

Lec 3 Creation 0115

January 18, 2018 11:00 AM

Creation, origin of the worlds first deities

Cosmos, compare myths, patterns

The Greeks did not have full knowledge of the world. They had an archaic version of it

- Map : dif periods
 - Archaic = THIS map = world
 - They thought the world had Edges
 - they thought fabulous people lived there
 - To the very north = hyperboreans
 - South = ethiopians
 - These people had conflicts with the gods
 - Wonderful weather
 - Humans, that experience a paradise of no work
 - If bored, they can just end their life by going over the edge (since they are at the end of the world)
- Universe: COSMOS
 - Flat disc (earth) that floats on a river called Oceanus
 - Geocentric
 - Sun, stars, rises from the east, then plunges into the river, then repeat
 - Lots of myths have conflicts
 - West = where the sun sets, so it is where the land of darkness is
 - A) Hades; unseen. Dead people go here
 - B) Tartarus; below or beside hades. Darkest part, monster and stuff live her
 - Heaven = very high point
 - Tallest mountain = mt. Olympus... as the tallest point, it is the path to heaven
 - When heroes want to reach the underground, they don't go down. Instead, they cross the river Oceanus " beyond the earth"
 - Can find dead ppl there
 - Can find islands (not many), can find "blessed people"...
- Another design = same as above, instead, Tartarus is a funnel to CHAOS
- Desc. in iliad = shield of achilles (18.474.ff)
 - Created by hephaestus (book 18, his creation)
 - Center = EARTH, sun, moon, stars
 - In between = HUMAN life.... compare to iliad
 - Outer = Oceanus
 - NO underground depicted on shield
- **Cosmogony - stories of the divine, and the first beings**
- Cosmogony = "universe" "creation = creation of the universe
- 3 theories on the cosmogony
 1. From a mating of a pair of cosmic parents (air, water, fire, earth as said in Hesiod's Theogony)
 2. Egg - hatching of a cosmic egg containing the seeds or possibilities of everything
 3. Desires of a supreme being or creator god brought the world into existence
- 2. The egg : Cosmogony according to a verse : *Orphism*(religious movement) of Orpheus (semi divine, excellent Muse. New age movement, not mainstream and creator of poems)
 - Holier than thou... superstitions
 - According to it, the being from the egg is Phanes, or the Protogenos
 - Eros = force of attraction that causes beings to mate



Hyperboreans

Arimaspi

E U R O P E

Scythians

Celts

Agathyrsi

MAEOTIS

Oartus

Lycus

Issedones

Caucasus

Massagetae

PONTUS EUXINUS

CASPIAN SEA

Lydians

Phrygians

Bactrians

Gandarians

Araxes

Chorasmians

Parthians

INDIA

Nasamones

Memphis

Assyrians

Persians

Indus

LIBYA

TRABIA

Susa

Nile

Tigris

Euphrates

Babylon

Ethiopians

Macrobia

RED SEA

ATLANTIC SEA

Atlas

Atlanteans

Pillars of Hercules

Iberians

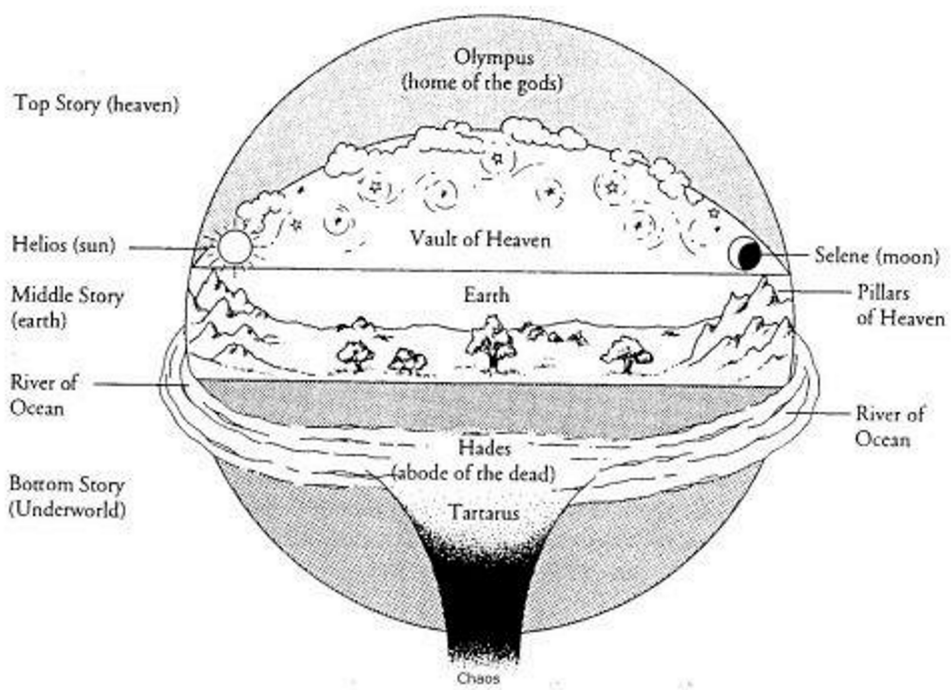
Cymatics

Phoenicians

- Makes them unite
- Comparison with Chinese myth - the being from the cosmic egg is their creator (Pan-gu)
- 1. Mainstream = Hesiod's theory (poet and farmer)
 - Theogony = creation of supreme beings and their descendants ("theo""gonia")
 - Also wrote Works and Days (A poem addressed to his brother, Perses)
 - Occurs in a series of steps
 1. Evocation of divine beings. The call to the muses
 - The Muses, daughters of Mnemosyne and Zeus: The source of poetic inspiration
 - "Leafy branch of laurel, inspired art"
 - ◆ "Public speakers hold staff. The staff touches the earth(soil) and takes power from it.
 - ◇ The laurel - sacred plant of Apollo. Associated with prophecy, knowledge of the past, wisdom and is the god of poetry. He can compose.
 - ◆ Spirit > (from Latin *spiro* : to breath)
 - Mnemosyne = mother of muses (arts, poetry)
 - Meaning of her name: "To commit to memory to persuade audience, make others remember events"
 2. First elements : Chaos, Gaia, Tartaros, Eros
 - Chaos = disorder. And the word (GREEK) means chasm (ΧΑΟΣ sounds like chasm)
 - Tartaros = prison of monsters and sinners, the darkness of earth
 - Eros - the force of attraction that brings beings to mate
 - Gaia = Earth, soil, **fertile** powers. Goddess = anthropomorphic earth
 - Prophetic as a result of all knowledge, and life and death
 - SYMBOL :Tree and snake : wisdom and regeneration (death and life)
 - Snake sheds skin, like regeneration, lives in underground and earth
- 3. As she is very fertile, Gaia shapes herself WITHOUT a mate, and bears the following offspring: a dome, her curves(Mountains "**Ore**"), and the sea (**Pontus**).
- 4. Due to Eros, she mates with the sky(**Uranus/Ouranos**) and creates offspring

Offspring of Earth and Sky

- Uranus fathered 3 Hecatoncheires, 12 titans, and 3 cyclopes
- 3 Hecatoncheires
 - "*Hecato-*" means hundred, "*cheires*" means hands.
 - They have hundreds of hands and heads
 - They are important to Zeus' power. They help him beat the titans
 - Not many appearances!!
 - EG. Briareus is mentioned in the Iliad 1:403-404
- 3 Cyclopes
 - "Cycle" and "eye" = circle eye
 - Names are associated with thunder
 - *Argês* (Flash)
 - *Brontês* (Thunderer)
 - *Steropês* (Lightning-Bolt)
 - Helped battle against titans
 - Divine smiths
 - Trident, helmet of invisibility, thunderbolt
 - Note: There are also a variety of types of cyclopes in the Theogony, Odyssey, and other literature
 - EG In the Odyssey, the Cyclopes are monsters and uncivilized
 - Polyphemus = blinded by Odysseus
 - Cyclopes as Hephaestus's helpers
 - Hephaestus is associated with volcanoes
 - AETIOLOGY : Why one eye?
To work with fire, Smiths cauterized one of their eyes in order to have less eyes to worry about
 - Cyclopean Walls/masonry → Agamemnon City (Huge limestone boulders, which have been fitted together rather roughly)



- References Cyclops as argonauts, but not the one eyed cyclopes in Eastern community

The story of castration ("Big bang", start of the world)

- When Gaia mated with Ouranos, Ouranos suppressed newborn children in Gaia's body, so they were never birthed out of her body.
- Gaia devised a plan and a weapon
 - She finds the hardest rock, adamant
 - She makes a sickle
- The youngest child, Kronos, receives the sickle and castrated his father
 - Ouranos doesn't die, as he is divine, and instead goes up to create space
- He threw the genitals **behind** him into the sea
 - (It is considered a taboo to look directly at important/divine/taboo things, so you don't look or you throw them backwards)
- Nothing is wasted from a divine being - The blood from the testicles drops on earth
 - The fertility of the earth creates beings from the blood; the Chthonic
 - Chthonic = those that came from the earth, associated with darkness, and evil;

Creation from the blood drops (Chthonic beings)

- Furies, Giants, and Melian Nymphs
- The Furies (Erinyes)
 - Ferocious female spirits
 - Scary, old beings, they have snake for hair and have horrible voices
 - PURPOSE= to avenge the wrong, and torment killers of blood relatives (kindred)
 - EG Aeschylus Eumenides : The Furies torment Orestes, Agamemnon's son, who killed his mother Clytemnestra.
- Giants (Gigantes=sons of Ge/Gaia)
 - Mostly associated with natural forces of the depths of earth (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, forces of the Earth)

Creation from the genitals and the sea

- Aphrodite
 - "Arose from the sea foam"
 - She was born from the semen of the genitals and the sea.
 - Goddess of sexual desire
 - A central theme in Greek myth: the destructiveness of sexual attraction
 - Partner with Ares
 - Eros / Eris (Eris=quarrel, strife)
 - Replaces Eros. Eros ↓ in power

SOME COMMON MOTIFS

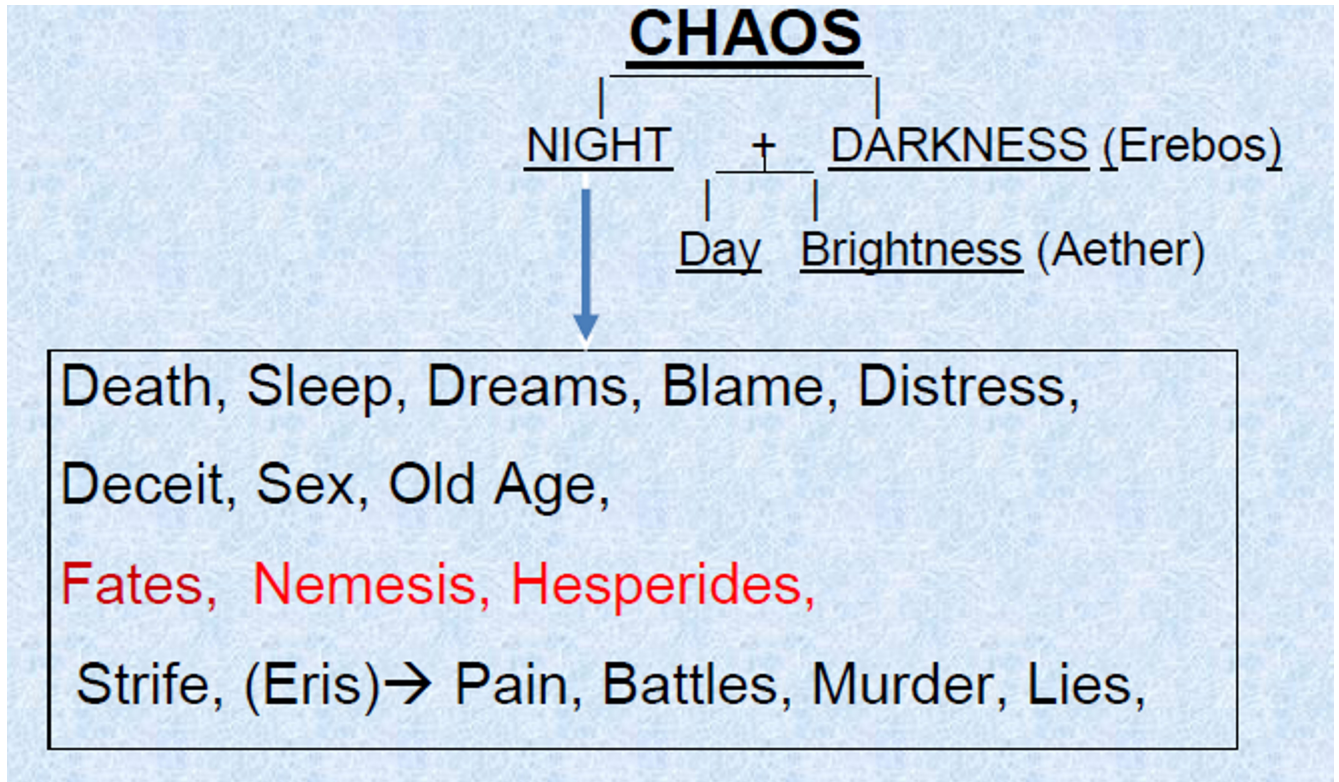
- **Creation from a divine part** when it touches the earth/ water : FERTILITY
- **Looking taboo:** It is prohibited to see a divinity or a divine action
 - Eg Kronos threw the genitals behind him
 - Compare with Destruction of Sodom - Human eyes are too weak to see divines, so they either go blind, or die, or turn into stone
- **The separation of the Earth from the Sky**
 - Eg in Egyptian mythology the Sky goddess Nut, and the Earth god Geb
 - In Chinese myth, Pan-gu separating the earth from the sky
 - Bible: Heaven: God

Near east influences

- **Kingship in Heaven**, the Hittite-Hurrian poem of the 14th/13th cen. BC
 - **Anu** (sky)

- **Kumarbi** (bites off Anu's genitals and begets **Teshub** (storm god))

Descendants of Chaos, the children of Night



- Nemesis
 - The goddess of retribution, the punisher of hubris
 - (recall Narc story)
 - Misbehaving = punishment (Justice)
 - She punishes mostly hubris
 - Hubris = pride, excessive sense of spureiorty
 - Eg. If humans brag and compares themselves to the divine, arrogance, lack of knowledge and humility
 - Dike = Justice (their temples seem to be nearby)
- 3 Fates (Moerae)
 - Life and death
 - Portrayed as 3 weavers
 - Clotho (The spinner)
 - Spins the yarn of life
 - Lachesis (The Allocator)
 - Gives quality of thread/life
 - Atropos(Irreversible)
 - Scissors that cut the line of life
 - Compare with: 3 fairies in sleeping beauty. Atropos = maleficent, and there is even a spinning wheel. Macbeth and the 3 witches, fate of MacBeth
- Hesperides
 - Guarded the Tree of Life and immoratlity
 - Is a guardian, and not a force of darkness
 - Tree of Golden apples = gift of Gaia to Hera as a wedding gift
 - "Ladies of the West"

