Mythology as a Preparer for Our Age:
A Fresh Look at Its Importance and Reality

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Technology's Role in Human Evolution
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                                                        |
|---------|-----------|---------|                                                               |
| Human   | Ego, I-Am | Fire    | Moral/immoral will is present, knows that it knows            |
| Animal  | Astral    | Air     | Inner life, sentience, desires, instincts                      |
| Plant   | Life/etheric | Water | Livingness, metamorphosis, procreation, memory                |
| Mineral | Physical  | Earth   | Only visible component, lifeless matter                       |

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

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EXAMPLE MYTHS: PROMETHEUS AND HEPHAESTUS
CHARACTERS

• Zeus, King of the Gods
• Prometheus: ‘thinking in advance’
• Epimetheus: ‘thinking afterwards’
  – Descendants 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?
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
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
Modern science at a threshold
All fields are encountering consciousness
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
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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
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

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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

Betraying The Mysteries
Aeschylus

• Fled to altar of Dionysus
• Betrayal meant death

Herbert Weir Smith translation
MYTHS SINCE THE RENAISSANCE
MYTHOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Birth of Venus, Botticelli, 1486

Rape of Europa, Goya, 1772

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GRIMM’S FAIRY TALES

Briar Rose

Disney image
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?

Roxxxy by TrueCompanion
**E Volution of Consciousness**

- 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” (4th C), spiritual world closed
  - Renaissance

- Materialism

- Who needs religion?
  - Darwin

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PROMETHEUS AS ARCHETYPE OF OUR AGE

• Initiate of our age (5th 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
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

• Thinking, Feeling, and Willing are activities of our soul
  – Soul active within Astral body that is above time (Etheric) and space (Physical)

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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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Element</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal</td>
<td>Air</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant</td>
<td>Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mineral</td>
<td>Earth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Athena and Heracles, 480–470 BC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek God</th>
<th>Roman God</th>
<th>Domain</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aphrodite</td>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>Goddess of Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apollo</td>
<td>Phoebus Apollo</td>
<td>God of the Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ares</td>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>God of war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemis</td>
<td>Diana</td>
<td>Virgin goddess of the hunt, wilderness, wild animals, childbirth and plague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athena</td>
<td>Minerva</td>
<td>Goddess of wisdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demeter</td>
<td>Ceres</td>
<td>Goddess of grain/crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dionysus</td>
<td>Bacchus</td>
<td>God of wine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eros</td>
<td>Cupid</td>
<td>God of love</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hades</td>
<td>Pluto</td>
<td>God of underworld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hecate</td>
<td>Trivia</td>
<td>Goddess of witchcraft, crossroads, and justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helios</td>
<td>Sol</td>
<td>The sun God</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hephaestus</td>
<td>Vulcan</td>
<td>God of fire, and the forge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hera</td>
<td>Juno</td>
<td>Queen of the Gods</td>
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<td>Hermes</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>Messenger of the Gods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nike</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Goddess of victory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pan</td>
<td>Faunus</td>
<td>God of woods and pastures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poseidon</td>
<td>Neptune</td>
<td>God of the sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeus</td>
<td>Jupiter</td>
<td>King of Gods</td>
</tr>
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