

Lec 4 Titans and Descendants 0118

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- Theogony (gony=birth, theo=gods)
- From the first story of the Castration of Uranus, Kronos only frees the titans
- The 12 titans
 - **Kronos x Rhea** - the 2nd generation of Leaders
 - **Okeanos and Tethys** - fresh water elements
 - **Hyperion and Theia, Krios, Koeus and Phoebe** - the celestial bodies
 - **Iapetos** - Trickery and inventions, connections with humans
 - **Themis** - Justice
 - **Mnemosyne** - Memory

Story 2 - The child swallowing

- Earth's prophecy: Kronos will be overpowered by a son.
- Kronos swallowed his children as soon as they were born
 - Their children : Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, Poseidon, the youngest Zeus
- Rhea tricks Kronos.
- She secretly gives birth to Zeus in a cave in Crete, an island
 - Crete is important in Greece b/c it developed civilization
 - This cave gets offerings for Zeus
- She gives Kronos a stone wrapped up in baby clothes instead
- Zeus' Birth and childhood in Crete
 - Zeus was entrusted to the nymphs
 - Fed him honey from the bees, and milk from the goat, Amaltheia
 - Honey is a symbol of prosperity, abundance, fertility
 - This myth gave lots of aetiology and symbols
 - The horn of plenty (cornucopia); "corn, plenty"
 - Since Zeus was a divine baby, it was said that he was playing with the goat, and accidentally broke one of her horns, so they made that horn the horn of abundance.
 - The Capricorn
 - When the goat died, Zeus created its constellation to honour it
 - The aegis
 - When the goat died, they took the skin of the goat.
 - Aegis = "of goat"
 - A mantle of protection... with it, nothing can injure you
 - ◆ Gods can get injured, but not die.
 - Worn mostly by Athena, daughter of Zeus. Symbolic object of hers.
 - Kouretes, young men of Greece that covered Zeus whenever he cried, so Kronos couldn't hear him. They danced and clashed their shield and sword to create noises
 - Myth as reflecting an initiation ritual, to explain it.
 - When boys of a community reach a certain age, they are taken away to train and become guardians of the community. They would sleep in places like caves.
 - Zeus dethrones his father
 - Some sources = Zeus challenged father at what would be Olympia.
Zeus vs. Kronos at Olympia
- the Kronion hill
 - With the help of Earth, he gives an Emetic potion and Kronos releases the swallowed children
 - The order they come out of becomes like a birth - the sons come out first, and having been the last ones to be born (youngest), they now become the oldest.

- **Similar structure and motifs of the 2 myths in Theogony**

- Suppression of children, trickery and deception to free kids

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uranus and Gaia • U keeps children in G's body • G devises a crafty plan to trick U • K uses a sickle to castrate U • K dethrones U and becomes the leader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kronos and Rhea • K swallows children and keeps them in his body • R asks G for advice and tricks K • R gives a stone to K to swallow • Zeus dethrones K and becomes the leader
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- **This leads to the "succession of power" type of myth**

- Motifs:
 - The fear of losing power by a son (through a prophecy)
 - Unsuccessful attempts to bypass the prophecy by getting rid of the baby
 - The son (an outcast) will obtain revenge as an adult and establish his power

- **Kronos**

- A negative image in Theogony but...
- A king of the Golden Age in Works and Days
 - =first age of humans (then, each age deteriorates)
 - Paradise
 - the king of the Island of the Blessed
- A pre-greek god of agriculture (before greek was invented)
- (The Kronia Festival: a carnival type of festival: dissolution of order) REVERAL OF ROLES. Slaves could be masters, and masters had to be slaves)
 - Compare to halloween
- In Rome, Kronos was more popular
- For Romans: Saturn is the god of agriculture
- Saturnalia : The merriest festival of the year- taken over by Christmas
- The day of Saturn: Saturday
- Even in ancient times, attribute him to Chronos - Father time/Grim reaper
 - the devourer of all things

- **Rhea**

- An Earth goddess, like other earth goddesses
- **Theia (the divine) and Hyperion(the one above)**

- Their Offspring: (all are charioteers)
 - Sun (Helios) - object
 - Moon (Selene) - object
 - Dawn (Eos) - phenomenon
- Eosphoros is a winged creature associated with their offspring
 - Is the bringer of Dawn, leads the charioteers
 - Is Venus!
 - During the morning, only 1 bright object is seen
 - Also seen at night

- The charioteers start from the east, and the go west, to plunge into the water.

- **Helios and the myth of Phaethon (From: Ovid's Metamorphoses)**

- Helios + Klemene → gave birth to Phaethon (means "bright")
- On the edges of earth was the magical land Ethiopia. "Paradise", and connected to the gods.
- Queen Klemene was betrothed to the king, and still gave birth to Phaethon, who was not the king's son.
 - Since Phaethon was the son of Helios, she gave him a named associated with him.

- **Phaethon**

- Phaethon's desired proof of identity

- His friends didn't believe him when he said that he was Helios' son.
- With the advice of his mother, he went to the land of his father, which was the very East, where he rose.
- He comes bearing gifts and must cover his eyes, for it is too bright.
- Phaethon's wish: his father's chariot for one day with license to control the soaring steeds
- Helios' irrevocable oath to Styx to listen to whatever his son had to ask... he did not expect this
 - Gods and divines take irrevocable oaths on the river Styx. So he cannot go back on his promise.
- Helios' advice: The safest course to take is through the middle
- Disasters - Phaethon cannot control Helios' horses and he loses control. Lots of fires everywhere.
- (Phaethon prays) for salvation, so Zeus interferes with a thunderbolt, and kills Phaethon, and the horses fall.
- His sisters mourn him, and were transformed into amber-teared poplar trees
- **Metamorphosis and Etiology:**
- Ethiops - dark skin
 - Due to Phaethon burning everything, they are 'burnt' by the sun.
- African deserts = dry
- Poplars (willows) bent branches, growing by rivers, lakes
 - Sisters who mourned him transformed into these
- Amber, (elektron) the hardened tree tears, found in rivers
- **Phaethon - The concept of Hubris**
- Overconfidence
- Step beyond one's limits

The myth of Eos - Eos, (Dawn) and the myth of Tithonus

- Eos = Rosy fingered and saffron cloaked, like Dawn
- Was a female that abducts men, Tithonus
- She asked Zeus to make him Immortal, as she was divine, but he was mortal.
- She forgot about eternal youth tho, so Zeus granted her wish (Homeric Hymn)
- So he lived forever, but he deteriorated into an old man who shrunk and mumbles endlessly
 - She locked him in a room
- He metamorphose into a cicada, who buzzes all the time in summer
- Cicadas look dry and wrinkly, like old people.
- They come out of the earth, like a cycle
- Old, can't do anything but talk
- Often find their figurines in tombs

Selene and the myth of Endymion

- Eternal sleep and everlasting youth
- She falls so much in love and spends time with him
- Zeus gets annoyed at the lack of the moon, so he punishes her
 - She has to choose if Endymion dies, or if he sleeps forever.
- She wants him to look beautiful forever, so he has eternal life, but sleeps forever. At least he looks young.

