

The Titanomachy #5

I. The Titanomachy – the war between the Titans and the Olympians

A. Machy means war

B. Titan Forces

1. Cronus was not willing to give up his throne and the Titans did not want to give up power.
2. There were many more Titans than Olympians.
3. The Titans had Atlas on their side and was the strongest of all the gods and gave Cronus the advantage.

C. Olympian Forces

1. Zeus builds alliances in order to gain power. Zeus realized that the Titans were too strong and too many to conquer, so he would need to persuade some of their members to join his forces.
 - a. First Zeus sought the advice of Hecate – Titaness of the crossroads and magic. Often seen with 3 faces, torches, rope, and/or serpent.
 - b. River Styx - (daughter of Oceanus) The boundary between the Earth and the Underworld, Titaness along with her children: Nike (often with Athena) she is the goddess of victory, Zelus (zeal), Cratus (authority), and Bia (force / violence)
 - c. Themis – Titaness (law and order) Carries the scales of justice; Clever ones will prevail – divine law. She had the power of prophecy. She became Zeus' first counselor.
 - d. Other famous Titans to join the Olympians: Prometheus (brother of Atlas) and had the gift of prophecy. He knew who would win. Epimetheus (his brother) and he knew that his brother Prometheus was the smart one.

III. Locations for the battles (both actual mountains in Greece)

- A. Mt. Othrys was the home for the Titans (Central Greece)
- B. Mt. Olympus was the home for the Olympians (Northern Greece)

IV. First 10 years – equally matched

- A. Gaea – unless Zeus release the Cyclopes and Hecatoncheires from Tartarus, he would lose
- B. Zeus gave ambrosia and nectar to the Cyclopes and Hecatoncheires to revive their strength

V. Gifts to Olympians for their release

- A. Cyclopes gave Zeus – thunder, lightning, and thunderbolt

- B. Poseidon received the trident
- C. Hades received the helmet of invisibility

VI. Victory –

- A. Hecatoncheires brute strength overcame the Titans and forced them into submission and locked in Tartarus. They became the guards. Poseidon gives his daughter as payment.
- B. Having defeated the Titans, the three Olympian sons draw lots.
 - 1. Poseidon – Sea
 - 2. Hades – Underworld
 - 3. Zeus – Sky
- C. Zeus grants amnesty to all but Atlas, who will continue to hold up the sky on his shoulders

VII. Gigantomachy – war with the Gigantes

- A. The Giants (blood of Uranus) raise a rebellion years after the defeat of the Titans
- B. They too were the children of Uranus and Gaea
 - 1. They were said to be half man and half serpent or lizard-like.
 - 2. They were dressed as soldiers – “foot soldiers” and were very aggressive
- C. Gaia was angry that her children (Titans) were locked away in Tartarus and convinced the Gigantes to begin a rebellion.
- D. The Gigantes outnumbered the Olympians but they were not completely immortal. Gigantes can only be killed with the assistance of a mortal and a god
- E. Zeus is assisted by Heracles and kills off the Giants
- F. The battle rages on for many years until Zeus managed to kill many Gigantes with his thunderbolts and Heracles with his arrows.

Big Picture Questions: What trait(s) do Greeks view as important? Why? What do the Greek myths teach us about power?

VIII. Theme - Hubris – Excessive Pride

- A. Found in many myths
- B. “Pride goes before a fall” a warning to mortals and gods
- C. Those with too much pride or arrogance must be punished.