

Pandora's jar

According to legend, Zeus wanted to create a race of people. He ordered Prometheus [pro-MEE-thee-us], one of the Titans, to mold men and women out of clay in the likeness of the gods. Zeus then breathed life into the people.

Prometheus lived among the people and taught them how to build homes, grow plants, and hunt animals. He begged Zeus to give them fire so they

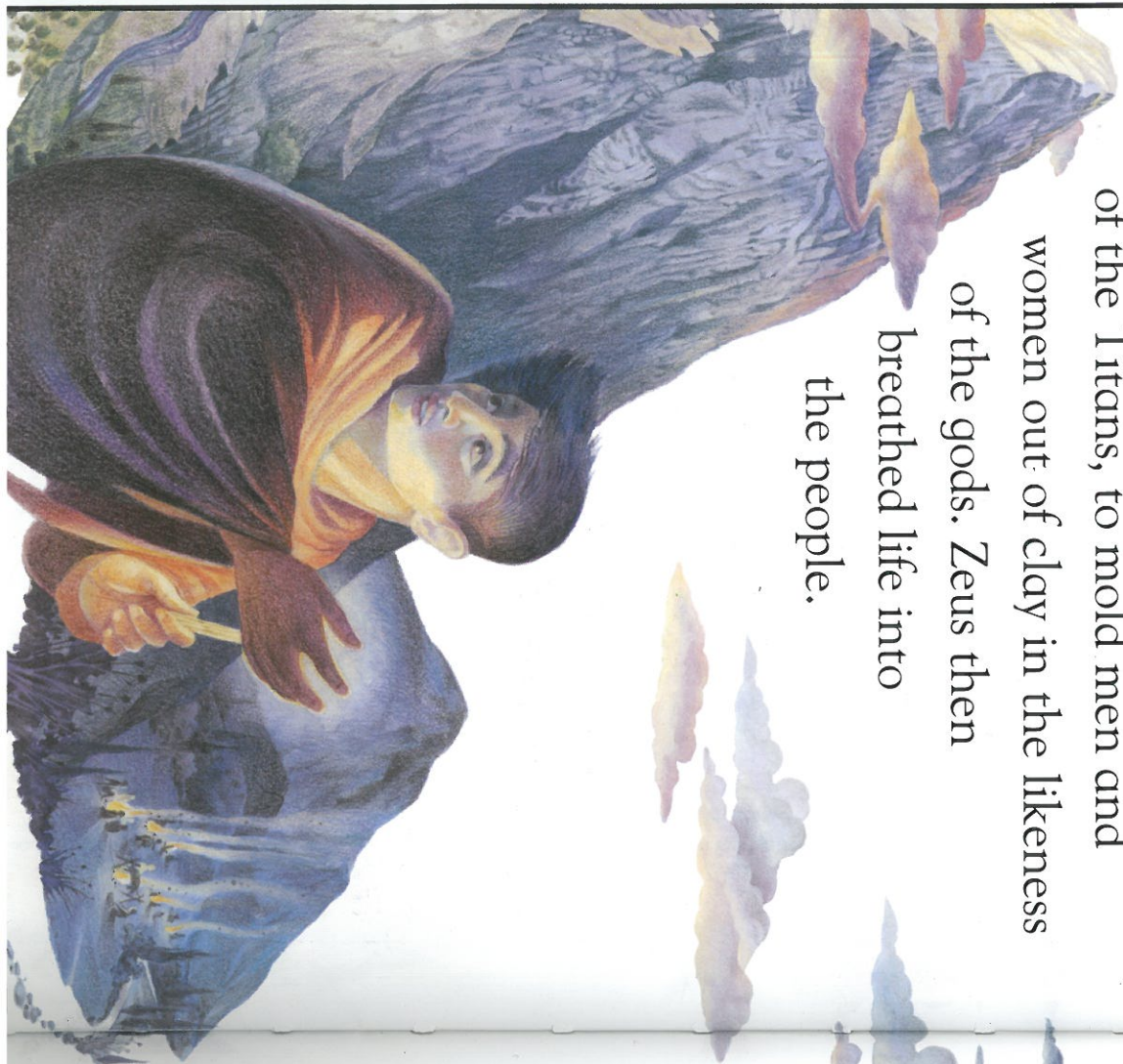
could cook and make metal tools, but Zeus refused.

"It will make them as powerful as the gods," he said.

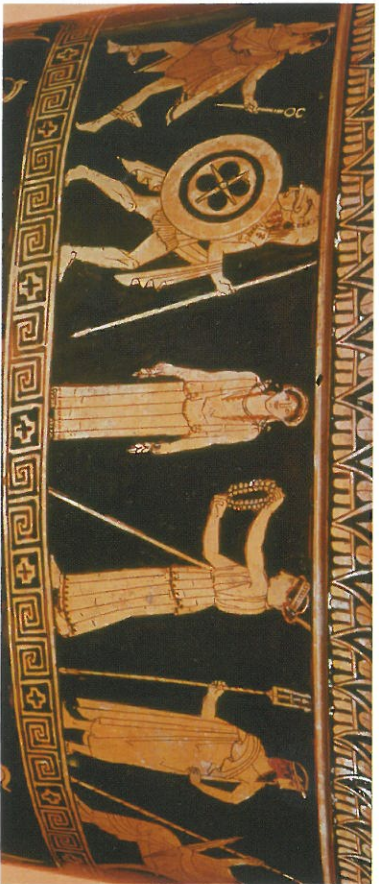
However, Prometheus stole some fire from the rising sun. When Zeus saw the people using fire, he was very angry and severely punished Prometheus.

Eternal punishment

For disobeying Zeus, Prometheus was chained to a high rock and had his liver torn out each day by an eagle. Since he was immortal, his liver grew back every night.



Zeus also wanted to punish the people, so he asked Hephaestus to make a woman in his blacksmith's fire. The gods gave her gifts, such as beauty, love, curiosity, and deceit. They named her Pandora meaning "all-gifted."



Pandora receives the gifts of beauty from Aphrodite, music from Apollo, and deceit from Hermes.

She was sent to Prometheus's brother, Epimetheus [e-puh-MEE-thee-us]. She was also given a jar, which she was forbidden to open.

Although his brother had warned him not to accept a gift from Zeus, Epimetheus was enchanted with Pandora and married her.

Pandora could not forget about the jar.

One day she peeked inside and all the evils flew out

into the world—

Sickness, Sin,
and Death.

As she closed the lid,
Hope was the only
thing left in the jar. ❖

