

# Prometheus



Pro-Metheus the before thinker and Epi-Metheus the afterthinker

Patchworking level I  
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### *PROMETHEUS*

**H**EAVEN and earth had been created. The sea ebbled and flowed between its shores, and fish frolicked in the waters; in the air sang winged birds, and the earth swarmed with animals. But as yet there was no creature in whose body the spirit could house and from there govern the world around it. Then down to earth came Prometheus, "Forethought," a descendant of the ancient race of gods which Zeus had dethroned, a son of Iapetus, whom Gaea had borne to Uranus. Now Prometheus was crafty and nimble-witted. He knew that the seed of heaven lay sleeping in the earth, so he scooped up some clay, moistened it with water from a river, kneaded it this way and that, and shaped it to the image of the gods, the lords of the world. To give life to his earth-formed figure he took both good and evil from the core of many animals and locked them in man's breast. He had a friend among the immortals, Athene, the goddess of wisdom, who marvelled at what this son of the Titans had created, and she breathed the spirit, the divine breath, into his creature which, as yet, was only half alive.

Snippet of Prometheus as narrated by Gustav Schwab

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## About the structure of this document

This document contains my attempt at patchworking the story of Prometheus. In the beginning of the document are some examples of the story that I found online or in bookform. There are differences between the versions, as different narrators have different attention to details they find important for whatever reason.

From those versions I've tried to deduce several lines of 'archetypal experience'. What caught my eye during reading is noted beside some of the texts for my own reference.

Then I distilled several lines of gem-ness out of the texts before settling on the one theme that really struck me about this myth: the time orientation of the friend of mankind, Prometheus. The next part questions time and our perception of time. The final part is an attempt at writing a story based on that distillation.

# Stories of Prometheus

## THE STORY OF PROMETHEUS

[https://archive.org/stream/oldgreekstories01jamegoog/oldgreekstories01jamegoog\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/oldgreekstories01jamegoog/oldgreekstories01jamegoog_djvu.txt)

by James Baldwin, taken directly from the website.

### I. HOW FIRE WAS GIVEN TO MEN

In those old, old times, there lived two brothers who were not like other men, nor yet like those Mighty Ones who lived upon the mountain top. They were the sons of one of those Titans who had fought against Jupiter and been sent in chains to the strong prison-house of the Lower World.

The name of the elder of these brothers was Prometheus, or Forethought; for he was always thinking of the future and making things ready for what might happen to-morrow, or next week, or next year, or it may be in a hundred years to come. The younger was called Epimetheus, or Afterthought; for he was always so busy thinking of yesterday, or last year, or a hundred years ago, that he had no care at all for what might come to pass after a while.

For some cause Jupiter had not sent these brothers to prison with the rest of the Titans.

Prometheus did not care to live amid the clouds on the mountain top. He was too busy for that. While the Mighty Folk were spending their time in idleness, drinking nectar and eating ambrosia, he was intent upon plans for making the world wiser and better than it had ever been before.

He went out amongst men to live with them and help them; for his heart was filled with sadness when he found that they were no longer happy as they had been during the golden days when Saturn was king. Ah, how very poor and wretched they were! He found them living in caves and in holes of the earth, shivering with the cold because there was no fire, dying of starvation, hunted by wild beasts and by one another—the most miserable of all living creatures.

"If they only had fire," said Prometheus to himself, "they could at least warm themselves and cook their food; and after a while they could learn to make tools and build themselves houses. Without fire, they are worse off than the beasts."

Then he went boldly to Jupiter and begged him to give fire to men, that so they might have a little comfort through the long, dreary months of winter.

"Not a spark will I give," said Jupiter. "No, indeed! Why, if men had fire they might become strong and wise like ourselves, and after a while they would drive us out of our

Kronos/Saturnus/Binah is overthrown by Zeus/Jupiter/Chesed/Eagle.

Here Prometheus is described as thinking of the future with the other part of that time-axis being attributed to his brother Epimetheus: being focussed on the past.

Prometheus wasn't put in a container == ruleset.

Prometheus refused status elevation to derive his identity from that. While every god did the fulfilment thing he was looking linearly to the future.

He instead had lots of anthropomorphifications to play with.

They lived in holes and needed to grow up.

Lets bring 'em fire, the hot and dry element they're missing out on.

He went UP to Zeus and lowered his status by begging.

kingdom.

Let them shiver with cold, and let them live like the beasts. It is best for them to be poor and ignorant, that so we Mighty Ones may thrive and be happy."

Prometheus made no answer; but he had set his heart on helping mankind, and he did not give up. He turned away, and left Jupiter and his mighty company forever.

As he was walking by the shore of the sea he found a reed, or, as some say, a tall stalk of fennel, growing; and when he had broken it off he saw that its hollow center was filled with a dry, soft pith which would burn slowly and keep on fire a long time. He took the long stalk in his hands, and started with it towards the dwelling of the sun in the far east.

"Mankind shall have fire in spite of the tyrant who sits on the mountain top," he said.

He reached the place of the sun in the early morning just as the glowing, golden orb was rising from the earth and beginning his daily journey through the sky. He touched the end of the long reed to the flames, and the dry pith caught on fire and burned slowly. Then he turned and hastened back to his own land, carrying with him the precious spark hidden in the hollow center of the plant.

He called some of the shivering men from their caves and built a fire for them, and showed them how to warm themselves by it and how to build other fires from the coals. Soon there was a cheerful blaze in every rude home in the land, and men and women gathered round it and were warm and happy, and thankful to Prometheus for the wonderful gift which he had brought to them from the sun.

It was not long until they learned to cook their food and so to eat like men instead of like beasts. They began at once to leave off their wild and savage habits; and instead of lurking in the dark places of the world, they came out into the open air and the bright sunlight, and were glad because life had been given to them.

After that, Prometheus taught them, little by little, a thousand things. He showed them how to build houses of wood and stone, and how to tame sheep and cattle and make them useful, and how to plow and sow and reap, and how to protect themselves from the storms of winter and the beasts of the woods. Then he showed them how to dig in the earth for copper and iron, and how to melt the ore, and how to hammer it into shape and fashion from it the tools and weapons which they needed in peace and war; and when he saw how happy the world was becoming he cried out:

"A new Golden Age shall come, brighter and better by far than the old!"

## II. HOW DISEASES AND CARES CAME AMONG MEN

Things might have gone on very happily indeed, and the Golden Age might really have come again,

Zeus will not grant men 'wisdom' and states: "we need to stay in our castle container, our own ruleset, and keep them out.

Prometheus went down again with his will intact.

Fennel was what the first marathon walker carried.

Burden. Prometheus up to the sun.

Presence of sun ==  
presence of light ==  
presence of hurts

Down again, with the burning burden to his anthropomorphifications.

Light! (hurts?) light is a factor of fire but also of divine inspiration.

Anthro's came out of their containers.

Prometheus teaches containers.

How to do alchemy of the mind.

had it not been for Jupiter.

But one day, when he chanced to look down upon the earth, he saw the fires burning, and the people living in houses, and the flocks feeding on the hills, and the grain ripening in the fields, and this made him very angry.

"Who has done all this?" he asked.

And some one answered, "Prometheus!"

"What! that young Titan!" he cried. "Well, I will punish him in a way that will make him wish I had shut him up in the prison-house with his kinsfolk. But as for those puny men, let them keep their fire. I will make them ten times more miserable than they were before they had it."

Of course it would be easy enough to deal with Prometheus at any time, and so Jupiter was in no great haste about it. He made up his mind to distress mankind first; and he thought of a plan for doing it in a very strange, roundabout way.

In the first place, he ordered his blacksmith Vulcan, whose forge was in the crater of a burning mountain, to take a lump of clay which he gave him, and mold it into the form of a woman. Vulcan did as he was bidden; and when he had finished the image, he carried it up to Jupiter, who was sitting among the clouds with all the Mighty Folk around him. It was nothing but a mere lifeless body, but the great blacksmith had given it a form more perfect than that of any statue that has ever been made.

"Come now!" said Jupiter, "let us all give some goodly gift to this woman;" and he began by giving her life.

Then the others came in their turn, each with a gift for the marvelous creature. One gave her beauty; and another a pleasant voice; and another good manners; and another a kind heart; and another skill in many arts; and, lastly, some one gave her curiosity. Then they called her Pandora, which means the all-gifted, because she had received gifts from them all.



Pandora was so beautiful and so wondrously gifted that no one could help loving her. When the Mighty Folk had admired her for a time, they gave her to Mercury, the light-footed; and he led her down the mountain side to the place where Prometheus and his brother were living and toiling for the good of mankind. He met Epimetheus first, and said to him:

"Epimetheus, here is a beautiful woman, whom Jupiter has sent to you to be your wife."

Zeus looks down and sees the fire == hurts and the containers => angry.

The judge factor of Jupiter.

Zeus was passive about Prometheus but active about people in this moment. He is active and passive at the same time, but regarding different topics.

Firegod Hephaistos (geburah? But he's not Ares, see myth of Aphrodite and Ares) molded from clay a woman form anthro.

Hephaistos brought it up to Zeus.

Zeus gave life (?)

aphrodite gave beauty

hermes a voice

Mercury, Hod, Hermes, was sent down with her to Pro and Epi.

Prometheus had often warned his brother to beware of any gift that Jupiter might send, for he knew that the mighty tyrant could not be trusted; but when Epimetheus saw Pandora, how lovely and wise she was, he forgot all warnings, and took her home to live with him and be his wife.

Pandora was very happy in her new home; and even Prometheus, when he saw her, was pleased with her loveliness. She had brought with her a golden casket, which Jupiter had given her at parting, and which he had told her held many precious things; but wise Athena, the queen of the air, had warned her never, never to open it, nor look at the things inside.

"They must be jewels," she said to herself; and then she thought of how they would add to her beauty if only she could wear them.

"Why did Jupiter give them to me if I should never use them, nor so much as look at them?" she asked.

The more she thought about the golden casket, the more curious she was to see what was in it; and every day she took it down from its shelf and felt of the lid, and tried to peer inside of it without opening it.

"Why should I care for what Athena told me?" she said at last. "She is not beautiful, and jewels would be of no use to her. I think that I will look at them, at any rate. Athena will never know. Nobody else will ever know."

She opened the lid a very little, just to peep inside. All at once there was a whirring, rustling sound, and before she could shut it down again, out flew ten thousand strange creatures with death-like faces and gaunt and dreadful forms, such as nobody in all the world had ever seen. They fluttered for a little while about the room, and then flew away to find dwelling-places wherever there were homes of men. They were diseases and cares; for up to that time mankind had not had any kind of sickness, nor felt any troubles of mind, nor worried about what the morrow might bring forth.

These creatures flew into every house, and, without any one seeing them, nestled down in the bosoms of men and women and children, and put an end to all their joy; and ever since that day they have been flitting and creeping, unseen and unheard, over all the land, bringing pain and sorrow and death into every household.

If Pandora had not shut down the lid so quickly, things would have gone much worse. But she closed it just in time to keep the last of the evil creatures from getting out. The name of this creature was Foreboding, and although he was almost half out of the casket, Pandora pushed him back and shut the lid so tight that he could never escape. If he had gone out into the world, men would have known from childhood just what troubles were going to come to them every day of their lives, and they would never have had any joy or hope so long as they lived.

And this was the way in which Jupiter sought to make mankind more miserable than they had been before Prometheus had befriended them.

Epimetheus didn't look forward in time

Pandora had a casket, a container that shouldn't be looked into, according to chokmah, Athena, goddess of war and wisdom.

Why honor the negotiation you made with the gods?

What you focus on becomes more real. 0==2

Why listen to wisdom.

Out came the rules. The container opened.

Troubles came to mankind, just as with the apple and Eve.

Diseases are a kind of hurts, but not life threatening.

Self as container, burdens carried within (shame is introduced, as with the vine leaf of adam and eve)

### III. HOW THE FRIEND OF MEN WAS PUNISHED

The next thing that Jupiter did was to punish Prometheus for stealing fire from the sun. He bade two of his servants, whose names were Strength and Force, to seize the bold Titan and carry him to the topmost peak of the Caucasus Mountains. Then he sent the blacksmith Vulcan to bind him with iron chains and fetter him to the rocks so that he could not move hand or foot.

Vulcan did not like to do this, for he was a friend of Prometheus, and yet he did not dare to disobey. And so the great friend of men, who had given them fire and lifted them out of their wretchedness and shown them how to live, was chained to the mountain peak; and there he hung, with the storm-winds whistling always around him, and the pitiless hail beating in his face, and fierce eagles shrieking in his ears and tearing his body with their cruel claws. Yet he bore all his sufferings without a groan, and never would he beg for mercy or say that he was sorry for what he had done.

Year after year, and age after age, Prometheus hung there. Now and then old Helios, the driver of the sun car, would look down upon him and smile; now and then flocks of birds would bring him messages from far-off lands; once the ocean nymphs came and sang wonderful songs in his hearing; and oftentimes men looked up to him with pitying eyes, and cried out against the tyrant who had placed him there.

Then, once upon a time, a white cow passed that way,—a strangely beautiful cow, with large sad eyes and a face that seemed almost human. She stopped and looked up at the cold gray peak and the giant body which was chained there. Prometheus saw her and spoke to her kindly:

"I know who you are," he said. "You are Io who was once a fair and happy maiden in distant Argos; and now, because of the tyrant Jupiter and his jealous queen, you are doomed to wander from land to land in that unhuman form. But do not lose hope. Go on to the southward and then to the west; and after many days you shall come to the great river Nile. There you shall again become a maiden, but fairer and more beautiful than before; and you shall become the wife of the king of that land, and shall give birth to a son, from whom shall spring the hero who will break my chains and set me free. As for me, I bide in patience the day which not even Jupiter can hasten or delay. Farewell!"

Poor Io would have spoken, but she could not. Her sorrowful eyes looked once more at the suffering hero on the peak, and then she turned and began her long and tiresome journey to the land of the Nile.

Strength = 9 of wands = Yesod.  
Force = 5 = geburah

Status elevation for Prometheus with a solid background.

Partial containers for Prometheus.

Just hanging there. Nowhere to go. No active or passive makes a difference, no time matters. Did I say the hurts? Everything is reduced to cyclical time.

Cyclical time went on. Prometheus was passive as cyclical time passed. The timeperspective of the story pivots.

Io came to him.

She had also been rendered aimless and cyclical.

Io shall have aim again and look towards the future.

Prometheus keeps on enduring the hardship of passiveness in cyclical time passing on him.

Io started to look forward, now charged with a goal. Even in his position Prometheus gave her a goal.

Ages passed, and at last a great hero whose name was Hercules came to the land of the Caucasus. In spite of Jupiter's dread thunderbolts and fearful storms of snow and sleet, he climbed the rugged mountain peak; he slew the fierce eagles that had so long tormented the helpless prisoner on those craggy heights; and with a mighty blow, he broke the fetters of Prometheus and set the grand old hero free.

"I knew that you would come," said Prometheus. "Ten generations ago I spoke of you to Io, who was afterwards the queen of the land of the Nile."

"And Io," said Hercules, "was the mother of the race from which I am sprung."

And generations later  
Hercules would be born, the  
savior of Prometheus.  
Hercules went UP and slew  
the eagle. He broke  
Prometheus' containers or  
imposed rulesets.  
Patience is the virtue.

## Prometheus, Epimetheus and Pandora

<https://classicalwisdom.com/prometheus-the-creation-of-man/>  
by Van Bryan. Included directly from the website.

The story of Prometheus, Epimetheus and Pandora is a popular myth of ancient Greece. It has been told and retold through the ages with several variations. It is a tale of Prometheus, the son of a titan who was punished for playing his part as the benefactor for mankind. It is a myth that recounts the creation of men and women as well as the birth of enlightenment and the unleashing of misery.

The story goes that during the creation of the universe, the earth formed out of chaos. The air collected and became transparent while the land and seas became solidified and structured. As the earth became suitable for life, the gods decided that it would be wise to bestow upon the planet creatures of life that might thrive and live through the graces of the gods.

### Creation of Man

The task of creating man and beasts was awarded to the titan brothers Prometheus and Epimetheus, whom had not been imprisoned with the other titans by Zeus. Prometheus was said to be wise and possessed the gift of foresight and often considered what would be needed several years in the future. Epimetheus was said to be rash and impulsive, unable to plan for the future and instead only cared for what had happened in the past. The brothers set about creating life upon the earth. Epimetheus swiftly created several creatures that would live in the forests, swim in the seas and rivers, and fly through the air with the gift of flight. Epimetheus was so impulsive that he bestowed upon these creatures several gifts. Swiftens for some beasts, flight for others and the gift of strength and frightening claws for the most terrifying of creatures.

While his brother foolishly crafted creatures with little thought, Prometheus toiled diligently over the creation of man from a lump of clay. Prometheus shaped man after the image of the gods and allowed him to walk upright so that he might look towards the heavens. In some versions it is said that Epimetheus created man and Prometheus merely provided guidance. Regardless of whom the



architect was, man was designed to be nobler than any other beast and was constructed so as to resemble the gods.

However upon completion of man, Prometheus discovered that his rash brother had bestowed all the gifts from the gods upon animals and had left none for humans. While the beasts possessed strength, swiftness, hardened shells and warm coats, man was left naked and weak with no means to live prosperously.

Prometheus was overcome with sadness for his creations, whom were living painfully and harshly on earth. Prometheus devised a plan to bestow upon man a great gift that will make them formidable against the beasts of the earth.

## Prometheus steals fire

Prometheus defied the will of Zeus and traveled to Mount Olympus and stole fire from the gods, a gift that before was unknown to mankind. Some versions of the story describe how Prometheus was aided by the Goddess Hera. Other stories recall that Zeus stole fire from men and Prometheus took the fire back in defiance of Zeus.

At any rate, fire was bestowed upon mankind by Prometheus and with it came the beginning of civilization. Prometheus taught man how to craft tools from iron ore. He showed them how to plant crops and live through agriculture. Man learnt to craft weapons to defend themselves from wild animals. With fire they learnt to survive cold winters and defy the seasons. With fire man began to thrive and became superior to the animals of the wild.

Zeus was outraged by this transgression. He set in motion plans to punish Prometheus and mankind for their obstruction of the gods' will. The punishment he devised was twofold.



First, Zeus commanded Hephaestus, the blacksmith for the God's, to craft a creature so beautiful that it would plague the hearts of men. From a lump of clay, Hephaestus created the form of a woman. This woman was bestowed with gifts like a pleasing voice and unmatched beauty by the gods. They named her Pandora and she was commanded to marry Prometheus's brother Epimetheus.

## Pandora's box

Pandora was the first woman, bestowed with beauty and grace. She is described by the Greek poet Hesiod in less than flattering terms when he wrote...

“From her is the race of women and female kind: of her is the deadly race and tribe of women who live amongst mortal men to their great trouble, no helpmates in hateful poverty, but only in wealth.”

Epimetheus married Pandora despite Prometheus' warnings to be wary of accepting gifts from Zeus. The warning was well placed. Before Pandora departed Olympus she was given a box or, in some versions of a story, a jar. She was warned by the gods to never open the box under any circumstances.

At first Pandora abided by this rule, however her curiosity was soon overwhelmed. She opened the box out of blind curiosity, so that she might see what it held.

Immediately, innumerable evil creatures flew out of the box and began to disperse themselves across the earth. Creatures like disease, famine and plague sprang from the box and began to wander the earth and haunt mankind. Pandora, in her fear, quickly shut the box. She closed the vessel on one last creature before it could escape, Hope.

As a result, it is said that while evil haunts this world, mankind will still have hope.

## Prometheus

Prometheus was punished as well. He was sentenced by Zeus to spend eternity chained to a mountain where each day an eagle will devour his liver from his body. Prometheus was an immortal, so each night his liver regrew and his wound healed, only so that it may be ripped from his body the next day.



Prometheus spent thousands of years suffering this punishment, having his flesh devoured by a ferocious bird. It is said that he was chained to the mountain for so long that he eventually became one with the rock; all the while he looked on in agony as his creations, mankind, suffer the plagues that were released from Pandora's box.

Some versions of the myth of Prometheus describe how he was eventually rescued by the hero Heracles. In some versions it is a vulture, not an eagle that feasts on the liver of Prometheus. Regardless of the details, the theme is a powerful one. It is a theme that has been revisited and examined by artists and writers for centuries to come.

Prometheus has often been viewed as a metaphor for human enlightenment and the disasters that can come from overreaching our limits. There are allusions to his legend in several later works of literature. Mary Shelly's classic 1818 novel *Frankenstein* is subtitled "The Modern Prometheus". It has been generally understood that this was done in an attempt to accentuate the theme of scientific progress and the dangers that may come with it.

In the 1937 novel *Anthem* by Ayn Rand, there are references to Prometheus and the bringing of fire. The novel depicts a dystopian future society which is characterized by being devoid of individualism, emotions or technological advances. The main character defies the laws of the elders and explores the arena of science in secret. He creates a rudimentary light bulb with the intent of

sharing it with the world. This character is punished for his defiance of the tyrannical rulers and for his creation of light. After escaping the society, the character renames himself Prometheus, a very obvious tribute to the original benefactor of man.

As can be seen in Anthem, the story of Prometheus can also be viewed as a symbol of defiance of tyranny and authority. Comparisons have been drawn between Prometheus' defiance of Zeus and the French revolution. His mission of helping humanity despite his own sufferings is often compared to the story of the crucifixion of Christ.

The story of Prometheus remains one of the most popular of the Greek myths. The original creator of man, he sought to help us live plentifully even while he heroically suffered the consequences. He is a reminder that human progress often comes from the selfless actions of others; that, with every advancement, there are often those who accept outrageous sufferings on our behalf.

# **Titanomachy**

Through his smart counseling, Prometheus played an essential part during the war between the Titans and the Olympians. Even though himself a Titan, together with his brother Epimetheus, he sided with Zeus and escaped the brutal punishments that his other two siblings, Atlas and Menoetius, received after the old order of gods was eventually defeated.

## **Prometheus vs. Zeus**

Things, however, got sour between Prometheus and Zeus soon after Zeus had established himself as the sovereign ruler of all gods and men. The primary cause for this was Zeus' tyrannical treatment of humankind, which, in the eyes of Prometheus, deserved a far better master.

## **The Trick at Mecone**

The rift between the Thunderer and the Forethinker seems to have started at Mecone when Zeus charged Prometheus with the task of dividing the meat of a great ox into two meals, one for the gods and the other one for the humans. Ever the lover of the latter, Prometheus tried tricking Zeus by producing one portion of bones wrapped in fat, and another one consisting of the finest meat covered with the ox's insides. Strangely enough, Zeus chose the fat-covered bones, thus setting a precedent which allowed humans, from that day forward, to keep the meat for themselves and sacrifice only the bones to the gods.

## **The Stealing of Fire**

Angered by Prometheus' trick, Zeus tried punishing humankind by hiding from them the gift of fire. Prometheus didn't think this just, so he stole the fire from Olympus and brought it back to earth in a fennel stack. In honor of this act, the Athenians instituted a race, during which runners of the same team passed between them a flaming torch until the last runner of the winning team had the privilege to use it to kindle the sacrificial fire on the altar of Athena on the Acropolis. This, of course, marked the origin of both relay races and the modern Olympic flame ceremony.

## **Humankind's Punishment: Pandora and Her Jar**

It was now Zeus' turn to react and react he did: he tasked Hephaestus with molding a creature as beautiful and as devious as no mortal had ever seen before. Even the gods – all of whom had gifted this being with seductive gifts – were amazed when they saw the “beautiful evil” it embodied, the “sheer guile” of her appearance. This creature was Pandora, the very first woman in history: “of her,” writes Hesiod, “is the deadly race and tribe of women who live amongst mortal men to their great trouble, no helpmeets in hateful poverty, but only in wealth.”

To make matters worse, soon after coming to Earth, Pandora was foolishly accepted by the afterthinking Epimetheus, against the better advice of his much smarter brother. Once this happened, Pandora promptly opened the jar she had brought with herself, and out of it all kinds of diseases and pains gushed forth, plaguing humanity ever since.

## **Prometheus' Punishment: The Eagle**

As gruesome as this punishment for humanity had been, it didn't seem to alleviate Zeus's anger. So, he decided to punish Prometheus as well. Once again, he was as cruel as one can be: he had the Titan chained to a rock in the Caucasus and sent an eagle to prey on him. Every day the eagle tore a part of Prometheus' liver which grew back again during the night so that the unbearable torment could go on indefinitely.

## **Prometheus' Secret**

In addition to the theft of fire, Zeus had one more reason to be mad at Prometheus. Namely, being a Forethinker, Prometheus was the only one who knew the identity of the mortal woman Zeus wasn't allowed to sleep with since it had been prophesized that the offspring of this marriage was destined to overthrow his father. And the Titan wasn't interested in telling Zeus anything more than this for no reason whatsoever.

## **The Freeing of Prometheus**

Neither Zeus nor Prometheus backed down in their hardheadedness for centuries. And who knows how many eons their struggle would have gone on if it hadn't been for Zeus' son, Heracles, who happened upon the chained Prometheus on his way to the Hesperides. Whether Heracles shot the eagle and freed Prometheus as a sign of gratitude for the latter advising him to send Atlas to fetch the golden apples and complete his labor – or it was the other way around, we may never know for sure. However, we do know that Zeus allowed this to happen and that afterward he and Prometheus buried the hatchet and finally made peace with each other.

## **Prometheus and Humankind**

At a later date, Prometheus was promoted from being a benefactor of the human race to being its very creator.

## **The Creation of Man by Prometheus**

Apollodorus says that before stealing the divine fire and gifting it to humankind, Prometheus had also “molded men out of water and earth.” Other authors claim that the creation of man was a joint effort by Prometheus and Athena, who breathed life into the clay figures shaped by the Titan.

Two stony remnants of the clay Prometheus used to fashion humanity – as we learn from the traveler Pausanias – could be seen at Panopeus in Phocis as late as the second century AD. Apparently, these two stones were situated in a ravine and had “the color of [sandy] clay.” Furthermore, they seem to have smelt very much “like the skin of a man.”

## **The Deluge: Prometheus' Son Deucalion and Pyrrha**

Regardless of whether they had been created by Prometheus or not, the first people were at one point wiped out almost completely from the face of the earth by a Great Flood sent by Zeus. The only two of them to survive were Prometheus' son Deucalion and his wife, Pyrrha. Afterward, these two repopulated the earth by throwing stones over their shoulders, which then magically turned into men and women. So, it would seem that in more ways than one, humanity owes its existence to its champion and benefactor, Prometheus.

## **The Creation of Man by Prometheus (by J.M. Hunt)**

Prometheus and Epimetheus were spared imprisonment in Tartarus because they had not fought with their fellow Titans during the war with the Olympians. They were given the task of creating man. Prometheus shaped man out of mud, and Athena breathed life into his clay figure.

Prometheus had assigned Epimetheus the task of giving the creatures of the earth their various qualities, such as swiftness, cunning, strength, fur, and wings. Unfortunately, by the time he got to man Epimetheus had given all the good qualities out and there were none left for man. So Prometheus decided to make man stand upright as the gods did and to give him fire.

Prometheus loved man more than the Olympians, who had banished most of his family to Tartarus. So when Zeus decreed that man must present a portion of each animal he sacrificed to the gods, Prometheus decided to trick Zeus. He created two piles, one with the bones wrapped in juicy fat, the other with the good meat hidden in the hide. He then bade Zeus to pick. Zeus picked the bones. Since he had given his word, Zeus had to accept this pile as his share for future sacrifices. In his anger over the trick, he took fire away from man. However, Prometheus lit a torch from the sun and brought it back again to man. Zeus was enraged that man again had fire. He decided to inflict a terrible punishment on both man and Prometheus.

To punish man, Zeus had Hephaestus create a mortal of stunning beauty. The gods gave the mortal many gifts of wealth. He then had Hermes give the mortal a deceptive heart and a lying tongue. This creation was Pandora, the first woman. A final gift was a jar which Pandora was forbidden to open. Thus completed, Zeus sent Pandora down to Epimetheus, who was staying amongst the men.

Prometheus had warned Epimetheus not to accept gifts from Zeus, but Pandora's beauty was too great and he allowed her to stay. Eventually, Pandora's curiosity about the jar she was forbidden to open became intolerable to her. She opened the jar and out flew all manner of evils, sorrows, plagues, and misfortunes. However, the bottom of the jar held one good thing - hope.

Zeus was angry at Prometheus for three things: being tricked by the sacrifices, stealing fire for man, and refusing to tell Zeus which of Zeus's children would dethrone him. Zeus had his servants, Force and Violence, seize Prometheus, take him to the Caucasus Mountains, and chain him to a rock with unbreakable adamantine chains. Here he was tormented day and night by a giant eagle tearing at his liver. Zeus gave Prometheus two ways out of this torment. He could tell Zeus who the mother of the child that would dethrone him was, or meet two conditions. The first was that an immortal must volunteer to die for Prometheus, and the second was that a mortal must kill the eagle and unchain him. Eventually, Chiron the Centaur agreed to die for him and Heracles killed the eagle and unbound him.

## My dutch version of Prometheus, as bundled in Gustav Schwab's Greek and Roman sagas.

It starts with a description of the creation of man. Then it goes on to the part about fire. Then it moves on to Pandora and the punishment of Prometheus.

Btw. Praise Prometheus for bringing us the technology of Google Translate. Entire text auto translated below. And yes, there are some funny errors.

Heaven and earth were created; the sea, sloshed between its banks, and the fish swam lustily around; in the air the birds sang; the ground was crawling with animals. There was only one creature missing in which the spirit could house to rule the earth from there. Then Prometheus entered the earth, a son of an ancient god slaughtered by Zeus, a son of the son of Ouranos, Iapetos, who was born on earth. Prometheus knew that in the face of the earth the seed of heaven was dormant; therefore he took some clay which he watered with water from the river and kneaded well and formed there a figure of the image of the gods, the rulers of the world. To infuse that clod of earth, he took from the souls of the animals good and bad qualities and enclosed them in the breast of man. He owned a friend among the heavenly inhabitants, Athena, the goddess of wisdom. She admired the creation of the Titan's son and blew the half-possessed figure into the spirit, the divine breath. This is how the first people came into being and soon they were populating the earth in large numbers. For a long time they did not know how to use their body and the godly spark that had been given to them. Although they could see, they saw nothing; although they could hear, they heard nothing; they walked around like dream figures and did not know what to do with creation. The art of cutting stones from rocks, baking loam roof tiles, making beams from trees and building houses from them was not known to them. They crawled around like ants in their dark holes; they did not notice whether it was winter, spring or summer; they did everything without

First there were Heaven and Earth. Maybe a reference to Nut and Geb to please the Egyptian audience. The sea sloshed between its banks. A statement that the land belongs to the water, is defined by it. This order is also referenced in Genesis.

The spirit needed to rule the earth. Spirit was needed for Malkuth to manifest. The soul was there, the body was there, but the spirit not yet.

Prometheus, born of Chronos, Saturn, Binah when he still ruled before Chesed, Jupiter, Zeus. Prometheus knew that in the earth, malkuth, the seed of heaven was dormant, a reference to as above so below, as below so above.

Man part 1, earth.

Man part 2, water.

Man part 3, air, the spirit added, by Athena (Chokmah)

For fire, see further on when Prometheus steals it from the gods to bring it to humankind.

Prometheus, like hermes mercury, brings understanding, binah. Not knowledge, but insight. Knowledge is the combination of wisdom and understanding.

insight. Then Prometheus took care of his creatures; he taught them to observe the emergence and undergrowth of the heavenly bodies, invented the art of counting and the literary, taught their animals to work for them, and to use them as laborers, he taught the horses to take a ride get used to it and found a boat and sail to sail the seas. He also advised the people on all other sides of life. In ancient times there were no medicines for diseases, no ointments were known to relieve suffering, nor beneficial foods; because medicines were missing, the sick died a miserable death. That is why Prometheus taught people how to prepare innocent medicines to fight diseases. He also taught them in the art of divination and explained their omens and dreams, bird flight and offerings. He let them look under the ground and the ore, the iron, the silver and the gold

He taught them all the arts that can make life more pleasant. In heaven, Zeus recently reigned with his children, who unraveled his father Kronos and overthrew the old gospel blessing, "which Prometheus also descended from," The attention of the new gods fell on the newly created human race. They demanded of the mortals that they would worship them and promised them their protection for it. in Mekone, Greece, mortals and immortals joined us to determine the rights and duties of man. At that meeting Prometheus appeared as the defender of his creatures in order to prevent the gods from imposing too heavy demands on the promised protection. Prometheus' cleverness led him to deceive the gods. He slaughtered a large bull in the name of his creatures and the immortals were allowed to choose which half they wanted. He had made two piles of the pieces of the sacrificial animal; on one side were the flesh and the entrails, covered with the skin and on the stomach, on the other side the bare bones artfully hidden under the fat of the sacrificial animal. And that last pile was the greatest. Zeus, the all-knowing go-to father, understood the deceit but said: 'Son of Iapetos, good-natured king, good friend, how wrong have you divided the sacrifice!' Prometheus believed that he had succeeded in his intent, laughed to himself and said, "Zeus, greatest of the eternal gods, choose your part as your heart tells you!" Zeus felt the anger rise, but deliberately grasped the white fat with both hands. When the bald bones Hien came, he pretended to discover the deception now and said, "I see, my friend Iaperlonide, that you have not forgotten the art of cheating!" Zeus decided to avenge himself for Prometheus deceit and he denied the mortals the last gift they needed to stay alive, the fire. But even there the smart son of Iapetos knew what to do. He took the marrow-filled stem of the giant fennel, approached the passing solar car and set fire to the stem. With that smoldering tinder he came back to earth and soon the flames from the first pile of wood

Prometheus taught humankind science.

Mining appears, mining for the alchemical metals and their psychological development.

The gods and humans met in a neutral place. Not up at the mountains, no status elevation nope.

Prometheus slaughtered a bull for sacrificing and separated the fat and bones one side and meat and skin on the other.

Remember Jordan Peterson's talk about Cain and Abel and the "correct sacrifice"

Here's where it shows cunningness (mercury) isn't always the way to success.

Zeus chooses to think ahead. Zeus denies mankind the fire that people need as the last gift (after earth, water and air)

Prometheus flew up with something from earth towards the chariot of the sun (is this the trump chariot, carrying the holy grail?) put it on fire, and brought it back down. Gave it to humankind.

struck to heaven. Zeus was annoyed when he saw the luminous glow of the fire. Immediately he conceived, because people could no longer take away the fire, another disaster for them. The famous fire god Hephaistos, who was famous for his art, had to make for him a stone figure of a beautiful young girl: Athens herself, jealous of Prometheus, threw a white glistening robe over the statue and wreathed the head with fresh flowers and a golden band that Hephaistos artfully decorated with figures of animals for the sake of his father. Hermes, the messenger of the gods, had to give the sweet image the speech, and Aphrodite gave it all grace. Thus Zeus had created a wicked evil in the form of good. He called his creation Pandora, which means the gifted by all; for all the immortals had given the maiden a mischievous gift for the people, He brought the young woman to earth where gods and mortals walked. All admired the incomparable beauty of her figure. However, she turned to Epimetheus, the unsuspecting brother of Prometheus to give him a gift from Zeus. Prometheus had warned him never to accept a gift from the Olympic Zeus but to send it back immediately. Epimetheus did not think about that warning, looked at the beautiful girl with pleasure, and did not notice the bad when it was already there. For until then the human races under the leadership of his brother were free from all evil, free from heavy labor, free from painful ailments. The girl carried in her hands the gift, a closed barrel. When she reached Epimetheus, she opened the lid, and out of the vessel, like a black cloud, the calamity sprang across the earth at lightning speed. Only one good gift was completely hidden at the bottom of the barrel, the Hope; but by order of the godfather, Pandora quickly slammed the lid before that good gift could escape, and thus the Hope remained eternally sealed. In the meantime, evil spread in all possible forms over the earth, through the air and through the sea. Diseases spread out among the people day and night, invisible and inaudible, for Zeus had not given them a voice; fever held the earth, and death hastened his step. Zeus then turned his revenge on Prometheus himself. He handed over his enemy to Hephaistos and his helpers Kratos and Bis (the Force and the Violence). They dragged him to the inhospitable Skythia, where he was riveted above a chilling cliff on a rock face of the Caucasus mountain (with chains that were no longer released). Hephaistos reluctantly filled his father's mission, for in the Titan's son he recognized a relative, a descendant of his great-grandfather Ouranos, a god of equal descent. But the rough servants, who were doing the horrible task, bore him because of his fellow-suffering words, so Prometheus had to linger on the desolate mountainside, upright, unable to sleep and never able to bend his tired knees. "Your complaining and sighing will be in vain." said Hephaistos to him, "for Zeus is inexorable. All who have only a

Zeus ordered Hephaistos the god of fire to create part 1 of Pandora.

Athena, Chokmah adds a robe.

Hermes Mercury (Hod) adds speech

Aphrodite Venus (Netzach) adds grace. Evil in the form of good.

She came to Epimetheus down on earth. Too good to be true.

Pandora opened the box (container) and then closed the container again.

Disaster spreads across earth.

It hurtz it hurtz Uncle Ned.

Zeus then punished Prometheus.

He has Hephaistos chain him (partial container) to the mountain, elevation.

short spell \*\* are harsh. ' The prisoner's torture must last for at least thirty thousand years. Although he screamed loudly and the winds, currents, springs and waves, the alm Earth and the all-seeing sun-ray called for his pain, his mind remained unbroken. "What fate has decided," he said, "he must bear who has learned to see the indomitable violence of necessity." Nor did he allow himself to be persuaded of a threat from Zeus to give a further explanation of the obscure prediction that the god-ruler was awaiting misfortune and ruin through a new marriage. Zeus kept his word; he sent the chained an eagle who, as a daily guest, did well to Prometheus' liver, which grew again and again. That torment would last until someone appeared who wanted to voluntarily die in his place,

Finally the unfortunate Prometheus also came the day of redemption. After many years of terrible suffering, Heraktes came along on the road to the Hesperlden. When he saw the eagle at the liver of the unfortunate crate, he put his club and lion's skin beside him, cocked his bow, released the arrow and shot it. cruel bird of the tormented road. Then he released the shackles and took the liberated with him. In order to fulfill the condition of the king of the gods, however, Prometheus took his place by the Kentaur Chiron, who was prepared to die for him; for until then he had been immortal. In order for Zeus' verdict to be fully implemented, Prometheus had to carry an iron ring forever, in which a piece of stone from the Caucasus rocks was riveted. Thus Zeus could boast that his enemy was still chained to the Caucasus.

Prometheus' mind remained unbroken. He accepted the punishment for the people. The crucifixion of christ.

Prometheus had his liver picked out by an eagle every night (jupiter == eagle == zeus) The liver is related to emotions.

And every day the liver regrows when the sun is up.

Hercules climbed up and released the shackles and took Prometheus' down.

Hercules shot the bird.

The centaur Chiron took prometheus place. Self sacrifice.  
0==2

A piece of the stone was forever attached to prometheus.  
Attachment and burden.

## **Layers in the myth**

### **The Gods and their status**

In the story the gods constantly remain on top of their mountain. Humans aren't allowed to heighten their status by ascending the mountain. If there needs to be interaction, the gods come down to the level of humans. Prometheus doesn't want this status, this derivation of identity/ego by differentiating from the people. He decides to live amongst the humans as a descendant of Chronos. When he's punished, he's put up there by god. He's forced to heighten his status. I'll add this tiny piece in the patchworking as it's another part that 'he is not'.

### **The People and their containers**

People live in holes in the ground and caves before Prometheus brings them fire (awareness). The gods live in castles, basically a container that adds the veil of beauty. It's just a more complex set of rules these castles, compared to holes in the ground. But the people, they need to grow up, and so Prometheus teaches them. And brings them fire, that too.

### **The elements**

On earth before humankind there first was water, and then the water parted to make way for earth. Water and earth are the two feminine elements.

Humans are then created by a descendent of Chronos (time) out of clay (earth) (I need to rethink clay), then water is added as an ingredient, then Athena adds air to give them spirit. And at last they are given fire after Prometheus steals it for them, thereby completing humankind alchemically.

### **The tree of life**

Zeus emanates from Chronos, as Chronos (understanding) emanates from Chokmah (wisdom) as they all emanate from Uranus. Gheh, he said anus. But that's a reminder that we all come from Kether, the ass of god, anyway. Aphrodite and Hermes are Netzach and Hod on the tree of life and they give beauty and speech to Pandora.

### **Christianity and other religions**

There's reference to heaven and earth in the creation story, possibly connected to Nut and Geb the Egyptian gods of heaven and earth. The punishment of Prometheus resembles the crucifixion story of the Christ. Pandora's box resembles the eating of the apple. Prometheus and Epimetheus resemble Cain and Abel and the sacrificing of the bull resembles the good and the bad offering by Cain and Abel. Funny how the bull also resembles Zeus.

## Prometheus, time, status, hurts and partial containers.

I've created the table below for reference earlier when elaborating on 'the leech metaphor'. As we are reminded by Andrew, we often overlook time perspective. So let's give it again some attention because I think time is the most important and most beautiful layer in the Prometheus myth.

The level 1 & 2 teachings are limited to 3 variables: Time is moving or still, you are past or future oriented, time is linear or cyclical / circular. The table below sums up all combinations.

Perspective	TimeMotion	TimeOrientation	TimeGeometry
1	Moving	Past	Linear
2	Moving	Past	Cyclical
3	Moving	Future	Linear
4	Moving	Future	Cyclical
5	Still	Past	Linear
6	Still	Past	Cyclical
7	Still	Future	Linear
8	Still	Future	Cyclical

Three variables lead to  $2^3 = 8$  possible combinations.

Prometheus is the Fore-Thinker. He thinks ahead and is always thinking about what will happen tomorrow, or next year. So in the table above, he is either in perspective 3, 4, 7 or 8. He is also very active in regard to his surroundings. He is probably not waiting till christmas arrives. That narrows Prometheus' perspective to numbers 7 and 8. Prometheus is also not thinking about next Christmas, or about the Christmas after that. He is always busy advancing, exploring new things. He doesn't care much about tradition. His perspective is therefore of number 7. Prometheus is Active in respect to time. He experiences time linearly and he is future oriented.

Prometheus refuses status elevation by not living up mount Olympos.

He tries to help mankind by offering knowledge and fire. Zeus punishes Prometheus in the worst of ways. He has him up against a wall, thereby forcing status onto him. The storyline renders Prometheus passive with no ability to act, chained in partial containers. The story then goes cyclical, with the seasons coming and going, and every cycle being the same. The eagle comes every day to pick out his liver, and at night his liver (emotions) regrow. All the time during this hurts metaphor Prometheus keeps his wit.

When IO wanders by, aimlessly in circles, Prometheus takes his chance with the only bit of activity that he can have, his voice. He instructs IO to go in a direction and he gives her a goal.

Patently Prometheus waits, until Hercules comes to free him. Even into the future Prometheus has to keep a ring, a partial container, with a rock, a burden and wear it forever.

It's a story about endurance in the face of challenges, and of sacrifice for others what you value most. It's a moral for adult people, what to do when the shit hits the fan.

### What is time anyway from a physics point of view

We sometimes refer to time as the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension but there's serious doubt that time exists. I can't quote any sources but it all boils down to this: we live through events sequentially and it's this

sequentiality that gives us the perception of the idea of time. Only because last christmas isn't the same as this christmas do we feel there is something as time.

Einstein's general relativity and quantum theory, uniting slowly in E8 theory, all converge into an idea that every event could happen simultaneously right now and that we 'travel' through those simultaneous events, thereby inventing the fictitious idea of time.

Kether is potential, nothing is defined yet. Not until the path from Kether to Binah, where the word, Logos, the shaping power of the word, is defined. This is unsurprisingly the path of Hermes, Mercury, the same messenger of the gods who is sent to bring Pandora with her apple of knowledge in the form of a box filled with worries about the future, to earth.

## Patchwork: The will to move ahead

The smells and the colourful lights enchanted him. A woman with a red dot on her forehead, wrinkled and old, walked by him leaning heavily on her walking cane. In passing him she smiled back at him. The door wasn't far ahead now. Except that it still was.

He was in his livingroom doing the final preparations by checking his luggage. Content that he had everything he needed he moved ahead. He didn't need much after all. After closing the door behind him the elevator brought him down nine floors where he walked through the revolving doors made of glass onto the busy street. Because it was so crowded every now and then someone would touch him but that didn't bother him at all. He smiled because he had refound his purpose.

There were signs in neon above his head, flickering for attention of the people. Buy this, buy that, be happy, behave. His own radiance was enough for him. Someone stood still entranced by the advertorials of the new gods. Ilium walked by him and turned around just enough to bump his backpack against the man who abruptly came out of his trance. "You don't need that new piece to find peace" Ilium said, without even slowing his pace. The neon sign flickered as if angry.

These were the kind of things that Ilium would do. He wasn't necessarily friendly but he felt the inner drive to push people forward into reality even to the point where he had been fired by the company he last worked at, OilymCorp. They had told him it was mandatory for their survival that customers bought more of the new productlines, mainly Salvation and Obedience, two new fragrances that would ensure the compliance of the people. It had started to sell like crazy, not surprising considering the out-of-this-worldly marketing budget OilymCorp had provided to that new ruthless director of marketing Calista.

In a recent interview he had exposed the companies' tactics and that swiftly led to his dismissal. Not that he was too bothered about it. Somehow it had pleased him to see the darkred face of the screaming CEO. He had never liked the man that had replaced Iliums' father in the board.

Whenever he had a chance, he would help people connect amongst eachother and that created extraordinary results. Tonight he would attend a huge barbecue in the park with many people and he was excited about meeting new friends before his flight at eleven p.m.

The afternoon and evening went as planned with new ideas sprouting everywhere around him. Happy faces came to warm around the barbecue where he was grilling like it was a contest. It was a chilly day in early october and the temperature hadn't prevented people from coming out of their houses, thankfully. Before leaving for the airport he had started at least fourteen meaningful interactions that could lead to sustainable gain for him while he could still look at himself in the mirror.

Now he saw the traffic in front of him dissolve as the taxi came closer to the airport. After customs however, dutyfree shopping started to dull him down and as he neared the gate he had to slow his pace. He didn't like flying.

The plane took off from the runway after a major delay that didn't really get explained by anybody. It would be a long tiring flight but the chairs, just too small to fit a grown man would continuously prevent him from falling asleep. Half conscious, half unconscious, he saw the movies and the commercials of OilymCorp repeatedly trying to make an impression on his retina. It went on and on and his discomfort grew.

The woman sitting beside him was huge, further prevented him from sleeping. She told him about her recent purchases at the dutyfree. Her name was Elvira. After talking to her for a while she decided it better to move to another seat, leaving her bag behind, where she met the man of her dreams. He could almost see her loosing weight even as she crossed over to her new seat. He smiled but still couldn't sleep. At least she would now find real meaning instead of being tricked into believing in a heavily overpriced fragrance that nobody needed that didn't do any good anyway.

Occasionally he managed to sleep for a couple of unpleasant minutes as he kept his mind on what was to come at the other end of the flight. Then a storm started. Heavy turbulence shook the plane to the point where the cabincrew had to sit down, twice. According to the captain they would have a safe and easy landing after another ten long minutes of turbulence that was dead ahead of them, oh God – airsack – huge airsack! Oh god, the smell of puke was in the air, but even worse was the penetrating smell of Salvation and Obedience!

The bag that was left behind by Elvira had made quite a jump during the shaking. Sure enough the bottles had clanked together and were broken. The fluids had soaked his clothes. He was never going to get rid of the foul stench of OilymCorp now. But hey, he was still looking forward to this trip. All they now had to do was endure through the storm.

After another bit of shaking, the captain safely landed the plane and the cabin crew helped the passengers out of the messy cabin onto the warm tarmac of Jodhpur airport. Ilium was finally able to stretch his legs and move wherever he wanted to, even though the stench would probably follow him around forever.

After customs he was greeted by a friendly woman who was to be his guide on this meditative journey in India..