

THE CREATION MYTH

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS CHAOS.

AND OUT OF THAT CHAOS CAME GAIA THE EARTH.

GAIA MARRIED URANUS, THE GOD OF THE SKY, AND TOGETHER THEY ESTABLISHED ORDER OUT OF CHAOS AND CREATED LIFE.

Gaia and Uranus had 3 huge children called the Cyclopes (who had one eye each), and three children who had 100 hands and 50 heads each. They also gave birth to 6 sons and 6 daughters who were majestic and beautiful. They were the first gods - The Titans - who governed nature and the elements including the sun, the moon and the sea.

Uranus feared the power of his children and so he imprisoned these children under the earth. Gaia persuaded her youngest son, Chronus, to attack his father with the weapon (the sickle) she had given him. Chronus fought his father and when he drew blood, Uranus went fleeing back into the sky where he remains. Chronus became ruler of the Earth.

Chronus, recognizing that his own children could overthrow him as he had his father, decided to swallow each child as soon as his wife, Rhea, gave birth. Rhea allowed him to do so but she was outraged and plotted a way to defeat her husband and save her children. She had her sixth child, Zeus, in secret and sent him to be raised by ash-nymphs until he was old enough to overthrow his father.

When Zeus reaches maturity, Rhea secretly has him appointed cup-bearer to serve Chronus at meals. Zeus gives Chronus a powerful medicine/mixture to drink that causes him to spew out the 5 children that were now fully grown Gods.

Zeus and his siblings, along with the help of the Cyclops and 100-handed giants, defeat Chronus in battle and Zeus becomes King of the Gods, making his home on Mount Olympus.

The Olympian Gods included: Poseidon, god of the sea; Hades, god of the Underworld; Hestia, goddess of Homes and Family Life; Aphrodite, goddess of love; Ares, god of war; Hera, Zeus' wife and Queen of the Gods; Demeter, goddess of grains; Hephaestus, god of the forge; and Hermes, the messenger god.

The Olympians had many children, which ruled over parts of the earth. They also had relationships with mortals which are told in the myths and legends of the Greeks.