

EVERYDAY ENGLISH SNACK  
WORLD MYTHOLOGY

每天读点英文  
世界神话故事全集

马钟元 主编

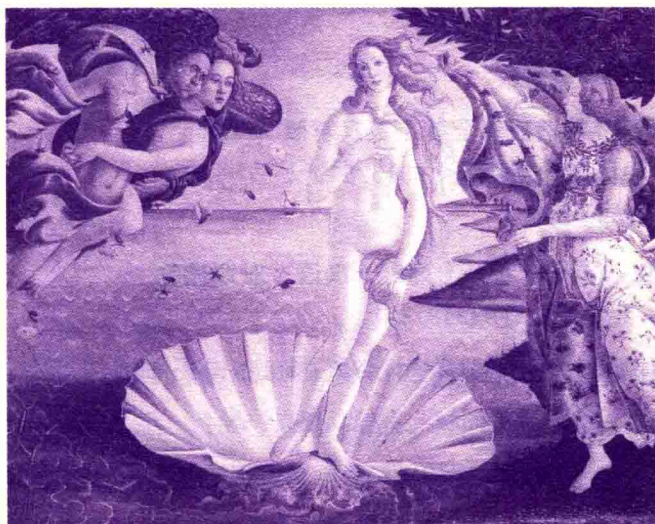
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# 每天读点英文。 世界神话故事全集

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 中国宇航出版社

·北京·

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**图书在版编目(CIP)数据**

每天读点英文世界神话故事全集：英汉对照 / 马钟  
元主编. --北京：中国宇航出版社，2015.5

ISBN 978-7-5159-0926-4

I. ①每… II. ①马… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物  
②神话—作品集—世界 IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2015)第 094409 号

策划编辑 李莹

装帧设计 文道思

责任编辑 李莹

责任校对 韩红莹

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出版 中国宇航出版社

社址 北京市阜成路 8 号  
(010)60286808

邮编 100830  
(010)68768548

网址 www.caphbook.com

经销 新华书店

发行部 (010)60286888  
(010)60286887

(010)68371900  
(010)60286804(传真)

零售店 读者服务部  
(010)68371105

承印 北京嘉恒彩色印刷有限责任公司

版次 2015 年 5 月第 1 版

2015 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

规格 787 × 1092

开本 1 / 16

印张 24

字数 535 千字

书号 ISBN 978-7-5159-0926-4

定价 39.80 元

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本书如有印装质量问题,可与发行部联系调换





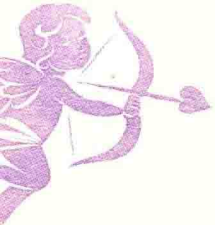
# 前言

## Preface

神话是人类童年时代的美好记忆，镌刻着人类先民们认识自然、顺应自然和征服自然的功绩与梦想，是人类文学艺术产生、发展与繁荣的源泉。神话虽然饱经岁月的磨砺，但如陈年佳酿一样，历久弥新，醇香醉人。马克思曾称之为“不可企及的典范”，诚如这位伟人所言，“为什么历史上的人类童年时代，在它发展的最完美的地方，不该作为永不复返的阶段而显示出永久的魅力呢？”本书旨在为读者朋友们讲述这些人类童年时代的故事，品味神话所蕴含的人生哲理和艺术价值。

本书收录了众多扑朔迷离的神话故事：它记录了童年时代的人类如何解释天地起源、人类诞生、四季更迭等自然奥秘，如何讴歌英雄勇士、生命与死亡、永恒的爱情，这些人类的智慧赋予了西方神话永恒的艺术魅力。本书的编者精心选取了希腊罗马神话、北欧神话和圣经故事的代表性片段，为读者朋友们展现人类先民们那色彩斑斓的精神世界。许多神话故事看似荒诞不经，其实暗含着丰富的、有关上古时期人类社会生活、风俗制度和宗教信仰的信息，是历史变迁的诗性写照。无论希腊神话还是北欧神话，抑或圣经故事，都已经融入到了西方的日常生活和文学艺术中，已经成为一种审美对象和文学典故，成为充满哲理的比喻和象征。

希腊罗马神话内容极其丰富，主要由神的故事和英雄传说两部分组成。神的故事涉及宇宙和人类的起源、神的产生及其谱系等内容，主体是奥林匹斯十二主神，他们主宰着自然和生活的各种现象与事物，但又像凡人一样受爱恨情仇的困扰。英雄传说起源于对祖先的崇拜，这类传说中的主人公大都是神与人的后代，是半神半人的英雄。他们力量强大，英勇非凡，体现了人类征服自然的豪迈气概和顽强意志，是力量和智慧的化身，最有名的当属赫拉克勒斯和忒修斯，他们分别被视为斯巴达人和雅典人的祖先。该部分选取许多脍炙人口、广为流传的故事，如“自恋者那喀索斯”“俄狄浦斯弑父娶母”“牧神潘”“夺取金羊毛”“木马计”“特洛伊战争：帕里斯和海伦”“阴险狡诈的西绪福斯和石头”“潘多拉和她的盒子”等。至今在西方语言中使用频率极高的一些成语典故，都来自这些神话传说，例如举世罕见、珍贵无比的“金



羊毛”；最致命而不堪一击的弱点“阿喀琉斯的脚后跟”；十分警惕、从不怠倦的“阿尔戈斯的眼睛”；藏污纳垢的“奥革阿斯的牛圈”；带来灾难的“潘多拉的盒子”；复杂难解的“斯芬克斯之谜”；以及劳而无功、永无息止的“西绪福斯的工作”等等。

北欧神话起源于对太阳以及自然生成能力的崇拜，是斯堪的纳维亚地区所特有的一个神话体系。其形成时间晚于世界上其他几大神话体系，反映古代北欧的日耳曼各部族及其他民族的社会生活、宗教信仰和历史活动，最初以歌谣形式流传，中世纪后始有文字记载，至今保留的较为完整的有冰岛史诗《埃达》和日耳曼史诗《尼伯龙根之歌》等。北欧神话是个多神系统，大致上可分成四个体系：巨人、神、精灵和侏儒，包括创世神话、九个世界和末世神话等故事。本书便选取其中流传已久的“阿萨神族与华纳神族的战争”“伊登的苹果被盗”“索尔的乌特加德之旅”等故事。西方文化许多地方都印着北欧神话的痕迹，圣诞节是由祭祀太阳神的活动演变而来的，复活节有着春天女神的名字，一周七天也大多以北欧诸神命名，风靡一时的《指环王》也从北欧神话中汲取了养分。

圣经故事包含着许多家喻户晓、诫人警世的故事，由《旧约》故事和《新约》故事两部分组成。本书选取其中“神创造世界”“诺亚方舟”“巴别塔”“摩西十戒”“耶稣基督的诞生”等经典故事，洋溢着平等、博爱和同情弱小的人道主义精神。圣经故事是西方文学作品的重要源头之一，深刻地影响了欧美各国的哲学、伦理、法律、政治等。

本书的编纂工作，由天津外国语大学滨海外事学院英语系系主任马钟元教授组织完成。凭借着多年的英语教学经验和对文学的深入研究，马钟元教授带领他的教师精英团队，完成了本书的精选、整理、翻译及注释等工作。在编写本书的过程中，编者力求精益求精，如有疏漏，诚恳地欢迎同行及广大读者朋友批评指正！

孙悦





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# 希腊 罗马神话



## Twelve Olympians 十二主神

古希腊罗马神话中最受崇拜的十二位神，他们为：宙斯、赫拉、波塞冬、得墨忒耳、赫耳墨斯、阿波罗、阿耳忒弥斯、雅典娜、赫斯提亚、赫淮斯托斯、阿瑞斯和阿佛洛狄忒。哈迪斯和珀耳塞福涅有时也会包括在奥林匹斯十二神里，但一般哈迪斯都被排除在外，因为他是冥府的统治者。

### Zeus

In the ancient Greek religion, Zeus is the “Father of Gods and men” who rules the Olympians of Mount Olympus as a father rules the family. His Roman counterpart is Jupiter. Zeus is the child of Cronus and Rhea, and the youngest of his **siblings**.

Before the abolition of monarchies, Zeus was protector of the king and his family. Once the age of Greek kings faded into democracy he became chief peacemaker. He brought peace in place of violence as “the lord of justice”. His duties in this role were to maintain the laws, protect suppliants, to summon festivals and to give prophecies. As the supreme deity Zeus oversaw the conduct of civilized life. But the “father of gods and men” as Homer calls him, has many mythological tales.

### 宙斯

宙斯是古希腊神话中奥林匹斯山上统领宇宙的至高无上的天神。罗马神话称朱庇特。他是克洛诺斯和瑞亚最小的儿子。

君主制废除以前，宙斯是国王和家族的保护者。随着一代代希腊国王逐渐被民主制所取代，宙斯成为主要的和平维护者，他用和平来代替暴力，因而被视为“公正正义之主”。他的主要职责包括维护法律、保护弱者、庆祝节日以及预言未来。作为至高无上的主神，宙斯还要管理日常文明生活行为。这位被伟大诗人荷马称之为“神与人祖先”的神灵还有着许许多多不为人知的神话传奇故事。





In most traditions he is married to Hera, although, at the **oracle** of Dodona, his **consort** is Dione: according to *The Iliad*, he is the father of Aphrodite by Dione. He is known for his erotic escapades. Zeus had many offspring. He had numerous liaisons with both goddesses and mortals. He either raped them, or used devious means to seduce the unsuspecting maidens. His union with Leto brought forth the twins Apollo and Artemis. Besides deities, he also fathered many mortals. In some of his human liaisons Zeus used devious disguises. When he seduced the Spartan queen Leda, he transformed himself into a beautiful swan. He visited princess Danae as a shower of gold, and from this union the hero Perseus was born. He abducted the Phoenician princess Europa, disguised as a bull, then carried her on his back to the island of Crete where she bore three sons. Zeus also took as a lover the Trojan prince Ganymede. He was abducted by an eagle sent by Zeus. Zeus also used his charm and unprecedented power to seduce those he wanted, so when Zeus promised Semele that he would reveal himself in all his splendor, in order to seduce her, the union produced Dionysus. Themis, the goddess of justice bore the three Horae, goddesses of the seasons to Zeus, and also the three Moirae, known as these Fates. When Zeus had an affair with Mnemosyne, he coupled with her for nine consecutive nights, which produced nine daughters, who became known as the Muses. They became deities of intellectual pursuits. Also the three Charites or Graces were born from Zeus and Eurynome. His godly and heroic **offspring** include Athena, Hermes, Heracles, Helen of Troy, Minos.

His symbols are the **thunderbolt**, eagle, bull, and oak. Zeus was brother and consort of

在大多数的传统故事中，宙斯娶了赫拉为妻。但是据多多纳的预言推断，他的配偶应该是狄俄涅。《伊利亚特》中记载道，宙斯与狄俄涅共同孕育了爱与美之神阿佛罗狄忒。宙斯好女色，拥有众多后代，并和许多女神及女人有暧昧的关系。他要么采取强暴的手段，要么采用一些不太光明正大的方式来引诱无知少女。宙斯与勒托结合产下双胞胎阿波罗与阿耳忒弥斯。他不仅是著多神明之父，还是许多凡人的父亲。和凡人打交道时，宙斯善于伪装，他变成一只美丽的天鹅来引诱斯巴达女王勒达。他还用下金子雨的方法来接近公主达娜厄，二人结合后英雄珀耳修斯降生。而后他又幻化成一头公牛诱拐了腓尼基公主欧罗巴，并把她驮到克里特岛，在那里欧罗巴诞下三子。宙斯还变成雄鹰来诱惑特洛伊王子伽倪墨得斯，并利用自己的权力与魅力勾引塞墨勒，酒神狄俄倪索斯出生。宙斯还先后与正义女神忒弥斯结合，生下时序三女神；与季节女神结合，生下命运三女神；与记忆女神结合，连续共度九夜生下九女，被称为崇尚理性与智慧的缪斯诸女神；还与大洋女神欧律诺墨结合，生下美惠三女神。宙斯的众多后代中还包括雅典娜、赫耳墨斯、赫拉克勒斯、特洛伊的海伦、弥诺斯等。

宙斯以霹雳、雷电、鹰、公牛、橡树为象征。他是赫拉的兄长、配偶，他们共同孕育了阿



oracle *n.* 预言，神谕  
consort *n.* 配偶，伙伴

offspring *n.* 后代，子孙  
thunderbolt *n.* 霹雳，雷电



Hera. By Hera, Zeus sired Ares, Hebe and Hephaestus, though some accounts say that Hera produced these offspring alone. Some also include Eileithyia and Eris as their daughters. The conquests of Zeus among nymphs and the mythic mortal progenitors of Hellenic dynasties are famous. Olympian **mythography** even credits him with unions with Leto, Demeter, Dione and Maia. Among mortals were Semele, Io, Europa and Leda and with the young Ganymede. Many myths render Hera as jealous of his **amorous** conquests and a consistent enemy of Zeus' mistresses and their children by him.

### Hera

Hera was the wife and one of three sisters of Zeus in the Olympian **pantheon** of Greek mythology. Her chief function was as the goddess of women and marriage. Her **counterpart** in the religion of ancient Rome was Juno. The cow and the peacock were sacred to her. Hera was born of Cronos and Rhea, and was abruptly swallowed after birth due to a prophesy that one of Cronos' children will take over his throne. Zeus was spared and when he grew older he saved all of his siblings, then **banished** Cronos.

Portrayed as **majestic** and solemn, often enthroned, and crowned with a high **cylindrical** crown, Hera may bear a pomegranate in her hand, emblem of fertile blood and death and a substitute

瑞斯、赫柏和赫淮斯托斯，尽管根据一些资料记载，赫拉独自产下后代。其中，厄勒梯亚和厄里斯是他们的女儿。宙斯征服诸多女神和古希腊时代神话中传述的那些凡人的故事家喻户晓。奥林匹斯神话还记载了他与勒托、得墨忒耳、狄俄涅以及迈亚的结合。在凡间，他与塞墨勒、伊俄、欧罗巴、勒达和年轻的男性情人伽倪墨得斯都有着爱恨情仇的故事。诸多神话记载赫拉十分妒恨宙斯所征服的女神和凡人，常常与她们以及她们的孩子为敌。

### 赫拉

根据希腊神话，赫拉在奥林匹斯万神殿中，是宙斯三位妻子之一。她是主管婚姻和女人的女神，相对应于古罗马神话中的朱诺。天后赫拉需要用母牛和孔雀来供奉，是克洛诺斯和瑞娅之女。赫拉一降生，便被其父克洛诺斯吞入腹中，因为有预言说克洛诺斯的孩子将会篡位。宙斯很愤怒，长大后救出了所有的兄弟姐妹，并流放了克洛诺斯。

赫拉是庄严与雄伟的化身，她往往以战服的装束出现，头戴镶有花叶的象征王权的圆柱形冠冕，并戴有面纱，威风凛凛。赫拉手持象征多子多孙的石榴和代替罂粟花的麻醉蒴果。她是

mythography *n.* 神话集  
amorous *adj.* 多情的，恋爱的  
pantheon *n.* 万神殿  
counterpart *n.* 配对物

banish *v.* 放逐，流放  
majestic *adj.* 庄严的，雄伟的  
cylindrical *adj.* 圆柱形的



for the **narcotic** capsule of the opium **poppy**. Hera is portrayed as a majestic, solemn woman.

In the Olympian pantheon of classical Greek Mythology, Hera was known for her jealous and vengeful nature, most notably against Zeus' lovers and offspring, but also against mortals who crossed her, such as Pelias. Pelias offended her by choosing Aphrodite as the most beautiful goddess, earning Hera's hatred. It is said that each year Hera's virginity returns by bathing in the well. The children of Hera and Zeus are the smith-god Hephaestus, the goddess of youth Hebe, and the god of war Ares. According to some sources, however, her children were conceived without the help of a man, either by slapping her hand on the ground or by eating lettuce: thus they were born, not out of love but out of lust and hatred.

Hera was constantly being jealous of Zeus' various amorous affairs. She punished her rivals and their children, among both goddesses and mortals, with implacable fury. She placed two serpents in the cradle of Heracles; she had Io guarded by a hundred-eyed giant; she drove the foster-parents of Dionysus mad, and tried to prevent the birth of Apollo and Artemis. Even Zeus usually could not stand up to her. Sometimes when he got angry, he chained her to the mountain of Olympus by fastening anvils to her feet. However, most of the time Zeus resorted to **stratagems**: he either hid his illegitimate children, or he changed them into animals.

庄严与雄伟合为一体的女神。

在古希腊神话奥林匹斯万神殿里，赫拉天性妒忌猜疑、报复心重，主要体现在她常与宙斯的情人和后代为敌，另外还包括激怒过她的凡人们，如珀利阿斯。珀利阿斯选中阿佛洛狄忒为最美丽的女神，招惹了赫拉的憎恨和厌恶。据说，每年赫拉在沐浴中她的贞洁都会失而复得。赫拉与宙斯的后代有：火神与匠神赫淮斯托斯、青春女神赫柏、战神阿瑞斯。据说她的孩子们并没有借助男人的力量而降生，而是通过赫拉用手拍打地面抑或是食用莴苣而完成生育的。因而赫拉孩子们的出生并不是出于爱，而是由于欲望和仇恨。

赫拉是一位生性容易嫉妒猜疑的女神，她对待宙斯的风流成性、多情越轨行径嗤之以鼻。在狂怒暴躁之下，赫拉会对她的情敌和情敌的孩子们进行惩罚，其中既包括女神，也包括一些凡人们。她在赫拉克勒斯的摇篮中放两条毒蛇，命令百眼巨人监视伊俄，逼疯狄俄倪索斯的养父母，并试图阻止阿波罗和阿尔忒弥斯出生，连宙斯自己都承受不住了。有时盛怒之下的宙斯会用铁链将赫拉悬挂在天空中，脚上又坠上一块铁。然而，大多数时候宙斯都会采用计谋：要么是隐藏他的私生子，要么是将他们先变成动物。



narcotic *adj.* 麻醉的  
poppy *n.* 罂粟花

stratagem *n.* 策略，计谋



## Poseidon

Poseidon is a god of many names. He is most famous as the god of the sea. The son of Cronus and Rhea. In most accounts, he is swallowed by Cronus at birth. Poseidon is one of six siblings who eventually “divided the power of the world.” His brothers and sisters include: Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, and Zeus. The division of the universe involved him and his brothers, Zeus and Hades. Poseidon became ruler of the sea, Zeus ruled the sky, and Hades got the underworld. The symbols associated with Poseidon include: dolphins, tridents, and three-pronged fish **spears**. The name of the sea-god Nethuns in Etruscan was adopted in Latin for Neptune in Roman mythology.

Poseidon lived on the ocean floor in a palace made of **coral** and **gems**, and drove a chariot pulled by horses. However, Poseidon was a very moody divinity, and his temperament could sometimes result in violence. When he was in a good mood, Poseidon created new lands in the water and a calm sea. In contrast, when he was in a bad mood, Poseidon would strike the ground with a trident and cause unruly earthquakes, ship wrecks, and drownings.

Poseidon was similar to his brother Zeus in exerting his power on women and in objectifying **masculinity**. He had many love affairs and fathered numerous children. Poseidon once married Amphitrite, and produced Triton who was half-human and half-fish. The rape of Aethra by Poseidon resulted in the birth of Theseus. Another rape involved Amymone when she tried to escape from a satyr and Poseidon saved her and then fathered a child, Nauplius,

## 波塞冬

波塞冬是一位神，他有许多名字，其中海神最被人们所熟知。他是克洛诺斯和瑞娅之子，宙斯的哥哥。相传，他一出生就被父亲克洛诺斯吞入腹中。他是六个兄弟姐妹之一，最终划分到了势力范围。其兄弟姐妹包括：赫斯提亚、得墨忒耳、赫拉、哈迪斯和宙斯。当初宙斯三兄弟划分势力范围，宙斯获得了天空，哈迪斯屈尊地下，波塞冬就成了大海和湖泊的君主。其象征物为海豚、三叉戟和三股神鱼叉。相对应于罗马神话的尼普顿，海王星的拉丁名起源于他。

波塞冬住在海上以珊瑚和宝石而构建的宫殿里，他常乘坐骏马所曳云车巡行。然而，他是一位喜怒无常的神，他的脾气有时会导致一场暴力的发生。心情好时，他会孕育良田和大海；相反，心情不好时，他会用三叉戟来震动大地引发难以控制的地震、沉船和溺死事件。

波塞冬和他的兄弟宙斯一样喜好女色，善于发挥神力来征服女人，体现男子汉气概。他有着丰富的浪漫情史，后代众多。他同安菲特里忒结为夫妇，他们的独生子叫作特里同，上半身是人身，下半身是鱼尾，而且长满了海藻，是个男美人鱼。埃特拉被波塞冬强暴后生下英雄忒修斯。另外，波塞冬还营救了险些被森林之神萨梯强暴的阿米摩涅，并生下一子，瑙普利俄

spear *n.* 矛，长矛  
coral *n.* 珊瑚

gem *n.* 宝石  
masculinity *n.* 男子气





by her. With Medusa, Poseidon also **impregnated** the Gorgon Medusa on the floor of a temple to conceive Chrysaor and Pegasus, the flying horse, from her neck. Medusa was changed into a monster. After having sex with Caeneus, Poseidon fulfilled her request and changed her into a man.

One of the most **notorious** love affairs of Poseidon involves his sister, Demeter. Poseidon pursued Demeter and to avoid him she turned herself into a **mare**. In his lust for her, Poseidon transformed himself into a **stallion** and captured her. Their **procreation** resulted in a horse, Arion, which was capable of human speech. Poseidon is Greek for “Husband” (possibly of wheat), and therefore it is thought that he and Demeter (goddess of wheat) are a good match because they reign as the god and goddess of **fertility**.

Another infamous story of Poseidon involves the competition between him and the goddess of war, Athena, for the city of Athens. They agreed that each would give the Athenians one gift and the Athenians would choose whichever gift they preferred. To win the people of the city over, Poseidon threw a spear at the ground and produced the Spring at the Acropolis. However, Athena won as the result of giving the people of Athens the olive tree. The Athenians accepted the olive tree and along with it Athena as their patron, for the olive tree brought wood, oil and food. After the fight, **infuriated** at his loss, Poseidon sent a **monstrous** flood to the Attic Plain, to punish the Athenians for not choosing him. Eventually,

斯。波塞冬还在一个神殿的地上使蛇发女怪美杜莎怀孕，并使其从脖颈中产下克律萨俄耳和生有双翼的神马珀伽索斯。随后，美杜莎变成了怪兽。和开纽斯发生关系后，波塞冬满足了她的要求将其变成男性。

有关海神波塞冬的最臭名的故事，要算他和他的姐姐得墨忒耳的爱情故事了。为了躲避波塞冬的追求，得墨忒耳把自己变成了一只母马。为了满足自己对得墨忒耳的强烈愿望，波塞冬变成一只种马去俘虏她的芳心。他们的结合生育了一匹神马，精通人类语言的阿里翁。在希腊语中，波塞冬有“节约地使用和管理”的意思（一般指小麦），因此波塞冬和得墨忒耳（麦子女神）的结合被认为是完美的一对，他们是丰饶多产的象征。

另一个令波塞冬声名狼藉的故事应该是他曾和女战神雅典娜争夺雅典城的争霸战。两人打赌，打赌的内容是两人各送雅典人一件礼物，由民众选出他们喜欢的那件。为了能掌管这个富裕城市的财富和人民，波塞冬将矛扔向地面，在卫城内立刻跃出一匹骏马；雅典娜将长矛插在地上，地上长出了一颗橄榄树。雅典人接受了橄榄树并同意雅典娜成为他们的保护神，因为橄榄树能带来木材、石油和食物。斗争结束后，波塞冬惨败，盛怒之下他发动了巨大的洪水来惩罚雅典民众对他的不公。最终，雅典娜与波塞冬共同合作，将二人的神力合并。骏马是战车的



impregnate *v.* 使怀孕  
notorious *adj.* 众所周知的  
mare *n.* 母马  
stallion *n.* 种马，成年公马

procreation *n.* 生殖，生产  
fertility *n.* 多产，肥沃  
infuriate *v.* 激怒  
monstrous *adj.* 巨大的



Athena and Poseidon worked together by combining their powers. Even though Poseidon was the god of horses, Athena built the first chariot. Athena also built the first ship to sail on the sea over which Poseidon ruled.

Poseidon and Apollo, having offended Zeus, were sent to serve King **Laomedon**. He had them build huge walls around the city and promised to reward them well, a promise he then refused to fulfill. In **vengeance**, before the Trojan War, Poseidon sent a sea monster to attack Troy. Poseidon often used his powers of earthquakes, water, and horses to inflict fear and punishment on people as revenge. Though he could be difficult and assert his powers over the gods and mortals, Poseidon could be cooperative and it was he who helped the Greeks during the Trojan War. Poseidon is an essential character in the study of Greek mythology.

### Demeter

The Greek earth goddess who brings forth the fruits of the earth, particularly the various grains. She taught mankind the art of **sowing** and **ploughing** so they could end their **nomadic** existence. She was very popular with the rural population. In Greek mythology, Demeter is the pure nourisher of the youth and the green earth, the **health-giving** cycle of life and death, and **preserver** of marriage and the sacred law. Another story states that she was one of the twelve

动力，象征着战争，而橄榄树是和平的象征。雅典娜打造了第一辆二轮战车和第一艘战船在波塞冬所统治的势力范围内航行。

波塞冬与阿波罗由于冒犯了主神宙斯而被派遣服侍国王拉俄墨冬。国王命令二人为城池修建重重城墙并承诺事成之后好好奖赏他们，但完工后，国王拒绝兑现自己的承诺。为了报复，在特洛伊战争爆发之前，波塞冬派巨大的海怪袭击了特洛伊城池。波塞冬经常利用地震、海水和马匹之神力来恐吓、惩罚人类作为报复。但是性格执拗，在众神和凡人之间善于维护自己神权的波塞冬也具有一定的合作精神。正是他在特洛伊战争中立下了汗马功劳，成为希腊神话中一个举足轻重的角色。

### 得墨忒耳

得墨忒耳，希腊神话中的大地和丰收女神，能给大地带来丰硕的果实和各种各样的谷物。她教授人类播种、耕作，从而使人类从游牧的状态中脱离出来。得墨忒耳在乡村人中受到广泛青睐。在希腊神话中，得墨忒耳是青春和绿色大地的孕育者，生与死有益健康的良性循环，婚姻与神圣法律的维护者。另外，得墨忒耳还是希腊神话中十二主神之一，但人们很容易将得

Laomedon *n.* 拉俄墨冬（希腊神话中特洛伊的创建人）  
vengeance *n.* 复仇，报复  
sowing *n.* 播种  
ploughing *n.* 耕作

nomadic *adj.* 游牧的  
health-giving *adj.* 有益健康的  
preserver *n.* 保护者，保护人



Olympians. Demeter is easily confused with Gaia and Rhea. The goddess' **epithets** reveal the span of her functions in Greek life.

Demeter is a daughter of Cronus and Rhea and sister of Zeus by whom she became the mother of Persephone. When Persephone was **abducted** by Hades, lord of the underworld, Demeter wandered the earth in search of her lost child. During this time the earth brought forth no grain. Finally Zeus sent Hermes to the underworld, ordering Hades to restore Persephone to her mother. Only when her daughter is with her, Demeter lets things grow (summer).

In ancient art, Demeter was often portrayed (sitting) as a solemn woman, often wearing a **wreath of braided** ears of corn. Her usual symbolic attributes are the fruits of the earth and the torch, the latter presumably referring to her search for Persephone. Her sacred animals were the snake (an earth-creature) and the pig (another symbol of fertility). The Romans equated her with the goddess Ceres. Demeter taught mankind the arts of agriculture: sowing seeds, ploughing, harvesting, etc. She was especially popular with rural folk. Demeter herself was central to the older religion of Greece.

Though the priestesses of Demeter, goddess of the **cornfield**, initiate brides and bridegrooms into the secrets of the couch, she also no husband of her own. While still young and gay, she bore Core and the lusty Iacchus to Zeus, her brother, out of **wedlock**. She fell in love with Iasius at the wedding of Cadmus and Harmonia. Inflamed by the **nectar** which 得墨忒耳与大地女神盖亚和众神之母瑞亚混为一谈。她的称号展现出其在希腊人生活中的重要作用。

得墨忒耳是克洛诺斯和瑞亚之女，宙斯的姐姐，她与宙斯生下珀耳塞福涅。在珀耳塞福涅，被冥王哈迪斯抢去做了冥后之时，得墨忒耳因为失去孩子而悲痛异常，到处寻找她的女儿，直至主神宙斯出面，令她们母女可以重逢，大地才得以重生。

古文化中，得墨忒耳经常被描述成一位庄严的妇女形象，头上戴有镶缀的谷物花环。象征她的公认特点有大地上的各种水果和火把，后者是在寻找女儿珀耳塞福涅时用的。供奉得墨忒耳所用神物为蛇（地上之物）和猪（肥沃丰饶的另一象征），相对应于罗马神话中的谷类女神刻瑞斯。得墨忒耳向人类传授农业技术：播种、耕种、收割等。得墨忒耳在民间广泛流传，成为希腊旧宗教中的核心人物。

尽管司五谷的女神得墨忒耳的女祭司将床帷秘事传授给新婚男女，但得墨忒耳本人却没有丈夫。她还是那个情窦初开的少女时，就为她的弟弟宙斯非婚生育了科瑞和强壮的伊阿科斯。她还在卡德莫斯和哈耳摩尼亚的婚礼上与伊阿西俄斯一见钟情。他们在婚宴上推杯换盏，喝得痛



epithet *n.* 别称  
abduct *v.* 诱拐  
wreath *n.* 花冠，圈状物  
braided *adj.* 镶缀的

cornfield *n.* 麦田，稻田  
wedlock *n.* 婚姻，已婚状况  
nectar *n.* 甘露