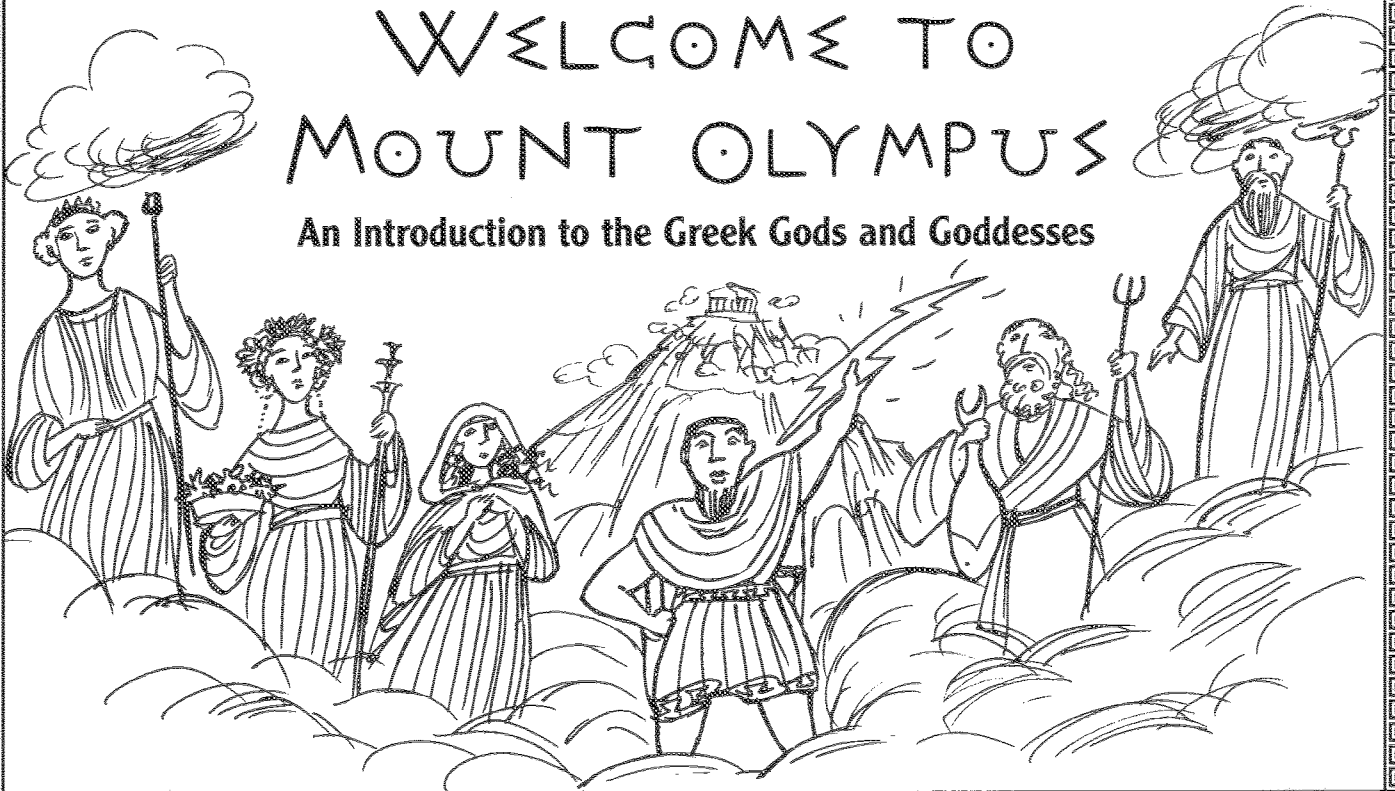


WELCOME TO MOUNT OLYMPUS

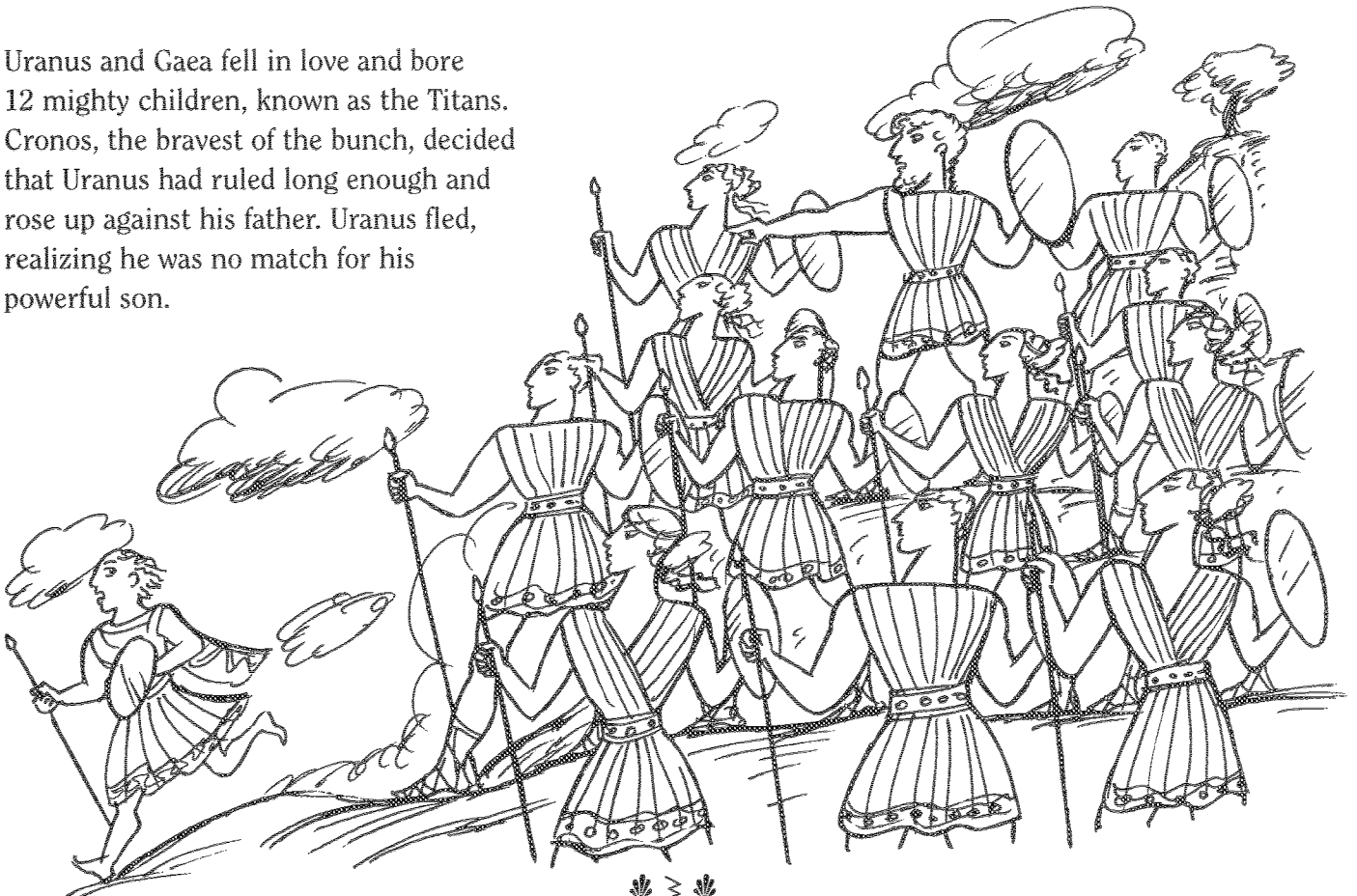
An Introduction to the Greek Gods and Goddesses



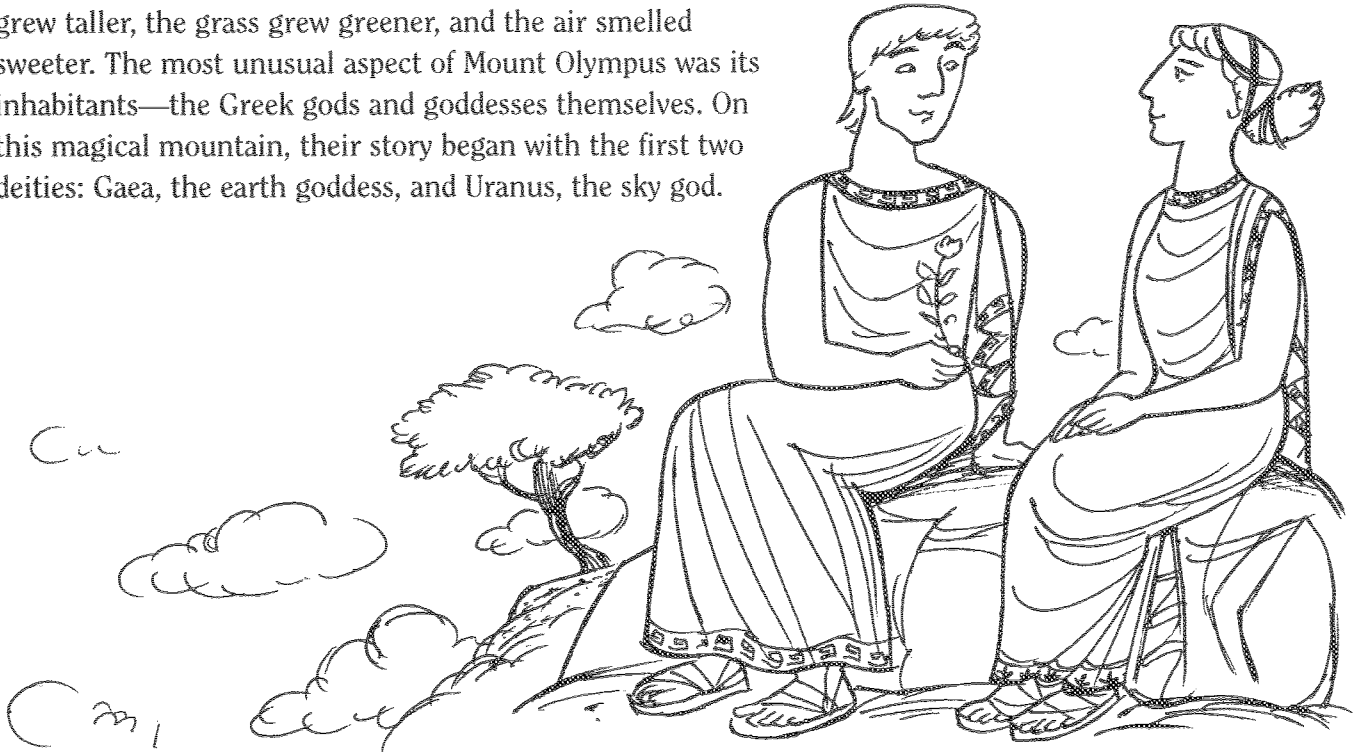
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Uranus and Gaea fell in love and bore 12 mighty children, known as the Titans. Cronos, the bravest of the bunch, decided that Uranus had ruled long enough and rose up against his father. Uranus fled, realizing he was no match for his powerful son.



Mount Olympus was no ordinary mountain. On this enormous and lofty mountain in ancient Greece, the trees grew taller, the grass grew greener, and the air smelled sweeter. The most unusual aspect of Mount Olympus was its inhabitants—the Greek gods and goddesses themselves. On this magical mountain, their story began with the first two deities: Gaea, the earth goddess, and Uranus, the sky god.



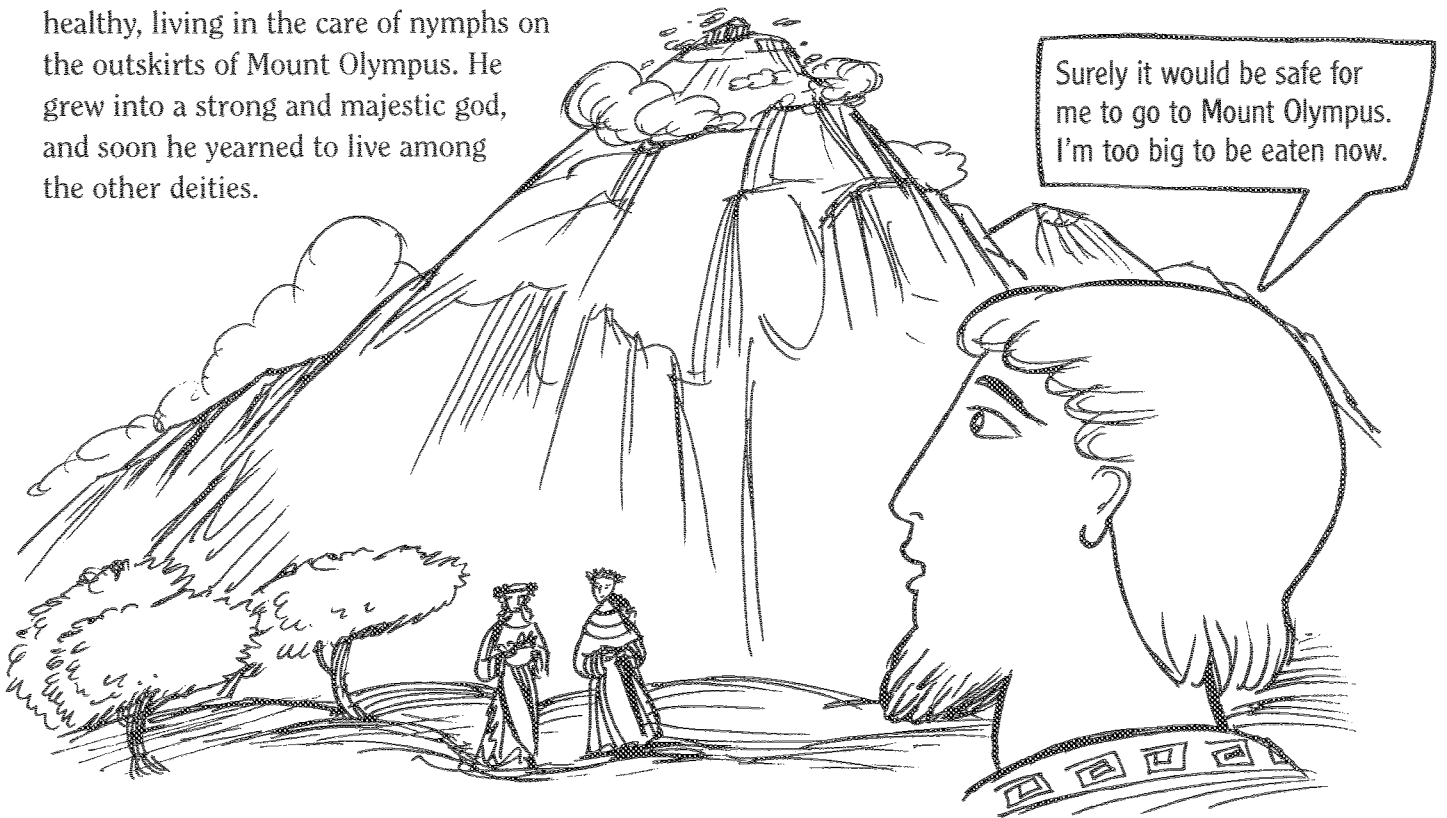
Cronos became the new ruler and married the goddess Rhea. As powerful as he was, Cronos was afraid of one thing: babies. He feared that one of his own children would overthrow him, just as he had overthrown his father. When Rhea gave birth to their first child, Cronos snatched the newborn baby and swallowed it whole.

After Cronos had swallowed their fifth child, Rhea came up with a plan. When their next child was born, Rhea named the baby Zeus and quickly hid him away. When Cronos demanded the newborn, she instead handed him a stone wrapped in a baby blanket. Cronos popped the stone in his mouth and gulped it down, blanket and all.



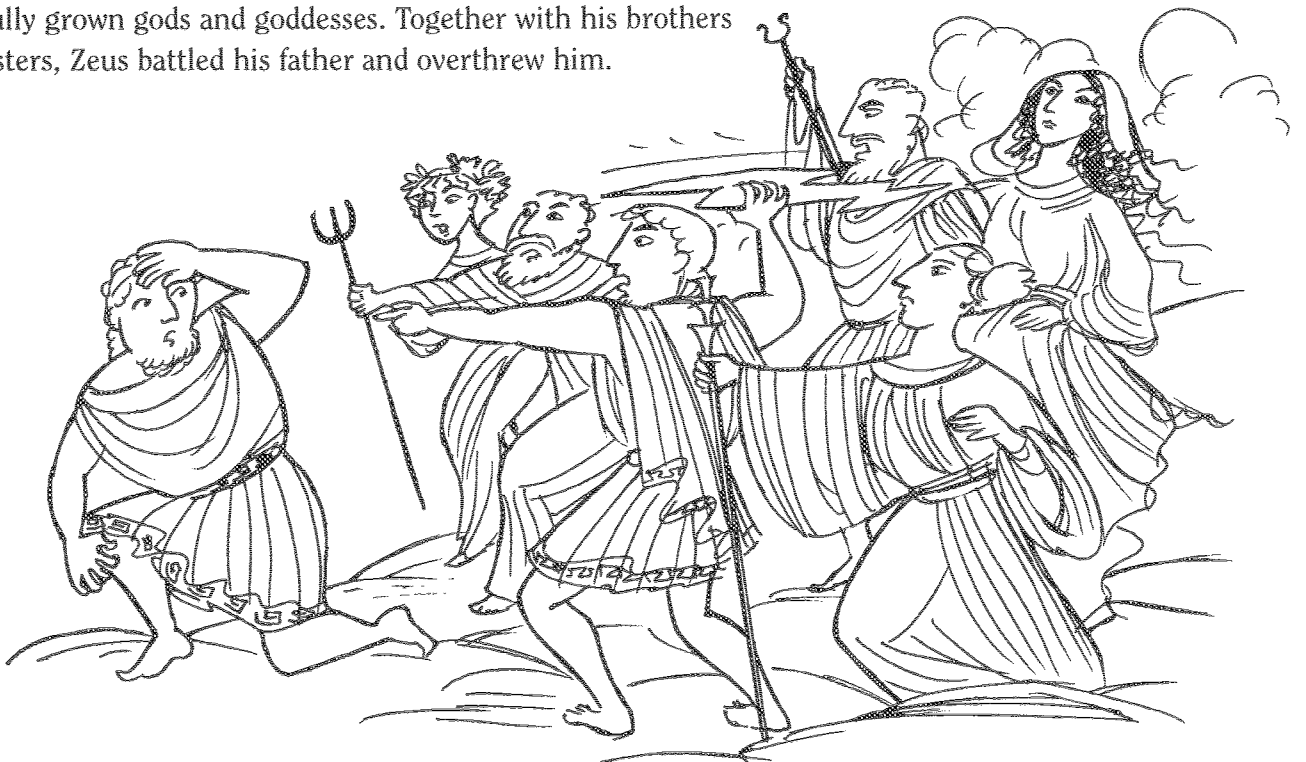
Meanwhile, young Zeus was happy and healthy, living in the care of nymphs on the outskirts of Mount Olympus. He grew into a strong and majestic god, and soon he yearned to live among the other deities.

Surely it would be safe for me to go to Mount Olympus. I'm too big to be eaten now.



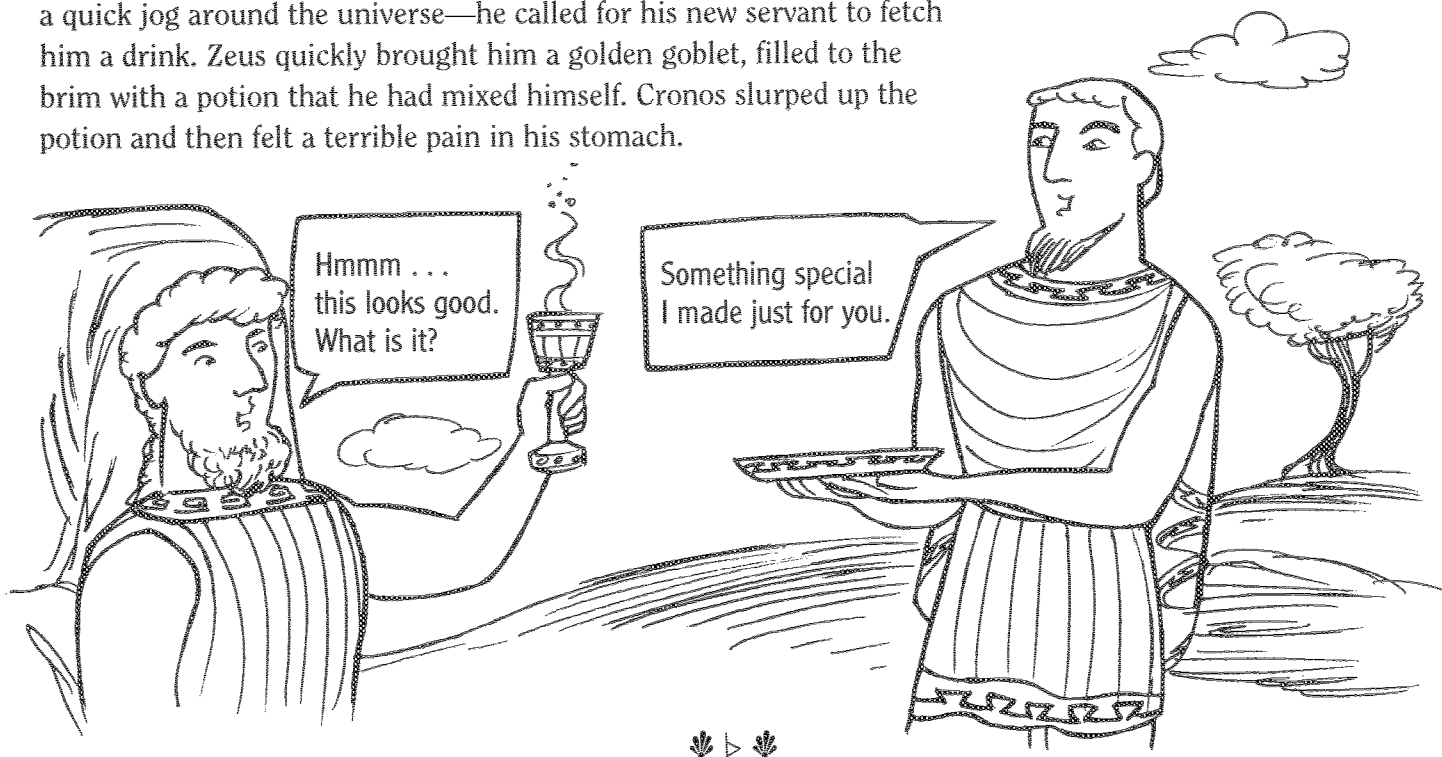
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The magic potion made Cronos so sick that he vomited up first the stone, then the blanket, and finally all five of his children—now fully grown gods and goddesses. Together with his brothers and sisters, Zeus battled his father and overthrew him.

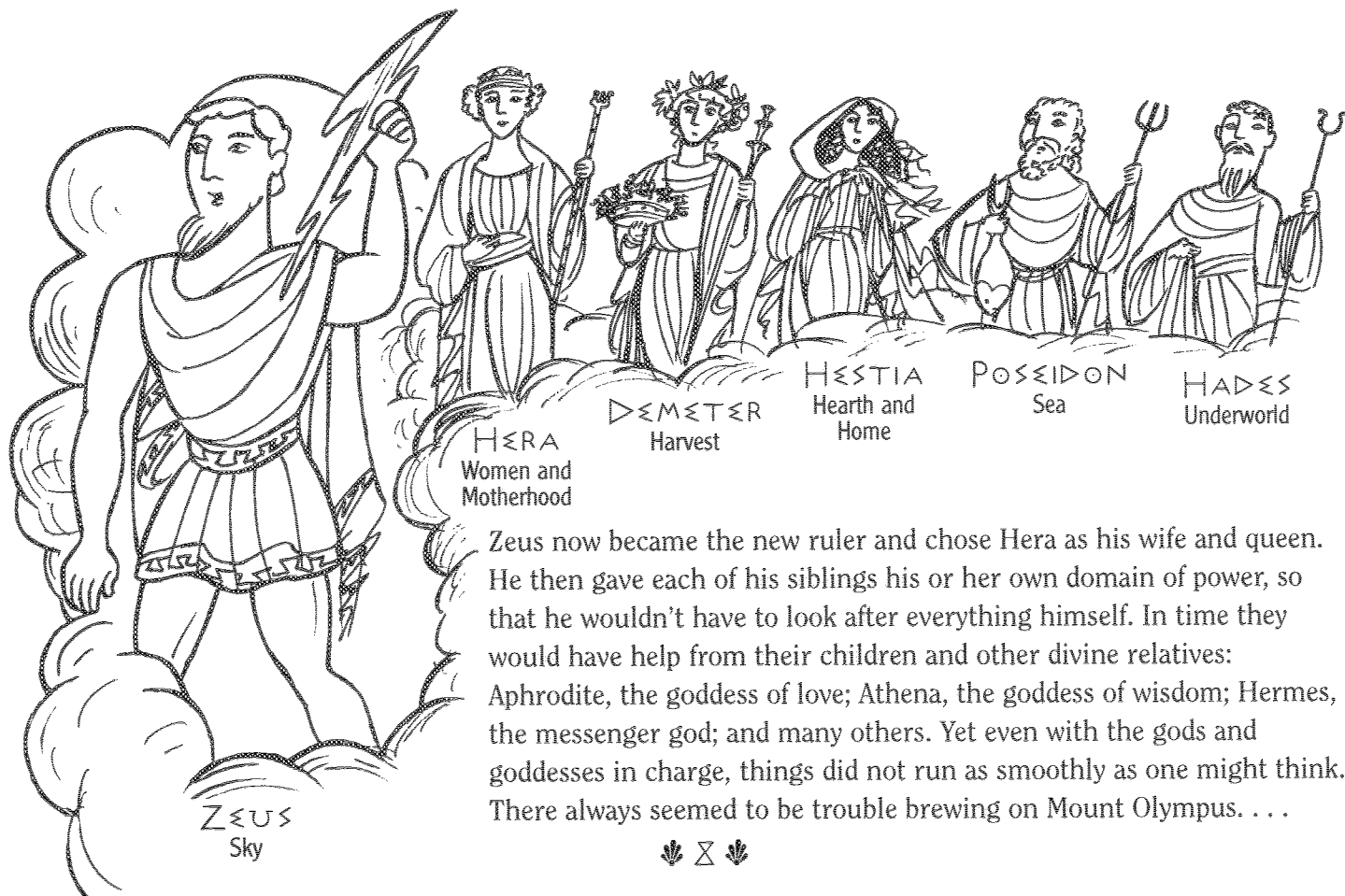


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Rhea missed her son terribly, so she brought him to Mount Olympus disguised as a royal servant. But this humble position did not satisfy the young god for long. One morning after Cronos did his daily exercises—a quick jog around the universe—he called for his new servant to fetch him a drink. Zeus quickly brought him a golden goblet, filled to the brim with a potion that he had mixed himself. Cronos slurped up the potion and then felt a terrible pain in his stomach.



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Zeus now became the new ruler and chose Hera as his wife and queen. He then gave each of his siblings his or her own domain of power, so that he wouldn't have to look after everything himself. In time they would have help from their children and other divine relatives: Aphrodite, the goddess of love; Athena, the goddess of wisdom; Hermes, the messenger god; and many others. Yet even with the gods and goddesses in charge, things did not run as smoothly as one might think. There always seemed to be trouble brewing on Mount Olympus. . . .

