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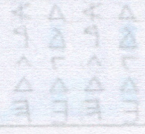
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# Greek-Gods.Info

Gods & Goddesses of Ancient Greece



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- Theogony
- Chaos
- The Titans

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- **Hermes**
- Hestia
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- Zeus

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- Furies (Erinyes)
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### ANCIENT GREECE

## Olympian Gods » **Hermes, the Gods' Messenger and God of Trade**



Marble statue of the **Greek god Hermes**.  
Archaeological Museum of Athens, Greece



**Hermes was the Greek God of the Trade and luck-bringing Messenger of the Gods.**

Birth of **Hermes**  
**Hermes, the speedy Messenger and Conductor of Souls**  
**Hermes, the God of the Thieves**  
**Hermes' special relation to Zeus**  
**Appearance and Sacred Symbols**



### Birth of Hermes

**Hermes** was born inside a cave on Mount Cyllene in Arcadia (Peloponnes) as the son Zeus, the King of the **Gods**, and the mountain Nymph Maea, who was a daughter of the Titan Atlas.

### Hermes, the speedy Messenger and Conductor of Souls

**Hermes** was wearing wings on his sandals and therefore was the speediest of all **Greek gods**. Because of his speed, **Hermes** received the role of the messenger and conductor of souls to the Underworld. **Hermes** was the only Olympian **god** who was authorized to visit Heaven, Earth and also the Underworld and enjoyed this way popularity among all the **Greek gods** and spirits.

### Hermes, the God of the Thieves

It is well known that Ancient Greeks endowed their **gods** with human weaknesses. **Hermes**, for instance, felt an irresistible impulse of stealing ever since his infancy and quickly developed as the **god** of the cheaters and the thieves.

### Hermes' special relation to Zeus

**Hermes** was a messenger of all **gods**, but mostly he was known for performing duties for his father Zeus with great pleasure. Zeus appreciated **Hermes'** wits highly and always asked for **Hermes'** assistance throughout his decisions, especially when it came to cheating on his wife Hera.

### Appearance and Sacred Symbols

A young man, wearing travelling clothes, a flat hat known as "petasus" and winged sandals on his feet. Oftentimes he was also considered to have wings attached to his shoulders and hat. **Hermes** usually held a winged staff with snakes wrapped around it in his hands in order to gain access everywhere.

The Roman name of **Hermes** is "**Mercury**"



- Athens
- Delphi
- Mount Olympus

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#### Myths about Hermes

- **Hermes** steals the Cattle of Apollo
- **Hermes** and the Crocus Flower

#### Titles of Hermes

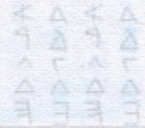


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#### Hermes steals the Cattle of Apollo



Hermes leading Apollo's cattle, ca 500 BC

Hermes was known to be a cunning trickster, stealing things from the other gods and hiding them in unbelievable locations.

#### The Journey

Back in the days when Hermes was still an infant, he once went out his cradle and set out for an adventure to Pieria in Northern Greece and steal the cattle from his half-brother Apollo.

Hermes discovered the herd very soon, so he started pulling the hoofs out of the cows' feet one by one and re-attaching them in the reverse order; the same he did to his own sandals. Then he took the herd, which now seemed to be walking backwards, hid them inside a cave and quickly returned to his cave in Mount Cyllene in Arcadia.

#### The Painful Discovery

Apollo soon found out his herd was missing and he went out searching all around. The traces he saw on his way were nothing but confusing and led the god to despair. Of course, Apollo was the god of prophecy, so he soon found out the thief and went furiously to Mount Cyllene to find Hermes in his cave. Little Hermes was peacefully sleeping inside his cradle, but Apollo didn't bother- he grabbed the infant and took him up to Mount Olympus to be judged by their master Zeus, the king of the gods.

#### The "Trial"

Before the eyes of Zeus, Hermes first denied everything, but in the end he had to confess. Zeus had found the story quite amusing so he didn't punish Hermes; he only asked from him to return the herd. Regretful of what he had done, Hermes then offered Apollo his lyre as a present, a musical instrument he had created all by himself out of the shell of a tortoise.

To compensate Hermes for his kindness, Apollo returned the gesture by giving Hermes a golden rod to guide the herds. From that moment on, there was peace again in Mount Olympus and a strong friendship began between Hermes and Apollo.

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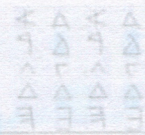
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#### Hermes and the Crocus Flower



One species of the Crocus flower (saffron)

Crocus was a dear friend of Greek god Hermes (Mercury) in Ancient Greece.

One day, while the two friends were throwing the disc to each other, Hermes hit Crocus on the head and wounded him fatally.

Three drops of the blood that spilled on the earth transformed into a small flower with shiny stamens; the flower was named after Crocus to honor the Greek hero.

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