

BOOK ONE

The Theogony (1-44) The Descendants of Deucalion (45-147)

The offspring of Uranus and Ge. Uranus was the first to rule over the 1
entire world. He married Ge and sired first the Hecatoncheires, who
were named Briareos, Gyes, and Cottus. They were unsurpassed in both
size and power, and each had a hundred hands and fifty heads. After
these he sired the Cyclopes, by name Arges, Steropes, and Brontes, each
of whom had one eye in his forehead. But Uranus bound these and 2
threw them into Tartarus (a place in Hades' realm as dark as Erebus,
and as far away from the earth as the earth is from the sky), and fa-
thered other sons on Ge, namely the Titans: Oceanus, Coeus, Hyperion,
Crius, Iapetus, and Cronus the youngest; also daughters called Titan-
ides: Tethys, Rhea, Themis, Mnemosyne, Phoebe, Dione, and Theia.

The Titans castrate Uranus. Now Ge, distressed by the loss of her chil- 3
dren into Tartarus, persuaded the Titans to attack their father, and she
gave Cronus a sickle made of adamant. So all of them except Oceanus
set upon Uranus, and Cronus cut off his genitals, tossing them into the
sea. (From the drops of the flowing blood Erinyes were born, named
Alecto, Tisiphone, and Megaera.) Thus having overthrown Uranus' rule,
the Titans retrieved their brothers from Tartarus and gave the power to
Cronus.

The Children of Cronus and Rhea. But Cronus once again bound the 4
Cyclopes and confined them in Tartarus. He then married his sister
Rhea. Because both Ge and Uranus had given him prophetic warning
that his rule would be overthrown by a son of his own, he took to swal-
lowing his children at birth. He swallowed his first-born daughter
Hestia, then Demeter and Hera, and after them Pluto and Poseidon.
Angered by this, Rhea, when she was heavy with Zeus, went off to 5
Crete and gave birth to him there in a cave on Mount Dicte. She put
him in the care of both the Curetes and the nymphs Adrasteia and Ide,
daughters of Melisseus. These nymphs nursed the baby with the milk of

Amaltheia, while the armed Curetes stood guard over him in the cave, banging their spears against their shields to prevent Cronus from hearing the infant's voice. Rhea meanwhile gave Cronus a stone wrapped in swaddling-clothes to swallow in place of his newborn son.

- 6 Zeus overthrows the Titans. When Zeus was grown, he engaged Oceanus' daughter Metis as a colleague. She gave Cronus a drug, by which he was forced to vomit forth first the stone and then the children he had swallowed. With them Zeus fought a war against Cronus and the Titans. After ten years of fighting Ge prophesied a victory for Zeus if he were to secure the prisoners down in Tartarus as his allies. He thereupon slew their jail-keeper Campe, and freed them from their bonds. In return the Cyclopes gave Zeus thunder, lightning, and a thunderbolt, as well as a helmet for Pluto and a trident for Poseidon. Armed with these the three gods overpowered the Titans, confined them in Tartarus, and put the Hecatoncheires in charge of guarding them. The gods then drew lots for a share of the rule. Zeus won the lordship of the sky, Poseidon that of the sea, and Pluto the rule of Hades' realm.
- 8 Offspring of the Titans. The Titans had children. Those of Oceanus and Tethys were called Oceanids: Asia, Styx, Electra, Doris, Eurynome, [Amphitrite], and Metis. The children of Coeus and Phoebe were Asteria and Leto. Hyperion and Theia had Eos, Helius, and Selene. To Creius and Eurybia, the daughter of Pontus, were born Astraeus, Pallas, and Perses. Atlas (who holds the sky on his shoulders), Prometheus, Epimetheus, and Menoetius (whom Zeus struck with a thunderbolt in the Titan battle and confined to Tartarus), were all sons of Iapetus and Asia. Cheiron, a double-formed centaur, was born to Cronus and Philyra; Eos and Astraeus were parents of winds and stars; Perses and Asteria of Hecate; and Nice, Cratus, Zelus, and Bia were born to Pallas and Styx. Zeus instituted an oath to be sworn by the waters of Styx that flowed from a rock in Hades' realm, an honor granted in return for the help she and her children gave him against the Titans.
- 10 Offspring of Pontus and Ge. The children of Pontus and Ge were Phorcus, Thaumias, Nereus, Eurybia, and Ceto. Thaumias and Electra had Iris and the Harpies named Aello and Ocypete, while Phorcus and Ceto had the Phorcides and the Gorgons, whom we shall discuss in the
- 11 course of the legend of Perseus. Nereus and Doris were parents of the Nereids, whose names were Cymothoe, Speio, Glauconome, Nausithoe, Halie, Erato, Sao, Amphitrite, Eunice, Thetis, Eulimene, Agaue, Eudore, Doto, Pherusa, Galateia, Actaea, Pontomedusa, Hippothoe,
- 12 Lysianassa, Cymo, Eione, Halimede, Plexaure, Eucrante, Proto, Calypso, Panope, Cranto, Neomeris, Hipponoe, Ianeira, Polynome, Autonoe,

Melite, Dione, Nesaea, Dero, Euagore, Psamathe, Eumolpe, Ione, Dynamene, Ceto, and Limnoreia.

Offspring of Zeus and goddesses. Zeus married Hera and fathered 13 Hebe, Eileithuia, and Ares, but he slept with many women, both mortal and divine. With Themis, the daughter of Uranus, he fathered his daughters the Horae, by name Eirene, Eunomia, and Dice; also the Moirae, called Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropus. By Dione he had Aphrodite, and by Oceanus' daughter Eurynome he had the Charites, named Aglaiia, Euphrosyne, and Thaleia. Styx bore him Persephone; and Mnemosyne the Muses, the eldest of whom was Calliope, followed by Cleio, Melpomene, Euterpe, Erato, Terpsichore, Urania, Thaleia, and Polymnia.