

GREEK MYTHOLOGY CREATION OUTLINE #4

The Olympians

- I. The Olympians – The children of Cronus and Rhea will eventually become known as the Olympians because they will live on Mt. Olympus.
 - A. Cronus did not obey his mother, Gaea and release the Hecatoncheires or the Cyclopes from Tartarus, but rather kept power to himself. Having struck his father with the sickle, Cronus took power, and Uranus was banished.
 - B. Gaia was angry with Cronus and foretold that he too would be overthrown by one of his own.
 - C. To protect his power, Cronus decided to imprison his children.
 - D. The children of Cronus & Rhea:
 1. Hestia – oldest
 2. Demeter – goddess
 3. Hades – god
 4. Poseidon – god
 5. Hera – goddess
 6. Zeus – the youngest
- II. The reign of Cronus and his other siblings was known as the Golden Age – a time of order and prosperity and no need for laws.
- III. The overthrow of Cronus:
 - A. Rhea became angry with not having any children. She went to Gaia for advice and was told to disguise a rock as a child for Cronus to swallow and then Gaea would hide the child. When Rhea gave birth to her 6th child, Zeus, she gave him to Gaea who hid him on the island of Crete to be raised by shepherds and nymphs and given special goat milk which gave him strength. In the meantime, Rhea disguised a rock to give to Cronus who thus swallowed it whole.
 - B. In time Zeus matured and was told to return and help release his siblings. Disguised as a cupbearer to the gods, Zeus brought Cronus a drink, an elixir prepared by Metis (goddess of wisdom) which caused Cronus to vomit up his children.

C. Having released his siblings, Zeus and his siblings devised a plan in which to continue to hold their place of power in the world.

Big Picture Questions: Why do you suppose the Greeks made their gods into the shape and forms of humans? Why do gods behave like humans?