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



Homer and His Guide

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.

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	
I	Zeus	Jupiter	 principal god of the Greek pantheon ruler of the heavens king of the sky and the earth
2	Hera	Juno	 principal goddess of the Pantheon queen of the Gods goddess of marriage
3	Poseidon	Neptune	 king of the sea, earthquakes, and horses
4	Hades	Pluto	god of the deadruler of the underworld
5	Persephone		• queen of the Dead, grain- goddess
6	Demeter	Ceres	plants, and harvest
7	Prometheus		• a Titan, brother of Atlas
8	Heracles	Hercules	• a divine hero

9	Dionysus	Bacchus	pleasures
10	Pan	Faunus	pod 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	pod of fire and metalworking
14	Athena	Minerva	→ goddess of wisdom and war
15	Aphrodite	Venus	poddess of love and beauty
16	Apollo	Phoebus Apollo	• god of the sun, poetry, music, dance, medicine, and oracles
17	Artemis	Diana	poddess of the hunt, the moon, virginity, animals, and childbirth
18	Eros	Cupid	pod of love
19	Muses		 sisterhood of goddesses embody the arts, inspire the creation
20	Hebe	Juventas	poddess of youth and spring
21 © COSMO	Pandora OS CULTURE LTD		• the first woman

Jupiter and His Mighty Company

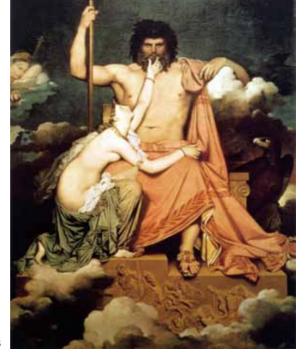


Jupiter & Juno on Mount Ida



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 beneath.



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 ['marti] (a.) of great strength and power
- 2 being ['bi:ɪŋ] (n.) a person or thing that exists
- 3 hurl [hɜːrl] (v.) to throw forcefully
- 4 thunderbolt [' θ Anderboult] (n.) a flash of lightning and the sound of thunder together
- 5 nod [na:d] (v.) move head in agreement
- 6 tremble ['trembəl] (v.) to shake involuntarily



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 ['glitering] (a.) to shine brightly, with sparkling or lustrous reflected light
- 8 coral ['ka:rəl] (n.) a rock-like substance, formed in the sea by groups of particular types of small animal
- 9 howl [haʊl] (v.) to make a long whining sound





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.