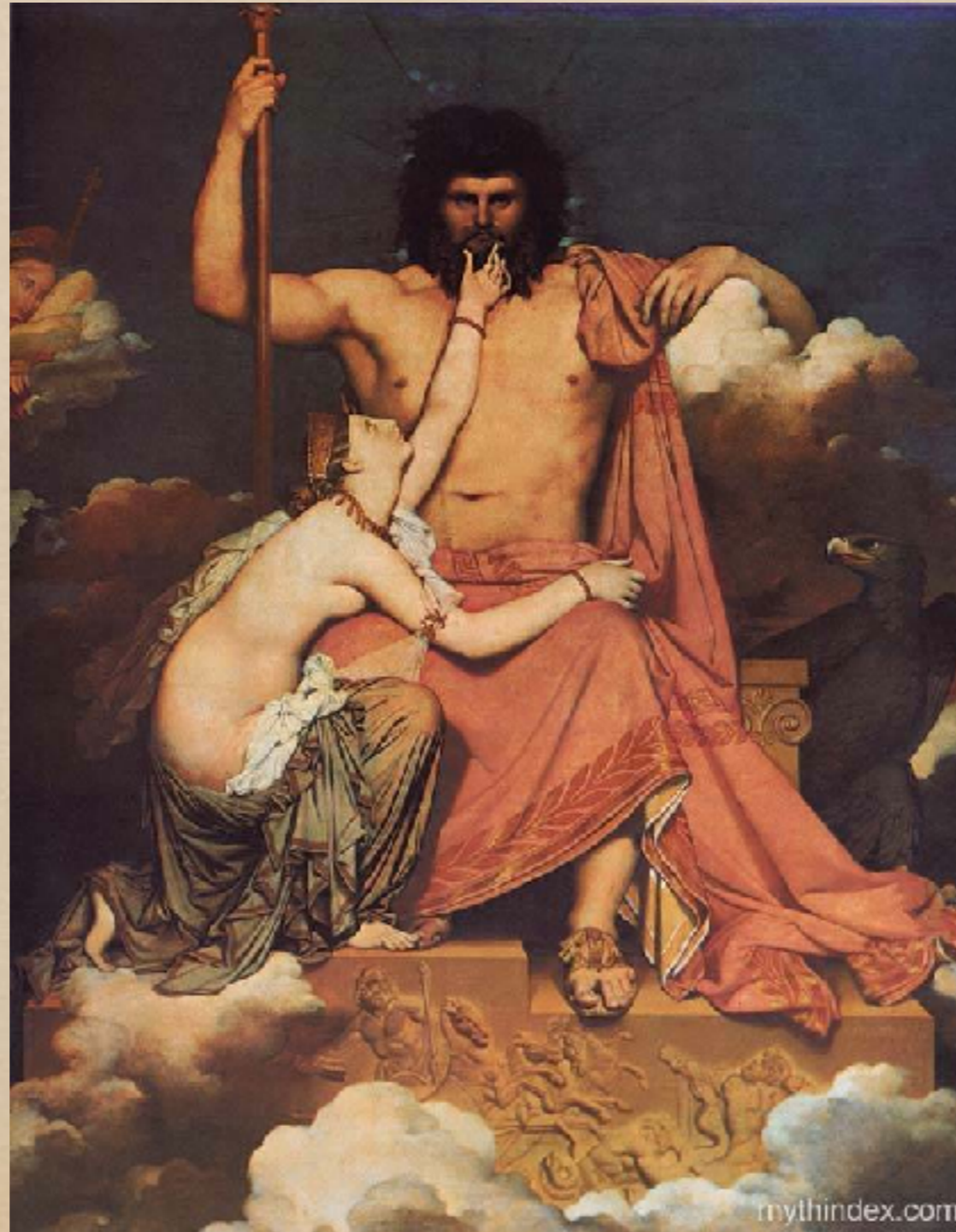


Myths of Creation & the Rise of Zeus

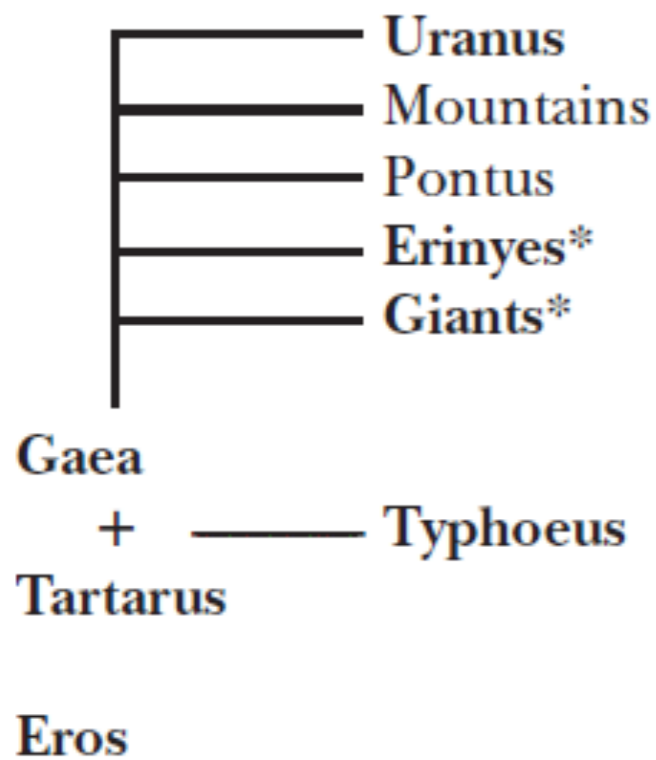
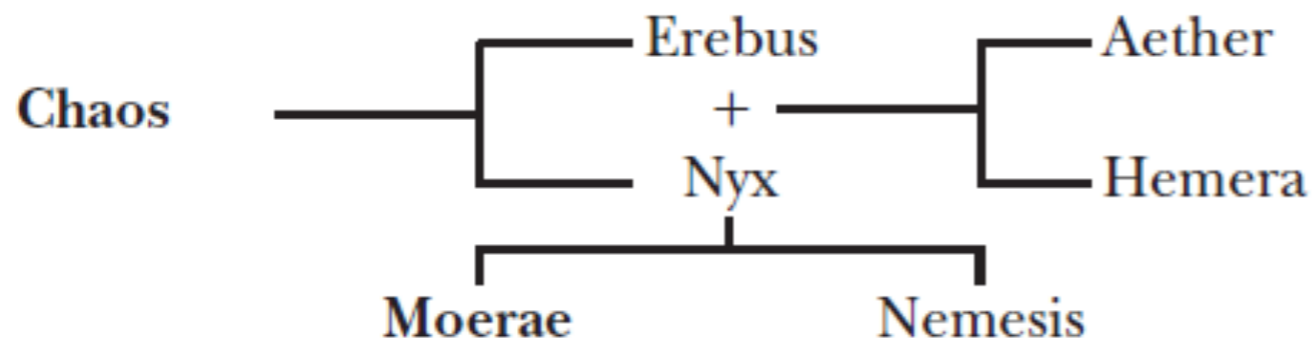
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Unit 2 - Lecture 2



- ◆ Hesiod, Theogony (c.800 BC)
- ◆ Also a cosmogony
- ◆ Evolution of the physical universe
- ◆ Evolution of the human culture/civilization
- ◆ Successions of generations of gods
 - ◆ 1) Uranus 2) Titans 3) Olympians
- ◆ Supremacy of Indo-European sky-god Zeus

Children of Chaos



*From blood of Uranus that fell on Gaea.

CHART 4.1 The First Generation of Gods

- ◆ Erebus=darkness
- ◆ Nyx=night
- ◆ Hemera=day
- ◆ Moerae=fates/future
- ◆ Nemesis=retribution/cause & effect
- ◆ Aether=light
- ◆ Eros=attraction/gravity
- ◆ Erinyes=female chthonic deities of vengeance

The Children of Gaea

- ◆ Gaea first bore, asexually, Uranus (sky)

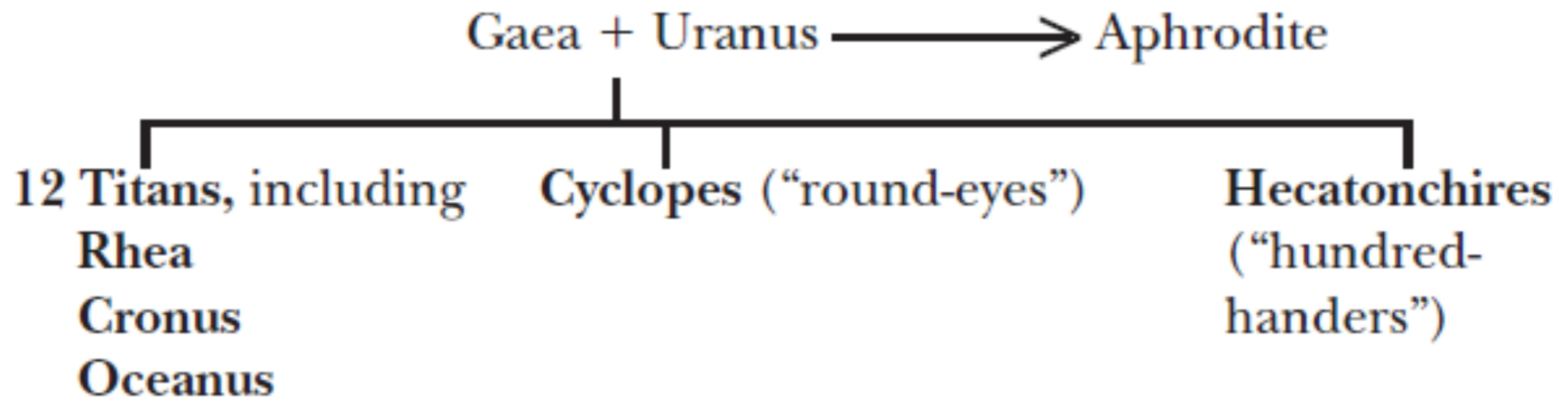
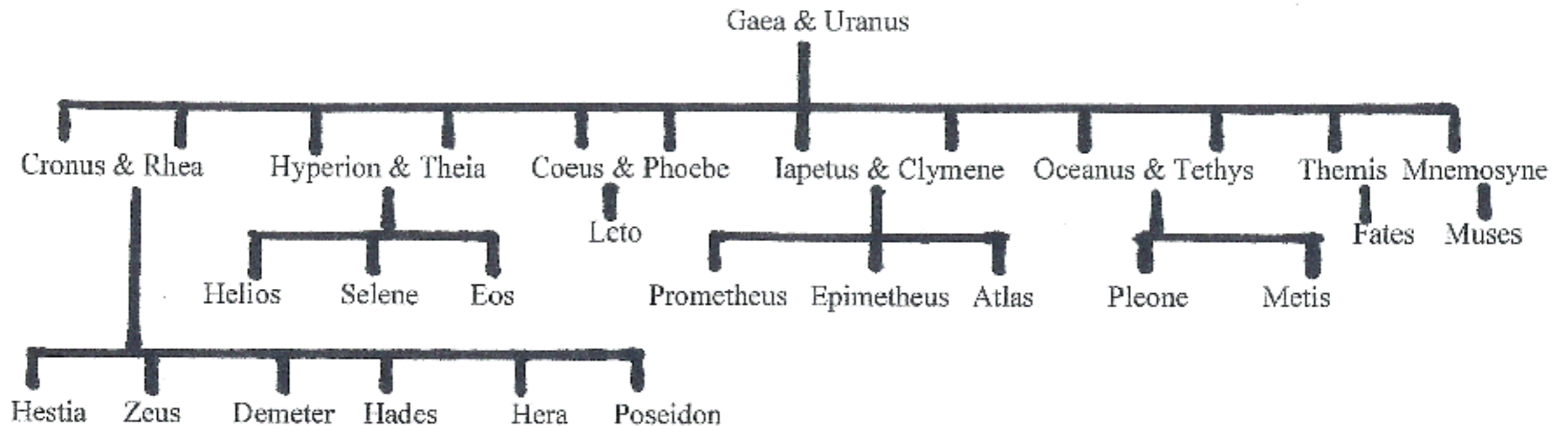


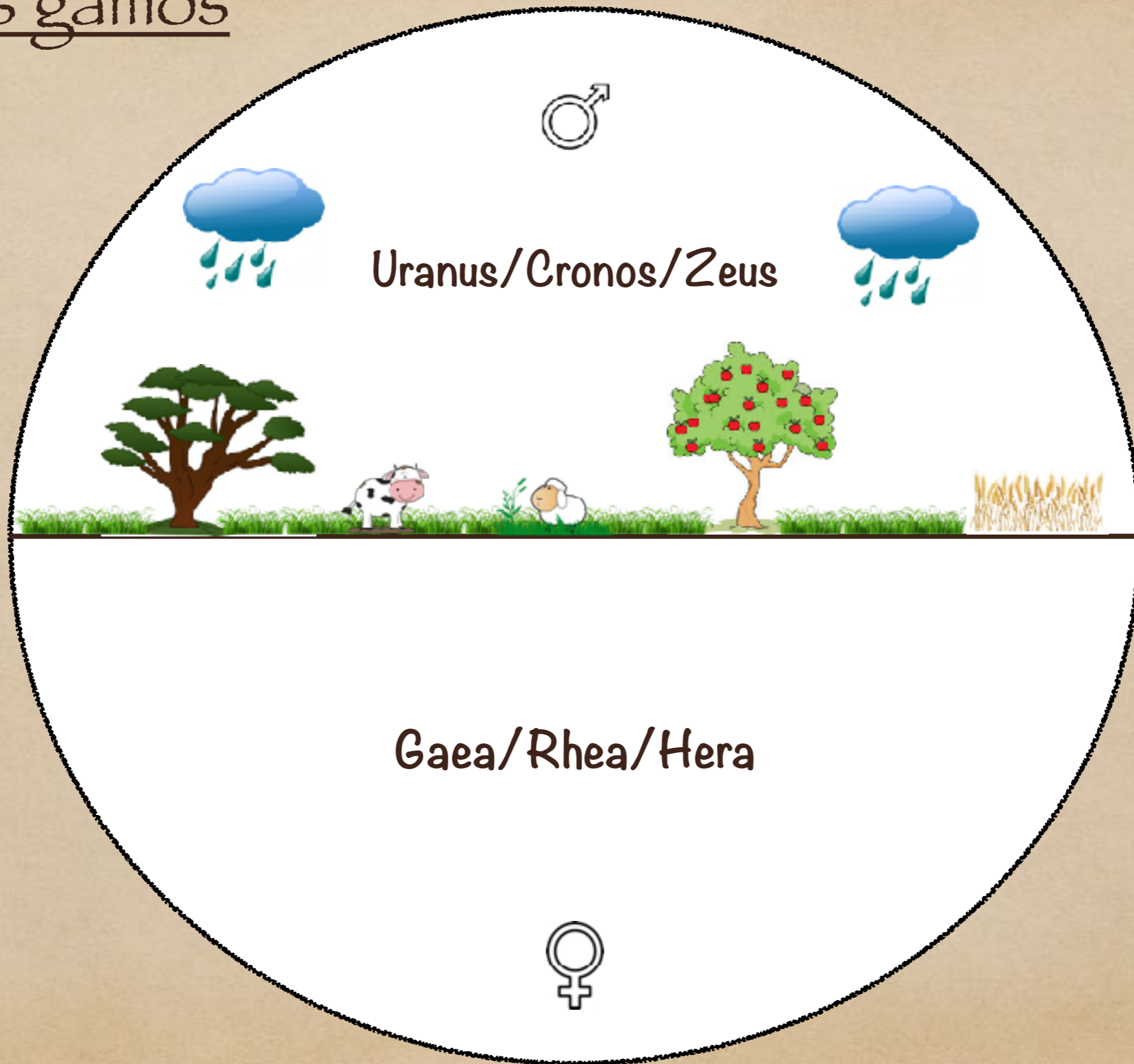
CHART 4.2 The Offspring of Gaea and Uranus

TITANS

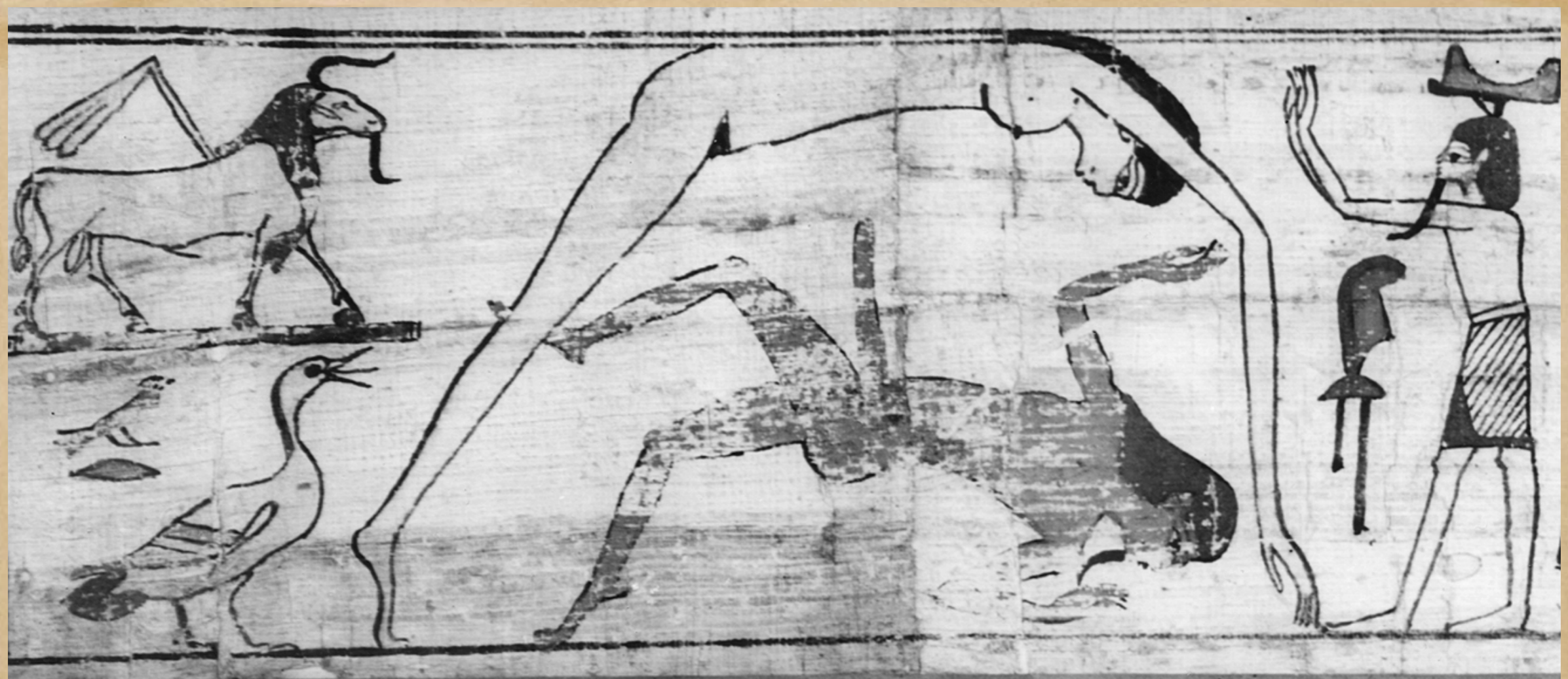


- ◆Titans: six male, six female
- ◆Most Titans hardly more than names
- ◆Take no role in subsequent Greek myth

hieros gamos

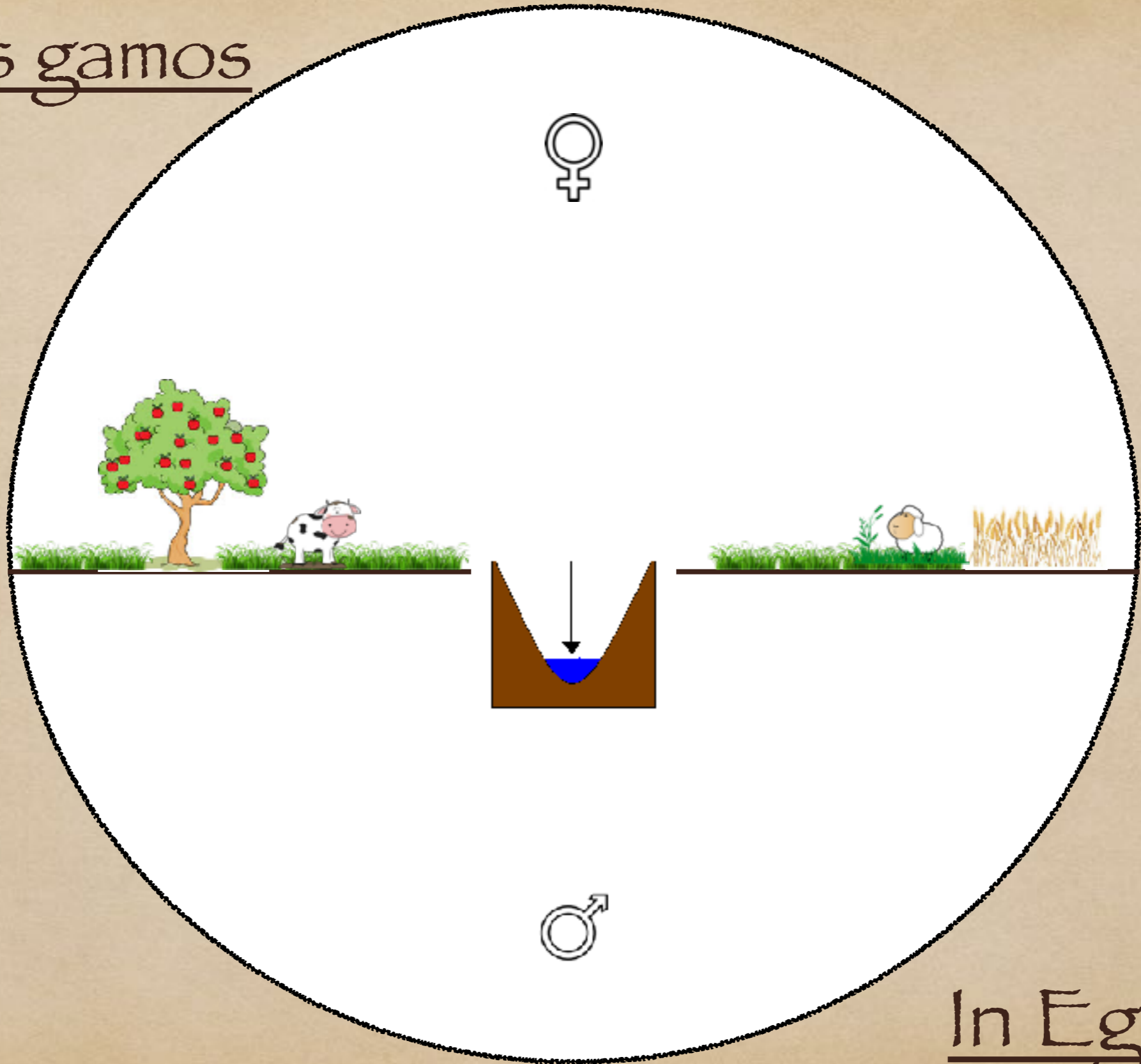






Egyptian Nut (female) and Geb (male)

hieros gamos



In Egypt

Cronus vs. Uranus

CRONUS VS. URANUS

BY ALFONSOMONTERO



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Castration of Cronus

- ◆ Cronus = Time
- ◆ Eternal sexual embrace
- ◆ Uranus stuffing newly born Titans back into Gaea
- ◆ Cronus, the youngest, castrates Uranus with a sickle
- ◆ Blood from the severed genitals becomes the Erinyes / Furies (female chthonic deities of blood vengeance)
- ◆ Separation of the 2 primal elements now permeant
- ◆ Universe taking form

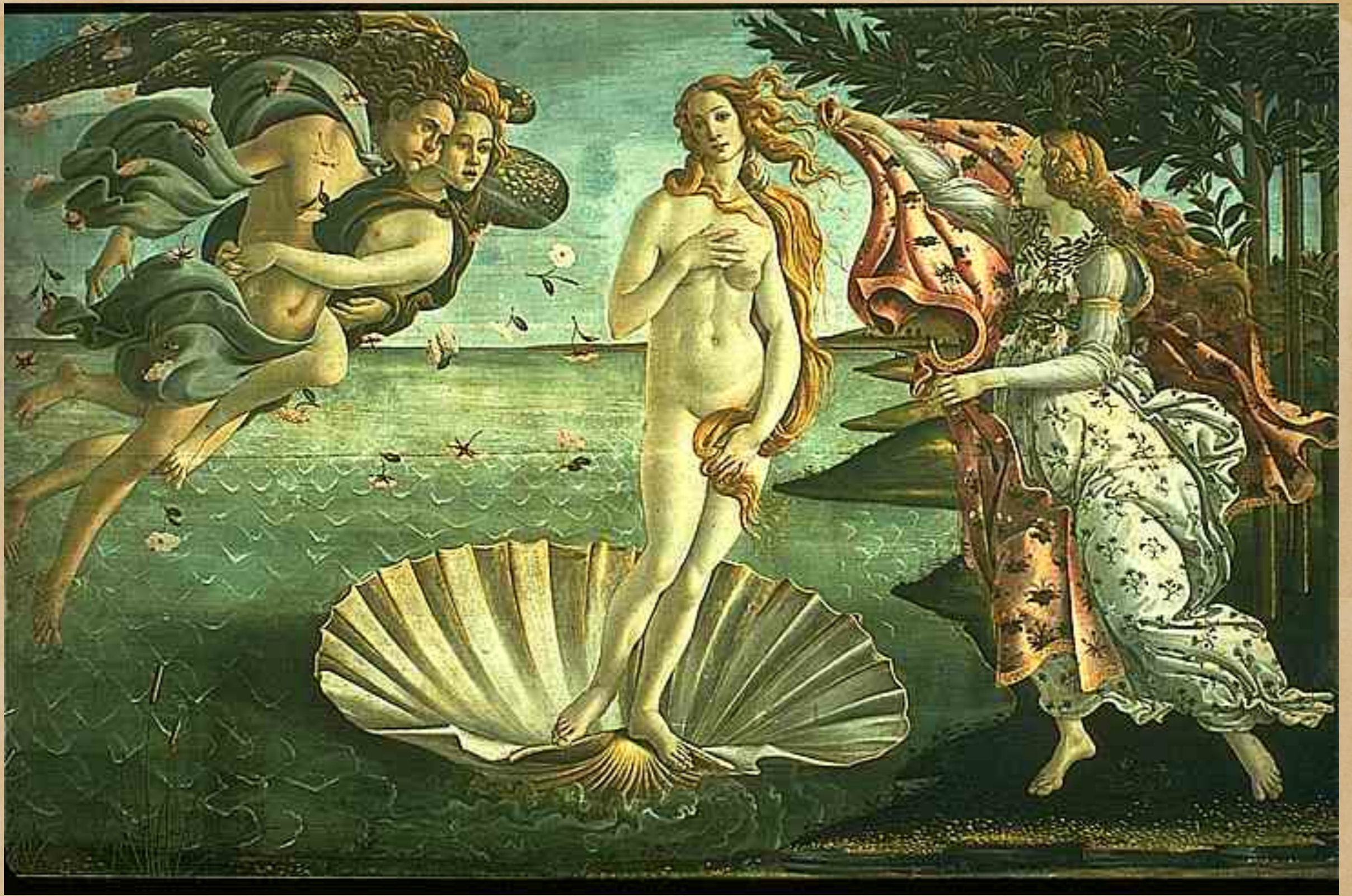




Birth of Aphrodite



- ◆ Aphrodite springs up from the “foam” at Cythera



Sandro Botticelli (1468)

Zeus vs. Cronus

- ◆ King of the new universe eats his young
- ◆ Rhea gives birth to Zeus on Crete
- ◆ omphalos at Delphi
- ◆ Zeus & siblings move to Mt. Olympus

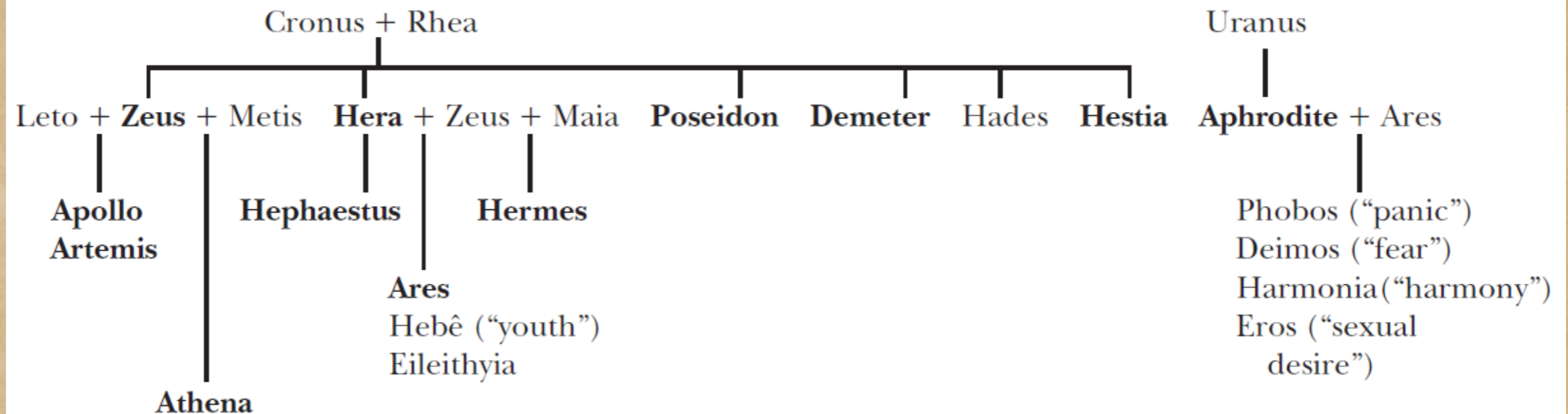


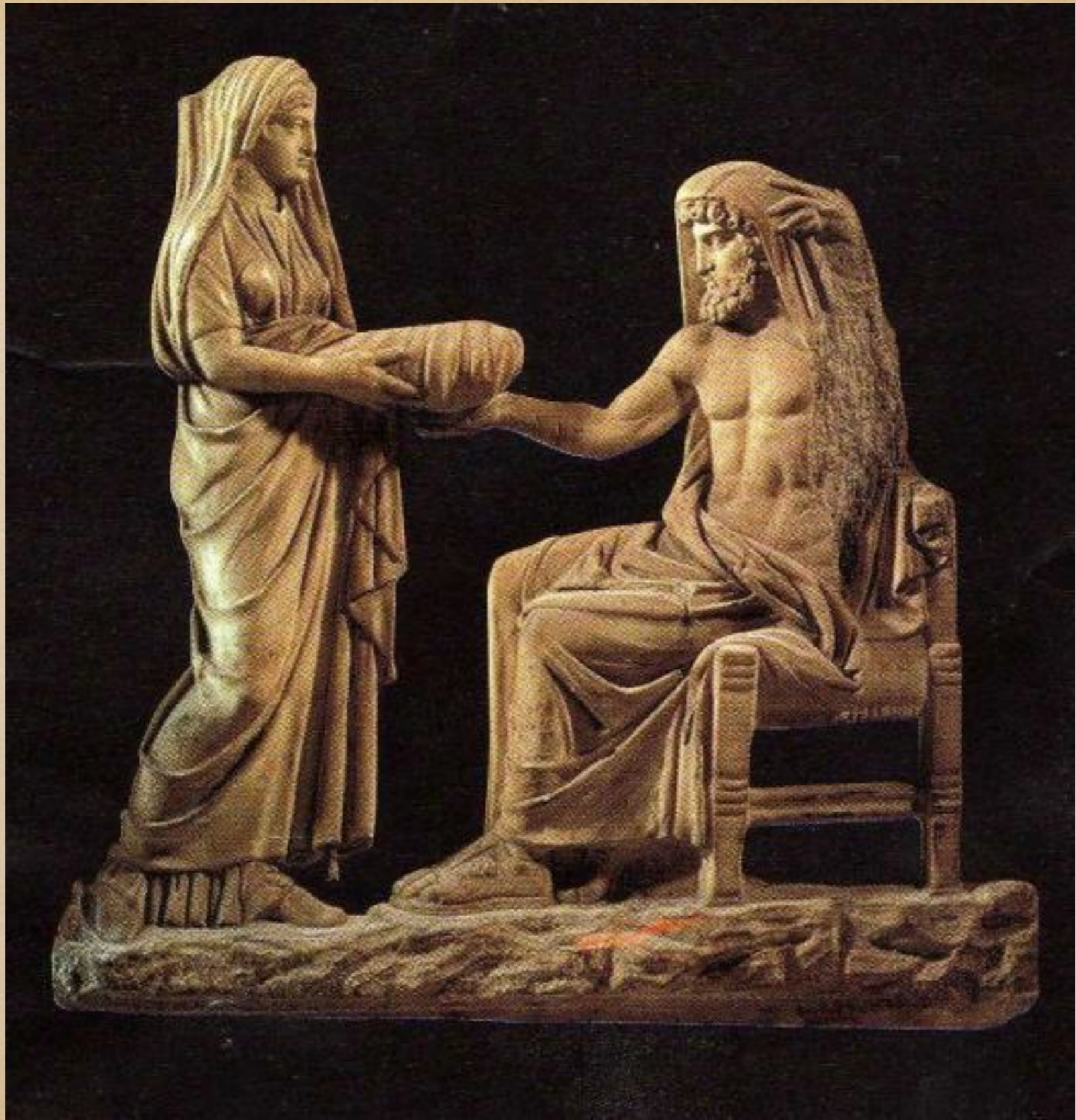
CHART 6.1 The Twelve Olympians



Goya



Rubens



Titanomachy & Typhoeus

- ◆ Titanomachy
 - ◆ Olympians vs. Titans
 - ◆ Thetis & Prometheus
 - ◆ Defeats titans and locks them up in Tartarus
- ◆ Typhoeus attacks Mt. Olympus, they flee to Egypt
- ◆ Giantomachy
- ◆ Anthropomorphic Zeus subdues nature

Themes

- ◆ Found in Sumerian, Babylonian, Hittite, Egyptian, Persian, Hindu myths
 - ◆ heiros gamos: how nature & the cosmos function
 - ◆ Succession myth of 3 generation of gods
 - ◆ Natural evolution: from abstract to more concrete
 - ◆ Human evolution: gods/humans more civilized
 - ◆ Cultural evolution: new groups dominating older groups
 - ◆ Patriarchal Indo-European Greek culture over matriarchal pre-Greek culture.
- ◆ Dragon & giant motif = human civilization conquers forces of nature

Greek Myth & Religion



THE END