

Love in Homer and Hesiod [750-700 B.C.]

Know the following people, places, and terms:

from Odyssey 8.266-369 (Demodokos' song of Ares and Aphrodite)

Aphrodite, wife of Hephaistos, lover of Ares
Hephaistos, club-footed, god of the forge and metals
Ares, handsome, god of war
Helios, sun-god
Zeus, son of Kronos, king of the gods
Hermes, messenger god, god of commerce, trade, & thieves
Poseidon, son of Kronos, god of the sea

from Iliad 5.311-430 (the wounding of Aphrodite)

Aphrodite, daughter of Zeus and Dione
Aineias [=Aeneas], son of Aphrodite, a Trojan
Diomedes, son of Tydeus, favorite of Athena, a Greek
Greeks = Achaians, Danaans
Olympos, mountain in Thessaly, home of the gods
Iris, messenger of the gods, goddess of the rainbow

from Iliad 6.369-529 (farewell of Hektor and Andromache)

Hektor, son of Priam and Hekabe [Hecuba]; brother of Paris [Alexandros]; the greatest Trojan fighter
Andromache, wife of Hektor, her family destroyed by Achilles
Astyanax, son Hektor and Andromache

from Iliad 14.153-360 (Hera's seduction of Zeus)

Hera, wife of Zeus, daughter of Kronos
Okeanos [=Ocean], husband of Tethys (cf. Apsu and Tiamat, the upper and lower waters in Babylonian mythology)
Sleep, brother of Death, betrothed to Pasithea
Pasithea, one of the three Graces

from Hesiod, Theogony 154-210 (the birth of Aphrodite)

Sky [=Ouranos], father of Aphrodite
Mother Earth [=Ge or Gaia]
Cronus, son of Sky and Earth, father of Zeus
Aphrodite (=Cyprian [refers to her sanctuary on Cyprus],
=Cytherea [refers to her sanctuary on Cythera])

1. What do we learn about marriage and adultery in Homer's time in Il. 6 and Od. 8? How does one get married? Who has power over whom? Who is punished when caught in adultery and how are they punished?

2. What is Aphrodite like in the Iliad, the Theogony? How does she act? What are her powers? Who are her attendants? How do Homer and Hesiod differ in their view of Aphrodite? In short, if Aphrodite is the goddess of love, what does "love" mean to these poets?

3. What roles do men and women have in these excerpts? How do they relate to one another? What are their expectations in love? in marriage? How does one succeed in love, according to Homer and Hesiod?