

# Hestia, hephaestus, and me essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

My Goddess match is Hestia. Her story is that she is the eldest daughter of the Titans Rhea and Chronos. Like the rest of his children, Chronos ate her upon her birth, but she was eventually regurgitated by him when Rhea tricked him into swallowing a stone rather than baby Zeus. Hestia stepped down from her position on the Olympic counsel, giving up her seat to Dionysus, to become the goddess of the hearth and she kept the hearth lit at Mount Olympus. As one of the Three Virgin Goddesses, along with Athena and Artemis, she ranked among the most respected and revered of the Goddesses.

One facet of Hestia's personality that I can really identify with is the extreme value she places of the home and family. I believe there is little more important than one's own family. Another facet is her representation of domestic life. By being the keeper of the hearth she is a symbol of domesticity. The third facet of her personality that I relate to is her contentedness to stay in the shadows and allow the fire to shine for her. I try to let my skills and actions to speak for me.

Hephaestus, the son of Zeus and Hera, is my God match. Sometimes it is said that Hera alone produced him and that he has no father. He is the only god to be described as physically ugly. He is also lame having been flung by Hera, for being so ugly, from Mount Olympus into the sea, breaking his legs. He enabled the birth of Athena by splitting the head of Zeus with his forging hammer. As the smith god he is the patron of metal workers and weavers. His wife Aphrodite, cheated on him with his brother Ares, in the bed Hephaestus had made for her, but Hephaestus got revenge on them because, as they lay in the bed chains emerged and trapped them there,

exposing them to the rest of the Olympians when Hephaestus called them all together to witness his adulterous wife and brother.

Being an artist I associate with Hephaestus' particular desire to create beautiful items, whether they are functional or not. I can also relate to how introverted he was. Fearing how they will treat me, I also don't enjoy being around lots of people. The one aspect of his personality I have trouble connecting to is his jealousy. He was jealous of how Hera treated him for being lame, and that his wife cheated on him. Personally, I am not really a jealous person. I feel that if a person feels jealousy it is more that they are insecure in themselves.

Hestia and Hephaestus mutually represent fire in their own ways, Hestia as the Goddess of the hearth, and Hephaestus and the God of the Forge. Just as you need fire to heat your home and cook your food, you also require it to soften metal to expedite its bending and shaping. These two also parallel each other by being known for their warmth, generosity and kindness. They are known to only venture from Mount Olympus on very rare occasions, preferring instead to stay home and tend to their familial obligations.

After discovering that my personality is so closely bond to Hestia and Hephaestus, and reading about their own traits, I was not surprised because of how close they parallel the Keirse Personality test we took at the beginning of the semester. As a guardian personality, I pride myself of being hard-working like Hephaestus, and dutiful like Hestia. Our traits of being dependable, helpful and focused on traditions also run deep. Guardians are the cornerstone of society and in the times of the Olympian Gods so was the

hearth. Knowing that Hestia was appointed as 'household manager' of Mount Olympus it makes sense when you read that people with the guardian personality have a natural talent in managing goods and service, and tend to use these skills to keep things running smoothly in their families, communities and businesses.

Upon discovering the God and Goddess that my personality most resembles, I was at first a little disappointed because they did not seem to be strong independent figures. However, once I did some more investigation into Hestia and Hephaestus, I realized that they are stronger than the other Olympians in many ways. Hestia is strong in that she has a great deal of responsibility as she oversees the day to day functionality of Mount Olympus. Without her there to 'make sure things get done' the Olympian Palace would fall into disorder and possibly even chaos. Hephaestus has had to find inner strength to deal with the ridicule over his personal appearance and the scorn over his disability. These are all things I have had to deal with my entire life. First it was mockery and teasing from my peers over my extreme weight and diminutive height, and later became total disregard of my skills, talents, and achievements. I realized that due to each these experiences I have become a stronger person and am better for it.

I pray that in the future I will be able to look towards my strengths and resolve any weaknesses. Confidence and strength of purpose are going to be key in using what I have learned to assist me in improving each day. Using my latent abilities to be a stable leader and dependable member of society should aid me in becoming successful in any path I choose to go down. This

knowledge can help me strengthen the bonds I have with my family, and hopefully help me add a few new members.