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THE APPLE OF DISCORD Thetis, a sea-nymph, and King Peleus were getting married. All the gods and goddesses were invited to the ceremony, except Ate, goddess of discord. She was not invited because she had a bad temper and often ruined parties. When the gods and goddesses discovered she had come to the ceremony anyways, she was kicked out. Upon leaving, she left a golden apple on a table, with a note reading “ to the fairest". All the goddesses began fighting over it, as they all thought they were the fairest. Eventually, it was narrowed down to three goddesses: Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite. The three asked Zeus to decide, but he would not because no matter which one he chose, his answer would seem biased. So he told Hermes to bring them to Mt. Ida to see Paris, the prince of Troy. The goddesses gave him the apple and told him to give it to the fairest. Athena was the first to speak and said that if he chose her, she would give him wisdom and glory in the eyes of men and gods. Hera spoke next and promised him power and wealth. Aphrodite was the last and promised him a wife as pretty as she was. Paris chose Aphrodite. The purpose of this myth is to: HERCULES AND THE GOLDEN APPLES Hercules, a prominent Greek hero, was born to Zeus and Alcmene, daughter of the King of Mycenae. Hera’s hatred for the children of Zeus was prevailing, especially children of a mortal like Hercules; hence, she swore to make Hercules’ life a true nightmare. From a powerful and strong baby grew a prevailing man, one in particular who married a beautiful wife and became a kind father to three children. Hera, acknowledging her vow to make Hercules’ life a nightmare, sent upon him madness, in which he was obliged to kill his three children and wife. Although Hercules’ crimes were committed as a result of madness, he was forced to serve as a slave for Eurystheus, King of Argos, for twelve months, accomplishing twelve potent labours that his master would set upon him. Amongst the twelve difficult labours, the eleventh was the most prominent, as Hercules would have to gather the golden apples of the Hesperides and bring them to Eurystheus. After his long journey to retrieve the golden apples, Hercules came upon Atlas, the being who held the heavens on his shoulders, and the one who knew where the golden apples are to be found. Atlas, in need of a short rest from his burden, promised to retrieve the golden apples for Hercules, and in return, Hercules would hold the heavens on his shoulders until Atlas’ return. Atlas enjoyed this feeling of freedom, and he didn’t wish to give it up so soon; however, Hercules, much more cunning and wise than Atlas, didn’t simply refuse the command with words. Instead, Hercules asked him with great innocence to help him place the heavens much more comfortably upon his shoulders, and it was at that moment that Hercules made his great escape with the golden apples in his hands. When Hercules presented the golden apples to his taskmaster, Eurystheus could not accept them, fearing the anger of Hera and questioning the right of the possession; therefore, he gave them back to Hercules to present them to Athene, in which she would replace them in the garden of Hesperides once they had arrived. The purpose of this myth is to: ARTEMIS AND ORION SUMMARY There was a goddess named Artemis and her brother the god, Apollo. One day a man named Orion, son of Poseidon saw some nymphs’ faces as they ran away so he followed them. The nymphs couldn’t escape him so the asked for help from Artemis. Just when Orion caught them, they turned into white pigeons and flew to towards the sky becoming white dots. Later, he met Artemis in person and they became great friends; they had a lot in common, but Apollo didn’t like this friendship. So he waited for a time when Orion was walking at sea (he could do this because he was the son of Poseidon), and Apollo tricked Artemis into shooting Orion by boasting of his skills of marksmanship to provoke her into proving her own marksmanship by shooting a shadow far out at sea. She hit the shadow with exact aim and the shadow disappeared beneath the waves. Later the waves lifted his body to shore and Artemis found out who she had shot, Orion. She wept bitterly, but since she couldn’t bring him back to life, she places him among the stars and he shines to this day. The purpose of this myth is to: The purpose of this myth is to: PANDORA’S BOX   One day when Prometheus tricked Zeus, Zeus was raging mad.   He took fire away from mankind.   Promethus re-acting immediately flew over to the Isle of Lemnos, where he knew Hephaestus had fire.   Prometheus took a torch of burning fie back to man kind.   Zeus, raging with anger set Hephaestus to make a woman out of clay with a human voice.   Athene breathed life into it, she taught the woman to weave and clothed her.   Aphrodite made her beautiful.   Hermes taught her to charm and deceive.   Zeus liked what he saw, but made her a trap.   He gave her to Epimetheus, brother of Prometheus.   Epimetheus immediately fell in love with her.   Pandora (the gift from Zeus) and Epimetheus were wed.   Zeus giving them a wedding gift - a box, that was not to be opened.   Zeus gave Epimetheus a key to the box, and warned him to not let Pandora open it.   Pandora often wondered what was in the box.   It became very important to her to know what it was so one day when she was left alone she took the key, fitted it in.   Once she opened it, everything bad in the world escaped such as disease, death, hate, crime and envy.   But one good thing was left in the box; hope.   The purpose of this myth is to: PHAETON AND THE FIERY STEEDS Phaeton is the offspring of the mighty sun god Apollo and the mortal woman named Clymene. Due to Apollo's prestigious duties, Phaeton rarely sees his father and his companions begin to question if Apollo really is his father. Filled with indignation and rage, Phaeton ventures out to seek his father on Olympic mountain; he bades farewell to his family and heads eastward. Upon arriving at the Land of The Rising Sun, he entered his father's majestic palatial domain and was astonished to be in the presence of such a powerful being.  Apollo received his son's arrival solicitously and listened patiently to his troubles. In an act of fervent love, Apollo swears that whatever his dear son asks of him, he will give him. Phaeton, who has secretly harboured a longing to drive Phaeton's chariot of fiery steeds, bravely states he wishes to drive the chariot which is essentially the sun. The sun god tries to persuade his son to choose another wish, but Phaeton persists, and much to his dismay, Phaeton sets off in the chariot. Without Apollo's experienced hand, the steeds become restless and crazed, and they stray far to close to the ground, setting terrifying fires everywhere. Out of desperation, Zeus hurls a thunder bolt at Phaeton; a fate he seemed destined for. The purpose of this myth is to: ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE           Orpheus, son of Apollo (the music/poetry/sun god), had a magical gift; the ability to make others feel a certain way, using music. He fell in love with a nymph named Eurydice and asked for her hand in marriage. At their wedding, Hymen's torch was dim, barely having a flame, which was an ill omen for the bride and groom. Soon after the wedding, sadly, Eurydice died of a snake bite to her ankle. Orpheus was heartbroken, and begged to Zeus to give him safe passage down to the underworld to recover his beloved. Orpheus, with some help from his music and Persephone (wife to Hades), persuades the underworld god to give him a chance to bring his love back. He is, however, warned that if he looks back once during the journey to the surface to check on his wife, she will disappear back to the underworld, reclaimed by Hades. Just before they arrive at the surface, Orpheus has the overwhelming urge to see his wife. Forgetting about Hades' warning, Orpheus looks back and Eurydice returns to the fiery depths of Hades' realm. Beside himself with grief, Orpheus goes to live in the forest, where he feels closest to Eurydice. Found by Dionysus' train of revellers, Orpheus attracts the women of the train with his good looks and beautiful, but woeful tunes. The women try to please him and make him happy, however Orpheus does not react to anything the female revellers try. Fraught with anger, the ladies kill Orpheus, leaving him to reunite with his lovely Eurydice. The purpose of this myth is to: