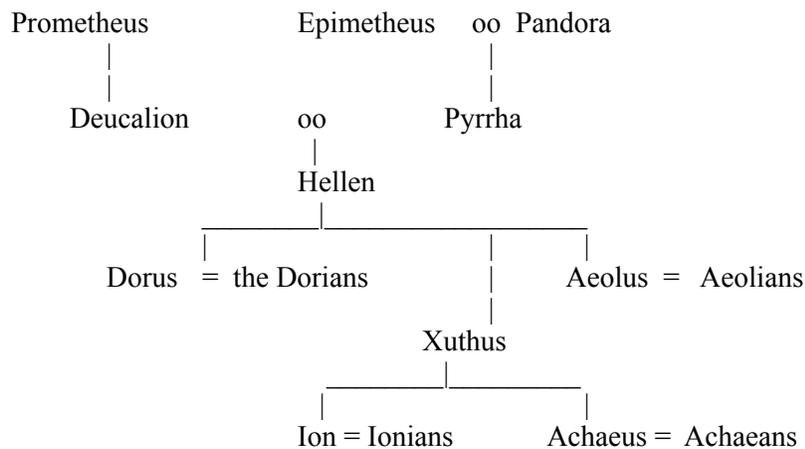


The Fromm Institute

HEROES and GODS — Myths, Legends and Histories of the Ancient Greeks

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The Greek Tribes



Hellenic Chronology Overview

Early Aegean Civilizations c. 2500 – 1100 BC
-Minoans
-Mycenaeans
-the War against Troy (c. 1250 BC)

Collapse c. 1200 - 1100 BC
The Dark Ages c. 1100 – 800 BC
Archaic Greece c. 800 – 500 BC
Classical Greece c. 500 – 338 BC
The Hellenistic Era c. 338 – 30 BC

ARCHAIC GREECE (“The LYRIC AGE”) / (c. 800 – 500 BC)

Prominent city-states

- Athens in Attica
- Sparta in Lacedaemon (Laconia) & Messenia
- Olympia
- Thebes in Boeotia
- Corinth
- Delphi

GREEK COMMONALITIES (which helped create a common Greek identity):

- language (although many different dialects)
 - religion (although local forms of worship varied)

 - Pan-Hellenic cult centers
 - Olympia (Pan-Hellenic Games)
 - Delphi (oracle in the Temple of Apollo)
 - Delos (legendary birthplace of the twin gods Apollo & Artemis ; plus famous Temple of Apollo)

 - history (King Minos, the House of Atreus, the House of Cadmus, the Trojan War; etc)
 - heroes (Theseus, Hercules, Perseus, Jason; etc)
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The GREAT LYRIC POETS of Archaic Greece :

Epic poetry: one of the most ambitious of all poetic forms, this long narrative poem displays sweeping knowledge, exalted language, and superb mastery of the poetic skill. The heroes perform not only great and difficult deeds, but also confront the eternal dilemmas of the human condition; thus, the epic poem often defines an epoch in the history of civilization.

- Homer (c. 750 BC)
 - The Iliad* (the wrath of Achilles)
 - The Odyssey* (the voyages and adventures of Odysseus, Telemachos and Penelope)

 - Hesiod (c. 700 BC)
 - Theogony* (the stories of the gods)
 - Works and Days* (“a little practical advice”)

 - Sappho of Lesbos (c. 600 BC) -lyric and intimate love poetry
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The PAN-HELLENIC Games [the Olympic Games] in Olympia

- inaugurated in 776 BC [abolished 393 AD]
- a revival of the Funeral Games for PELOPS

- day 1 : religious festivities, including libations at the tomb of Pelops
- days 2 - 6 : 5 days of competitions — Pentathlon (foot races, jumping, wrestling, discus throwing, javelin throwing), boxing, Pankration (martial arts), equestrian & sailing races
- day 7 : proclamation of the winners, who were crowned with LAUREL WREATHS

-PINDAR of Thebes (c. 512 — 438 BC) — the most famous of Olympian poets

The TEMPLE of ZEUS at Olympia — the largest temple in the Greek world

- pediment theme : the Battle of the Lapiths vs. the Centaurs
[Peirithoos, King of the Lapiths, weds Deidameia]
> “civilization vs. barbarism”

The HERAEA Games — the Women’s Games, originally founded by Hippodamia