

Greek Mythology in Medical Terminology

Episode 1 : Introduction to Greek Mythology

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Preface

Greek Mythology in Medical Terminology

English is considered a global language for science communication, especially in medical fields. There are various ways of forming English medical terms, such as derivation from Greek and Latin word parts, abbreviation or acronyms, and the most interesting one, eponyms. Eponymic medical terms are formed using the name of person, place or myth associated with the terms. Greek Mythology may continue to have an influence on how we live today and the myths still can be a rich source for creation of new medical terms. It is not easy to just memorize those terms traditionally, but learning them along with their myths will help promote a better long-term understanding. Having basic knowledge of Greek mythology is undoubtedly valuable and important. These myths provide vital information on how to live, achieve happiness and harmony, and avoid recurrent pitfalls.

This project work is in part of the course 499722 Foreign Language for Communication in Medicine, academic year 2021.

Medical Terminology

Different ways of forming English medical terms

- **Main types of word-formation**

Derivation, Compounding, Multi-word phrases, Abbreviation, Acronyms, Initialisms

- **Marginal types of formation of terms**

Conversion, Back-formation, Clipping, Calques, Loanwords

- **Terms with a “-onym” ending**

Synonyms, Eponyms, Toponyms, Mythonyms, and Backronyms

Medical Terminology

Terms with a “-onym” ending

Greek : *onoma, onyma*
Latin : *nomen*
Sanskrit : *nama*

Eponyms

- 3000 - 30000 Eponyms
- Anthroponyms : Fallopian tube, Bartholin's gland, Bernard – Soulier syndrome
- Toponyms : Haemoglobin G_{Philadelphia}, Hemoglobin Tak, Lyme borreliosis
- Bakronyms : Apgar score (**A**ppearance, **P**ulse, **G**rimace, **A**ctivity, and **R**espiration)
- Mythonyms : terms motivated by Greek mythology



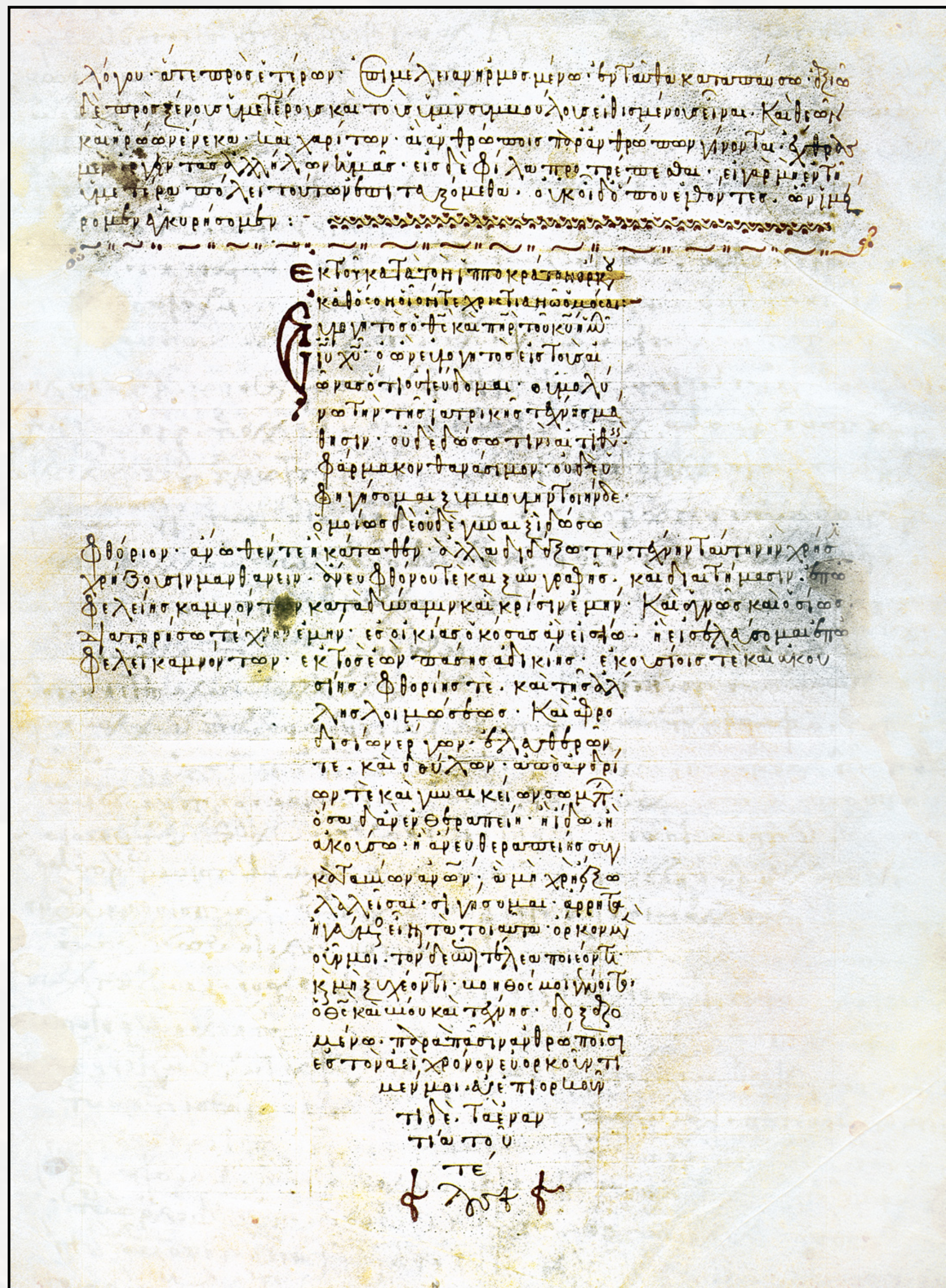
Greek Mythology

Olympus. The Battle of the Giants
BAYEU, FRANCISCO, 1768
Copyright ©Museo Nacional del Prado

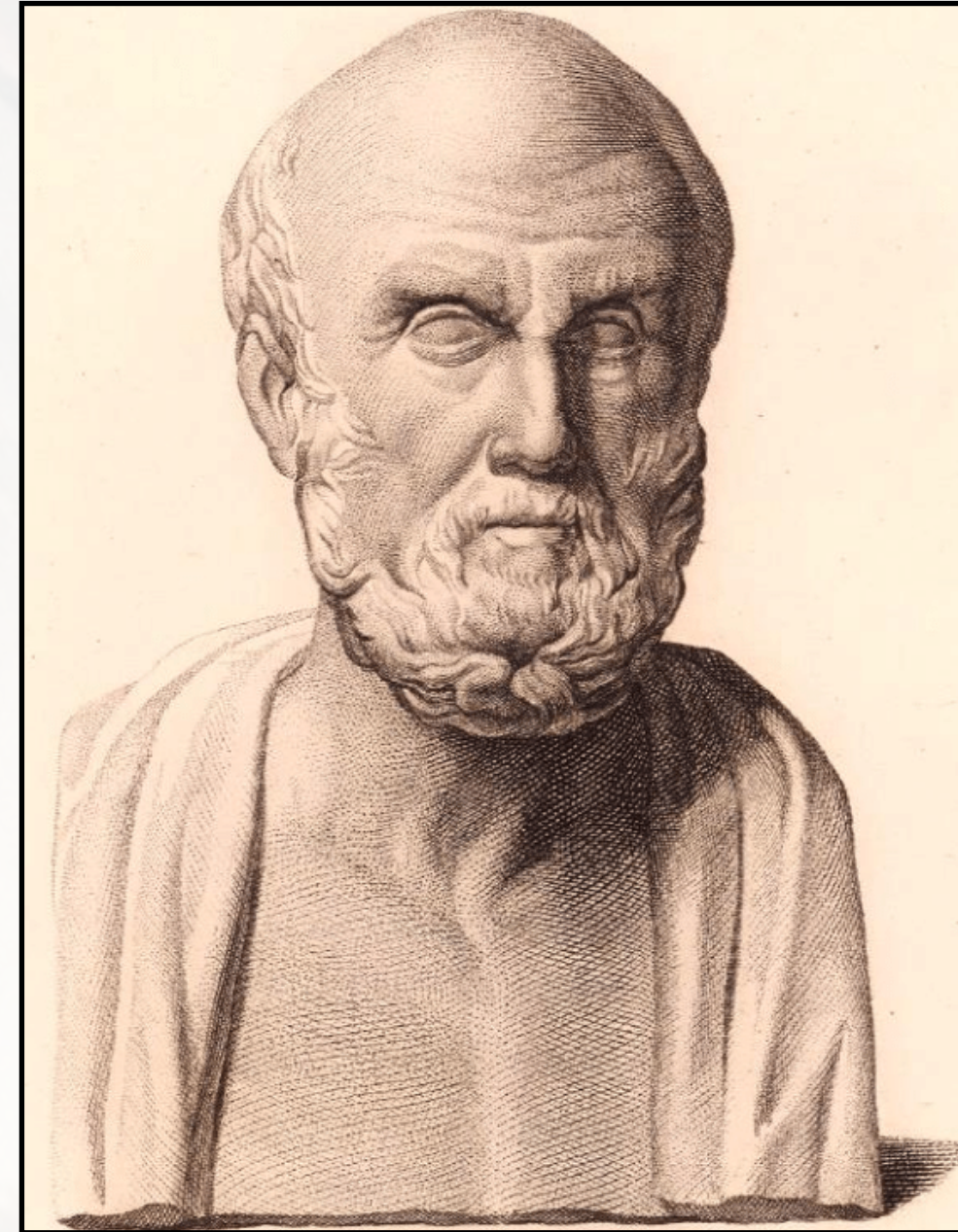
Greek Mythology

Introduction

- The study of “Myths” —and myths are stories about supernatural beings in early times, which were handed down orally from one generation to another.
- Myths attempt to explain such things as:
 - Nature- Where did Earth come from? Heavens? Seasons? Geography?
 - Man- Where did we come from?
 - Gods- Where do the gods come from?



The Hippocratic Oath, Byzantine manuscript, twelfth century



Visconti, 1817

Hippocrates
(460 - 370 BC)

Father of medicine

“I swear by **Apollo** Physician and **Asclepius** and **Hygieia** and **Panaceaia** and all the gods and goddesses, making them my witnesses, that I will fulfil according to my ability and judgment this oath and this covenant...

Apollo

Greek **Apollo**, Latin **Apollo**

- God of prophecy and oracles, music, song and poetry, archery, **healing**, plague and disease, and the protection of the young.
- Son of Zeus and Leto
- Symbols : Swan, Laurel



Laurel ; Laurus nobilis

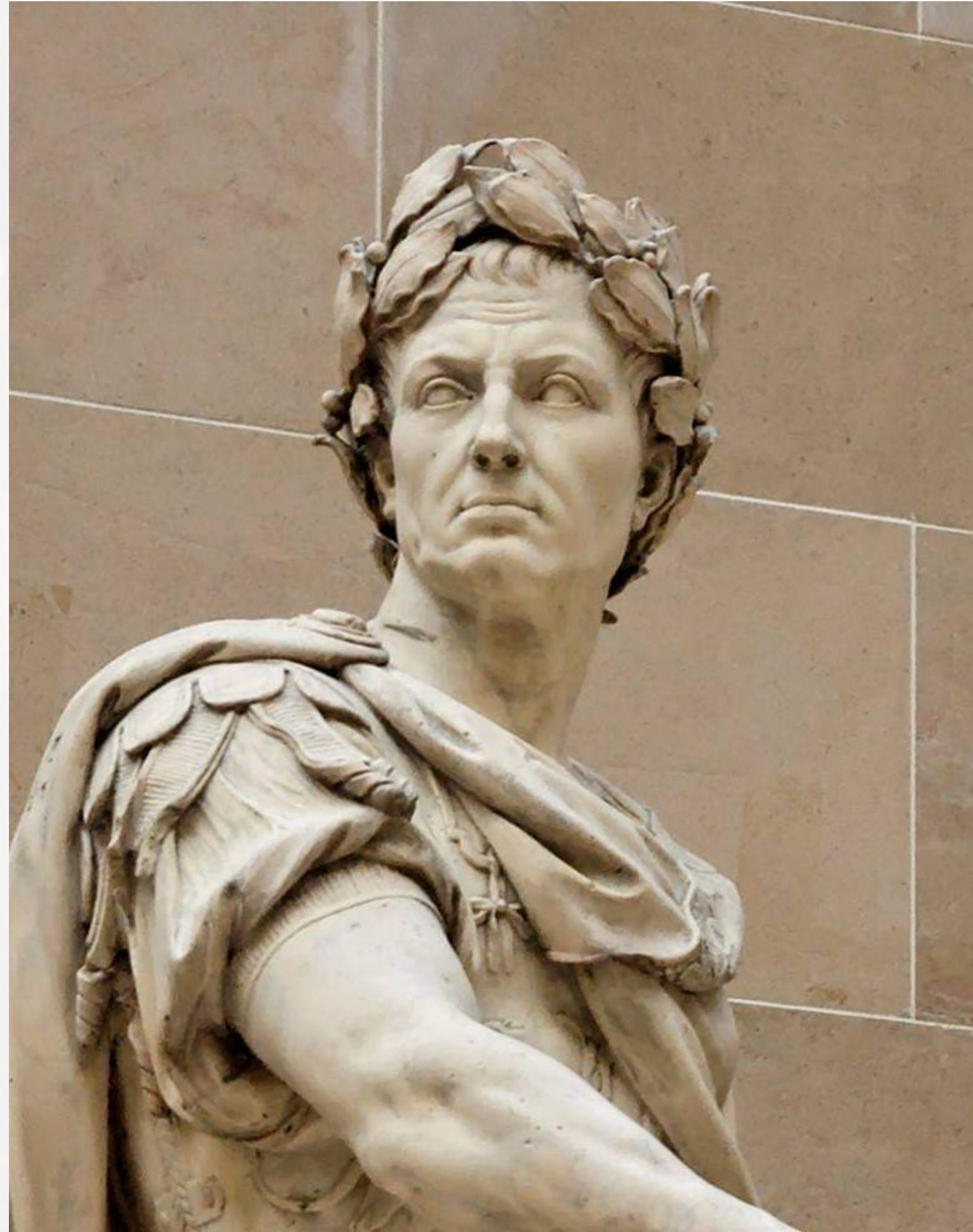
<https://www.britannica.com/plant/laurel-plant-Laurus-genus>.



Apollo, God of Light, Eloquence, Poetry and the Fine Arts with Urania, Muse of Astronomy
Charles Meynier, 1798

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/2003.6.3>

Laurel



Statue of Julius Caesar by Nicolas Coustou (1696)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/41523983@N08/8269338697>



Portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte, François Gérard (1805)

<https://blog.napoleon-cologne.fr/en/the-bicentenary-of-the-death-of-napoleon-bonaparte/>

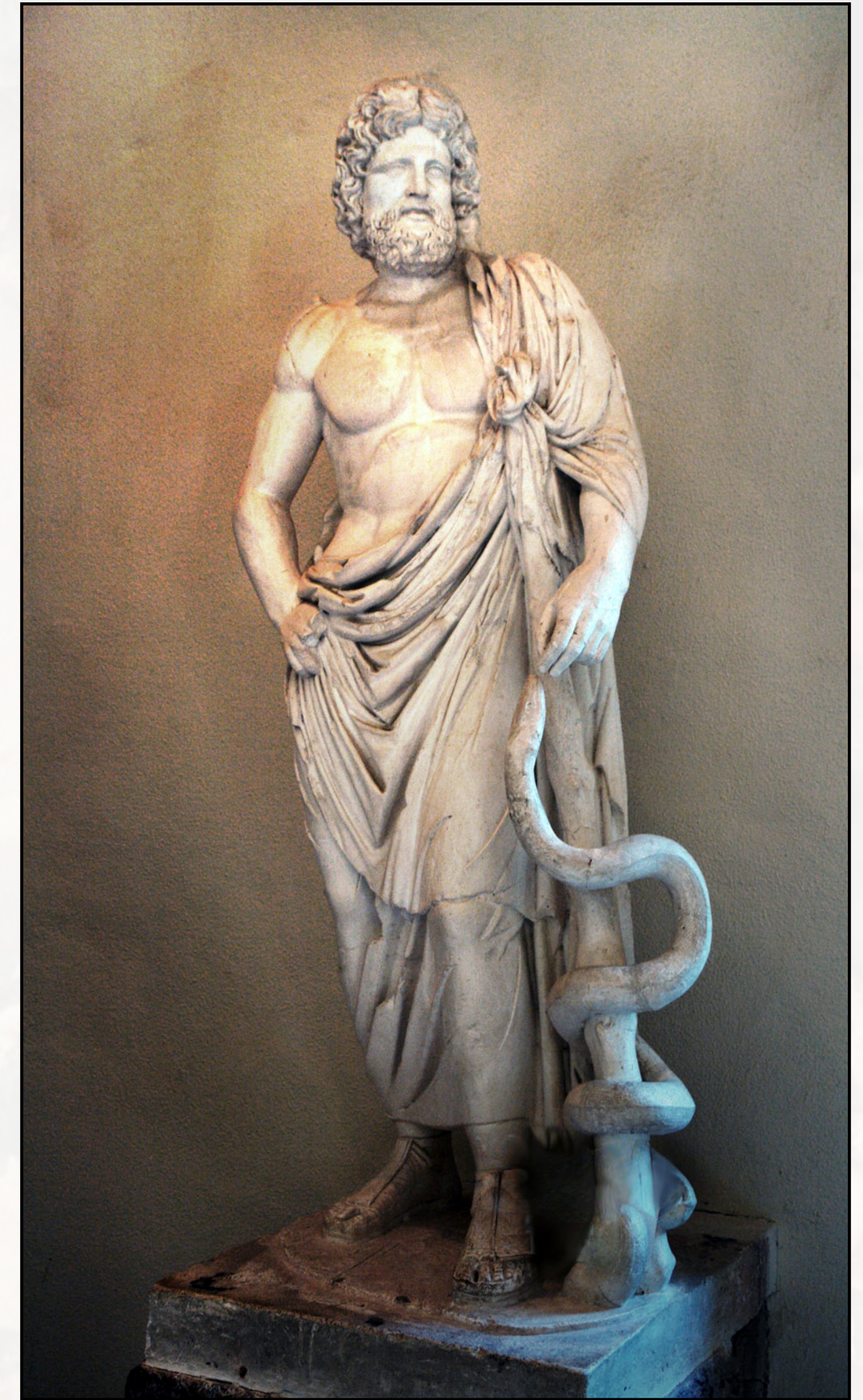
Asclepius

Greek **Asklepios**, Latin **Aesculapius**

- God of Medicine
- Son of Apollo and Coronis
- Rod of Asclepius
- Father of Aceso, Aegle, Hygeia, Iaso, Panacea
 - Hygeia : goddess of good health
 - Hygiene (n.)
 - Panacea : goddess of universal remedies or healing
 - Panacea (n.)

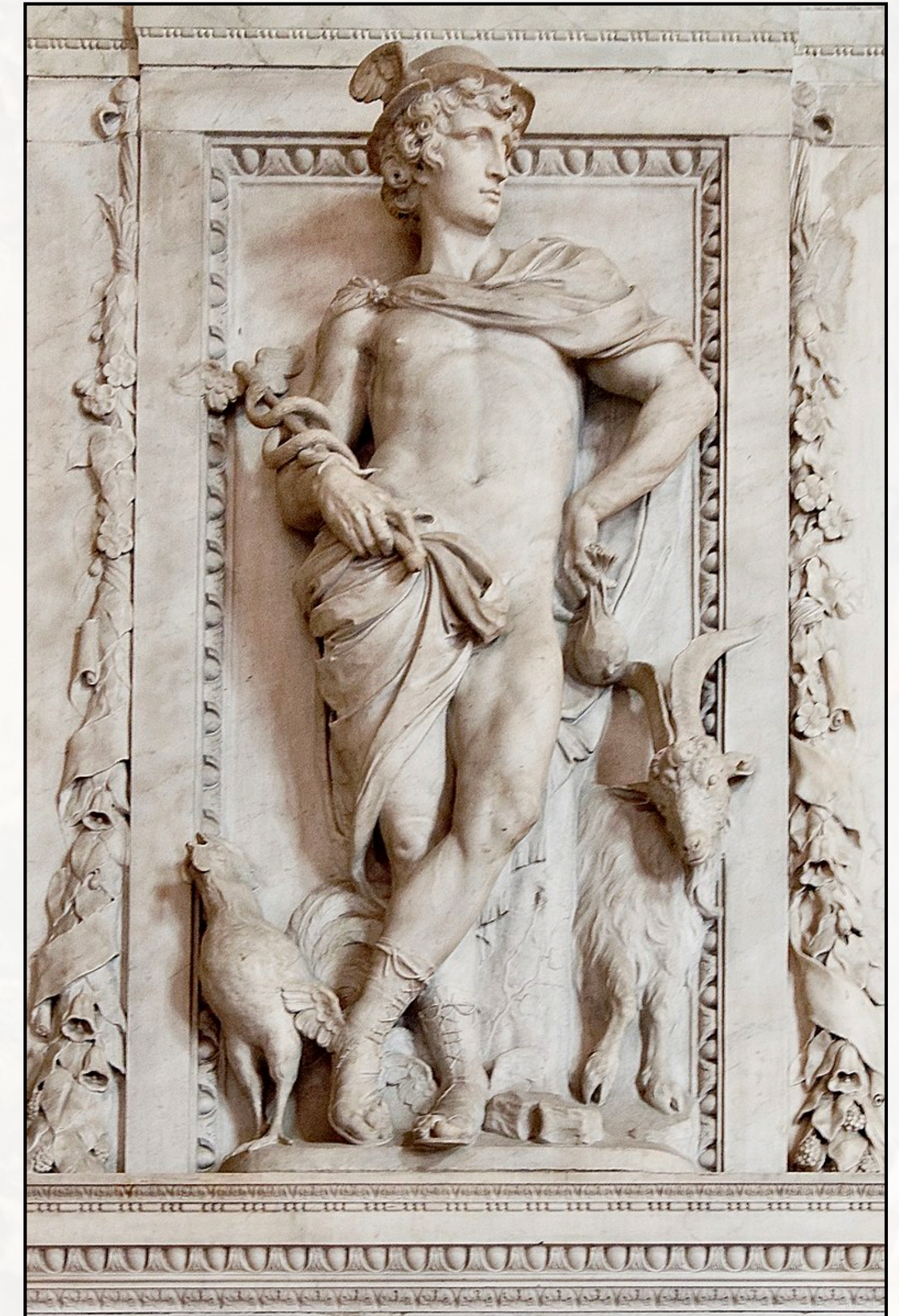
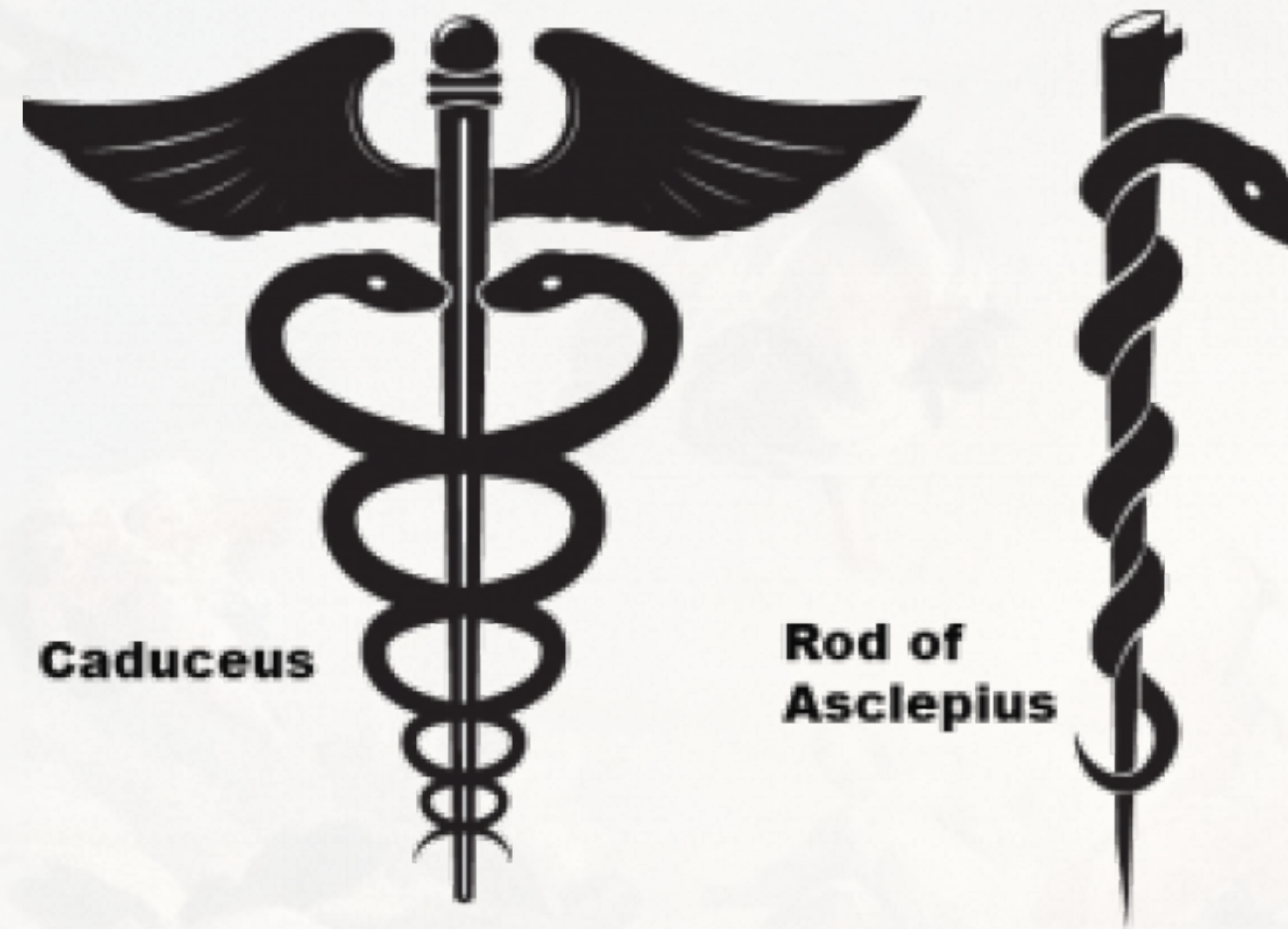


The Star of Life



Asclepius with his serpent-entwined staff, Archaeological Museum of Epidaurus

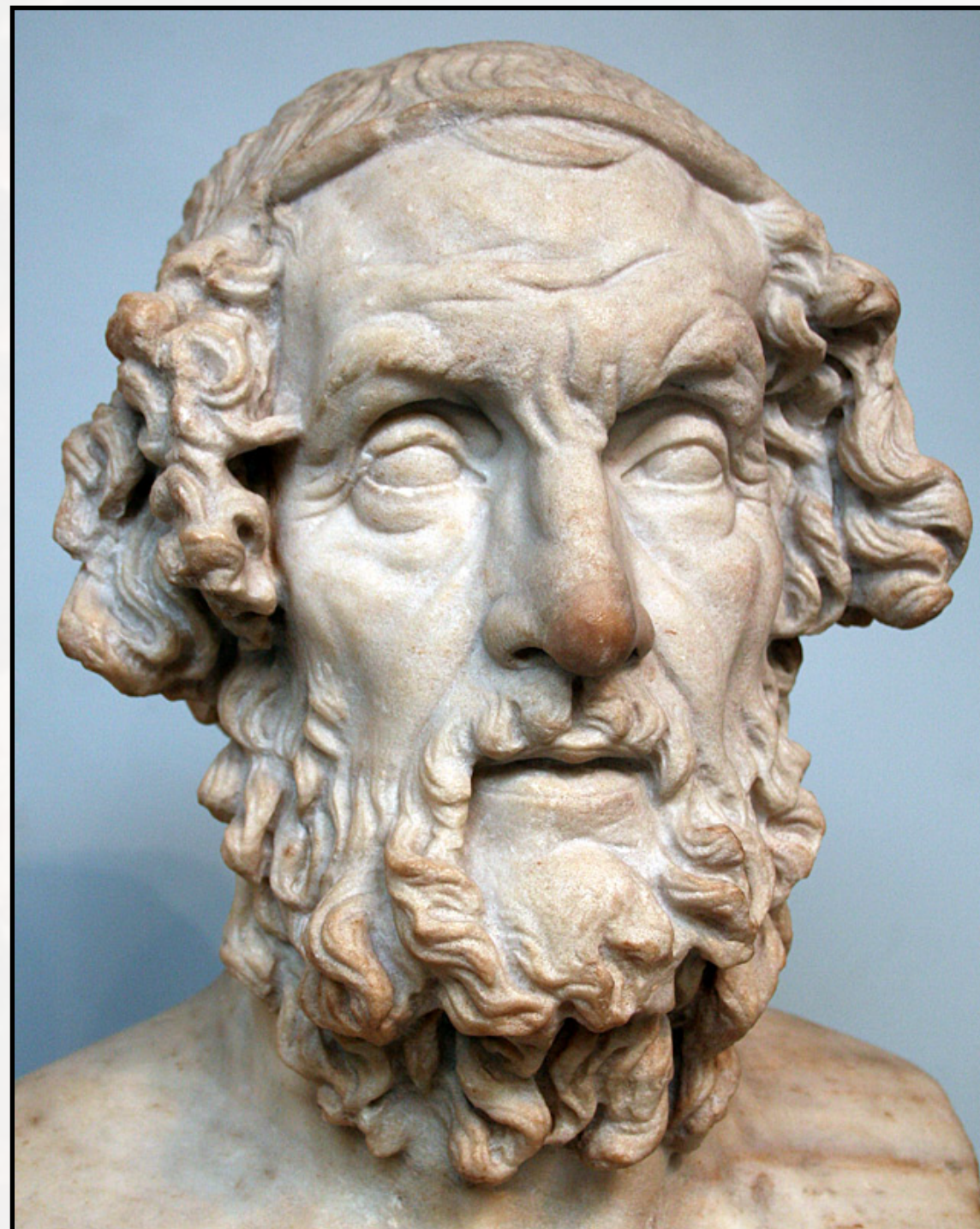
Symbol of Medicine



Mercurius by Artus Quellinus the Elder

Homer

(800 BC)



Marble terminal bust of Homer.
Roman copy of a lost Hellenistic
original of the 2nd c. BC.

The Iliad



<https://www.raptisrarebooks.com/the-epic-influence-of-homers-iliad-and-odyssey/>

The Trojan war
1250 BC
10 years

The Odyssey



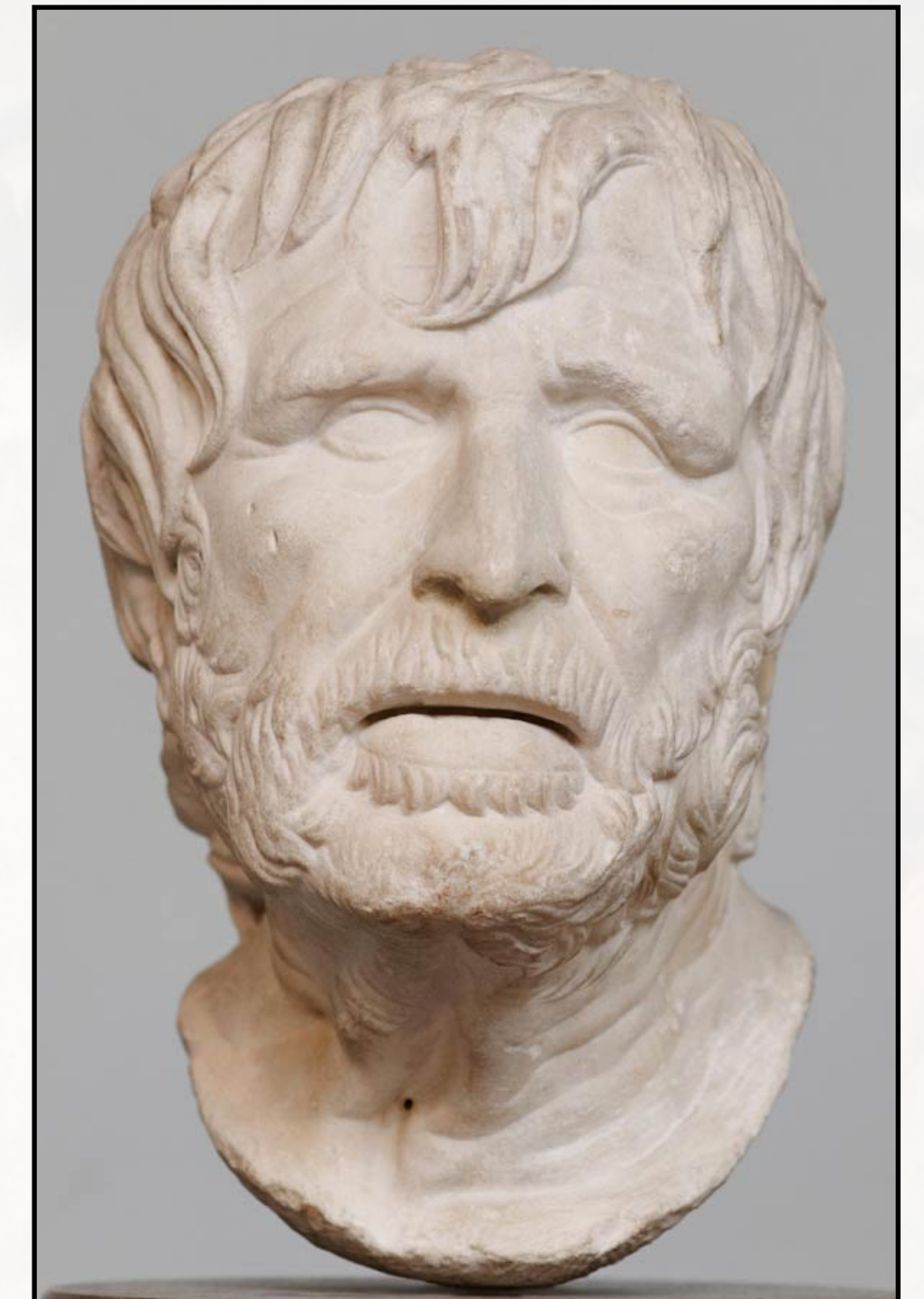
<https://www.ancientworldmagazine.com/articles/odyssey-peacetime-epic-critique-values/>

Odysseus journeying home
After the Trojan war
10 years



Greek manuscript of Hesiod's Theogony with scholia written in the margins

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theogony>



Hesiod
(800 - 700 BC)

<https://www.alaturka.info/en/history/ancient-history/1885-hesiod-greek-oral-poet>

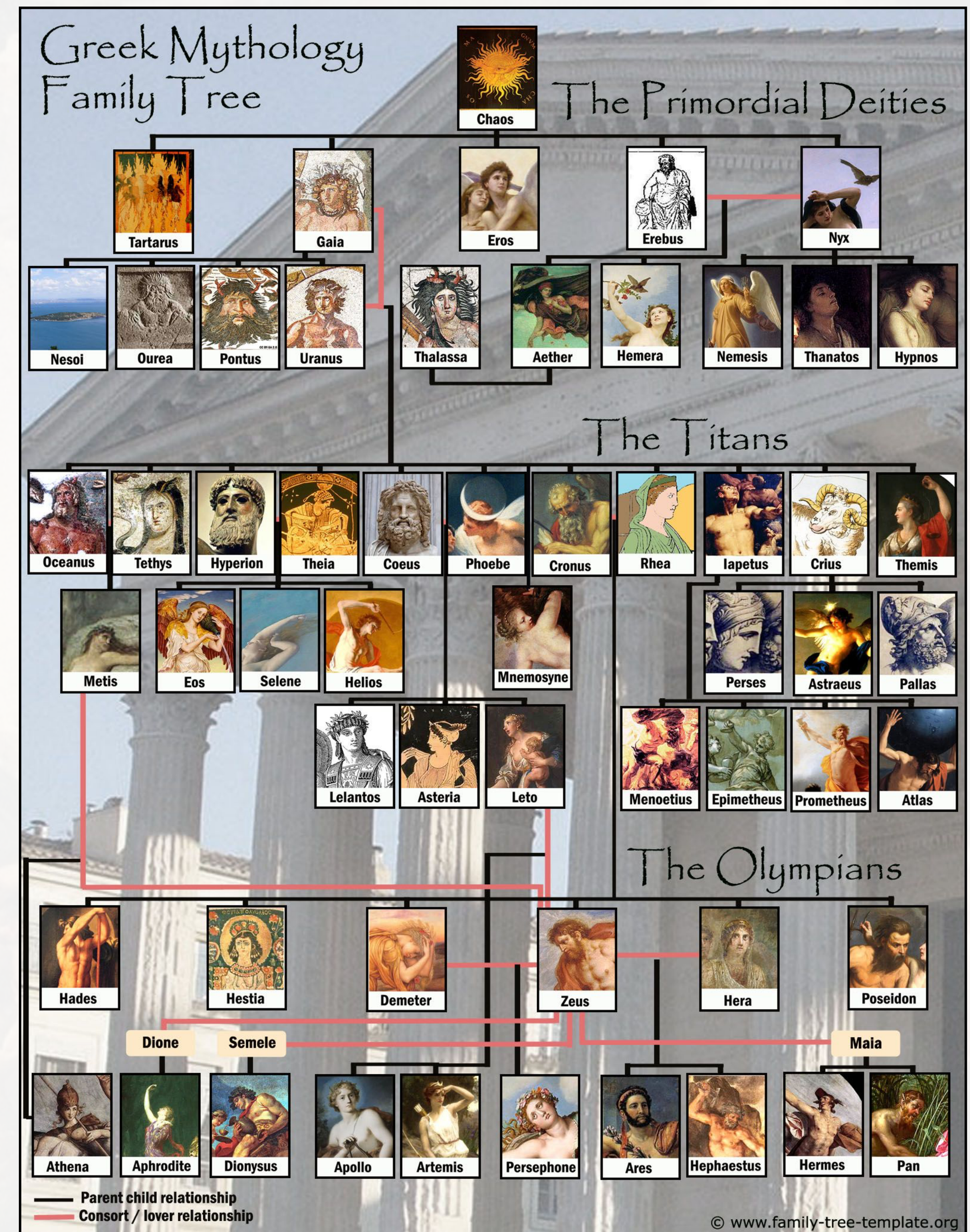
The Theogony

- Describing the origins and genealogies of the Greek gods
- Composed c.730–700 BC.
- It is written in the Epic dialect of Ancient Greek and contains 1022 lines.

Greek Mythology

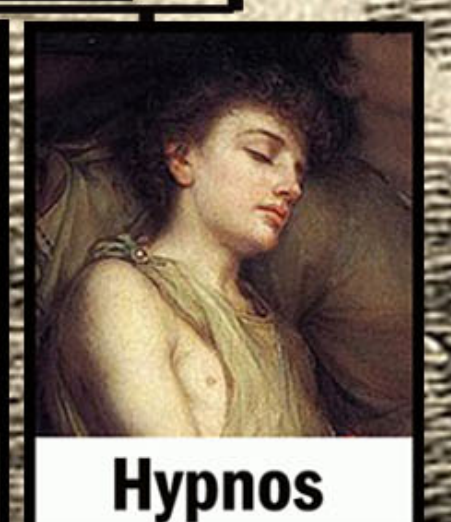
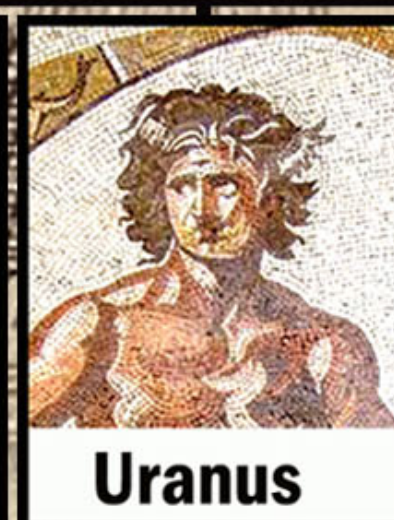
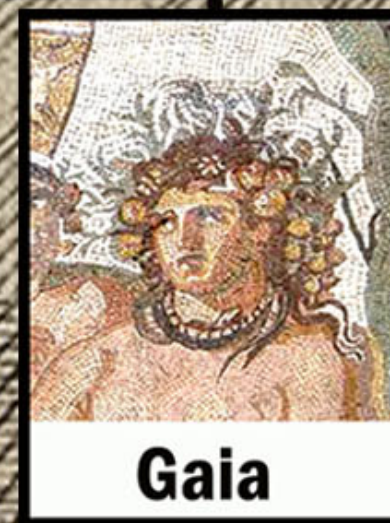
Introduction

- Polytheism
- 3 Generations of Greek Gods
 - The Protogenoi (Primordial deities)
 - The Titans
 - The Olympians



Greek Primordial Deities Family Tree

© www.family-tree-template.org



1st Generation

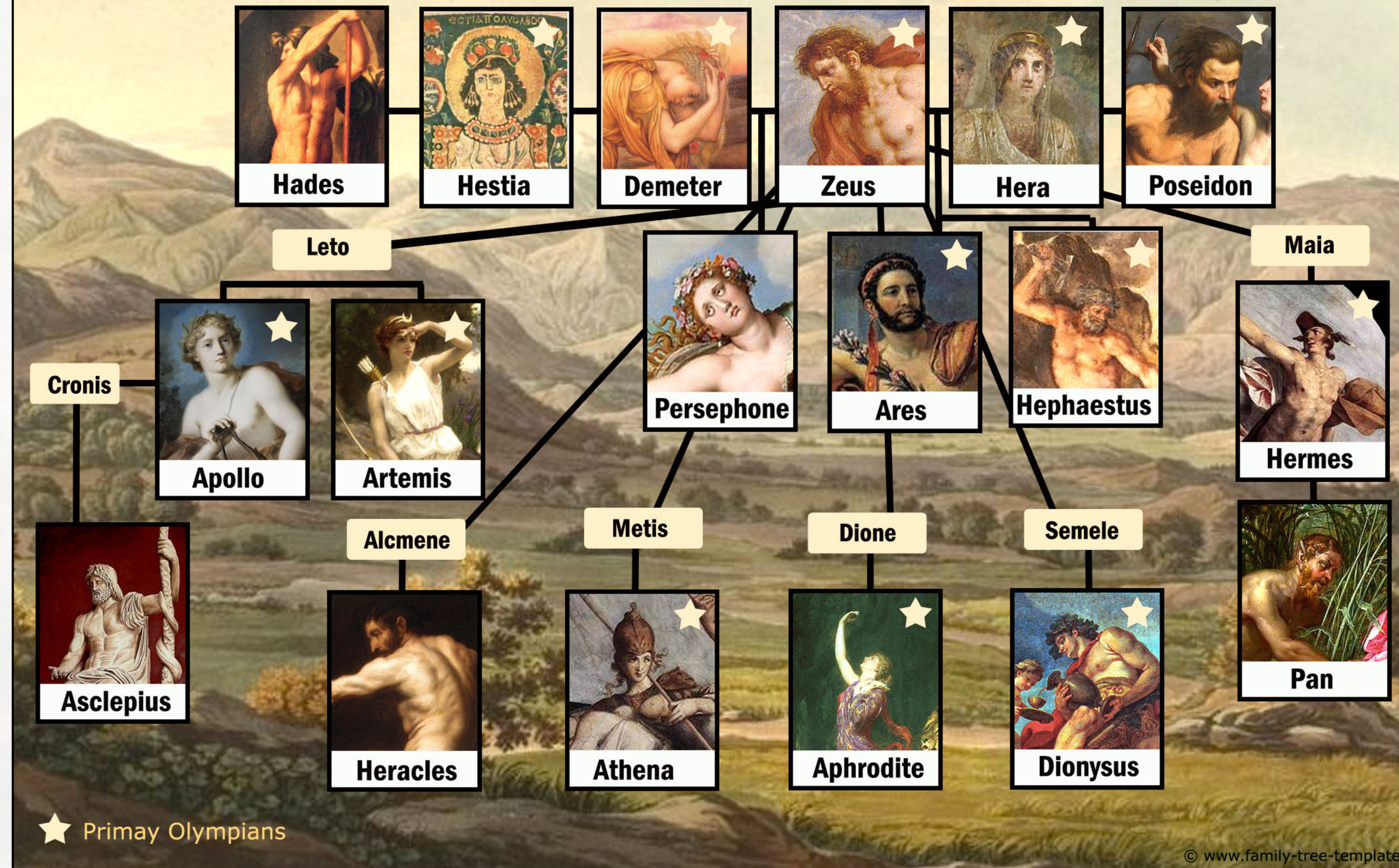
“The Protogenoi”

2nd Generation

“The Titans”



Greek Olympian Gods Family Tree



3rd Generation

“The Olympians”

Greek Name	Roman Name	Role
Zeus	Jupiter	King of the Gods, god of the Sky and Weather
Hera	Juno	Goddess of Marriage
Poseidon	Neptune	God of the Sea, Earthquakes and Horses
Demeter	Ceres	Goddess of Agriculture and Grain
Hestia	Vesta	Goddess of the Hearth and Home
Aphrodite	Venus	Goddess of Love and Beauty
Haphaestus	Vulcan	God of Metalworking and Fire
Ares	Mars	God of War and Battlelust
Hermes	Mercury	God of Messengers, Trade and Thieves
Apollo	Apollo	God of Music, Prophecy and Healing
Athena	Minerva	Goddess of Wisdom, War and Craft
Artemis	Diana	Goddess of Hunting, Animals and Children
Dionysus	Bacchus	God of Wine and Festivity
Hades	Pluto	God of Underworld

Greek Name	Roman Name	Role
Cronus	Saturn	Father of Zeus
Eris	Discordia	Goddess of Strife
Eros	Cupid	God of the Unrequited love
Gaia	Terra	Earth
Hebe	Juventas	Goddess of Youth
Helios	Sol	The Sun
Hygeia	Salus	Goddess of Hygiene
Hypnos	Somnus	God of Sleep
Leto	Latona	Mother of Apollo and Artemis
Nyx	Nox	Goddess of Night
Ouranos	Caelus	God of Heaven
Persephone	Prosperine	Goddess of Underworld
Rhea	Ops	Mother of Zeus
Thanatos	Mors	God of Non-violent Death

Credits

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Quiz and Satisfaction surveys

SCAN ME

