

Greek Mythology - Outline #4

The Olympians

Deceit #3

- A. Despite taking power from Uranus, Cronus did not release the Hecatoncheires and Cyclopes from Tartarus. He and his siblings chose to rule the universe, which became known as the **Golden Age** or reign of the Titans. Mankind suffered no hunger, pain or death. There was no need for laws.
- B. Gaia was angry with Cronus and foretold that he too would be overthrown by one of his own.
- C. Cronus, who was very smart, devised a plan to keep his power. When he and Rhea had children, he would simply swallow them (remember – you can't kill a god).

Deceit #4 – Rhea wanted children; Cronus feared them

- D. Each child that Rhea produced, Cronus swallowed.
- E. Rhea, angry, sought the advice of her mother.
 - 1. Gaea was still upset with Cronus for refusing to release her children in Tartarus.
 - 2. Gaea told Rhea to disguise a rock as a child for Cronus to swallow, and then
 - 3. Gaea would hide the child in secrecy.
- F. The children of Cronus & Rhea:
 - 1. **Hestia** – oldest and first swallowed
 - 2. **Demeter** – goddess
 - 3. **Hades** – god
 - 4. **Poseidon** – god
 - 5. **Hera** – goddess
 - 6. **Zeus** – the youngest
- G. Zeus – The youngest child of Cronus & Rhea

When Rhea gave birth to her 6th child, Zeus, she gave him to Gaea who hid him on the Island of Crete

1. In the meantime, Rhea disguised a rock to give to Cronus who thus swallowed it whole thinking it was Zeus.
2. Zeus was raised by shepherds and nymphs and given special goat milk which gave him strength.

Deceit #5 – The Olympians take power

A. In time Zeus matured and became quite strong. He was told to return and help release his siblings.

1. 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 fully-grown children.
2. Hestia had been the first one swallowed, but she was the last one vomited back up, thus the saying: “Those who are first, shall be last.”
3. Even the stone was vomited up and became a sacred stone known as the Omphalos at Delphi.
4. Zeus and his siblings devised a plan in which to continue to hold their place of power in the world as the Olympians.

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?