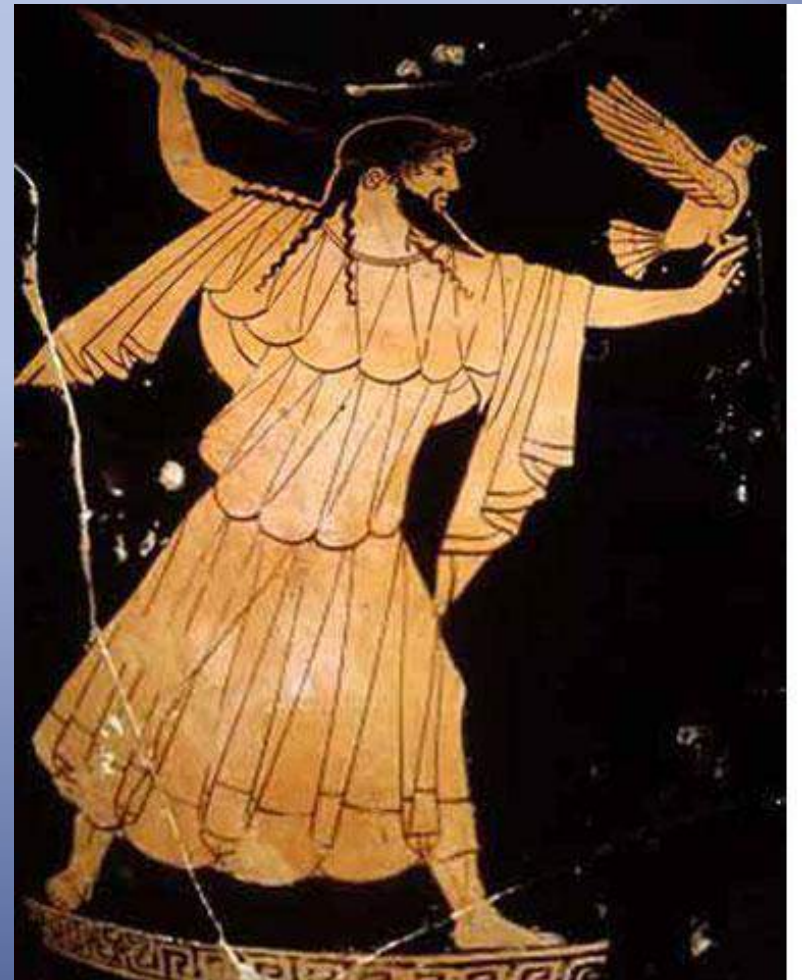
Zeus

- Indo-European Sky Father?
 - *dewos*: PIE
 - Zeus, Dios : Greek
 - Daiva: Old Persian
 - Deva: Sanskrit
 - Tues: Germanic
 - Diespiter: Old Latin
 - (Dies Pater: God the Father)
 - Jupiter



Son of Cronus (Cronides)

- Rhea Tricked Cronus
Zeus raised on Crete
- Returns to defeat
Cronus
- Zeus the Victor
becomes king of the
gods.



Moira

- By Lot:
- Zeus – Heaven
- Poseidon – Sea
- Hades – Underworld
- “*Moira* is not a person, not a god or a power, but a fact: the word means portion, and proclaims that the world is apportioned, that boundaries are drawn in space and time.” (Burkert, 1985: 129).

Sky God

- Zeus is the sky shining down upon the earth from the peak of Olympus.
- Commands the clouds and the rain
- Bringer of storms
- "Zeus, most glorious, supreme, who dwells in heaven, and rides upon the storm-cloud..." (*Iliad* ii. 412)

All Powerful

- Master of Heaven
- Resides on Olympus
- Wields Thunderbolt, Lightning bolt
- Aegis = Shield
- When Zeus shakes his aegis storms appear
- If he bows his head after speaking, his decision is final.

God of Kings, Law and Justice

- As King of Heaven and Earth:
- Zeus ratifies all monarchical power
- Oversees the exercise of power as a function of Justice
 - Dike, Themis and Metis
- Presides over the Assembly and Council
- Protects the Oath
- Avenger of the wronged and punisher of wrongdoers

Hospitality and Friendship

- Xenia
 - A bond of friendship between foreigners
 - Covers hospitality to strangers
- Philia
 - Bonds of friendship between countrymen.
- Both governed by a very strict set of behavioral norms.
- Troy destroyed because of Paris.

All Knowing

- Only Zeus knows the future
- Prophecies given from Zeus
 - Through Apollo at Delphi
 - “Make the best, therefore, of whatever ills he may choose to send each one of you” (*Iliad* xv.106 - 8)
- Dreams
 - “dreams, too are of Zeus” (*Iliad* i.63)

Zeus of Crete

- Zeus Dictaios/ Cretagenes
- Hidden, by Rhea, in a cave of Mt. Dicte.
- Raised by the Curetes and nymphs
- Fed milk and honey

Arcadian Zeus

- Zeus Lukaios:
 - Born in Arcadia on Mt. Lycaeon (Cretea)
 - Altar of Zeus near the peak (very ancient)
 - Arcadians claim the Crete legend is an error
- A sky-god associated with the Oak tree and eagles
- Lycosura:
 - The first town that ever existed (Paus. 8.38)

Zeus of Dodona

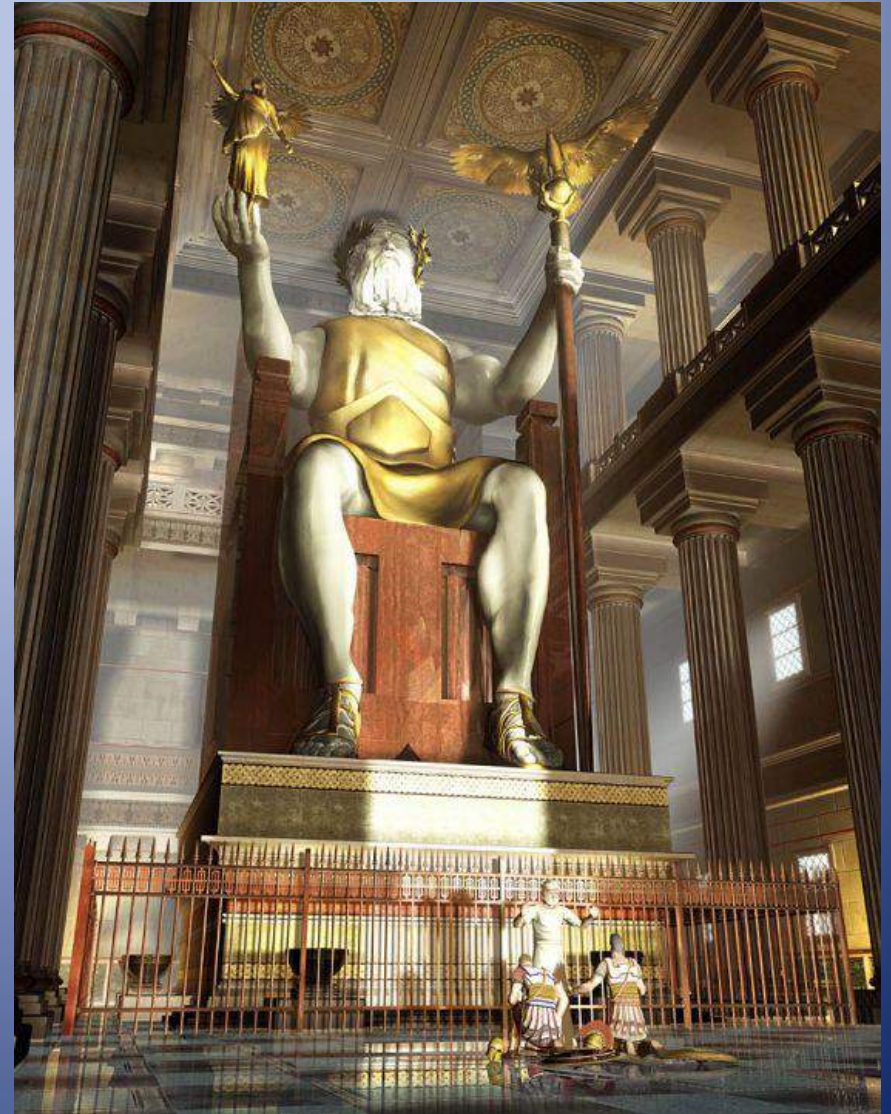
- Temple of Zeus at Dodona in Epirus
- Seat of a prophetic oracle
- Claim that Zeus was reared there
- Identified by Oak tree or oak leaves

The Black Doves

- Temple of Zeus at Thebes (Egypt)
- Phoenicians abduct two priestesses
- The Dodona Myth:
 - Two black doves came from Egypt
 - One flew to Dodona and landed on an oak tree
 - One flew to Ammon in Africa
 - Each spoke to the people and told them to build a sanctuary of Zeus
 - Hdts. ii.55

Olympian Zeus

- National/ Hellenic Zeus
- Temple at Olympia
 - Statue of Zeus mid 5th.c. BC.
- Olympic Games
- Battle of Zeus and Cronos





Temple of Zeus at Olympia

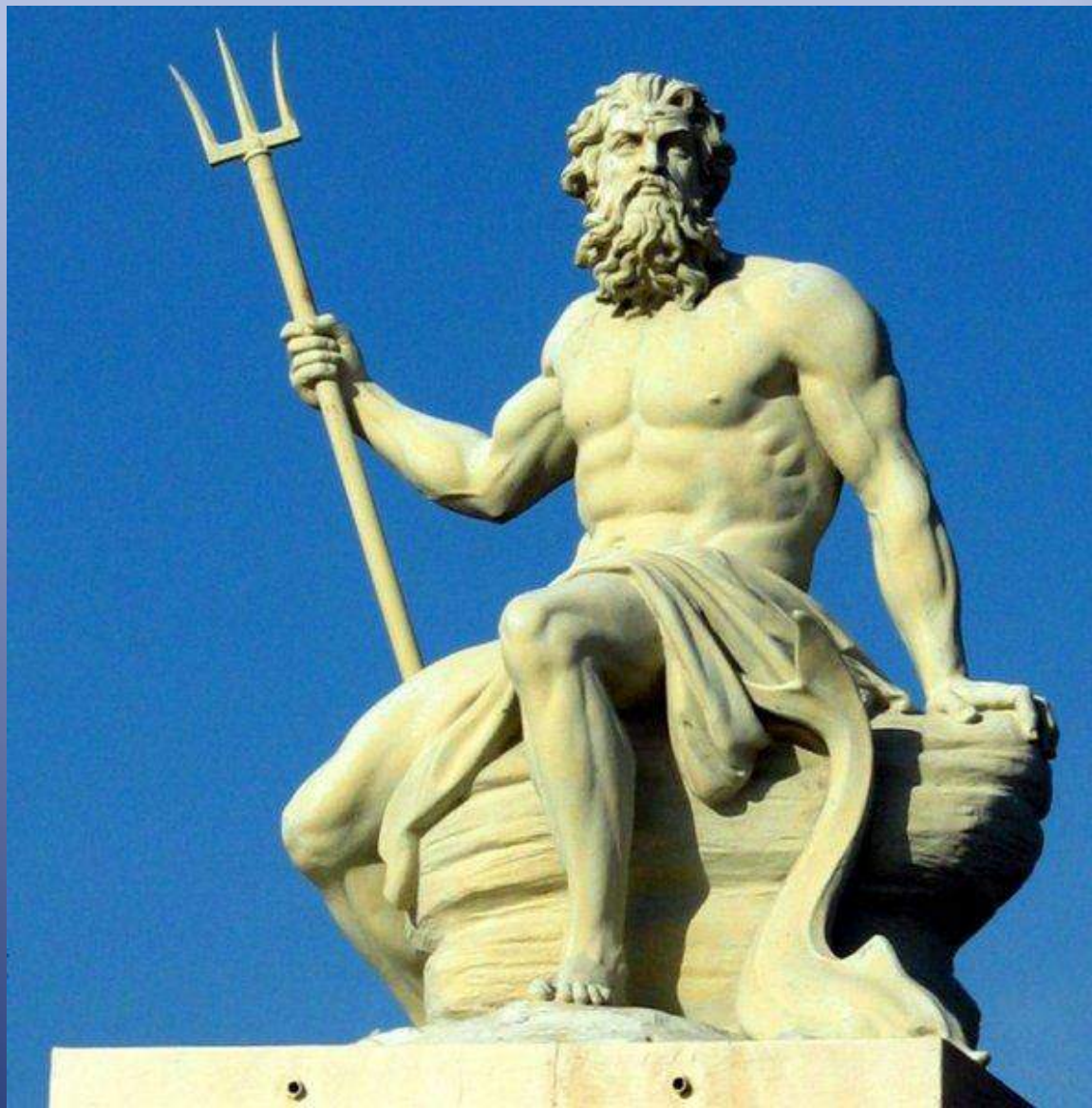


Zeus at Athens





Poseidon



Poseidon

- Son of Cronus, brother of Zeus
- God of the Sea
 - Wields a Trident
 - Calls forth storms and earthquakes
- The “Earthshaker”
- Source of spring water
- Temple under the sea off Euboea
- Married to Amphitrite

Poseidon

- Creator of the Horse, God of Charioteers
- Ancestral god of Aeolians and Boeotians
- Patron god of Pylos
- Father of Theseus
- Sanctuary at Corinth
- Temple on Cape Sunium



Legend

- ⊙ Cities over 100,000 people
- ⊗ Cities of 60 - 100,000 people
- ⊖ Cities of 30- 60,000 people
- Towns under 30,000 people
- ★ Religious Centers
- || Mountain Passes
- ✕ Battle Sites

Palace in the Sea

Temple at Sunium



Temple of Poseidon at Sunium



Poseidon or Oceanus?



Hades



Hades

- Brother of Zeus
- God of the Underworld
- Not included as a resident of Olympus
- Rarely depicted in ancient art
- Death = “going to the house of Hades”
 - “it is only Hades who is utterly ruthless and unyielding- and hence he is of all gods the one most hateful to mankind” (*Iliad* ix.158).

Apollo



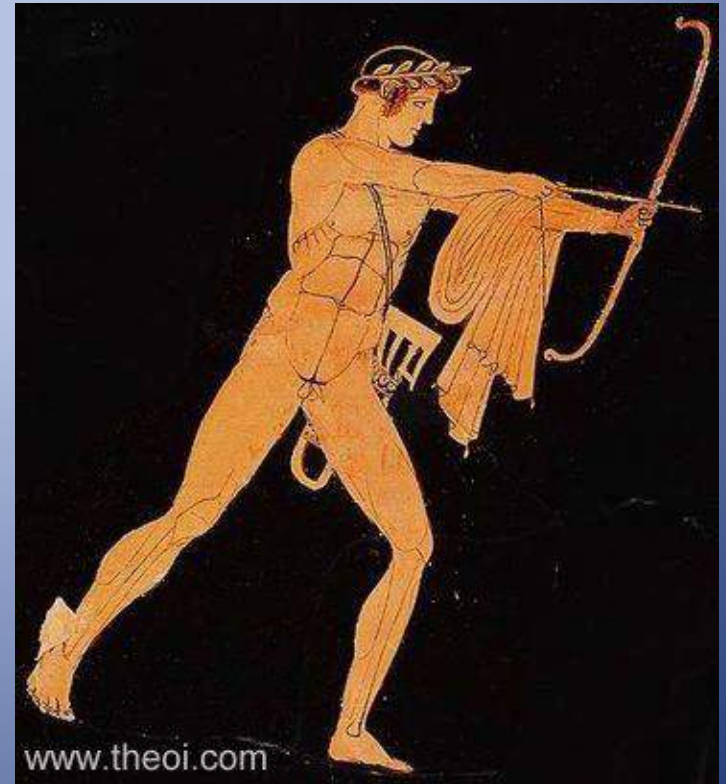


Apollo

- The 'most Greek of the gods'
- Son of Zeus and Leto
- Brother of Artemis
- God of youth
 - Depicted with long hair
- Young god:
 - No evidence on Apollo in Mycenaean culture

Apollo

- God of sickness and healing
 - Rituals of song and dance
 - God of purification
 - Asclepius is son of Apollo
- God of music
 - Master of the Muses
 - Plays the lyre
- Archer god
 - But not a hunter god



Apollo Lykeios

- Came to Greeks through Lycia
- Possible Hittite or Syrian origins
- Epithet associates Apollo with the wolf
 - Or with light...
- Phoebus Apollo:
 - Association with the fox?

Delian Apollo

- Sanctuary on Delos
- Leto gave birth to Apollo on Delos
- Themis gave Apollo nectar and ambrosia
 - He suddenly matures and demands a lyre and a bow.

Pythian Apollo

- Pytho
 - Dragon, son of Earth, lord of Delphi
- Apollo
 - Slays the dragon with his arrows
 - All sudden death is from his arrows
- From Delphi, Apollo gives prophecies through the Pythia (priestess)
- Founder of cities



Loxias

- “to men I will utter in oracles the unerring counsels of Zeus” (Homeric Hymn to Apollo)
- ‘Loxias’ refers to ambiguous speech.

Apollo Helios

- Helios, the sun
- Usually distinct from Apollo
- Possibly the original Apollo (Hyberborean)
- Possibly of Egyptian origin (Horus)
- Phoebus Apollo = Apollo of the light

Apollo Helios



Ares



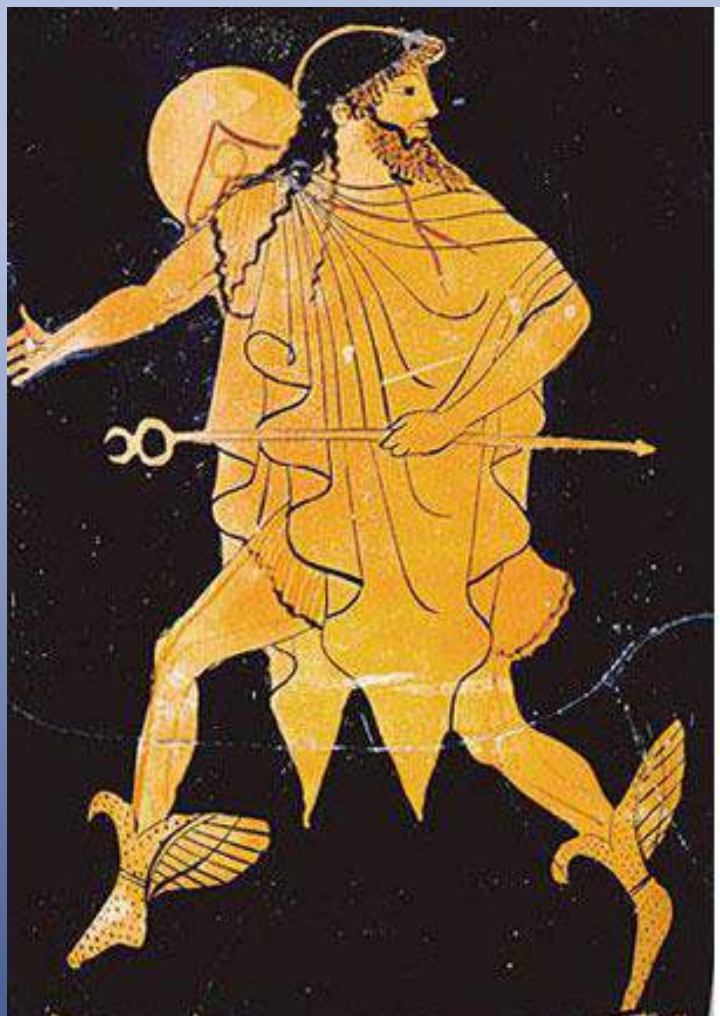
Ares

- Son of Zeus and Hera
- God of War
 - But only the violence and combat
- Residence in Thrace
 - Sanctuary outside Sparta
 - Temple outside Athens
- In love with Aphrodite
- Rarely depicted in art

Ares

- ...don't come to me and whine, you fickle god, I hate you more than any god of Olympus because all you love is conflict, war, and fighting. You remind me of your mother..." (Zeus to Ares in *Iliad* v.889-90).
- "Ares, most keen, is from Mycenae..." (Eurip. *Heraclidae* 290).
- Agamemnon calls his men "Servants of Ares" (*Iliad* ii.110)

Hermes



Hermes

- Son of Zeus and Maia
- God of thieves and liars
 - As a baby he stole the cattle of Apollo
 - Apollo accepted the lyre as compensation
- Herald of the gods
 - God of speech and eloquence.
- God of roads, travelers and merchants
- Conducts the souls of the dead to Hades



Herm

- Ancient symbol of ownership and boundaries
- Ancient way marker
- Phallic association
 - Ithiphalic images of Pelasgian origin
 - A mystery cult?

Herm



Hephaestus



Hephaestus

- Son of Hera (and Zeus)
- God of fire
- Born with a malformed leg
 - Hera threw him from Olympus
 - Rescued and reared by Thetis and Eurynome
- God of metallurgy and all crafts