

# MYTHOLOGY AS A PREPARER FOR OUR AGE:

## A Fresh Look at Its Importance and Reality

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# ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA

## Greek Mythology:

- “A body of **stories** concerning the gods, heroes, and rituals of the ancient Greeks
- “In general, in the popular piety of the Greeks, the myths were **viewed as true accounts**
- “Greek mythology has subsequently had extensive **influence on the arts and literature** of Western civilization, which fell heir to much of Greek culture”



# GREEK MODEL OF THE HUMAN BEING

Kingdom	Body	Element	Comment
<b>Human</b>	Ego, I-Am	Fire	Moral/immoral will is present, knows that it knows
<b>Animal</b>	Astral	Air	Inner life, sentience, desires, instincts
<b>Plant</b>	Life/etheric	Water	Livingness, metamorphosis, procreation, memory
<b>Mineral</b>	Physical	Earth	Only visible component, lifeless matter

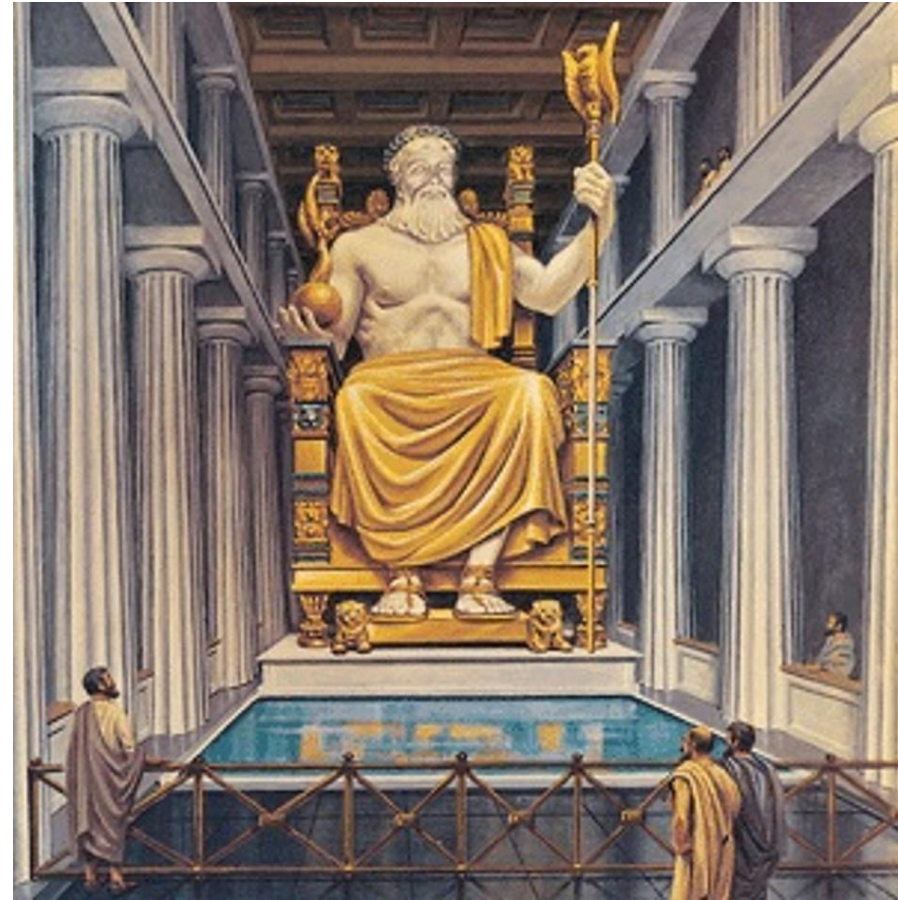
1. Awake - Sleep
2. Alive - Dead
3. How does this play into evolution of consciousness?



# EXAMPLE MYTHS: PROMETHEUS AND HEPHAESTUS

# CHARACTERS

- Zeus, King of the Gods
- **Prometheus:** 'thinking in advance'
- **Epimetheus:** 'thinking afterwards'
  - Descendents of Uranus and Gaia
- Uranus → Chronos → Zeus
- War in Heaven
- Losers cast into underworld
- Only Prometheus & Epimetheus remained loyal to Zeus





# A GIFT TO HUMANITY

- **Zeus to Prometheus:**
  - form body for Man
- Later, exterminate humanity
  - Corrupted
- Prometheus: humanity's rep
  - Plan to save themselves
  - **No longer be dependent**
- **Punishment: chained to Caucasus**
  - **Great suffering** over a long period
- Prometheus **knows a secret**
  - **Hermes** = Mercury (Roman)
  - But Prometheus does not betray it



*Prometheus Bound, Rubens, 1618*

# GODS GIFTS TO HUMANITY: PANDORA

- **Hephaestus:** makes a female automaton
  - Pandora: adorned to appeal
- Gifts from the gods to mankind
- Prometheus warned his brother
  - Epimetheus: charmed and persuaded
- Gods' "gifts" released
  - Human miseries and sufferings
  - The last gift: hope



**F. S. Church d.1924**

# HISTORICAL FICTION OF HEPHAESTUS

- A Story of the Birth of Hephaestus
- What does it mean to have a new generation of gods?
- What do the old gods represent?
  - Zeus, Chronos, Uranus : Astral, Lower Devachan, Upper (?)
  - Periods of Earth evolution?





# REDEMPTION

Prometheus can be freed!

1. Heracles: 12 labors
  - Means an initiate
  - Eleusinian Mysteries
2. Sacrifice
  - Centaur Chiron
  - Our own astrality



***Pallas, Botticelli, 1482***

# WHO BUILT PAN(ALL) DORA(GIFTS)?

## Hephaestus, Greek god (*aka Vulcan, Roman god*)

- God of technology, blacksmiths, craftsmen, artisans
  - Also metals, metallurgy, fire, and volcanoes
  - Geek for the gods
  - Knowledge of the Earth *and its interior(s)*
- **Son of Zeus and Hera**
  - Grotesque due to **malformed** foot
    - Mother threw him off Olympus after birth
  - Builds thrones for the gods, Hera's binds her (like velcro)
  - Builds **automatons** to go up to and down from Olympus
    - Invents the wheelchair
  - Builds the chains used to hold Prometheus to the rock



Wikipedia public domain

# HOW CAN WE KNOW ABOUT THE MYTHS?

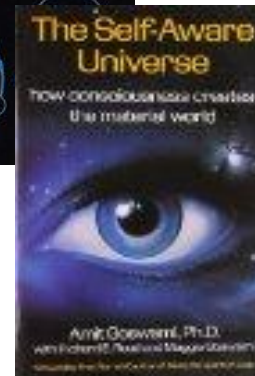
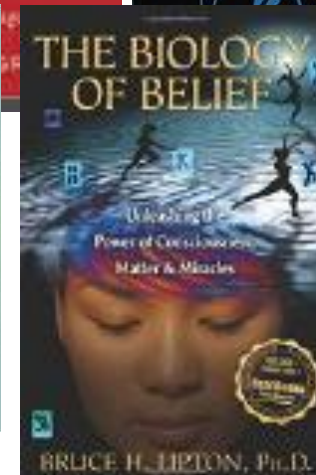
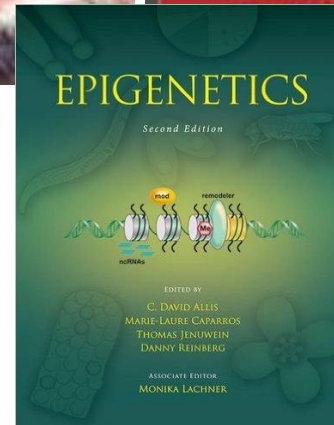
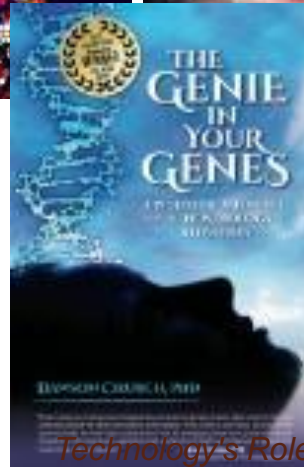
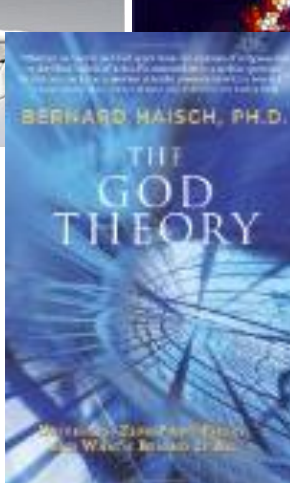
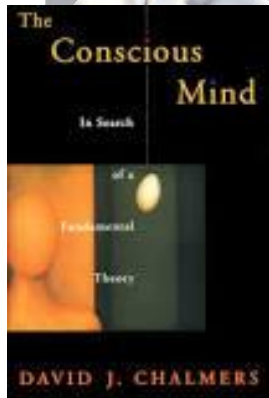
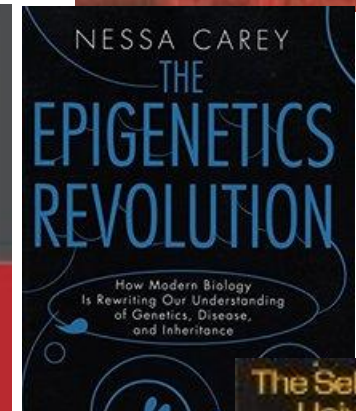
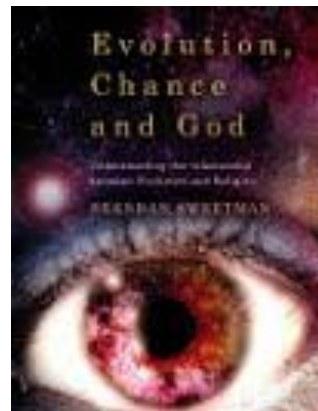
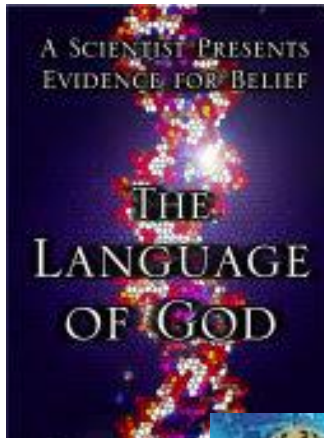
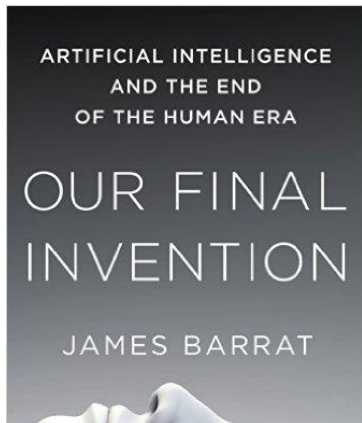
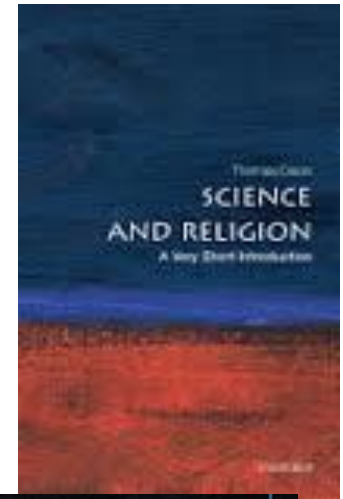
- No written records
  - Scant before 1000 BCE, oral traditions
  - Later, stories eventually written down
- Akashic Record
  - Spiritual Science
  - Anthroposophy
- Before 800 BCE
  - Mystery Centers
  - Cicero, *Laws*, 2.14.36





# EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

- Modern science at a threshold
- All fields are encountering consciousness



*Technology's Role in Human Evolution*



My point, once again, is not that those ancient people told literal stories and we are now smart enough to take them symbolically, but that they told them symbolically and we are now dumb enough to take them literally.

**JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN**

[liturgy.co.nz](http://liturgy.co.nz)



# POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS OF MYTHS

1. Exoteric meaning (somewhat literal)
2. Allegoric, human struggle
3. Occult significance (literal)

## Originated in the ancient Mystery Centers

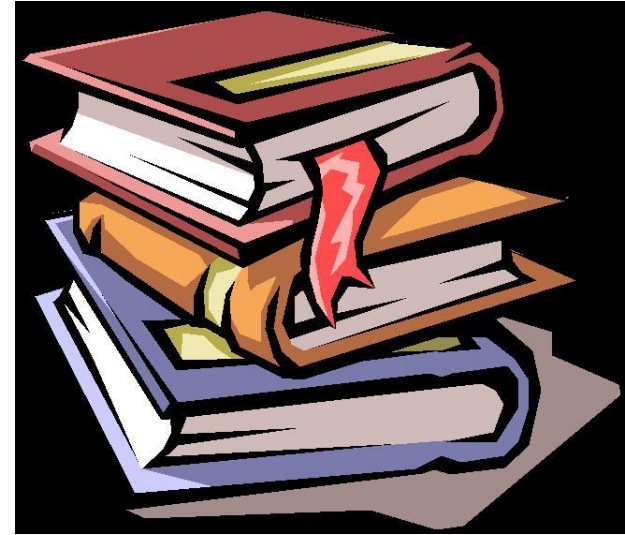
- What purpose for the Mystery Centers?
  - Who led the Mystery Centers?
- What was the purpose of the various myths?
  - Not fiction



# JUST A STORY OR WAS THERE PURPOSE?

## Transition to Separation

- Not everyone could be initiated
- Wisdom had to be given to the masses
- Adhere to Truth
- Past → preparation for the future
- Collective, picture-consciousness



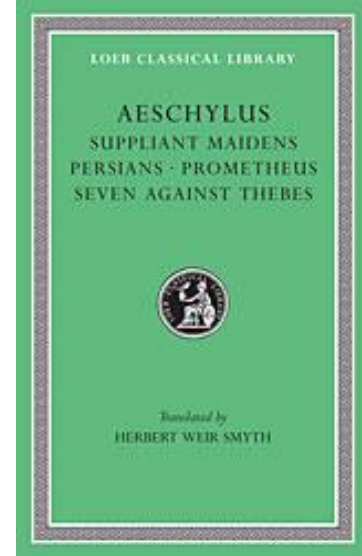
# MYTHS AND THE MYSTERY CENTERS

- Change from picture-consciousness (3000 – 800 BCE) to abstract, logical thinking (800 BCE – 1500 AD)
- Temple Sleep (3.5 d)
- Reverence for the gods
  - Experienced at the Astral level
- Responsibility to the people
  - Imparted wisdom in pictures
  - Pictures lived in the etheric body
  - Laid aside after death
  - Picked up on approach to incarnation



# BETRAYING THE MYSTERIES AESCHYLUS

- Fled to altar of Dionysus
- Betrayal meant death



*Herbert Weir Smith translation*

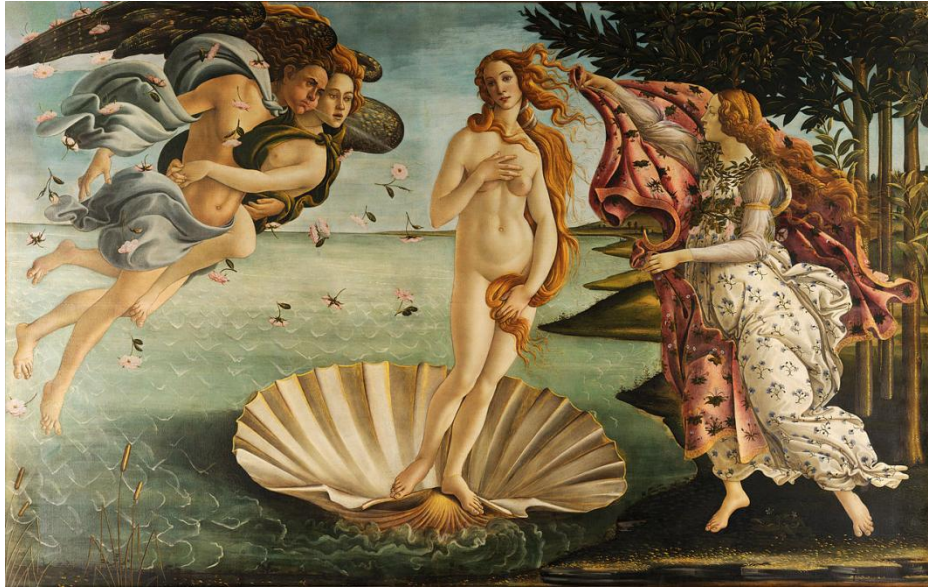
- “But of wretched mortals he took no notice, desiring to bring the whole race to an end and create a new one in its place.
- Against this purpose none dared make stand except me—I only had the **courage**; I saved mortals so that they did **not descend**, blasted utterly, to the house of Hades. This is why I am bent by such grievous tortures, painful to suffer, piteous to behold. I who gave mortals first place in my pity, I am deemed unworthy to win this pity for myself, but am in this way mercilessly disciplined, a spectacle that shames the glory of Zeus.” -- *Prometheus*



# MYTHS *SINCE* THE RENAISSANCE



# MYTHOLOGY AND THE ARTS



*Birth of Venus, Botticelli, 1486*

*Rape of Europa, Goya, 1772*



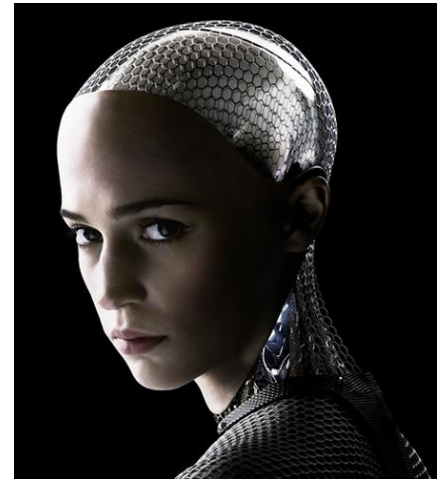
# GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES





# MYTHS AND LITERATURE

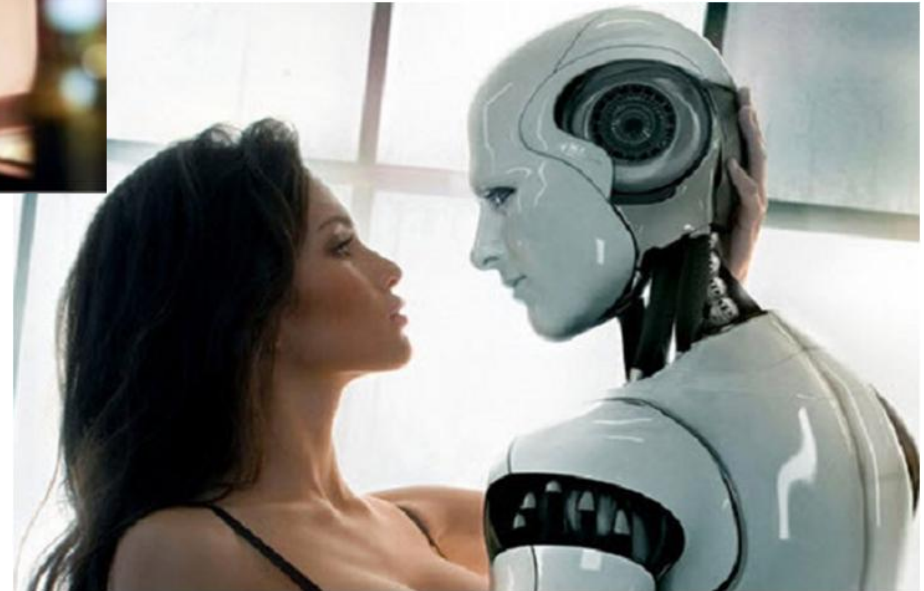
- Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus*
  - 1818, connected Promethean myth to contemporary science
  - Creation of near-human through electricity
  - Bereft of morals
- Promethean stories/movies
  - Chained to a lesser-reality
  - *The Matrix*
- Hephaestean stories/movies
  - Automatons – not real humans
  - *Ex Machina*, *Nexus*
  - Kurzweil: *The Singularity is Near* (2045)



# PANDORA – IS SHE HERE NOW?



Roxxy by TrueCompanion



# EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

*Not to scale*

Spiritual world experienced

3000 BCE: Transition begins

Collective consciousness

Ancient Mysteries

1000 BCE

356 BCE Herastratus, End of Mysteries

"I" think, feel, and will Aristotle and Alexander

End of the "Earth" (4<sup>th</sup> C),  
spiritual world closed

Renaissance

Materialism →

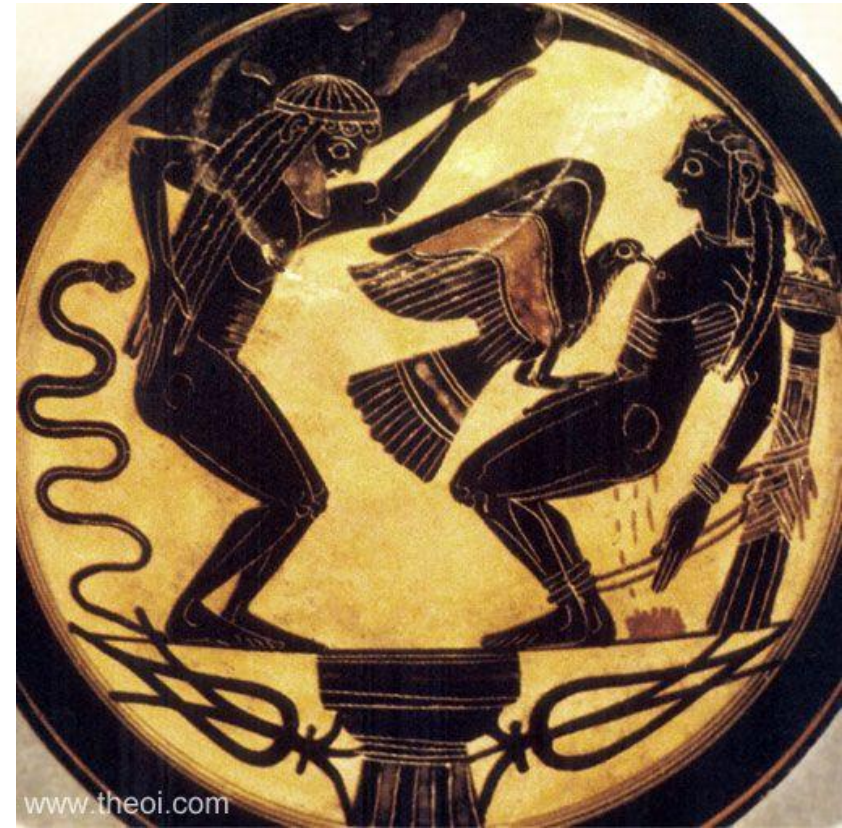
Who needs religion?

Darwin



# PROMETHEUS AS ARCHETYPE OF OUR AGE

- Initiate of our age (5<sup>th</sup> Post-Atlantean Age)
  - Initiated not only into **wisdom** but also into **deed**
- Great Initiates take on **life's suffering**
  - Vulture gnaws at our liver
  - **Lifting humanity above the mineral to the etheric realm**



# MYTHOLOGY IS WITHIN EACH OF US

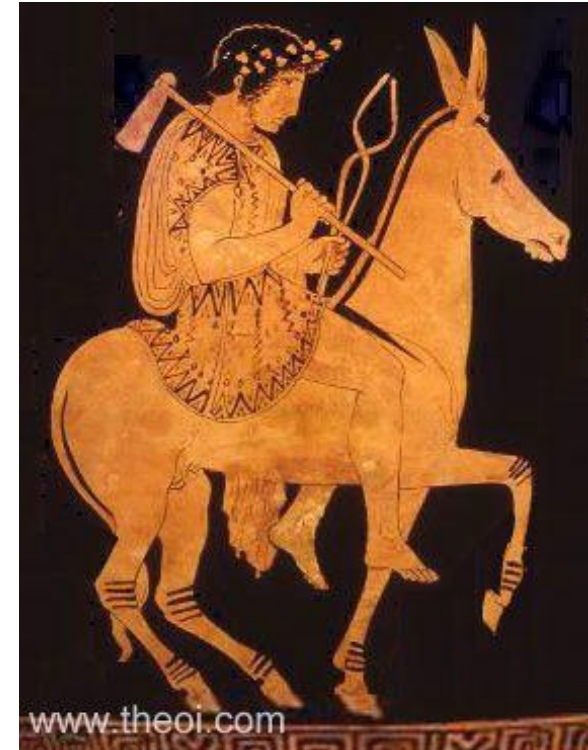
Understanding only by knowing **both**:

## 1. **Hephaestus**: Who is Godlike?

- Thrown off Olympus with malformed foot
- God of technology and **fire**
- What kind of astral-god?
- Focus upon the Earth - **Returns on donkey**

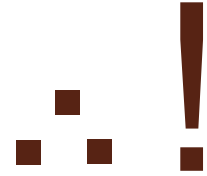
## 2. **Prometheus**: Foresight

- Offers humanity inner **fire**
- Chained to the mineral kingdom
- Release: initiation and sacrifice
- Image of our times
  - Attack on the liver: pain pills, vicodin, statins, hepatitis, alcohol
- Redemption: “Upon this rock I build my church” – not in clouds
  - Develop a spiritual science





# CONCLUSIONS



- Mythology is a **literal** story about
    - Happenings in a spiritual world – on the **astral** plane
  - The myths remained in our memory after death
    - New incarnation: stories arose again to prepare for life
  - Our task in our age: Redemption of our inner
    1. Prometheus (thinking)
    2. Hephaestus (willing)
      - Help him to ride back to Olympus
- } Love + Freedom
- Thinking, Feeling, and Willing are activities of our soul
    - Soul active within Astral body that is above time (Ethereic) and space (Physical)

# FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Donkey
2. Effect on illnesses of our Age
3. Promethean thinking in our Age
  - Programming? Electronics?
  - When chained to the mineral:
    - What is the vulture? Astrality?
4. Compare Epimetheus/Prometheus to Abel/Cain
  - Fire knowledge to Hiram Abiff (Solomon's Temple)



Bible of San Paolo fuori le Mura



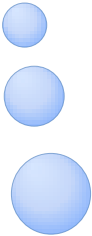
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*Athena and Heracles, 480–470 BC*

Kingdom	Element
Man	Fire
Animal	Air
Plant	Water
Mineral	Earth





Greek God	Roman God	Domain
Aphrodite	Venus	Goddess of Love
Apollo	Phoebus Apollo	God of the Sun
Ares	Mars	God of war
Artemis	Diana	Virgin goddess of the hunt, wilderness, wild animals, childbirth and plague
Athena	Minerva	Goddess of wisdom
Demeter	Ceres	Goddess of grain/crops
Dionysus	Bacchus	God of wine
Eros	Cupid	God of love
Hades	Pluto	God of underworld
Hecate	Trivia	Goddess of witchcraft, crossroads, and justice
Helios	Sol	The sun God
Hephaestus	Vulcan	God of fire, and the forge
Hera	Juno	Queen of the Gods
Hermes	Mercury	Messenger of the Gods
Nike	Victoria	Goddess of victory
Pan	Faunus	God of woods and pastures
Poseidon	Neptune	God of the sea
Zeus	Jupiter	King of Gods