



MYTHOLOGY: TIMELESS TALES OF GODS & HEROES

Chapters 2-4

THE CREATION MYTHS

Where did man come from?

How was the world created?

What existed before the universe came into being?

“First there was Chaos, the vast immeasurable abyss.
Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild.” – John Milton

Chaos



- ❑ The universe emerged from Chaos, a shapeless void of confusion
- ❑ All elements of the universe – earth, sky, and sea – were one
- ❑ Creation was a process of making order out of disorder
- ❑ An unknown force (creator) put an end to the disorder
- ❑ The elements were separated – heaven from earth, sea from sky

The Elements of the Universe



- ▣ Greeks though the elements were living beings
- ▣ From Chaos came five elements:

Gaia (Earth)

Tartarus (the Underworld)

Nyx (night)

Erubus (darkness)

Eros (love)

Ouranos and Gaia



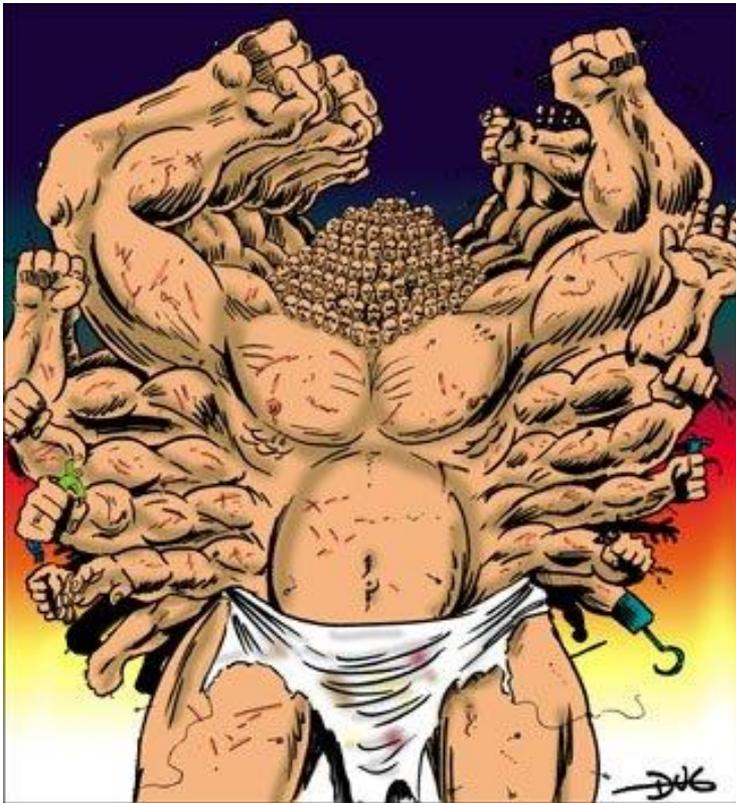
- ▣ Ouranos was born of Gaia in her sleep
- ▣ Ouranos (Father Heaven) mated with his mother (Mother Earth) to create the rest of the earth's elements: water, forests, animals
- ▣ Ouranos and Gaia also begot the 12 Titans

The Fates (Moirai)



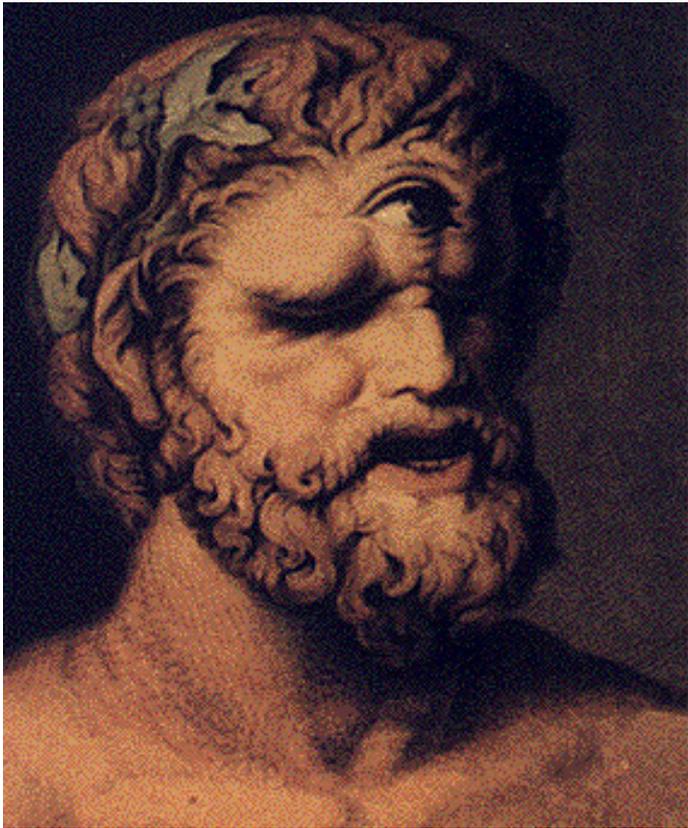
- ❑ Ouranos and Gaia also gave birth to the Fates
- ❑ Three sisters responsible for the lives of mortals
- ❑ One sister spun the thread of life
- ❑ Second sister measured its length
- ❑ Third sister cut that thread, ending life

The 100-Handed Ones



- ❑ First children born of Ouranos and Gaia were the Hecatoncheires
- ❑ The three each had a hundred arms and fifty heads
- ❑ Referred to as giants
- ❑ Had incredible strength: they could level a mountain by bombarding it with boulders
- ❑ Feared by Ouranos who imprisoned them in the Underworld

The Uranian Cyclopes



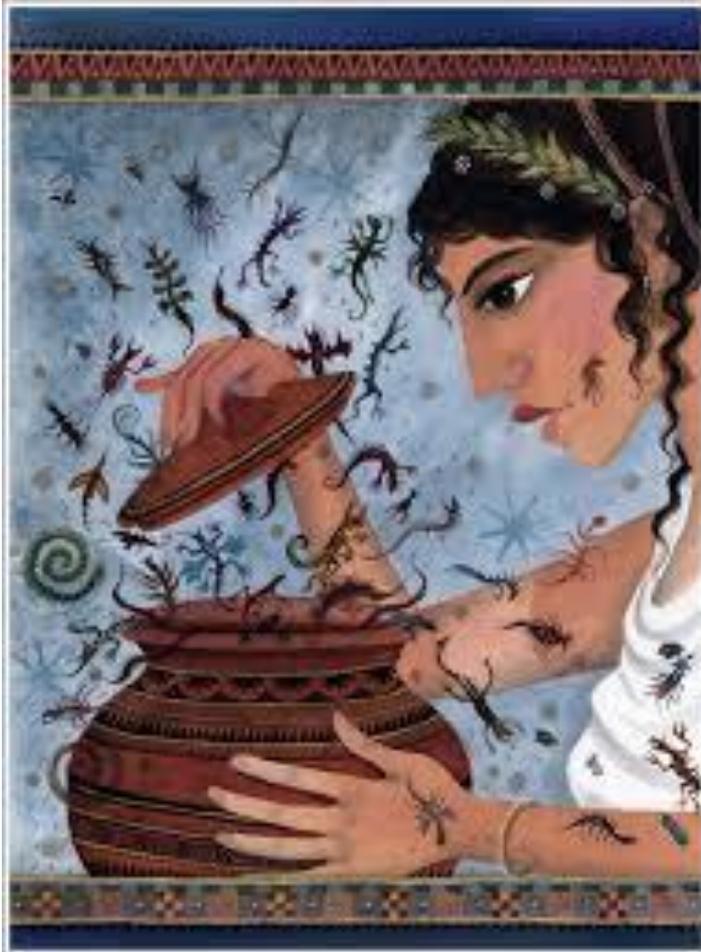
- ❑ Born of Gaia and Ouranos
- ❑ Giants with one eye in the middle of their foreheads
- ❑ Ugly and frightening to look at
- ❑ Not man-eating ogres as were the cyclopes in later times
- ❑ Known as the first smiths

Prometheus and Epimetheus



- ❑ **Epimetheus** gave protection to the beasts: shells to turtles, claws to bears, spots to leopards, etc.
- ❑ **Prometheus** created man using clay and water (Dr. Frankenstein)
- ❑ Man went through several prototypes before Prometheus was satisfied.
- ❑ Prometheus gave man the gift of fire as protection
- ❑ P. stole fire from the heavens
- ❑ Zeus punished him by chaining him to a rock and having an eagle peck at his liver for eternity

The Creation of Woman



- ❑ Zeus order Hephaestus to make woman as a way to inflict weakness on man.
- ❑ Hephaestus credited with forming the greatest sculpture ever created.
- ❑ Woman molded in the image of goddesses.
- ❑ Woman was granted the arts of seduction, deceit, and guile.

Pandora's Box



- ❑ First woman was Pandora
- ❑ Given as gift from Zeus to Epimetheus (Pandora=gift to all)
- ❑ Gods gave Pandora a sealed jar and told her it was a gift to man
- ❑ Pandora was curious and opened the box
- ❑ Out flew the plagues of mankind: disease, pain, sorrow, insanity, envy, and death.
- ❑ Only “hope” did not escape

THE TITANS

Cronus (Saturn)

Ocean

Tethys

Hyperion – father of the sun, moon, and dawn

Mnemosyne (Memory)

Themis (Justice)

Ipetus

Atlas – bore the world on his shoulders

Prometheus – the savior of mankind

Ouranos Overthrown



- ❑ Ouranos viewed his children as threats to his ruling the universe
- ❑ Tried to prevent them from being born by shoving them back into Gaia's womb
- ❑ Gaia was unhappy with the pain inflicted upon her: She urged her children to rise up against Ouranos
- ❑ Cronus was the only child who agreed to seek revenge
- ❑ Cronus sliced his father's genitals off with a sickle

Cronus Crowned as Ruler



- ❑ Cronus freed all of Gaia's children: Titans, Cyclopes, and the 100-Handers
- ❑ Cronus later re-imprisoned the Giants because he was afraid of them
- ❑ Cronus heard a prophecy that one of his children would overthrow him.
- ❑ Whenever Rhea gave birth he ate the child
- ❑ Rhea angered, sought revenge

The Birth of Zeus



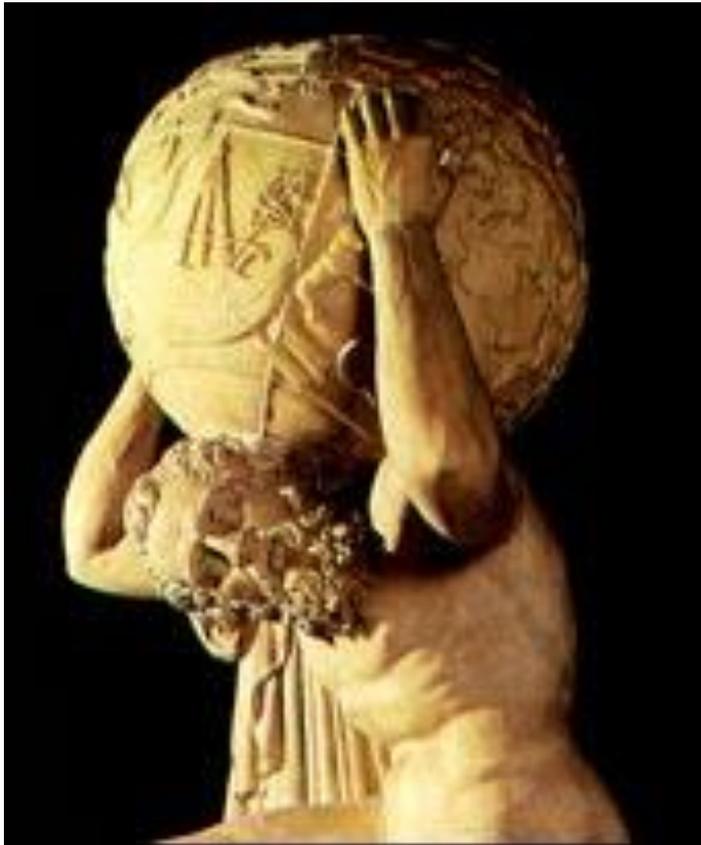
- ❑ When Rhea gave birth to Zeus, she tricked Cronus by wrapping up a stone and passing it off as her child
- ❑ Cronus ate the stone instead of Zeus
- ❑ Zeus left in care of Gaia
- ❑ Zeus fulfilled the prophecy of overthrowing his father
- ❑ Gave Cronus a potion which made him vomit up his kids

Cronus Overthrown



- ❑ Zeus raised an army of his siblings to challenge Cronus
- ❑ Many of the other titans refused to aid Cronus
- ❑ Atlas led the Titans in battle
- ❑ Zeus and his army created fortifications at Mount Olympus
- ❑ The Clash lasted 10 years
- ❑ Zeus freed the imprisoned Giants who helped him fight Cronus
- ❑ War ended, Zeus victorious

Zeus Takes Charge



- ❑ Army of Cronus imprisoned in Tartarus (the Underworld)
- ❑ Atlas was the only Titan to escape imprisonment.
- ❑ Atlas was made to hold the weight of the world on his shoulders for eternity
- ❑ The Titanesses were allowed to retain their positions in the heavens
- ❑ The Olympians came into power