

**THE IMMORTALS** of the Ancient Greek pantheon can be divided into roughly eight classes.

**THE FIRST** of these were the **PROTOGENOI** or First Born gods. These were the primeval beings who emerged at creation to form the very fabric of universe: Earth, Sea, Sky, Night, Day, etc. Although they were divinities they were purely elemental in form: Gaia was the literal Earth, Pontos the Sea, and Ouranos the Dome of Heaven. However they were sometimes represented assuming anthropomorphic shape, albeit ones that were indivisible from their native element. Gaia the earth, for example, might manifest herself as a matronly woman half-risen from the ground; and Thalassa the sea might lift her head above the waves in the shape of a sea-formed woman.

**THE SECOND** were the nature **DAIMONES** (Spirits) and **NYMPHAI** who nurtured life in the four elements. E.g. fresh-water Naiades, forest Dryades, beast-loving Satyroi, marine Tritones, etc.

**THE THIRD** were the body- and mind-affecting **DAIMONES** (Spirits). E.g. Sleep (Hypnos), Love (Eros), Joy (Euphrosyne), Hate (Eris), Fear (Phobos), Death (Thanatos), Old Age (Geras), etc.

**THE FOURTH** class consisted of the **THEOI** (Gods) who controlled the forces of nature and bestowed civilised arts upon mankind.

**THEOI OURANIOI** (Sky Gods). E.g. Helios (Sun), Anemoi (Winds), etc.

**THEOI HALIOI** (Sea Gods). E.g. The Nereides, Triton, Glaukos, etc.

**THEOI KHTHONIOI** (Underworld Gods). E.g. Persephone, Hekate, etc.

**THEOI GEORGIKOI** (Agricultural Earth Gods). E.g. Ploutos, etc.

**THEOI NOMIOI** (Pastoral Earth Gods). E.g. Pan, Aristaos, etc.

**THEOI POLIKOI** (City Gods). E.g. Hestia, Eunomia, etc.

**THEOI OLYMPIOI** (Olympian Gods). E.g. The Mousai, Hebe, etc.

**THEOI TITANES** (Titan Gods). E.g. Themis, Kronos, Prometheus, etc.

**APOTHEOTHENAI** (Deified Mortals). E.g. Herakles, Asklepios, etc.

**THE FIFTH** were the **12 OLYMPIAN GODS** who governed the universe and commanded the legions of lesser gods and spirits. They were, namely, Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Artemis, Apollon, Ares, Athene, Aphrodite, Hephaistos, Hermes, Dionysos, and Hestia.

**THE SIXTH** of the immortals were the spirits of the **CONSTELLATIONS** which circled the heavenly night sky. Every constellation, including the twelve signs of the Zodiac, was possessed of one or more spirits. EG Sagittarius was the centaur Kheiron, Gemini the Dioskouroi Twins, etc.

**THE SEVENTH** class consisted of the fabulous **MONSTERS, BEASTS, GIANTS** of myth. They were semi-divine creatures, closely related to the gods. E.g. **GIGANTES** (Giants), **DRAKONES** (Dragons), Kentauroi (Centaurs), Kerberos (Cerberus), Sphinx, Sirens, etc.

**THE EIGHTH** were the **HEROI HEMITHEOI** (Semi-Divine Heroes) who were worshipped after death as minor divinities. They included great heroes like Akhilleus, Theseus and Perseus; heroines such as Alkmene, Helene

and Baubo; and founding kings like Erikhthonios, Kadmos and Pelops.

There were many divinities in the Greek pantheon who fell into more than one of these categories. Tykhe (Lady Fortune), for example, can easily be classified under category Two as an Okeanis Nymphe, Three as fortune personified, and Four as a popularly worshipped goddess.

## **D) THE TWELVE OLYMPIAN GODS**

The Greek Pantheon was ruled by a council of twelve great gods known as the Olympians, namely Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Athene, Hephaistos, Ares, Aphrodite, Apollon, Artemis, Hermes, Dionysos, and sometimes Hestia.

These twelve gods demanded worship from all their subjects. Those who failed to honour any one of the Twelve with due sacrifice and libation were duly punished. Directly and through a host of divine minions the Twelve gods governed all aspects of human life.

### **ZEUS**

Modern Spellings: Zeus (En, Fr, Es, It)

Roman Name: Jupiter, Jove

God of: King of Heaven, Sky, Weather, Fate, Kingship

Parents: Titan Kronos & Titanis Rhea

Spouse: Hera

Offspring: Athene, Apollon, Artemis, Ares, Aphrodite,

Hermes, Dionysos, Herakles, others see pg 2 (below)

Animals: Golden eagle, Wolf

Plants: Oak, Celery

Iconography: Lightning bolt, Lotus staff, Eagle, Oak wreath

### **POSEIDON**

Modern Spell.: Poseidon (En), Poséidon (Fr), Poseidón (Es), Poseidone (It)

Roman Name: Neptunus (Neptune)

God of: King of the Seas, Rivers, Earthquakes, Horses

Parents: Titan Kronos & Titanis Rhea

Spouse: Amphitrite

Offspring: Triton, others see pg 2 (below)

Animals: Horse, Bull, Dolphin

Plants: Seaweed, Pine Tree

Iconography: Trident, Fish

### **HERA**

Modern Spellings: Hera (En, Es), Héra (Fr), Era (It)

Roman Name: Juno

Goddess of: Queen of Heaven, the Sky, Women, Marriage, Impregnation

Parents: Titan Kronos & Titanis Rhea

Spouse: Zeus

Offspring: Ares, Hephaistos, Eileithyia, Hebe, others see pg 2 (below)

Animals: Cuckoo, Peacock, Crane, Hawk, Cow (Heifer), Lion

Plants: Chaste Tree, Pomegranate

Iconography: Lotus staff, Crown, Lion

### **DEMETER**

Modern Spellings: Demeter (En), Déméter (Fr), Deméter (Es), Demetra (It)

Roman Name: Ceres

Goddess of: Agriculture, Grain & Bread, The Afterlife

Parents: Titan Kronos & Titanis Rhea

Spouse: None

Offspring: Persephone, Ploutos, others see pg 8 (below)

Animals: Serpent, Swine, Gecko

Plants: Wheat, Barley, Poppy, Mint  
Iconography: Grain Sheaf, Lotus Staff, Torch, Cornucopia

### **APOLLON**

Modern Spellings: Apollo (En, It), Apollon (Fr), Apolo (Es)  
Roman Name: Apollo  
God of: Music, Prophecy, Education, Healing & Disease  
Parents: God Zeus and Titanis Leto  
Spouse: None  
Offspring: Asklepios, others see pg 2 (below)  
Animals: Swan, Raven, Mouse, Wolf  
Plants: Laurel, Larkspur  
Iconography: Lyre, Laurel wreath or branch, Bow & arrows, Delphic tripod

### **ARTEMIS**

Modern Spellings: Artemis (En), Artémis (Fr), Artemisa (Es), Artemide (It)  
Roman Name: Diana  
Goddess of: Hunting, Wild Animals, Children, Choirs, Disease  
Parents: God Zeus & Titanis Leto  
Spouse: None (Virgin Goddess)  
Children: None (Virgin Goddess)  
Animals: Deer, Bear, Wild boar, Guinea fowl, Quail  
Plants: Cypress, Walnut, Amaranth-flower  
Iconography: Bow & arrows, Hunting spears, Lyre, Deer

### **ATHENE**

Modern Spellings: Athena (En), Athéna (Fr), Atenea (Es), Atena (It)  
Roman Name: Minerva  
Goddess of: Warcraft, Heroism, Counsel, Pottery, Weaving, Olives & Oil  
Parents: God Zeus & Titanis Metis  
Spouse: None (Virgin Goddess)  
Offspring: None (Virgin Goddess)  
Animals: Little Owl, Crow  
Plants: Olive Tree  
Iconography: Greek helmet, Aegis (Goat-skin breastplate), Spear

### **ARES**

Modern Spellings: Ares (En, Es, It), Arès (Fr)  
Roman Name: Mars  
God of: War, Battle, Manliness  
Parents: God Zeus & Goddess Hera  
Spouse: Perhaps Aphrodite  
Offspring: Deimos, Phobos, others see pg 8 (below)  
Animals: Serpent, Vulture, Woodpecker, Eagle-owl  
Plants: Perhaps Manna Ash  
Iconography: Helmet, Spear

### **APHRODITE**

Modern Spellings: Aphrodite (En, Fr), Afrodita (Es), Afrodite (It)  
Roman Name: Venus  
Goddess of: Love, Beauty, Pleasure, Procreation  
Parents: God Zeus & Titanis Dione; or Born of the Sea-Foam  
Spouse: Hephaistos, perhaps later Ares  
Offspring: Eros, others see pg 10 (below)  
Animals: Turtle dove, Sparrow, Goose, Hare  
Plants: Apple Tree, Rose, Myrtle, Myrrh Tree, Anemone, Lettuce  
Iconography: Eros (winged godling), Apple, Dove

### **HERMES**

Modern Spellings: Hermes (En, Es), Hermès (Fr), Ermes (It)  
Roman Name: Mercurius (Mercury)  
God of: Animal Husbandry, Travel, Trade, Athletics, Language, Thievery, Good Luck, Guide of the Dead, Herald of the Gods  
Parents: God Zeus & Nympe Maia  
Spouse: None  
Children: Pan, others see pg 9 (below)  
Animals: Tortoise, Sheep, Cattle, Hawk  
Plants: Crocus, Strawberry Tree  
Iconography: Kerykeion (Herald's Rod), Traveller's Cap, Winged Boots

### **HEPHAISTOS**

Modern Spell.: Hephaestus (En), Héphaïstos (Fr), Hefesto (Es), Efesto (It)  
Roman Name: Vulcanus (Vulcan)  
God of: Metalworking, Fire, Building, Sculpture, Volcanism  
Parents: Goddess Hera (no father)  
Spouse: Aphrodite or Kharis  
Offspring: See pg 6 (below)  
Animals: Donkey, Crane  
Plants: Fennel  
Iconography: Hammer, Tongs, Anvil, Donkey, Crane-head

### **DIONYSOS**

Modern Spellings: Dionysus (En, Fr), Dioniso (Es), Dionysio (It)  
Roman Name: Liber, Bacchus  
God of: Wine, Drunkenness, Madness, Parties, Vegetation, The Afterlife  
Parents: God Zeus & Princess Semele  
Spouse: Ariadne  
Offspring: See pg 10 (below)  
Animals: Leopard, Lynx, Tiger, Serpent, Bull, Goat, Donkey  
Plants: Grape-vine, Ivy, Bindweed, Silver Fir  
Iconography: Thyrsos (pine-cone tipped staff), Grapes, Ivy wreath, Leopard

### **HESTIA**

Modern Spellings: Hestia (En, Fr, Es), Estia (It)  
Roman Name: Vesta  
Goddess of: Home, Hearth, Family, Meals, Sacrificial offerings  
Parents: Titan Kronos & Titanis Rhea  
Spouse: None (Virgin Goddess)  
Offspring: None (Virgin Goddess)  
Animals: Swine  
Plants: Chaste Tree  
Iconography: Chaste tree branch, Head veil, Kettle

## **(II) KING & QUEEN OF THE DEAD**

The thirteenth of the great gods was Hades, King of the Dead. Unlike the other 12, he was never titled Olympian, nor did he partake in the feasts of Heaven. Instead this lord remained ever enthroned within the gloom of the underworld.

### **HAIDES**

Modern Spellings: Hades (En, Es), Hadès (Fr), Ade (It)  
Roman Name: Pluto, Dis  
God of: King of the Underworld, the Dead, Death

Parents: Titan Kronos & Titanis Rhea  
Spouse: Persephone  
Offspring: See pg 1 (below)  
Animals: Screech owl  
Plants: Asphodel, Mint, White Poplar  
Iconography: Cornucopia, Bird-tipped staff

### **PERSEPHONE**

Modern Spellings: Persephone (En), Perséphone (Fr),  
Perséfone (Es),  
Persefone (It)  
Roman Name: Proserpina  
Goddess of: Queen of the Underworld, the Afterlife, Spring  
Growth, Grain  
Parents: God Zeus & Goddess Demeter  
Spouse: Haides  
Offspring: See pg 1 (below)  
Animals: Screech owl  
Plants: Wheat, Narcissus, Black Poplar, Mint, Asphodel  
Iconography: Eleusinian torch or torches, Wheat sheafs

### **(III) OTHER IMPORTANT GODS**

The other Gods and Spirits of the Pantheon fell within the sphere of one or more of the twelve great Olympians. They essentially functioned as minions and, servants of the greater gods.

The most important of these gods appear below.

### **HEKATE**

Modern Spellings: Hecate (En), Hécate (Fr, Es), Ecate (It)  
Roman Name: Hecate, Trivia  
Goddess of: Witchcraft, Ghosts  
Parents: Titan Perses & Titanis Asteria  
Spouse: None (perhaps a Virgin Goddess)  
Offspring: See pg 1 (below)  
Plants: Herbs, Asphodel  
Animals: Dog, Weasel, Polecat  
Iconography: Twin torches, Triple body

### **THE 3 ERINYES (Furies)**

Modern Spellings: Erinyes, Erinnyes (En, Fr), Erinias (Es),  
Erinni (It)  
Roman Name: Furies  
Goddesses of: Punishment, Retribution  
Parents: Protogenos Ouranos & Protogenos Gaia  
Names: Alekto, Megaira, Tisiphone  
Animals: Poisonous serpent, Screech owl  
Plants: Elm, Yew  
Iconography: Serpentine hair, Poison serpents, Wings,  
Whip

### **HELIOS**

Modern Spellings: Helios (En), Hélios (Fr), Helios (Es),  
Elo (It)  
Roman Name: Sol  
God of: the Sun  
Parents: Titan Helios & Titanis Thea  
Spouse: Rhode  
Offspring: Phaethon, others see pg 3 (below)  
Animals: Rooster, White Horse  
Plants: Heliotrope, Frankincense  
Iconography: Aureole (sun crown)

### **GAIA**

Modern Spellings: Gaea (En), Gaia (Fr, Es), Gea (It)  
Roman Name: Terra, Tellus  
Goddess of: the Earth  
Parents: None (Emerged at Creation)  
Spouse: Ouranos  
Offspring: Ouranos (Sky), Pontos (Sea), the Titanes, the  
Erinyes, the Kyklopes, the Hekatonkheires, the Gigantes,  
others see pg 1 (below)  
Animals: -

Plants: -  
Iconography: Half risen from earth

### **RHEA**

Modern Spellings: Rhea (En, Fr), Rea (Es, It)  
Roman Name: Ops  
Goddess of: Mother of the Gods, Motherhood, Mountains  
Parents: Protogenos Ouranos & Protogenos Gaia  
Spouse: Kronos  
Offspring: Zeus, Poseidon, Haides, Hera, Demeter, Hestia  
Animals: Lion  
Plants: Silver Fir  
Iconography: Turret crown, Lions

### **THEMIS**

Modern Spellings: Themis (En), Thémis (Fr), Temis (Es),  
Temi (It)  
Roman Name: Themis  
Goddess of: Custom, Order, Prophecy  
Parents: Protogenos Ouranos & Protogenos Gaia  
Spouse: Zeus  
Offspring: Horai, Moirai, others see pg 1 (below)  
Animals: -  
Plants: -  
Iconography: Delphic tripod

### **LETO**

Modern Spellings: Leto (En, Es, It), Lètô (Fr)  
Roman Name: Latona  
Goddess of: Motherhood, Womanly Demure  
Parents: Titan Koios & Titanis Phoibe  
Spouse: None (consort of Zeus)  
Offspring: Apollon, Artemis  
Animals: Rooster, Weasel (Ichneumon)  
Plants: Date Palm  
Iconography: Head veil

### **PAN**

Modern Spellings: Pan (En, Fr, Es, It)  
Roman Name: Faunus  
God of: Herds & Flocks, Mountain Wilderness  
Parents: God Hermes & Nympe Penelopeia  
Spouse: Aix  
Offspring: See pg 1 (below)  
Animals: Goat, Sheep  
Plants: Pine Tree, Reeds  
Iconography: Pan-pipes, Goat legs, Horns

### **EILEITHYIA**

Modern Spellings: Ilithyia (En), Ilithye (Fr), Ilitia (Es),  
Ilizia (It)  
Roman Name: Lucina  
Goddess of: Childbirth, Pregnancy & Labour  
Parents: God Zeus & Goddess Hera  
Spouse: None  
Offspring: See pg 1 (below)  
Animals: Weasel (Ichneumon)  
Plants: -  
Iconography: Raised hands

### **EROS**

Modern Spellings: Eros (En, Fr, Es, It)  
Roman Name: Cupidus (Cupid), Amor  
God of: Love, Sexual Desire  
Parents: Goddess Aphrodite & (father variously named)  
Spouse: Psykhe  
Offspring: See pg 1 (below)  
Animals: Hare  
Plants: Apple, Rose, Myrtle  
Iconography: Wings, Bow & arrows, Torch, Myrtle wreath

### **AMPHITRITE**

Modern Spellings: Amphitrite (En, Fr), Anfitrite (Es, It)  
Roman Name: Salacia  
Goddess of: Queen of the Sea, Sea Life (fish, shellfish, sea-mammals)  
Parents: Sea-God Nereus & Nympe Doris  
Spouse: Poseidon  
Offspring: Triton, others see pg 1 (below)  
Animals: Dolphin, Fish, Seal  
Plants: Seaweed  
Iconography: Dolphin, Fish, Pinched fingers

### **ASKLEPIOS**

Modern Spellings: Asclepius (En), Asclépios (Fr), Asclepio (Es, It)  
Roman Name: Aesculapius  
God of: Medicine, Healing  
Parents: God Apollon & Princess Koronis  
Spouse: Epione  
Offspring: See pg 1 (below)  
Animals: Serpent  
Plants: Herbs (healing)  
Iconography: Serpent-entwined staff

### **THE 9 MOUSAI (Muses)**

Modern Spellings: Muses (En, Fr), Musas (Es), Muse (It)  
Roman Name: Musae  
Goddesses of: Music, Song, Dancing, the Arts  
Parents: God Zeus & Titanis Mnemosyne  
Names: Kleio, Euterpe, Thaleia, Melpomene, Terpsikhore, Erato, Polyhymnia, Ourania, Kalliope  
Animals: Dove  
Plants: -  
Iconography: Lyre (cithara & barbiton), Laurel wreath, Scroll-chest, Scroll

### **THE 3 KHARITES (Graces)**

Modern Spellings: Charites (En, Fr), Cárites (Es), Carite (It)  
Roman Name: Gratiae  
Goddesses of: Joy, Mirth, Beauty, Adornment, Festivities, Dancing  
Parents: God Zeus & Titanis Eurynome  
Names: Aglaia, Euphrosyne, Thaleia  
Animals: -  
Plants: -  
Iconography: Dancing circle

### **THE 3 HORAI (Seasons)**

Modern Spellings: Horae (En), Heures (Fr), Horas (Es), Ore (It)  
Roman Name: Horae  
Goddesses of: the Seasons, Law, Good Order, Peace  
Parents: God Zeus & Titanis Themis  
Names: Eirene, Dike, Eunomia  
Animals: -  
Plants: Fruit trees  
Iconography: Branches of fruit & blossoms, Basket of fruit, Cornucopia

### **THE 3 MOIRAI (Fates)**

Modern Spellings: Moirae (En), Moires (Fr), Moras (Es), Moire (It)  
Roman Name: Parcae  
Goddesses of: Fate, Destiny  
Parents: God Zeus & Titanis Themis  
Names: Klotho, Lakheisis, Atropos  
Offspring: None (Virgin goddesses)  
Animals: -  
Plants: -

Iconography: Spinning spool, Thread, Shears

### **HERAKLES THEOS**

Modern Spellings: Heracles (En, Es), Héraclès (Fr), Eracle (It)  
Roman Name: Hercules  
God of: Defender against Evil  
Parents: God Zeus & Princess Alkmene  
Spouse: Hebe  
Offspring: Numerous mortal offspring  
Animals: -  
Plants: White Poplar  
Iconography: Lion skin cape, Gnarled club

### **Zeus**

King of the gods and ruler of Mount Olympus; god of the sky and thunder. Youngest child of the Titans Cronus and Rhea. Symbols include the thunderbolt, eagle, oak tree, scepter and scales. Brother and husband of Hera, although he had many lovers. First Generation. Roman Name: Jupiter

### **Hera**

Queen of the gods and the goddess of marriage and family. Symbols include the peacock, pomegranate, crown, cuckoo, lion and cow. Youngest daughter of Cronus and Rhea. Wife and sister of Zeus. Being the goddess of marriage, she frequently tried to get revenge on Zeus' lovers and their children. First Generation. Roman Name: Juno

### **Poseidon**

Lord of the seas, earthquakes and horses. Symbols include the horse, bull, dolphin and trident. Middle son of Cronus and Rhea. Brother of Zeus and Hades. Married to the Nereid Amphitrite, although, like his brother Zeus, he had many lovers. First Generation. Roman Name: Neptune

### **Dionysus**

God of wine, celebrations and ecstasy. Patron god of the art of theatre. Symbols include the grapevine, ivy, cup, tiger, panther, leopard, dolphin and goat. Son of Zeus and the mortal Theban princess Semele. Married to the Cretan princess Ariadne. The youngest Olympian, as well as the only one to have been born of a mortal woman. Second Generation. Roman Name: Bacchus

### **Apollo**

God of light, music, poetry, prophecy and archery. Symbols include the sun, lyre, bow and arrow, raven, dolphin, wolf, swan and mouse. Twin brother of Artemis. Youngest child of Zeus and Leto. Second Generation. Roman Name: Apollo

### Hermes

Messenger of the Gods; god of commerce and thieves. Symbols include the caduceus (staff entwined with two snakes), winged sandals and cap, stork and tortoise (whose shell he used to invent the lyre). Son of Zeus and the nymph Maia. The second-youngest Olympian, just older than Dionysus. He married Dryope, the daughter of Dryops, and their son Pan became the god of nature, lord of the satyrs, inventor of the panpipes and comrade of Dionysus. Second Generation. Roman Name: Mercury

### Athena

Virgin goddess of wisdom, handicrafts, defence and strategic warfare. Symbols include the owl and the olive tree. 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. Second Generation. Roman Name: Minerva

### Ares

God of war, violence and bloodshed. Symbols include the boar, serpent, dog, vulture, spear and shield. Son of Zeus and Hera, all the other gods (excluding Aphrodite) despised him. His Latin name, Mars, gave us the word "martial." Second Generation. Roman Name: Mars

### Aphrodite

Goddess of love, beauty, and desire. Symbols include the dove, bird, apple, bee, swan, myrtle and rose. Daughter of Zeus and the Oceanid Dione, or perhaps born from the sea foam after Uranus' blood dripped onto the earth and into the sea after being defeated by his youngest son Cronus. Married to Hephaestus, although she had many adulterous affairs, most notably with his brother Ares. Her name gave us the word "aphrodisiac." Either Second or from the Titan generation. Roman Name: Venus

### Hephaestus

Master blacksmith and craftsman of the gods; god of fire and the forge. Symbols include the fire, anvil, ax, donkey, hammer, tongs and quail. Son of Hera, either by Zeus or alone. After he was born, his parents threw him off Mount Olympus, and he landed on the island of

Lemnos. Married to Aphrodite, though unlike most divine husbands, he was rarely ever licentious. His Latin name, Vulcan, gave us the word "volcano." Second Generation. Roman Name: Vulcan

### Demeter

Goddess of fertility, agriculture, nature, and the seasons. Symbols include the poppy, wheat, torch, and pig. Middle daughter of Cronus and Rhea. Her Latin name, Ceres, gave us the word "cereal." First Generation. Roman Name: Ceres