

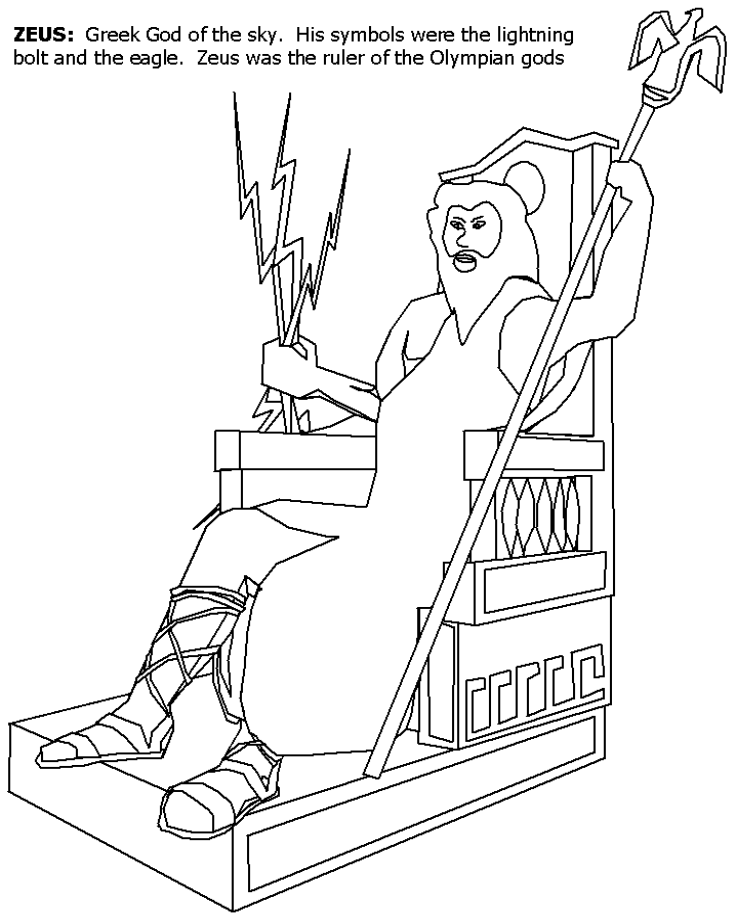
# GODS AND MONSTERS OF THE ODYSSEY



**Eris:** Eris was goddess of discord. She was the sister of Ares, daughter of Zeus and Hera. The hand of Eris could be seen in every quarrel, feud and disagreement. Her eternal and unforgiving rage was the cause of fear and respect on Olympus, though despised by the Olympians they dared not confront her.

She started the Trojan War by throwing a golden apple marked "for the fairest" into the wedding of Achilles parents. Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite both claimed it.

**ZEUS:** Greek God of the sky. His symbols were the lightning bolt and the eagle. Zeus was the ruler of the Olympian gods

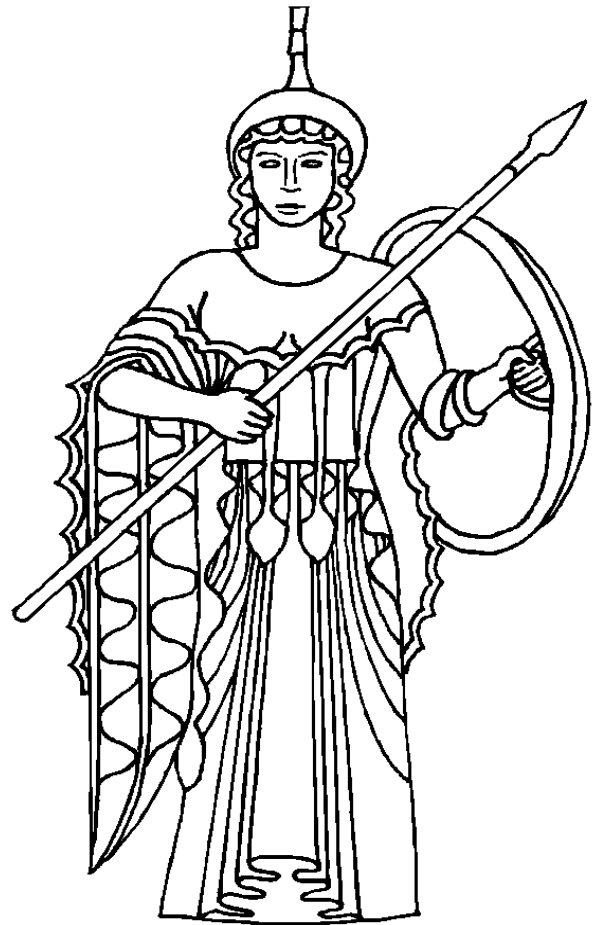


Zeus has commanded all believers to treat guests and travelers with the same respect and care as they would show him (because it could be).



**Poseidon:** Poseidon was the god of the sea. He could create floods and tidal waves when angered.

He is often called "the earth shaker" because he is the creator of all earthquakes. He is Odysseus' enemy throughout *The Odyssey*.



**Athena:** is the goddess of war and wisdom. She is Zeus' favorite daughter, because he gave birth to her from his forehead. She is Odysseus' best friend and protector.



**Cyclops:** Demi-gods with a single eye in the center of their foreheads. They provided Zeus with his thunderbolts, Poseidon with his trident and Hades with his helmet of invisibility.

The Cyclopes are the sons of Poseidon, whom he cares for dearly. Odysseus will try to hurt one of them, and will pay the price for their father's anger.

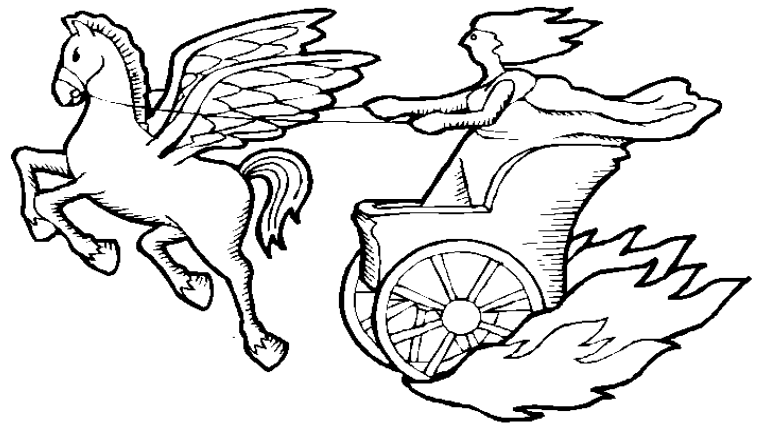


**Sirens:** women with bird-like bodies; sirens were legendary for luring sailors to their deaths with their beautiful singing voices. In the stories there were usually three sirens: Peisinoe, Aglaope, and Thelxiepeia.



**Hermes:** Hermes was the god of thieves and commerce. He was the swiftest god with the aid of his winged sandals and acted as messenger for the others.

Athena commands him to help Odysseus by giving him a potion, which will protect him from Circe, and she also sends him to command Calypso to free Odysseus.



**Apollo:** Apollo is the god of the sun and music. Apollo was the son of the god Zeus and Leto, a nymph. Apollo drives the sun chariot across the sky each day.

Apollo is also the god of archery, or bow and arrow. Helios, a Titan, is the true god of the sun, who Apollo drags through the sky each day. Apollo aids the Trojans during the war by guiding Paris' arrow into Achilles' only mortal part, his heel.

