

Preface

Perhaps no other stories have ever been told so often or listened to with so much pleasure as the classic tales of ancient Greece. For many ages they have been a source of delight to young people and old, to the ignorant and the learned, to all who love to hear about and contemplate things mysterious, beautiful, and grand.

They have become so incorporated into our language and thought, and so interwoven with our literature, that we could not do away with them now if we would. They are a portion of our heritage from the distant past, and they form perhaps as important a part of our intellectual life as they did of that of the people among whom they originated.

I have here attempted to tell a few stories of Jupiter and his mighty company and of some of the old Greek heroes, *simply as stories*, nothing more.

I have carefully avoided every suggestion of interpretation. Attempts at analysis and explanation will always prove fatal to a reader's appreciation and enjoyment of such stories.



Homer and His Guide

To inculcate the idea that these tales are merely descriptions of certain natural phenomena expressed in narrative and poetic form, is to deprive them of their highest charm; it is like turning precious gold into utilitarian iron: it is changing a delightful romance into a dull scientific treatise. The wise teacher will take heed not to be guilty of such an error.

It will be observed that while each of the stories in this volume is wholly independent of the others and may be read without any knowledge of those which precede it, there is nevertheless a certain continuity from the first to the last, giving to the collection a completeness like that of a single narrative.

In order that the young people of our own country and time may be the better able to read these stories in the light in which they were narrated long ago, I have told them in simple language, keeping the supernatural element as far as possible in the background, and nowhere referring to Jupiter and his mighty company as gods.

I have hoped thus to free the narrative still more from everything that might detract from its interest simply as a story.

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God and Goddess in Greek and Roman Mythology

	Greek	Roman	
1	Zeus	Jupiter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › principal god of the Greek pantheon › ruler of the heavens › king of the sky and the earth
2	Hera	Juno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › principal goddess of the Pantheon › queen of the Gods › goddess of marriage
3	Poseidon	Neptune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › king of the sea, earthquakes, and horses
4	Hades	Pluto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › god of the dead › ruler of the underworld
5	Persephone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › queen of the Dead, grain-goddess
6	Demeter	Ceres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › goddess of the earth, flowers, plants, and harvest
7	Prometheus		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › a Titan, brother of Atlas
8	Hercules	Hercules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › a divine hero

9	Dionysus	Bacchus	› god of wine and sensual pleasures
10	Pan	Faunus	› god of woods, fields, and flocks
11	Ares	Mars	› god of war
12	Hermes	Mercury	› god of commerce, invention, travelers and shepherds › messenger of the gods
13	Hephaestus	Vulcan	› god of fire and metalworking
14	Athena	Minerva	› goddess of wisdom and war
15	Aphrodite	Venus	› goddess of love and beauty
16	Apollo	Phoebus Apollo	› god of the sun, poetry, music, dance, medicine, and oracles
17	Artemis	Diana	› goddess of the hunt, the moon, virginity, animals, and childbirth
18	Eros	Cupid	› god of love
19	Muses		› sisterhood of goddesses › embody the arts, inspire the creation
20	Hebe	Juventas	› goddess of youth and spring
21	Pandora		› the first woman



Jupiter & Juno
on Mount Ida



A long time ago, when the world was much younger than it is now, people told and believed a great many wonderful stories about wonderful things which neither you nor I have ever seen.

They often talked about a certain Mighty¹ Being² called Jupiter, or Zeus, who was king of the sky and the earth; and they said that he sat most of the time amid the clouds on the top of a very high mountain where he could look down and see everything that was going on in the earth



Jupiter and Thetis

He liked to ride on the storm-clouds and hurl³ burning thunderbolts⁴ right and left among the trees and rocks; and he was so very, very mighty that when he nodded⁵, the earth quaked, the mountains trembled⁶ and smoked, the sky grew black, and the sun hid his face.

- 1 mighty ['mɑːti] (a.) of great strength and power 強大有力的
- 2 being ['biːɪŋ] (n.) a person or thing that exists 生物；人；生命
- 3 hurl [hɜːrl] (v.) to throw forcefully 猛力投擲
- 4 thunderbolt ['θʌndərbɔʊlt] (n.) a flash of lightning and the sound of thunder together 雷電；霹靂
- 5 nod ['nɒd] (v.) move head in agreement 點頭
- 6 tremble ['trembl] (v.) to shake involuntarily 搖動





The Horses
of Neptune



Jupiter had two brothers, both of them terrible fellows, but not nearly so great as himself. The name of one of them was Neptune, or Poseidon, and he was the king of the sea. He had a glittering⁷, golden palace far down in the deep sea-caves where the fishes live and the red coral⁸ grows.

And whenever he was angry the waves would rise mountain high, and the storm-winds would howl⁹ fearfully, and the sea would try to break over the land; and men called him the Shaker of the Earth.

⁷ glittering ['glɪtərɪŋ] (a.) to shine brightly, with sparkling or lustrous reflected light 閃閃發光的

⁸ coral ['kɒ:rəl] (n.) a rock-like substance, formed in the sea

by groups of particular types of small animal 珊瑚

⁹ howl [haʊl] (v.) to make a long whining sound 怒吼





The Abduction of Persephone by Hades

The other brother of Jupiter was a sad pale-faced being, whose kingdom was underneath the earth, where the sun never shone and where there was darkness and weeping and sorrow all the time. His name was Pluto, or Aidoneus, and his country was called the Lower World, or the Land of Shadows, or Hades.

Men said that whenever any one died, Pluto would send his messenger, or Shadow Leader, to carry that one down into his cheerless kingdom; and for that reason they never spoke well of him, but thought of him only as the enemy of life.

A great number of other Mighty Beings lived with Jupiter amid the clouds on the mountain top,—so many that I can name a very few only.



The Birth of Venus



There was Venus, the queen of love and beauty, who was fairer by far than any woman that you or I have ever seen.

There was Athena, or Minerva, the queen of the air, who gave people wisdom and taught them how to do very many useful things.

There was Juno, the queen of earth and sky, who sat at the right hand of Jupiter and gave him all kinds of advice. There was Mars, the great warrior, whose delight was in the din¹⁰ of battle.

There was Mercury, the swift¹¹ messenger, who had wings on his cap and shoes, and who flew from place to place like the summer clouds when they are driven before the wind.

There was Vulcan, a skillful blacksmith, who had his forge¹² in a burning mountain and wrought¹³ many wonderful things of iron and copper¹⁴ and gold. And besides these, there were many others about whom you will learn by and by, and about whom men told strange and beautiful stories.



Mercury and Paris

11 swift [ˈswɪft] (a.) moving very rapidly 快捷的

12 forge [fɔːrɪdʒ] (n.) metal workshop 煉冶場

13 work [wɜːk] (v.) to exert physical or mental effort to make or accomplish something (pp. form: wrought) 做出；操作

14 copper [ˈkʌːpər] (n.) reddish brown metal 銅



Venus at the Forge of Vulcan



They lived in glittering, golden mansions, high up among the clouds—so high indeed that the eyes of men could

never see them. But they could look down and see what men were doing, and oftentimes they were said to leave their lofty¹⁵ homes and wander¹⁶ unknown across the land or over the sea.

And of all these Mighty Folk¹⁷, Jupiter was by far the mightiest.

¹⁵ lofty ['lɔːfti] (a.) rising to a great height 高聳的

¹⁶ wander ['wɑːndər] (v.) to move about with no purpose or plan, or at no definite pace 漫遊

¹⁷ folk [fɒk] (n.) people, especially those of a particular group or type 某一民族、種族或社會階層中的廣大成員