

# GREEK MYTHOLOGY CREATION OUTLINE #5

## The Titanomachy

- I. Once it was decided that Zeus was ruler for having overthrown Cronus, he and his siblings devised a plan to take revenge.
  - A. Titanomachy – war between the Titans and Olympians for control of the universe
    1. Machy – suffix for fight or war
    2. Titans were led by brothers, Atlas and Epimetheus. Their 3<sup>rd</sup> brother Prometheus sided with the Olympians. He had the power of foresight and knew who would win the war.
- II. Zeus was certain to make proper alliances as he built his defenses and win over powerful Titans to assist him:
  - A. First Zeus sought the advice of Hecate – Titaness of the crossroads and provided daily blessings. Often seen with 3 faces and torches.
  - B. River Styx - (daughter of Tethys) 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) Clever ones will prevail – divine law.
- 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 Zeus 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 - 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.
  - A. Having defeated the Titans, the three Olympian sons draw lots.

1. Poseidon – Sea
  2. Hades – Underworld
  3. Zeus – Sky
- B. Zeus grants amnesty to all but Atlas, who will continue to hold up the sky on his shoulders

VII. Gigantomachy

- A. The Giants (sons of Gaea or Ge) raise a rebellion years after the defeat of the Titans
- B. They too were the children of Uranus and Gaea
- C. Only can be killed with the assistance of a mortal and a god
- D. Zeus is assisted by Heracles and kills off the Giants

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