

Mythomemology Extra Credit

Invocation of the Muses

Summary:

Hesiod opens the poem by invoking the Heliconian Muses as they are the ones who gave him the gift of singing the poem itself to praise the gods. He is instructed by them to sing about the gods of Olympus. Hesiod proceeds to praise the Olympian gods from primordials to Zeus, to the creation of humans and later the giants. He recounts the birth of the Muses, the nine daughters of Zeus, and how it is they who bestow their gifts of wisdom and leadership upon those that they favor and that they also are the source of inspiration of all arts and knowledge in mythology. It is a way to open the poem with respect towards the Muses and incorporate what they represent with himself and his work.

Meme



Quotes:

These quotes introduce all the singing Muses and demonstrate that it was they who told and inspired Hesiod to write this poem.

"Thus, sing the Muses who have their homes on Olympos The nine daughters born of great Zeus, Cleio, Euterpe, Thaleia, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polyhymnia, Ourania, And Calliope, the most important of all"

*"Tell me these things, Olympian Muses,
From the beginning, and tell which of them came first. "*

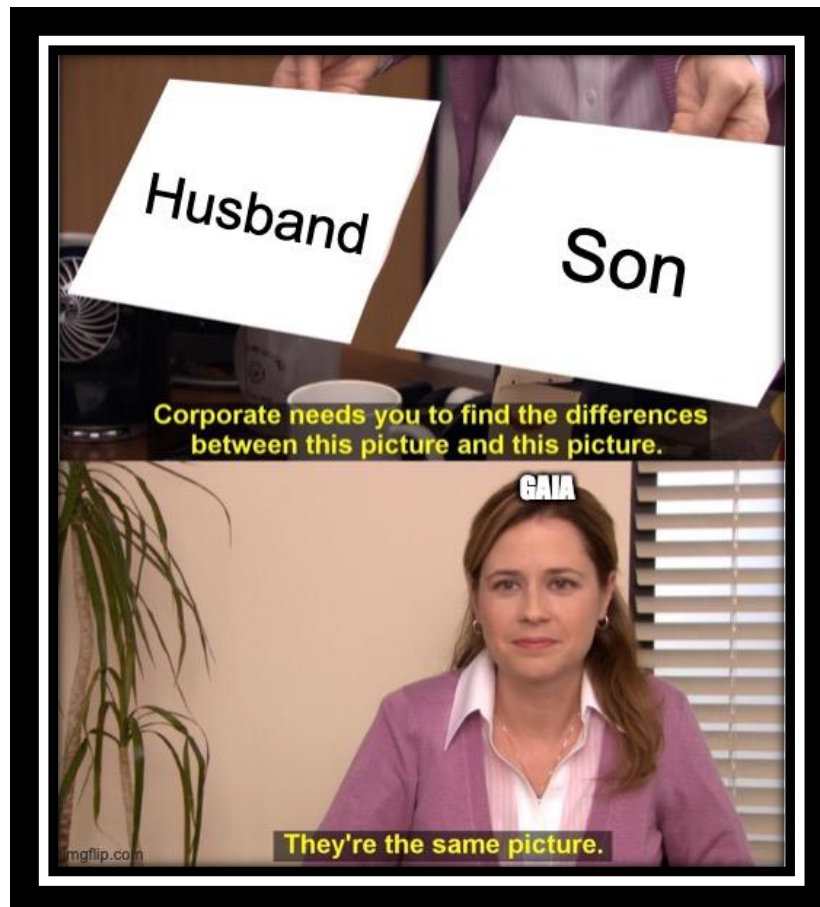
Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 134) Hackett Publishing

The First Gods

Summary:

At first there was only Chaos and the Abyss, but then Gaia came to be as the foundation. Eros was responsible for the creation of new bodies and Tartarus lay deep in the undergrounds. From the Abyss came Erebus and the Dark Night and from them Aether and Day. Gaia then made Ouranos, who was the stary heaven and was just a matching size for her and a great foundation for all the other Gods. Later came the Mountains, Nympts, the Sea, and after Gaia slept with Ouranos came Coios, Crios, Hyperion, Iapetos, Theia, Rheia, Themis, Mnemosyne, Gold-crowned Phoibe, and lovely Tethys. This explains the origin of all the world in which Gods and humans live in.

Meme



Quote:

This explains the creation of Ouranos and how he was made as a “perfect fit” for Gaia and by Gaia.

*“Earth’s first child was Ouranos, stary Heaven,
Just her size, a perfect fit on all sides,
And a firm foundation for the blessed gods”*

Hesiod. (2016). Theogany. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 135) Hackett Publishing

The Castration of Ouranos

Summary:

After Gaia and Ouranos had Cronos, the Cyclops, Brontes, Steropes, Arges and finally, the most hideous and strongest of all, the three Hecatonchiris, Ouranos grew fearful. He decided to hide all his children within Gaia, keeping them from the light. Gaia was in pain with the pressure inside and came up with a plan, she created a sickle and told her children to take action against their father. Only Cronos stepped up, he was tucked away Cronos and they waited for the perfect moment. As Ouranos came to lay with Gaia, Cronos sprung out, cut off his testicles and threw them far away. Ouranos blood falling on Earth led to the birth of the Giants, the Melai and the Furies.

Meme



Quote:

The quote explains Gaia and Cronos' scheme to overpower Ouranos and how it was executed.

*"And now on came great Ouranos, bringing Night with him.
And, longing for love, he settled himself all over Earth.
From his dark hiding-place, the son reached out
With his left hand, while with his right he swung
The fiendishly long and jagged sickle, pruning the genitals
Of his own father with one swoop and tossing them "*

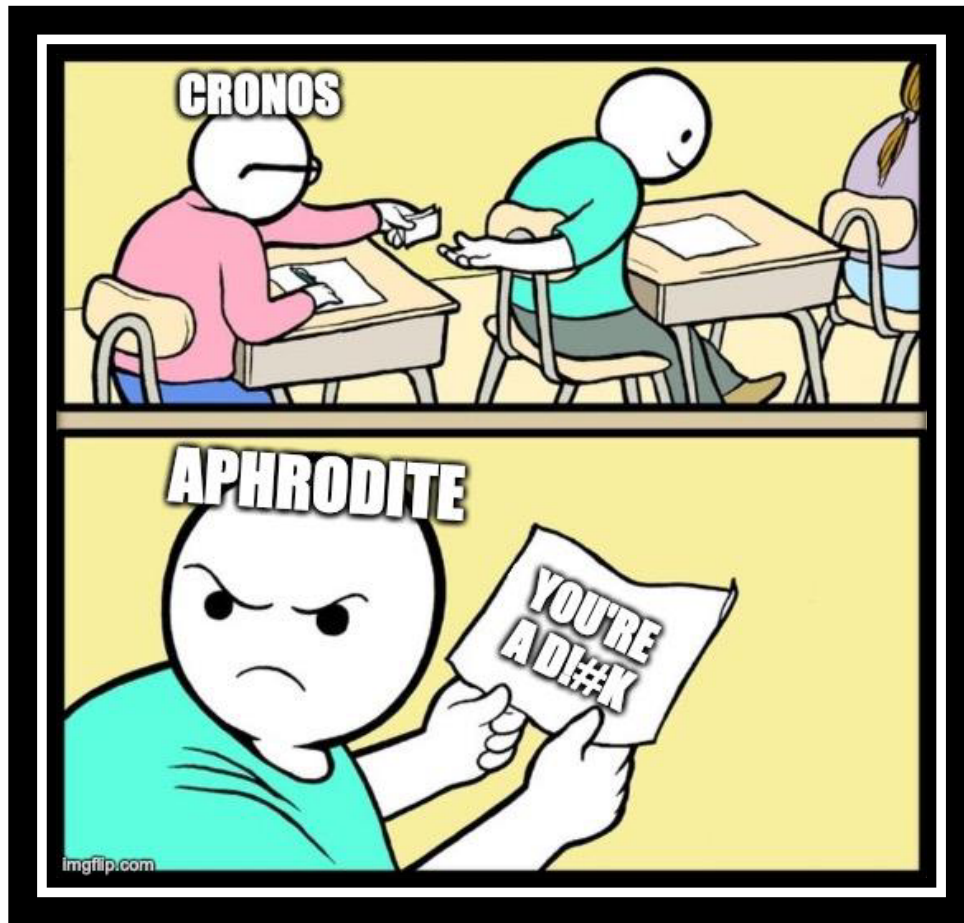
Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 137) Hackett Publishing

The Birth of Aphrodite

Summary:

Ouranos' testicles were flung and they land in the sea, from which Aphrodite was born. Being born from a sexual organ she became what fulfills sexual pleasures, sweet-talk and love deeds. After the act, Ouranos cursed his sons and named them Titans, he saw them as absolute monsters and vengeance would later be exacted on them.

Meme



Quote:

This quote explains the birth of Aphrodite and how she formed from the genitalia of Ouranos.

"The genitalia themselves, freshly cut with flint, were thrown

*Clear of the mainland into the restless, white-capped sea,
Where they floated a long time. A white foam from the god-flesh*

Collected around them, and in that foam a maiden developed "

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 137) Hackett Publishing

Other Early Gods

Summary:

This section of the poem serves as a listing of the rest of the gods and recounts a few stories that transpire in myth. Hesiod begins by talking about how Night bore many of the human struggles we face now a days such as death, old age and manslaughter. Some important births include that of the Hesperides, the Fates, Nereus and his fifty daughters, the Harpies, Ceto, the Graia, and the Gorgons. Many other Gods are mentioned to have been born. He then mentions a few heroic tales such as Perseus slaying Medusa, Pegasus, Heracles being persecuted by Hera, the birth of the the Hydra, Cerberus and Orthos. This part explains the origins of the many monsters these heroes faced. Many more gods and monsters are listed to have been born in this section. It serves as a massive exposition dump of the sudden existence of all these creatures and gods found in other myths. Finally, it ends with the birth of Leto and later her daughter Asteria. Hesiod seems to jump through time to reference the respective myth of the god/creature that has been born as seen with Medusa and Perseus and the Titan War.

Meme



Quote:

In this quote, many Gods are mentioned to reference the countless God births that Hesiod included in this section

“To Nereus and Doris, her rich hair flowing, Daughter of the perfect river, Ocean, Children were born in the barren sea, Divinely beautiful:

Ploto, Eucrante, Amphitrite, and Sao, 245 Eudora, Thetis, Galene, and Glauce, Cymothoe, Speio, lovely Halie, and Thoe, Pasithea, Erato, and rose-armed Eunice, Melite gracious, Eulimene, Agaue, Doto, Proto, Dynamene, Pherousa,”

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 138) Hackett Publishing

Hecate

Summary:

This section talks about Hecate and how powerful and respected she is. She holds the power to greatly aid and advance who she chooses making those who pray to her very blessed, she is later commemorated by Zeus himself and is respected by him a lot as well. She can support warriors, athletes, seamen, cattle raisers. Hesiod claims she is one of the most privileged goddess among immortals. Finally, Zeus later makes her the nurse of the young.

Meme



Quote:

This quote demonstrates how respected and esteemed Hecate is to the other Gods, even Zeus, King of Gods has major respect towards her power

*“And she bore Hecate, whom Zeus son of Cronos
Has esteemed above all and given splendid gifts,
A share of the earth as her own, and of the barren sea.
She has received a province of starry heaven as well,
And is most highly esteemed by the deathless gods. ”*

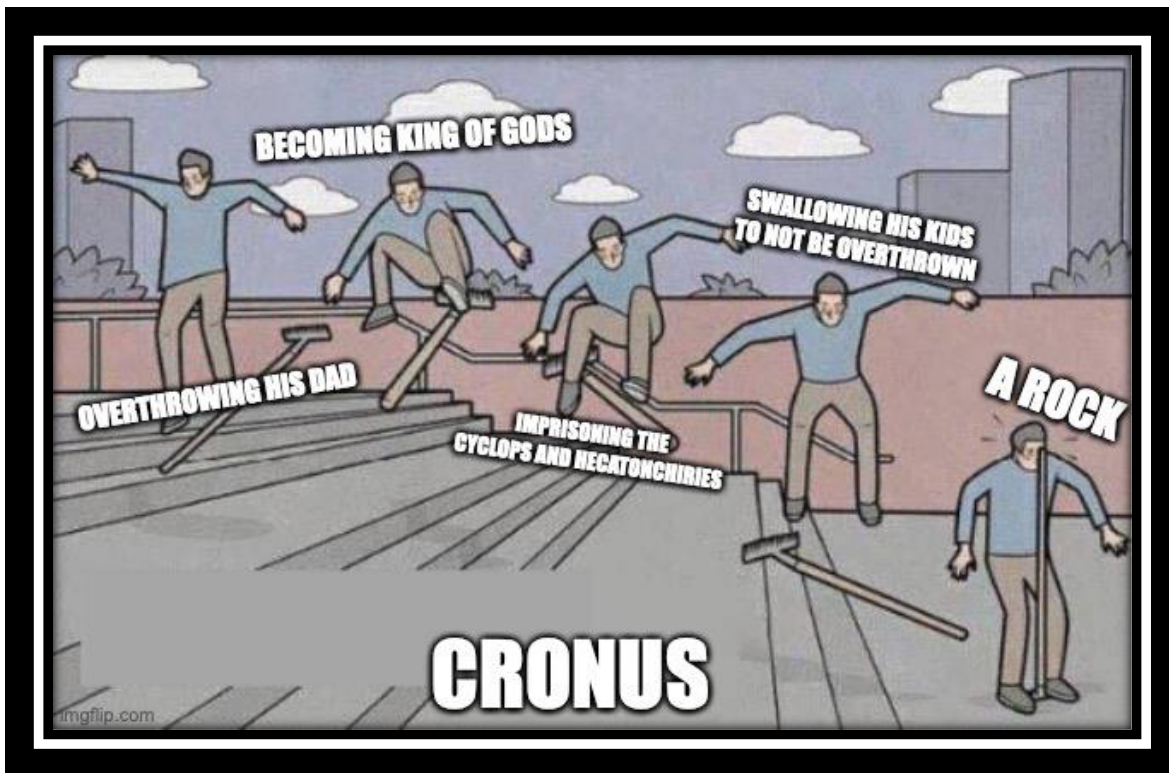
Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 143) Hackett Publishing

The Birth of the Olympians

Summary:

Cronos forced himself upon Rhea and out came Demeter, Hestia, Hera, Poseidon and Hades. He swallowed them all fearing that they too would rebel against him like he did with his father. When Rhea was pregnant with Zeus she asked her parents Earth and Heaven to aid her in hiding Zeus. They agreed to help and she went off to Lyctos where she had Zeus and left him to be cared for by Earth, Rhea then left and wrapped up a great stone to make it seem like the newborn. Zeus grew and later bested Cronos, he then freed his brothers and sisters from his father's belly and freed his uncles who were bound by Cronos. As a thank you they armed him with his lightning bolts and he became the King of Mortals and Immortals.

Meme



Quote:

This quote explains how Rhea saves Zeus from being devoured by tricking Cronos into eating a stone wrapped in clothes

“Then she wrapped up a great stone in swaddling clothes

And gave it to Cronos, Ouranos’ son, the great lord and king

Of the earlier gods. He took it in his hands and rammed it

Down into his belly, the poor fool! He had no idea”

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 145) Hackett Publishing

Prometheus

Summary:

Iapetus, son of Uranus and Gaia, had Atlas, Menoitios, Prometheus and Epimetheus with Clymene. Unfortunately, each son wronged Zeus, Atlas was punished to hold up the sky at the limit of Earth, Meniotios was blasted into Erbos and then came Prometheus' punishment. He was bound with a shaft going through him and had his liver ate by a long-winded eagle during the day, only to be replenished by night and live the pain again ang again. That is, until Heracles eventually freed Prometheus from this punishment. Prometheus later obsessed over humans and tricked Zeus to accept the bones and fur of a sacrificed animal while the humans took the meat. Due to this he took their fire, but Prometheus, siding with the humans, stole it and retrieved it for them, angering Zeus even more.

Meme



Quote:

This quote explains the punishment Zeus set upon Prometheus, getting his liver consumed by an eagle at the

*“And he bound Prometheus with ineluctable fetters,
Painful bonds, and drove a shaft through his middle,
And set a long-winged eagle on him that kept gnawing
His undying liver, but whatever the long-winged bird
Ate the whole day through, would all grow back by night. ”*

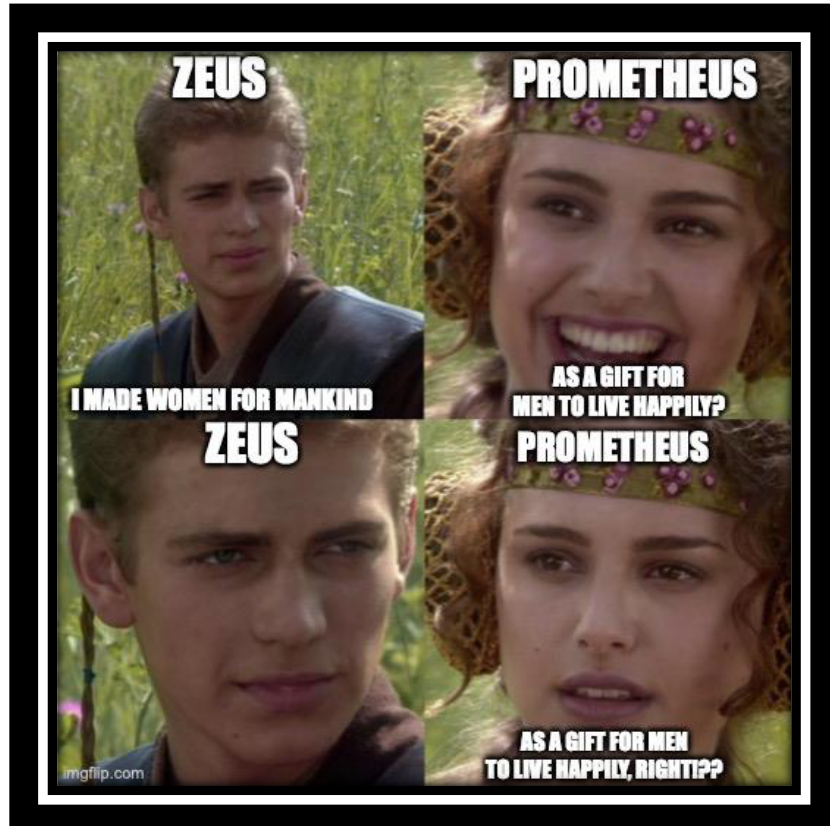
Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 146) Hackett Publishing

Pandora

Summary:

The Lame God created a clay woman by the request of Zeus and Athena, she was made to deceive others by her beauty and was even adorned heavily by Athena. From this clay being, women were born as a curse by Zeus for mortal men. Men who did not marry will suffer in old age, those who marry abusive wives will suffer greatly from them, it is only those who marry good wives who will get to live a balanced life.

Meme



Quote:

The quote shows how Zeus created women as a form of course for mortal men

“That’s just how Zeus, the high lord of thunder,

Made women as a curse for mortal men,

*Evil conspirators. And he added another evil
To offset the good. Whoever escapes marriage*

And women’s harm, comes to deadly old age”

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 148) Hackett Publishing

The Titanomachy

Summary:

This part describes the battle between Cronos (Titans) and his children (Olympians). The war was intense and lasted many years, Zeus was a great fighter and later recruited the to fight alongside him and defeat their brother Cronos. With Zeus anger, thunderbolts, rally of gods and his father's three brothers, the Olympians came out victorious. The Titans were then imprisoned in Tartarus.

Meme



Quote:

In this quote it is shown how crucial the Hecatoncheries' aid was to Zeus' effort against the Titans

*“But then Cottos, Briareos, and Gyges rallied,
Hungry for war, in the front lines of combat,
Firing three hundred stones one after the other
From their massive hands, and the stones they shot
Overshadowed the Titans, and they sent them under”*

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 151-152) Hackett Publishing

Tartaros

Summary:

Tartaros is where the Titans were locked up following their defeat in The Titanomachy. It is a hole deep in the Earth, surrounded by a bronze wall and a triple row of Night flows around its neck. Gyges, Cottos and Briareos were sent to guard it, Zeus having trusted them heavily after the war. It's a moldering place with no way out. Close by lie many other gods such as Night, Death, Sleeps Hades and Persephone. Cerberus stands guard and chases anyone who tries to leave through the gates of hell preventing anyone from escaping and even letting people come in just to trap them. Finally, there's the river Styx which holds the oath to the gods. Tartaros serves as a prison deep inside the Earth with impenetrable walls and holds anyone within it, heavily guarded and neighboring the worst places in Greek mythology.

Meme



Quote:

This quote explains how Cerberus is a savage guard of the Gates of Hades, adding more security to the unescapable abyss where Tartaros is located

*“Hound stands guard, and he has a mean trick:
When someone comes in, he fawns upon him,
Wagging his tail and dropping his ears,
But he will not allow anyone to leave—
He runs down and eats anyone he catches
Leaving Persephone's and Hades' gates.”*

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 153) Hackett Publishing

Typhoios

Summary:

Born from Earth and Tartaros, Typhoios was a monstrous god with a hundred heads who could breath fire. He posed a match for Zeus but Zeus was quick to chase after him to prevent his rule over the gods. Their fight was intense causing earthquakes, shaking up the heavens and Earth, even Tartoros felt the shaking deep down under. Zeus angered more and more, and later leapt with his lightning bolts burning the monster's heads and banishing to Tartoros. Zeus secured his claims to Kingship over the Gods with this, displaying his immense power and rightful claim to the throne.

Meme



Quote:

This quote explains the vicious encounter of when Zeus first approaches Typhoios

“And Typhoios would have ruled over Immortals and men,

Had the father of both not been quick to notice.

He thundered hard, and the Earth all around

*Rumbled horribly, and wide Heaven above,
The Sea, the Ocean, and underground Tartaros.*

Great Olympos trembled under the deathless feet

Of the Lord as he rose, and Gaia groaned.”

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 153) Hackett Publishing

Zeus in Power

Summary:

Zeus is chosen as the King of the Gods with Metis at his side, but he later swallows her to prevent the birth of a son who will challenge him which leads to the birth of Athena from Zeus' head. With Themis, Zeus bears the Seasons, Eunomia, Dike, Eirene and the Moirai. Eurynome bears the Graces, Demeter bears Persephone who Zeus allows Hades to abduct. Mnemosyne bears the nine Muses to Zeus and finally Leto bore Apollo and Artemis to Zeus. Zeus then marries Hera and out come Hebe, Eileithyia and Ares. Semele also gives birth to Dionysus and Alcmena to Hercules from Zeus cheating on Hera. What follows is the birth of other gods to the other gods other than Zeus.

Meme



Quote:

This quote elaborates on a key aspect of the King of Gods, he sleeps around a lot and even birth a god himself

*“And Leto bore Apollo and arrowy Artemis,
The loveliest brood of all the Ouranians
After mingling in love with Zeus Aegisholder.
Last of all Zeus made Hera his blossoming wife,
And she gave birth to Hebe, Eileithyia, and Ares,
After mingling in love with the lord of gods and men.
From his own head he gave birth to owl-eyed Athena, ”*

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 157) Hackett Publishing

Goddess and Heroes

Summary:

This section goes on to explain the birth of many Demigods and Heroes due to gods sleeping with mortals. Some significant ones include Demeter baring Ploutos to Iasion, Harmonia baring Cadmos and Aristaiois, Callirhoe baring Geryones whom Heracles later kills. The birth of Memnon and Emathion, Cephalos fathers Phaethon and Jason fostered by Zeus. Thetis bares Achilles, Aineias born to Aphrodite and finally Circe bares Odysseus. The section closes with the muses.

Meme



Quote:

This quote numbers a few of the many affairs Gods had with mortals, showing a few of the many instances of Gods breeding with mortals

*“And the bright goddess Calypso bore to Odysseus Nausithoos
and Nausinoos after making sweet love.
These are the goddesses who slept with mortal men,
And immortal themselves bore children like gods.”*

Hesiod. (2016). Theogony. In Trzaskoma, S. M., Smith, R. S., & Brunet, S (2016). Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation. (pp. 160) Hackett Publishing