

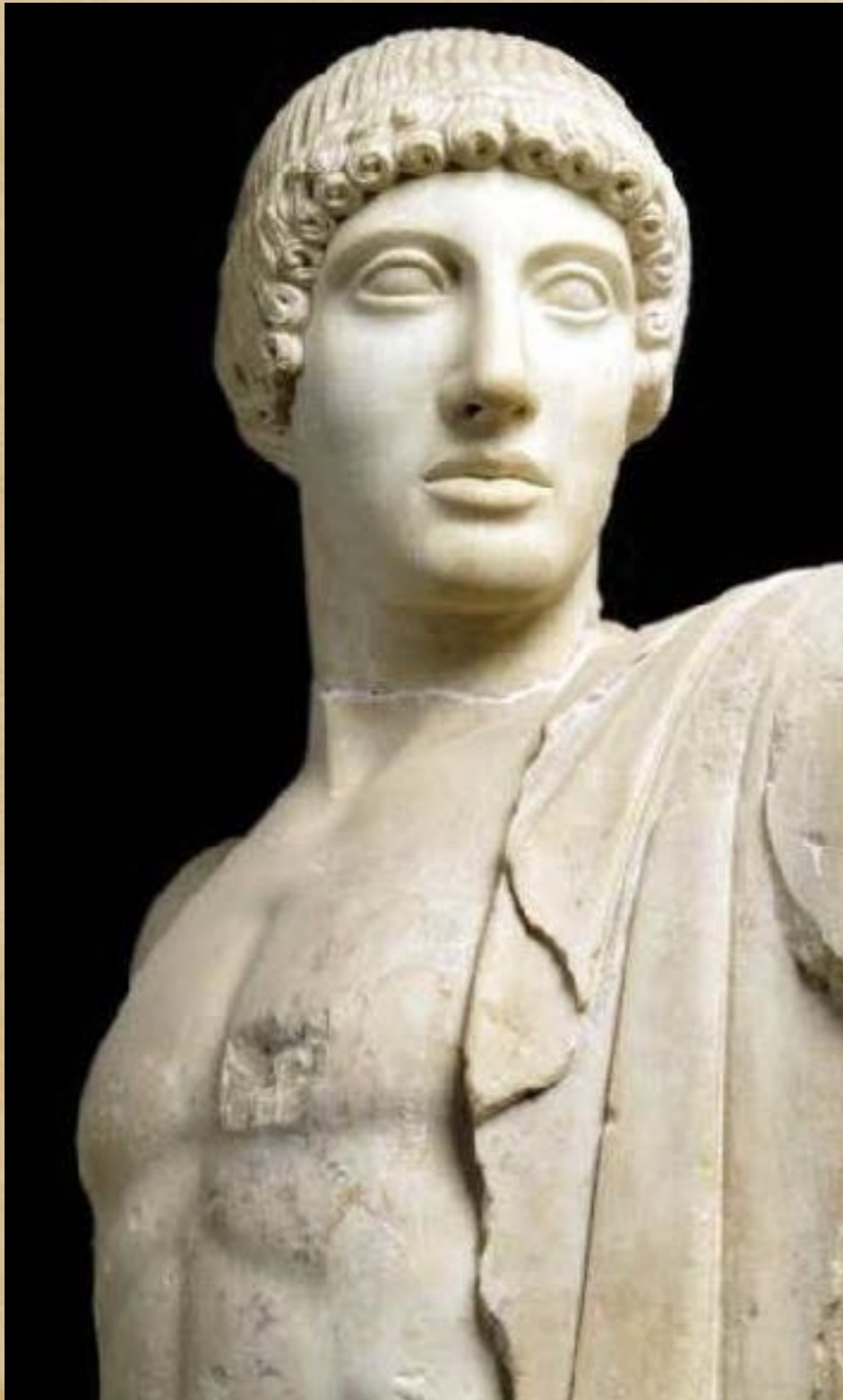
The Younger Olympians

LV4UI - GRADE 12 CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION - MR. A. WITTMANN

UNIT 2 - LECTURE 5



APOLLO GOD OF PROPHECY



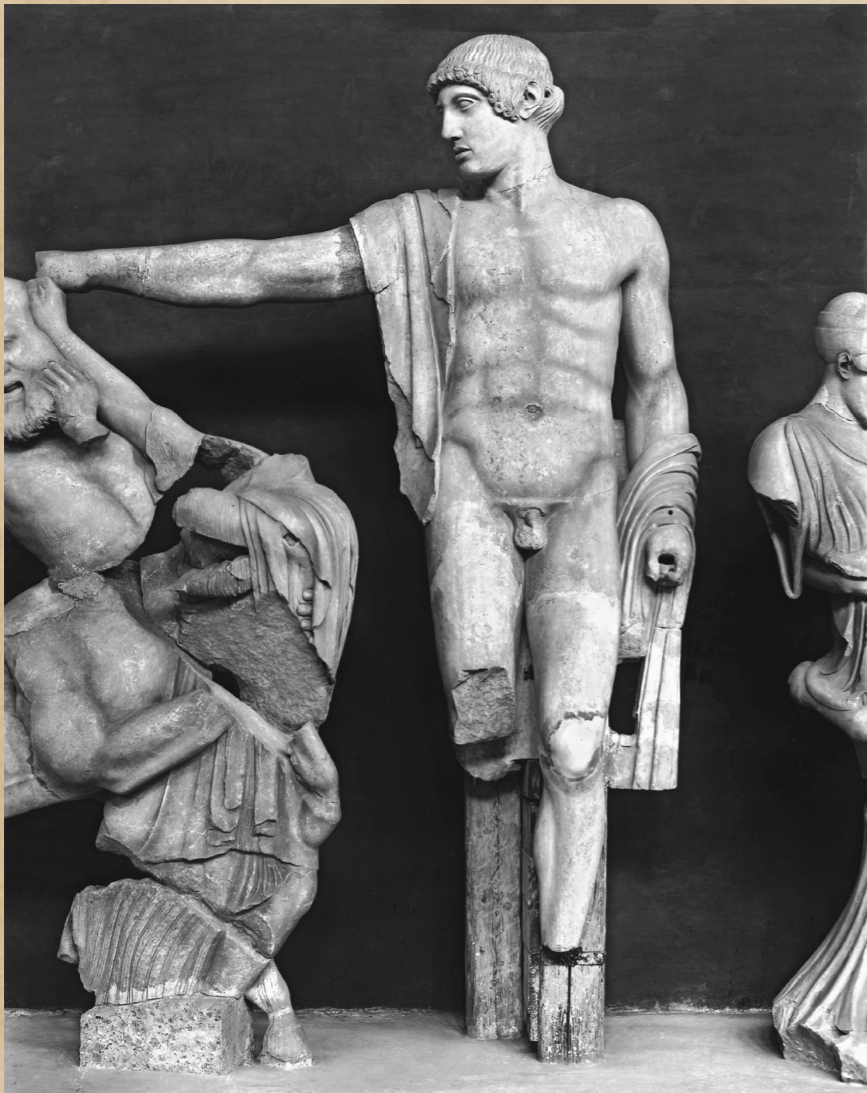
- ◆ 2 Homeric Hymns to Apollo
- ◆ Mother Leto = Zeus, Lycian mother-earth goddess
- ◆ Hera persecutes "No land that sees the sun may let her give birth" (Delos)
- ◆ Epithet "Lycian" (Asia Minor?)
- ◆ Hyperboreans (north?)
- ◆ Originally shepherd god
- ◆ "Far darter" = Plague (arrows)
- ◆ Civilization god, god of reason
- ◆ Aristocratic, noble, aristoi
- ◆ Later the sun god because Artemis moon goddess

Apollo at Delphi



- ◆ After accepted at Mt. Olympus looks for a cult-site at centre of the world
- ◆ Python (serpent combat, triumph over nature)
- ◆ Apollo spoke through a prophetess, the Pythia, seated on a tripod in the temple (obscurity & moral)
- ◆ By 800BC Delphi = Pan-Hellenic, international site
- ◆ Closed down in AD 394 by the Roman Emperor Theodosius.

Apollo and Shamans

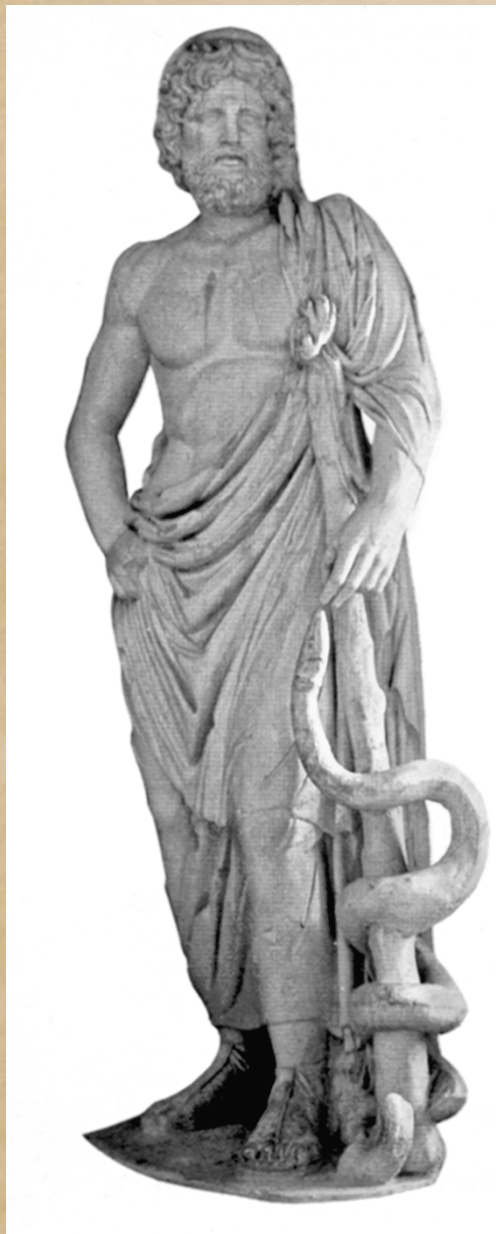


Apollo intervenes in the battle between the centaurs and the Lapiths. His aristocratic calm, captured on the temple to Zeus, was an idealized image of the Hellenic spirit.

- ◆ Apollo resembles in many ways a older palaeolithic/neolithic shaman ("he who knows")
- ◆ Medicine man or holy man
- ◆ He bridges the human and divine world, brings divine wisdom and prophecies & heals
- ◆ He possess men and women, though in different ways

The Loves of Apollo

- ◆ Thousands of goddess, nymphs, women, boys



- ◆ Daphnê
- ◆ Hyacinthus
- ◆ Coronis (Asclepius)

Hermes, God of Travellers



- ◆ Arcadia Peloponnesus, shepherd god
- ◆ Stone heap (mark trails & boundaries) = herm
- ◆ Zeus & Maia
- ◆ Roman Mercury
- ◆ Protector of thieves, merchants, travelers, messengers, shepherds, & psychopompos
- ◆ Carry his staff, the caduceus
- ◆ Trickster god, outwitting the more noble Apollo.
- ◆ Homeric Hymn illustrates taking over Apollo's responsibilities & growing power of the merchants and working class.

Hephaestus, God of Smiths



- ◆ From the island of Lemnos, Zeus and Hera or just Hera
- ◆ Lame blacksmith god or just god of the manual crafts and metal working; sometimes
- ◆ Shows some aristocratic contempt for manual labor.
- ◆ Assisted by Cyclopes and golden robots
- ◆ Married as a joke to Aphrodite
- ◆ Associated with Roman Vulcan but not really.

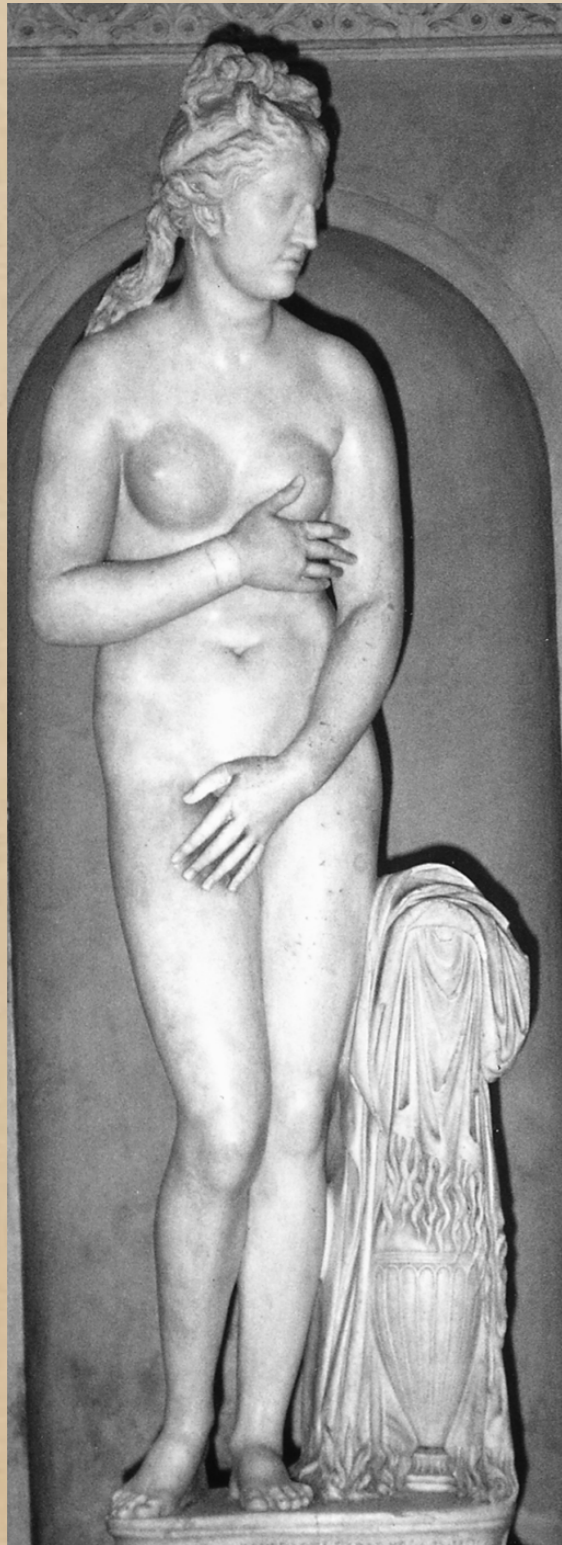


Ares, Incarnation of Blood Lust



- ◆ Son of Zeus and Hera
- ◆ Blood-lust in battle
- ◆ Greeks preferred Athena as goddess of strategy in war
- ◆ Few myths about him and few temples
- ◆ Disgracefully wounded at Troy by Athena and Diomedes
- ◆ Best known for adultery with Aphrodite
- ◆ Caught in flagrante delicto by Hephaestus
- ◆ Fear (Phobos), Panic (Deimos)
- ◆ Harmonia and Eros

APHRODITE, GODDESS OF SEXUAL LOVE



- ◆ Goddess of sexuality
- ◆ Lineage: Sea foam or Zeus & Dione
- ◆ Stories reflect the danger of sexual desire
- ◆ Connections with Eastern deities
 - ◆ Assyrian = Istarte
 - ◆ Babylonian = Ishtar
 - ◆ Sumerian = Inanna

Pygmalion



- ◆ Pygmalion, the king of Cyprus
- ◆ Falls in love with his statue of the perfect women
- ◆ Aphrodite brings his statue to life, they marry & have a son Cinyras
- ◆ Cinyras boasts that his daughter Myrrha is more beautiful than Aphrodite
- ◆ Aphrodite inflicts Myrrha with a passion for her father.
- ◆ Myrrha lures her father into sex
- ◆ Enraged, he chases her until she turns into the myrrh tree
- ◆ Her tears are myrrh resin, burned on Aphrodite's altar (etiological myth)
- ◆ Myrrh tree gives birth to Adonis, consort of Aphrodite
- ◆ Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian story
- ◆ Semitic name: "lord," cf. Adonai, another name for YHWH in the Old Testament

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Artemis, Mistress of Animals



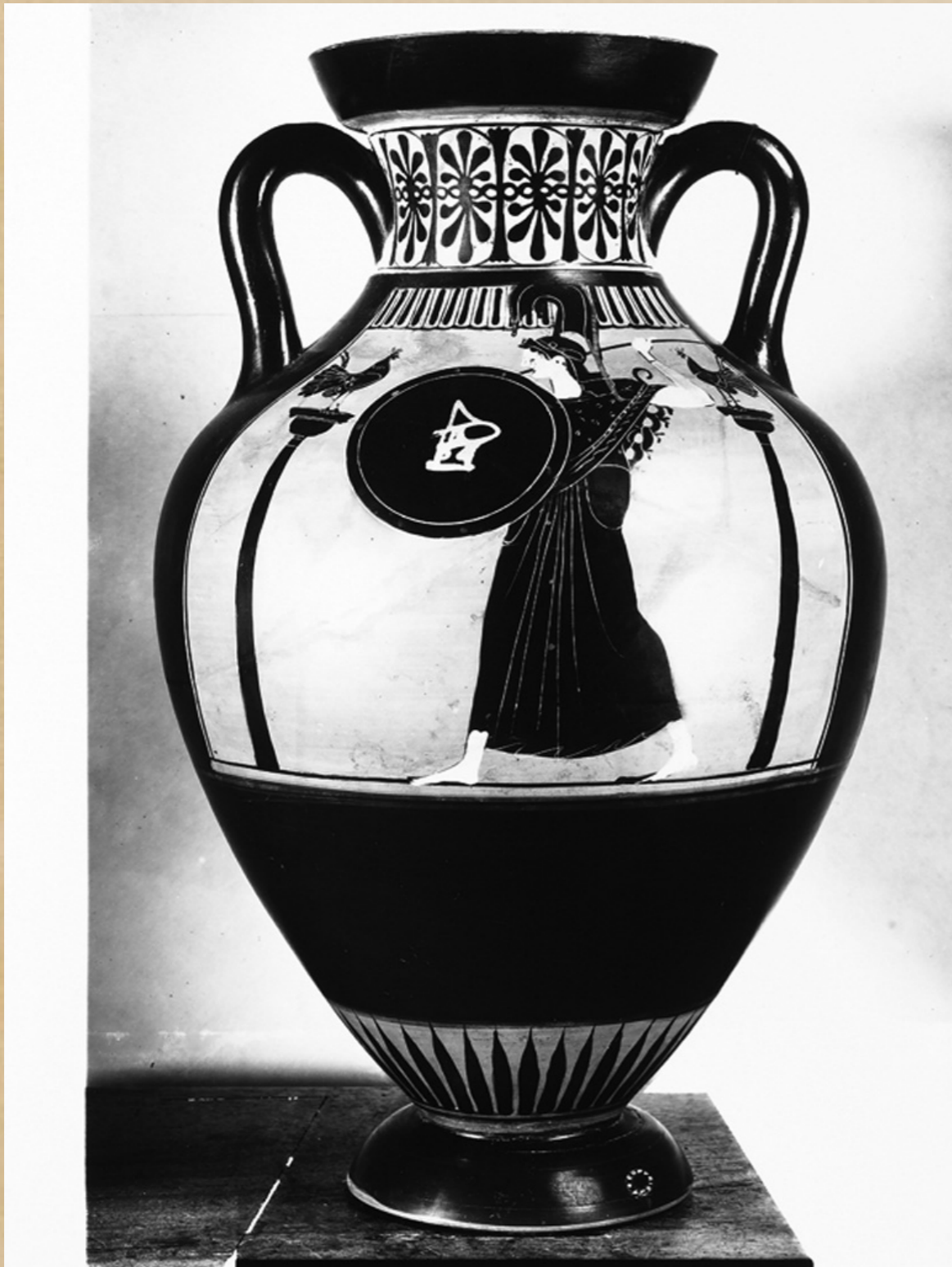
- ◆ Original form Crete
- ◆ Daughter of Leto, twin sister of Apollo
- ◆ Bow and arrows, hunting attire, boots, skirt, belt
- ◆ Virgin goddess of youth & fertility of wild animals
- ◆ Artemis the Killer
 - ◆ Shows her dangerous side
 - ◆ Kills women in childbirth
 - ◆ Kills in vengeance

Artemis' Eastern Origins



- ◆ In Ephesus (Ionia) she is depicted/worshipped as a mother earth goddess
- ◆ Also, mainland virgin goddess stories all evolve pregnancy
- ◆ Perhaps reflects eastern origins

Athena, Mistress of the City



- ◆ Daughter of Zeus and Metis
- ◆ Muscular, masculine virgin
- ◆ Helmet, shield with Gorgon, snake, aigis breastplate
- ◆ Goddess of the crafts of civilization (“wisdom”=owl)
- ◆ Weaving, carpentry, strategy, military-industrial complex (war chariot, warships, etc.)
- ◆ Patron of heroes & warriors

The Parthenon



- ◆ Mainly but not exclusively worshiped at Athens

THE END