

Roman Mythology



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Historical Overview

- The early Romans were farmers
- They did not understand science, instead they believed in forces or spirits
- These Gods did not have human forms or minds
- Gradually the Romans were influenced by the Greeks and adopted many of their Gods and gave them Roman names



Early Roman Gods and Goddesses

- Some Early Roman Gods or “Numen”
 - **Bellona** Goddess of War
 - **Cardea** similar to Artemis, had power over doorways
 - **Cupid** God of love like the Greek Eros
 - **Dis** God of the underworld like the Greek Hades
 - **Faunus** God of fields and shepards like the Greek Pan
 - **Glaucus** God of the sea
 - **Lares** God of the household- represented dead ancestors who protected the family
 - **Liber** God of fertility, identified with Baccus, the god of wine
 - **Saturn** God of agriculture and the Roman like the Greek Cronus
 - **Vesta** Goddess of home and hearth similar to the Greek Hestia



Jupiter



- King of the Gods/Ruler of the Skies
- Greek name is Zeus
- Married to Juno
- Symbols: Eagle, Shield, Thunderbolt and Oak Tree

Neptune



- God of the Sea
- Second most powerful God on Mt.Olympus
- Greek name is Poseidon
- Symbols: Trident, Horse and Bull

Pluto



- God the under world and wealth
- Greek name is Hades
- Symbols: Helmet, Metals, Jewels

Juno



- Queen of the Gods
- Goddess of Heaven, Marriage and Childbirth
- Greek name is Hera
- Married to Jupiter
- Symbols: Peacock and Cow

Vesta



- Goddess of the Hearth. Protector of the home and the family
- Greek name is Hestia
- Never married
- Symbol: fire

Mars



- God of War
- Greek name is Ares
- Bloody, fiery character – not well liked
- Symbols: Vulture, Dog

Minerva



- Goddess of Wisdom, War, Arts and Crafts and the City
- Zeus's favorite child
- Greek name is Athena
- Never married
- Symbols: Owl, Shield and Olive Branch

Apollo



- God of Light and Truth, Healing, Archery, and Music
- Greek name is Apollo
- Brother of Diana
- Symbols: Crow, Dolphin, Laurel and Lear

Venus



- Goddess of Love and Beauty
- Greek name is Aphrodite
- Married to Vulcan
- Symbols: Dove, Sparrow, Swan and Myrtle

Mercury



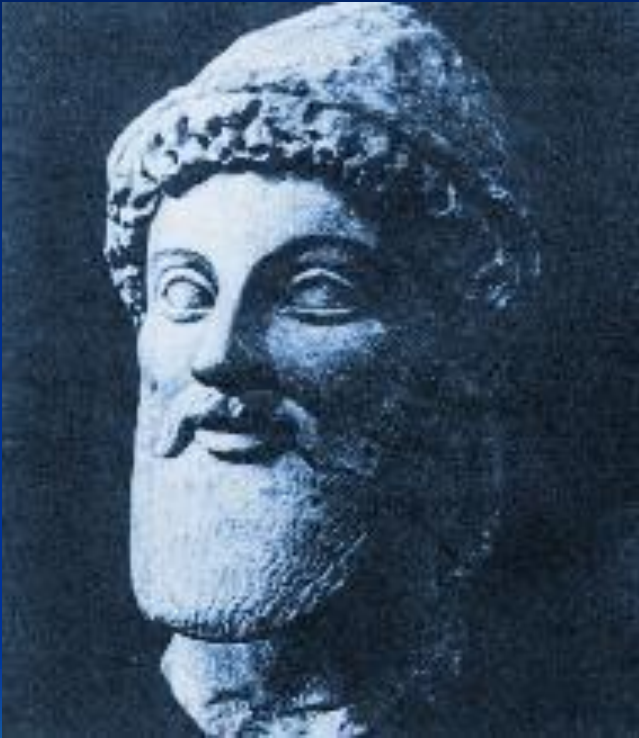
- God of Motion, Sleep and Dreams, Commerce and Travelers
- Graceful, Clever and Quick
- Greek name is Hermes
- Symbols: Wand, Winged Sandals and Winged Helmet

Diana



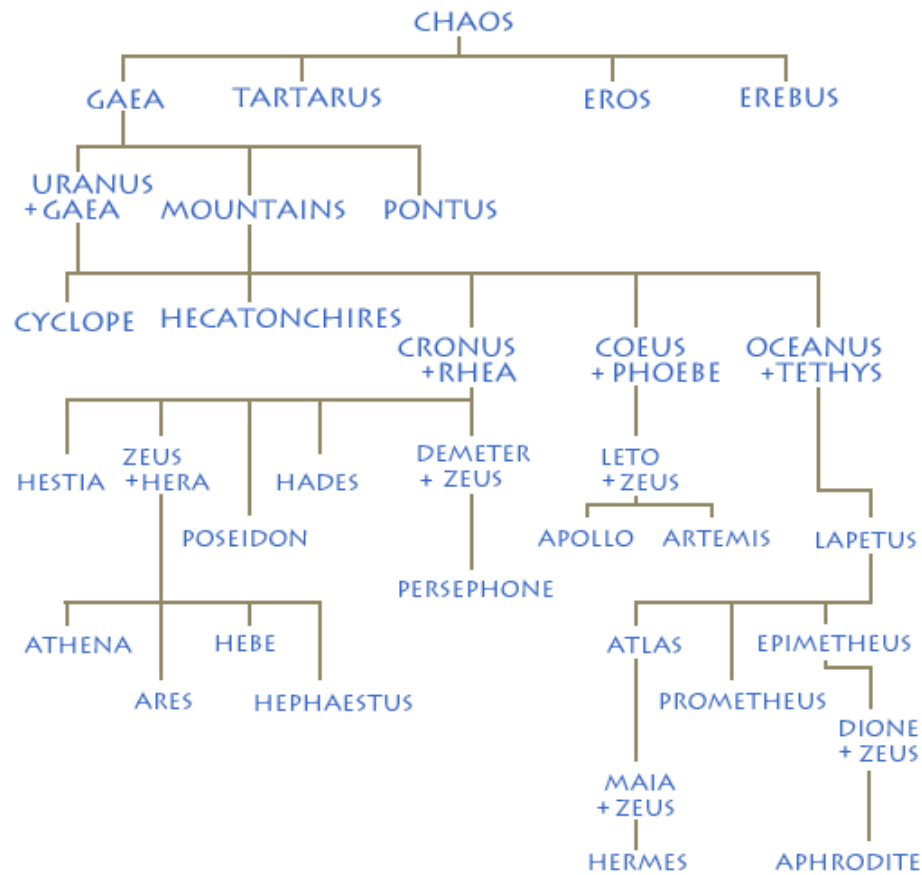
- Goddess of the Hunt, the Moon and Children
- Greek name is Artemis
- Sister of Apollo
- Symbols: Stag, Moon and Cypress

Vulcan



- God of the Forge
- Greek name is Hephaestus
- Married to Venus
- Symbols: Fire and Blacksmith's Hammer

Family Tree



Conclusion

- The Roman mythology and Gods tell us a lot about what the early Romans thought was important.
- The Romans valued family, beauty, honor, truth, wisdom, wealth, courage and strength.
- They were a people who were building a great city and testing the courage and honor that their ancestors would cherish.



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