



The Older Olympians

LW4U1 - GRADE 12 CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION - MR. A. WITTMANN

UNIT 2 - LECTURE 4

- ◆ 6 children of Kronos and Rhea are the first Olympians...
- ◆ Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Hestia, Hades
- ◆ Aphrodite born of his severed genitals of Uranus

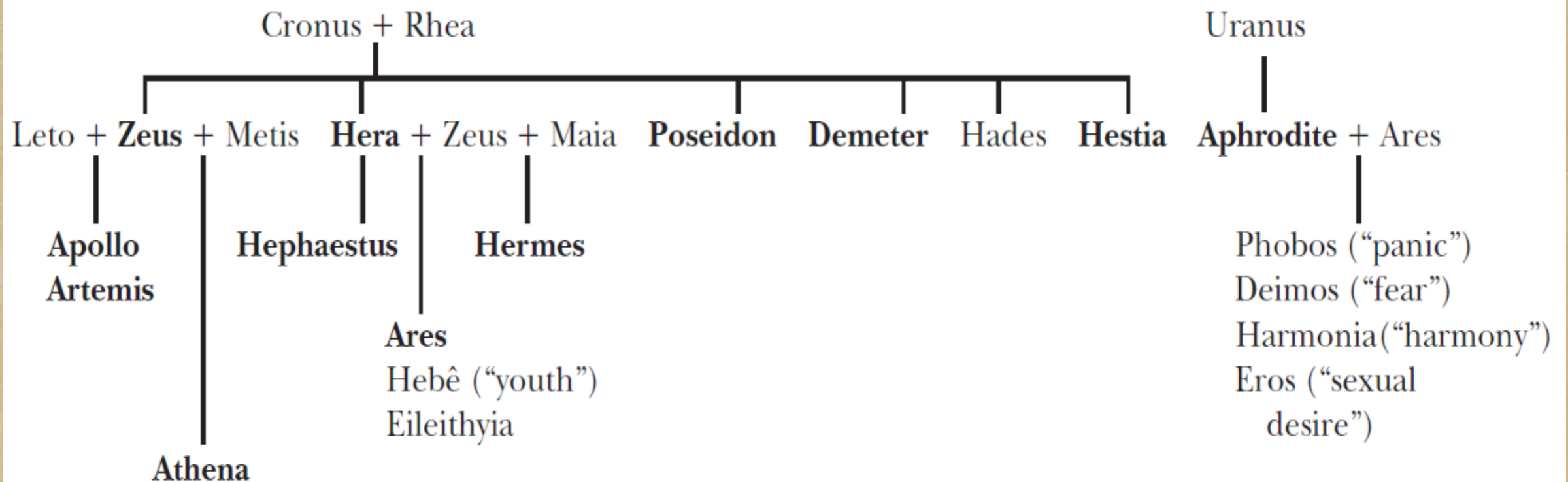
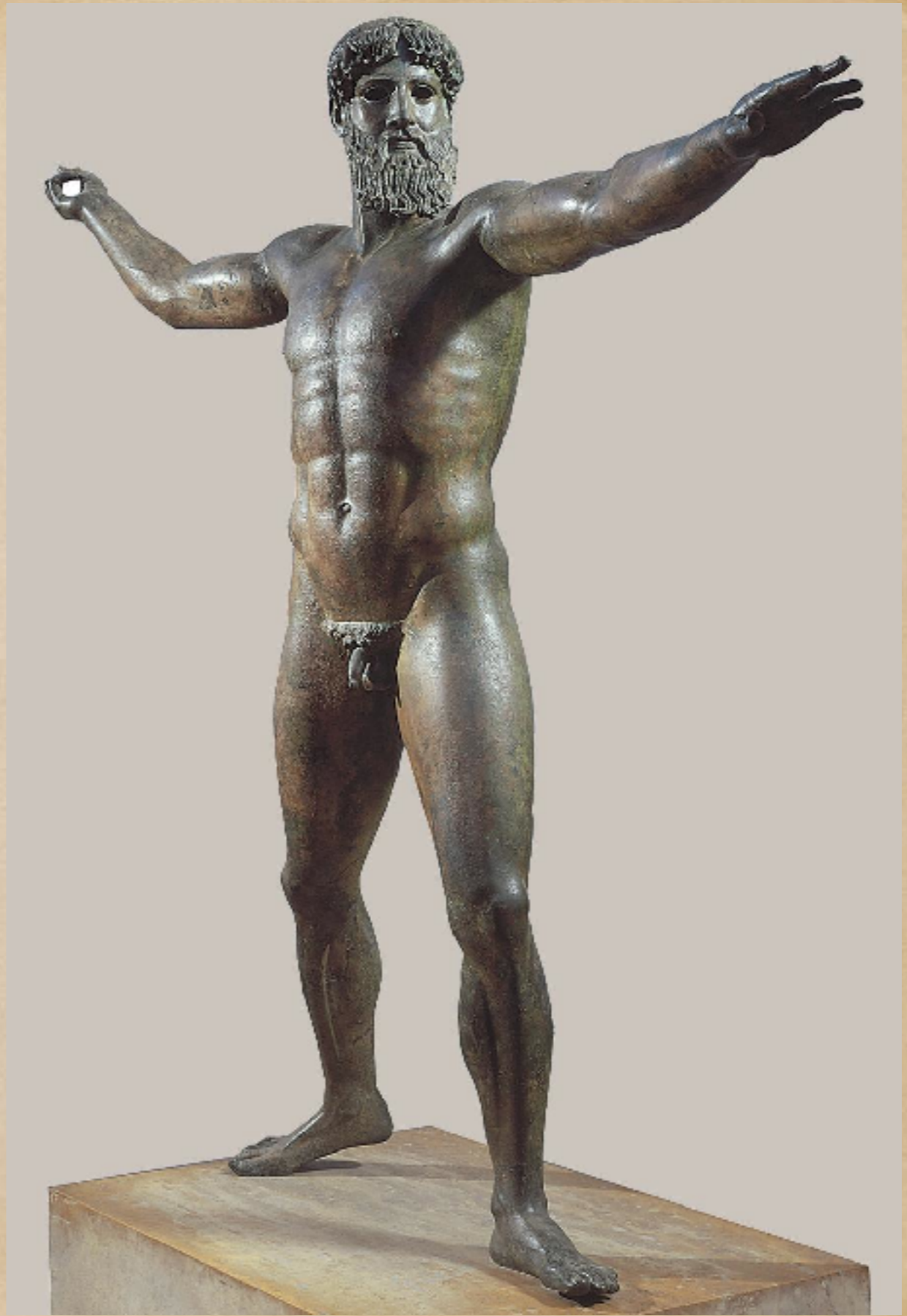


CHART 6.1 The Twelve Olympians

God	Competence	God	Competence
1. Zeus	Storms	6. Apollo	Wisdom
2. Hera	Family	7. Artemis	Hunt
3. Hestia	Hearth	8. Hephaestus	Forge
4. Demeter	Harvest	9. Athena	Knowledge
Hades	Underworld	10. Ares	War
5. Poseidon	Sea	11. Hermes	Trade
		12. Aphrodite	Sex

Zeus, Lord of the Sky

- ◆ Evolved from Indo-European sky god Dyeus pater (Sky Father)
 - ◆ Dyaus pitar (Indian)
 - ◆ Dyeus (Iranian)
 - ◆ Ju-pitar or Jove (Roman)
 - ◆ Tues (Germanic)
- ◆ Sky, high places, thunder/lightning, Bull, eagle, oak, aegis (goat skin)
- ◆ epithets: Nephelegereta (cloud gatherer), Kataibates (descending)



Zeus, King of Gods & Men

- ◆ Father of all
- ◆ Xenia (guest/host, friendship/ hospitality)
- ◆ Justice, tradition, custom not modern justice
- ◆ heiros gamos sacred marriage with Hera...

1. Uranus + Gaea
2. Kronos + Rhea
3. Zeus + Hera

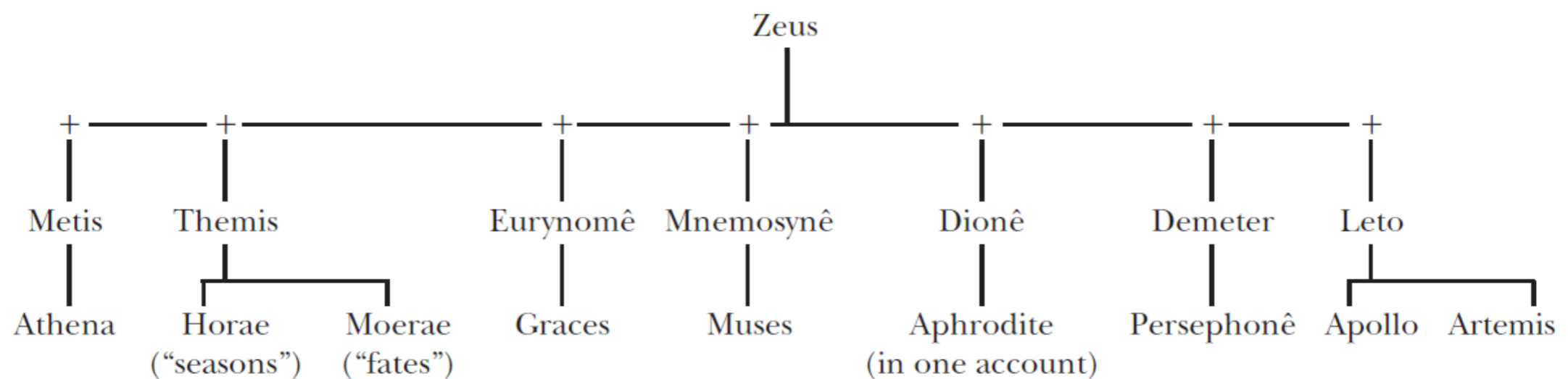


CHART 6.2 Zeus's Divine Consorts and Their Children



Zeus, King of Gods & Men

- ◆ Infidelity with goddess allegorizes the Indo-European male sky god's triumph over local indigenous female earth goddesses
- ◆ Also illustrates how he organized the natural universe & est. human customs & traditions
 - ◆ Metis (cleverness) = Athena (strength and judgment)
 - ◆ Themis (established law) = Horae (seasons) Moerae (fates)
 - ◆ Eurynomê (Custom) = Eirenê (Peace), Dikê (justice), 3 Graces

Zeus, King of Gods & Men

- ◆ Infidelity with mortals explains the origins of heroes & kings
- ◆ Legitimizes local kings and ruling families
 - ◆ Persus
 - ◆ Heracles
 - ◆ Helen of Troy



Titian: *Danaë*



Allegri: Leda and the Swan



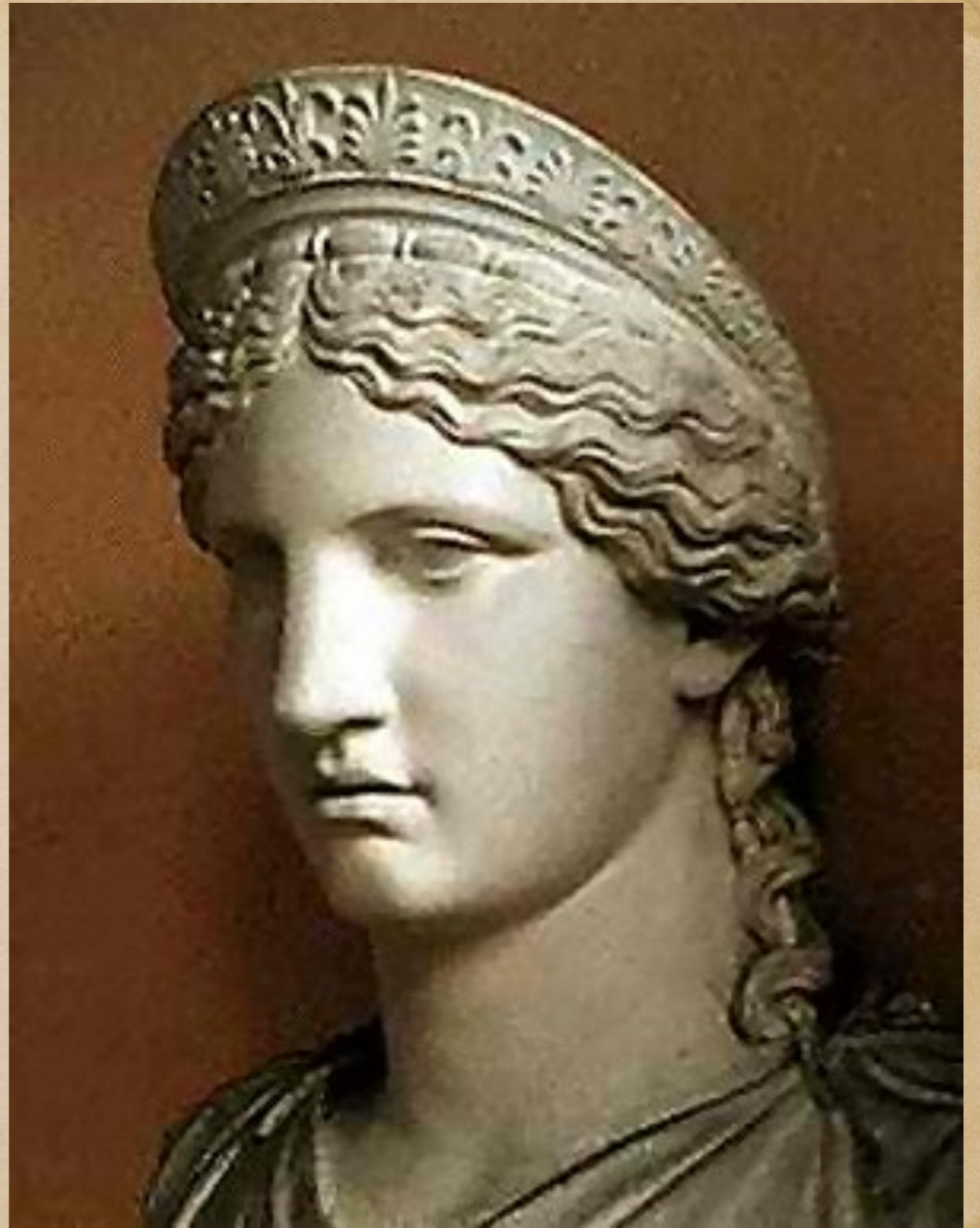
Jupiter Abducting Ganymede



Pierre: The Rape of Europa

Hera, Queen of Heaven

- ◆ Marriage, family, fertility & prosperity of the household
- ◆ Perhaps earlier mother-earth fertility goddess
- ◆ “Cow-eyed”
- ◆ Her children with Zeus
 - ◆ Eileithyia (coming), Hebe (youth), Ares (blood-lust, panic)
- ◆ Mother of Hephaestus alone
- ◆ Some of the most magnificent temples are to her (Heraeum)
- ◆ Persecuted Zeus’s paramours and sometimes their offspring (Heracles)
- ◆ A tempestuous marriage, Zeus walked on egg shells to avoid irritating Hera



Poseidon, Lord of the Deep

- ◆ Lord-husband
- ◆ An Indo-European male fertility god
 - ◆ original: springs, horses, earthquakes
 - ◆ acquired: sea
- ◆ Married to Amphitrite & father of Triton
- ◆ At competition in Athens, offers the Athenians a spring
- ◆ Impregnated Medusa
- ◆ Pegasus born when Medusa killed by Perseus





Hades

- ◆ Unseen realm to which the souls of the dead go
- ◆ All things beneath the earth = “rich one”
- ◆ He is not death itself, Thanatos = death
- ◆ No cult because he is avoided at all costs and cannot be appeased
- ◆ No large parts in myths
- ◆ Main myth = Persephone's story



THE END