

READER 1: Long ago, the Greeks made up stories to explain scientific happenings they did not understand.

READER 2: Creation of man, floods, the rising and setting of the sun, and evil were among the happenings explained in these stories which are known as myths.

READER 3: The myths were tales about gods, beings with supernatural powers, but with some human characteristics, such as jealousy, pride, and laziness. The most powerful of the gods was Zeus.

READER 4: The wife of Zeus was Hera.

Hera did not always trust Zeus.

READER 5: These myths also spotlighted titans, giants whom the Greeks believed sprang from the meeting of earth and heaven. One of these was Prometheus. The myths say that Prometheus created man.

READER 6: Another titan was Epimetheus, the brother of Prometheus. The Greeks believed that he gave a unique gift to each animal.

READER 1: Today, we present the myth of Pandora, the first woman.

The myth of Pandora explains how evil came into the world.

ZEUS: I am Zeus! Look at those men down there on earth. They took the gift of fire which Prometheus stole. They are warm. They are cooking food. They are making tools. **THAT MAKES ME MAD!**

READER 2: Now when Zeus got mad, he got mad. He had already punished Prometheus for giving the humans fire.

HERA: Zeus, dear, you did punish Prometheus. You had him chained to a rock on a high mountain and that vulture eats his liver every day.

ZEUS: I know. Ha, ha, ha. That was a great punishment. His liver grows back every night, so he is really in pain. That will teach him to mess with Zeus.

HERA: That certainly demonstrated your power, Zeus.

ZEUS: I'm still mad at those men on earth. They accepted the gift of fire and use it every day. I need a punishment for them.

READER 3: Zeus thought and thought. He wanted something awful for the race of mankind.

ZEUS: I've got it! I'll send a woman to earth. That should be just the right punishment.

HERA: A woman as punishment? Indeed!

READER 4: So, the plan was put into action. Zeus had a woman made from clay, just as Prometheus had made man from clay.