

MYTH ONE. HOW IT ALL STARTED.

At the beginning, there was nothing but the void of chaos. But from chaos came Gaia, the earth; tartarus, the place below the earth; and Eros. Next came night, day, and Erebus, the dark light of tartarus. Gaia gave birth to Uranus, the sky, and to the mountains and the sea. She married Uranus, and there children were the Hundred-handers, the Cyclopes, and the Titans. Uranus hated and feared his Titan children, since they were so powerful. As each one was born, he locked them away in tartarus, so that they might never see the world. He delighted in his evil, but Gaia longed for a way to save them. She created a sickle of adamant and gave it to Cronos, the most terrible Titan, who took it and set an ambush for his father. Cronus attacked Uranus and killed him. As Uranus's substances Dripped down in the earth, it created the Furies, the Giants, the Nymphs, and Aphrodite. And it was not long before Cronus started acting in the same way his father had. He married his sister, Rhea. They had children called Hestia, the goddess of the fireside, Demeter, goddess of the harvest, Hera, goddess of birth, Hades, god of death, Poseidon, god of the sea, and Zeus, god of the sky. But as each was born, Cronus swallowed them, for Gaia and Uranus had warned him that his children might kill him sometime. Rhea, like Gaia, despaired for her offspring. So when her youngest child, Zeus, was born, she hid him in a cave on mount Dicte in crete. She wrapped a rock in baby clothes and gave it to Cronos to swallow. Zeus vowed to take revenge on his father. So when Zeus grew up, he made Cronos vomit up the rock and all his brothers and sisters. He then led the gods into a war against the wicked Titans. The gods were helped by the Hundred-handers and the cyclopes, whom Zeus had freed from tartarus. Zeus threw lightning bolts, while the Hundred-handers threw massive boulders, the sea boiled, and the earth itself burst into flames. Finally, after a long war, Zeus drove the Titans from the heavens. He cast them down into the darkest pit of tartarus and bound them with such strong bonds that they would never rise again and challenge the gods ever again. With the Titans defeated, Typhon, an enormous hundred-headed dragon, rose up, to defeat Zeus, to take the titans place. But the angry god soon vanquished Typhon and hurled him into tartarus with the titans. But Zeus and the gods still had to face one final enemy: The Giants. These brutal creatures piled mountains one on top of another to get another effort to attack the heavens. Zeus defeated them to, burying them deep in the earth from witch they had been born. Legend has it that Zeus even imprisoned one of them beneath mount etna, a sicilian volcano that still spews lava whenever he writhes in anger.

MYTH TWO. THE STORY OF KING MIDAS.

One sunny day, Silenus, a friend of Dionysus, drank to much wine and got lost. He ended up at Midas's palace, a house of a nice young king, and entered, hoping the king could help. Silenus told Midas what had happened, and Midas promised he'd help Silenus find Dionysus again. And Midas was true to his word, because the next day Midas found Dionysus and returned Silenus to him. Dionysus was so grateful to Midas that he said he'd grant him any wish he desired. Midas thought and thought and finally said he wanted to turn things gold with his touch. Dionysus granted it right away, and Midas ran home. He had so much fun. First he turned his house to gold, then his crown, then his furniture. But then he realized he couldn't eat, because whatever he touched turned to gold, and it's pretty hard to bite and swallow gold. He thought he would starve to death. Then he turned his children to gold by accident. He returned sadly to Dionysus, and begged him to ungrant his wish. Dionysus took pity on King Midas and assented. He told the king that the wish would be removed if he washed in a certain river. Midas did this, and the river is washed to gold this day. As the days passed, Midas became bored, and instead became a follower of the satyer Pan, god of the wild. One day Pan did a music contest against Apollo. Since Apollo was the god of music, everybody thought Apollo did better, except King Midas. Appolo was outraged, and gave Midas ears of a donkey. Nobody knew that Midas had donkey ears except his barber, who swore he wouldn't tell anybody. But then the barber thought he'd explode if he didn't tell someone. So he dug a deep hole in the ground and wispered, "King Midas has donkey ears." Then weeds grew up from the spot and told the story to the grass. then the grass told the trees, who told it to the birds, who sang out as loudly as they could, "King Midas has donkey ears!"

MYTH THREE. PERSEUS AND MEDUSA.

Only one hero was brave enough to fight the gorgon Medusa. It was the demigod Perseus. He was the son of Danae and Zeus. The story went that Perseus and Danae were thrown into the sea in a cage by a king called Acrisius. The chest sailed for many days, Perseus and Danae whimpering. Finally they landed at Seriphos, where King Polydeuces liked Danae and wanted Perseus to be killed. Then Perseus said that he could get the king Medusa's head. Polydeuces loved the idea, since he thought that Perseus was probably going to die. So Perseus did that, traveling off to his doom. He couldn't have done it without Athena and Hermes, who appeared to help him. They gave him a scythe and a big shield. They led him to the Graeae, three old women with only one eye and tooth between them, Medusa's sisters. Perseus threatened them to tell him where Medusa was, and he declared that he would steal their eye and tooth if they didn't. And the Graeae, scared, told him where Medusa was, and also where he could find some Nymphs. When Perseus found the three Nymphs, they gave him a cap of invisibility and winged sandals. Perseus flew invisible to Medusa and fought her by looking in the reflection in his shield, because if you look at her in the eyes, you turn to stone. He cut off Medusa's head and sailed back off to Seriphos, where he brought out Medusa's head and turned the king to stone.

MYTH FOUR. THE SHORT STORY OF OEDIPUS AND THE SPHINX.

There were few monster's as intelligent as the Sphinx. With the head of a women, a body of a lion, and the wings of a bird, it flew around the city of Thebes, killing anybody who couldn't answer its riddle: "What goes on four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs in the evening?" Then finally a man called Oedipus came up with the answer: "Human." Oedipus had realized that the Sphinx was comparing a humans life to a day. In the morning of life, when your a baby, you crall on four legs. Then in the middle of day, when your an adult, you walk on two legs. Then, finally, when your old in the evening, you walk with a cane, making three legs. The Sphinx was mad to be defeated, so it destroyed itself.

MYTH FIVE. HERACLES AND THE TWELVE LABOURS.

The greatest hero of them all, amazing Heracles was very strong, and he was the son of Zeus. Everybody thought Heracles was great except Hera, Zeus's first wife. Heracles was a son of another one of Zeus's wife's, so Hera didn't like him because he wasn't her own child. One day Hera set two deadly snakes off to kill Heracles. But the child just strangled them and thought they were toys. Hera was so angry after that. Then when Heracles married and had children, Hera was so angry to see him happy. So she put a spell on him, and made him kill his own family, not knowing what he was doing. He was so sad and angry. To make up for it, Heracles went to the temple of forgiveness. The priestess told Heracles that he would have to let his enemy cousin, King Eurystheus, give him twelve labours. So Heracles went to the king and told him what to do. The king thought and made up his mind. They were hard tasks. THE TWELVE LABOURS LIST: 1 KILL THE NEMEA LION. Its skin was immune to all swords, so Heracles had to strangle it. He then made it into a jacket, and he was then almost invincible. 2 KILL THE MANY HEADED HYDRA, WHO'S BREATH COULD KILL ANYONE. 3 CAPTURE THE GOLDEN HORNED DEER. 4 CATCH THE SAVAGE BOAR WHO'S TUSKES COULD PIERCE ANY ARMOR. 5 CLEAN THE FILTHY STABLES OF KING AUGEAS IN ONE NIGHT. 6 KILL THE FLOCK OF STYMPHALION BIRDS. 7 CAPTURE THE BULL OF CRETE. 8 STEAL DIOMEDESES MAN-EATING HORSES. 9 GET THE GOLDEN GIRDLE OF AMAZON WARRIOR WOMEN. 10 GET GERYONS CATTLE, GUARDED BY A TWO HEADED DOG. 11 COLLECT THREE GOLDEN APPLES WHO COULD ONLY BE PICKED BY A GOD. 12 CAPTURE CERBERUS, HADES THREE HEADED DOG.

MYTH SIX. POSEIDON.

Poseidon, god of the sea, was a very moody god. He had blue eyes and sea blue long hair. When he was in a bad mood he'd strike the ground with his staff and the earth would split open. But when he was happy, he would race the waves. In the Titans times, the sea was ruled by Nereus, a son of Gaia and Pontus. He was a father of forty-nine Nereid sisters. He was an old sea god who lived in a palace underwater. When Poseidon came to take over the palace, Nereus gave him his daughter, Amphitrite, for a queen. Nereus also gave him his other daughters, the kind Nereids. There Amphitrite sat happy by Poseidon, surrounded by her forty-nine Nereid sisters. She had only one son who's name was Triton. He had a fishtail instead of feet. He rode on a sea monsters back, blowing his conch shell. Poseidon was rarely at home. He was a restless god and loved to control the waves. He created horses in the shape of breaking waves. Like his brother Zeus, he had many wives, but Amphitrite was not jealous like Hera. Only one time.

MYTH SEVEN. PANDORA'S BOX.

One day a giant called Prometheus made some humans out of clay. He thought they looked pretty life-like, and Prometheus decided he wanted them alive. He went to Mount Olympus and asked Zeus to breath life into them, and Zeus did and Prometheus had a lot of fun with them. They played for many days, but the problem was that Zeus kept sending thunder bolts down to remind them of his power. The humans started to get irratated and asked Prometheus to play a trick on Zeus. He was delighted, and he knew just what to do. He made lots of sacks of guts and eye- balls, and lots of other disgusting stuff. He offered all of them to Zeus. Zeus took the one that looked the nicest, witch was actully the one with the most guts and eyeballs. When Zeus found out the trick, he was in rage. He washed all of the fire and heat off earth, so humans couldn't cook and were very cold. But Prometheus did not want his beloved humans to suffer. He climed up to Mount Olympus and stole all the fire from Zeus. Then the humans were warm, but not for long. When Zeus found out the truth, he chained Prometheus to a rock. Each night a vulcan chewed out his liver. The punishment continued for years, until he was released. Zeus also punished humans. He ordered them to make a women. Her name was going to Pandora, and she was going to be married to Prometheus's brother, Epimetheus. Epimetheus married Pandora at once. Zeus also sent a locked box to Epimetheus and Pandora and told them to NEVER open it. Epimetheus and Pandora swore they wouldn't. But curiosity got the better of Pandora. Epimetheus kept hiding the box, but Pandora always found it and Epimetheus had to snatch it back again. Then one night Pandora found the box when Epimetheus was asleep. She tiptoed back to her room and sat on her bed and opened the box. Then, the moment she lifted the lid, out flew evilness. The world was never so happy again.