

Hades, the three brother gods, controlled the entire universe.

Now they only had to figure out how to divide their power. There were four realms: Heaven, Earth, the Sea, and the Underworld. At first, Earth seemed too unimportant for the gods to bother with, so they ignored it. Then they threw dice to decide who would rule the other kingdoms. Zeus won the first toss, and he chose Heaven as his realm. Poseidon was next, happy to take the Sea. Hades was left with the Underworld, the land of night, of sleep, and of death.

SHAPING LIFE ON EARTH

With the important matters settled, the gods began to consider the Earth. How should they arrange it? First they created all the natural features they could imagine to make it beautiful. They raised mountains, carved out valleys, and set water flowing in rivers or gathered it in pools. Then they brightened the whole Earth with trees, green plants, and flowers. At last they were ready to populate this lovely place with living creatures.

Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus were two Titans who had helped Zeus in the war. As their reward, the gods let them create the creatures of Earth. Prometheus' name means *foresight*, and he was even wiser than the gods, but Epimetheus means *afterthought*. He had none of his brother's wisdom. Without ever thinking ahead, Epimetheus went to Earth and began handing out presents to all the animals. He gave them speed

and courage, cunning and strength. He gave out fins, feathers, claws, and beaks, as well as fur for warmth. Suddenly he realized he had nothing left to give to humans! Frightened, he called on his wiser brother, Prometheus, for help.

Prometheus had already begun to mold a clay figure. Now he picked it up and changed its shape. He made the figure into the very image of the gods, standing upright and looking toward Heaven. Then Zeus's daughter, the goddess Athena breathed life into this creation. And so human-kind was born.

