



GATORMUN XXIII

**House of Hades: Revolution in the Realm of the
Dead**

Alexandra Zuercher

Letter to Delegates

Welcome to House of Hades: Revolution in the Realm of the Dead! I am incredibly excited to be directing this crisis committee and even more excited to see how delegates work with the topic, create ideas, and influence the room! I am Alexandra Zuercher, an Editing, Writing, and Media

major at Florida State University and I've been involved with Model UN for five years now. During high school I competed in many different conferences and since starting University I have been helping out at different Model UN conferences for High Schoolers in Florida.

Ever since I started doing crisis rooms in High School I knew I wanted to experience a topic like this one. If I never got to compete in it, I was determined to create it myself. My interest in Greek mythology started when my mother read them to me as bedtime stories. They were a comfort, and the natural progression from there was to read Percy Jackson in elementary school. As much as I love the story of the hero son of Poseidon, the original myths are even more beautiful to me. My favorite, by far, being that of Orpheus and Eurydice. Beyond just being interesting, a committee related to Greek mythology is such an exciting opportunity for delegates because of the amount of creative freedom available. The stories are endless with ideas to pull from and almost anything is possible in a world of Gods and monsters. I specifically thought that the House of Hades would be an exciting topic for delegates because of its delicate, yet incredibly powerful system. The House of Hades encompasses every dead soul—good and bad—and tries to instill order in an overpopulated and troublesome realm. It's been a relatively smooth operation ever since the overthrow of Kronos. Hades took control of the Underworld while his brothers, Zeus of Poseidon, became lords of the skies and the sea respectively. He runs a pretty tight ship, sorting souls into Elysium, the Fields of Asphodel, or the Fields of Punishment with the help of three judges, effectively weighing the value of each soul's life and deciding where to sort them for the remainder of eternity. What makes the House of Hades especially interesting is the inclusion of Tartarus—the darkest and deepest portion of the Underworld containing the prisoners of the gods. With direct access to Tartarus from Hades, what troubles will arise? What primordial forces will seek to wreak havoc? In this committee, delegates will participate as the council to Hades. His most trusted advisors and enforcers. Problems will be presented, solutions must be drafted, and Hades itself must be kept running smoothly. Delegates will have to handle revolts and rebellions, strange mythological occurrences and disruptions, and all the while try to keep every portion of the operation that is the realm of the dead running smoothly.

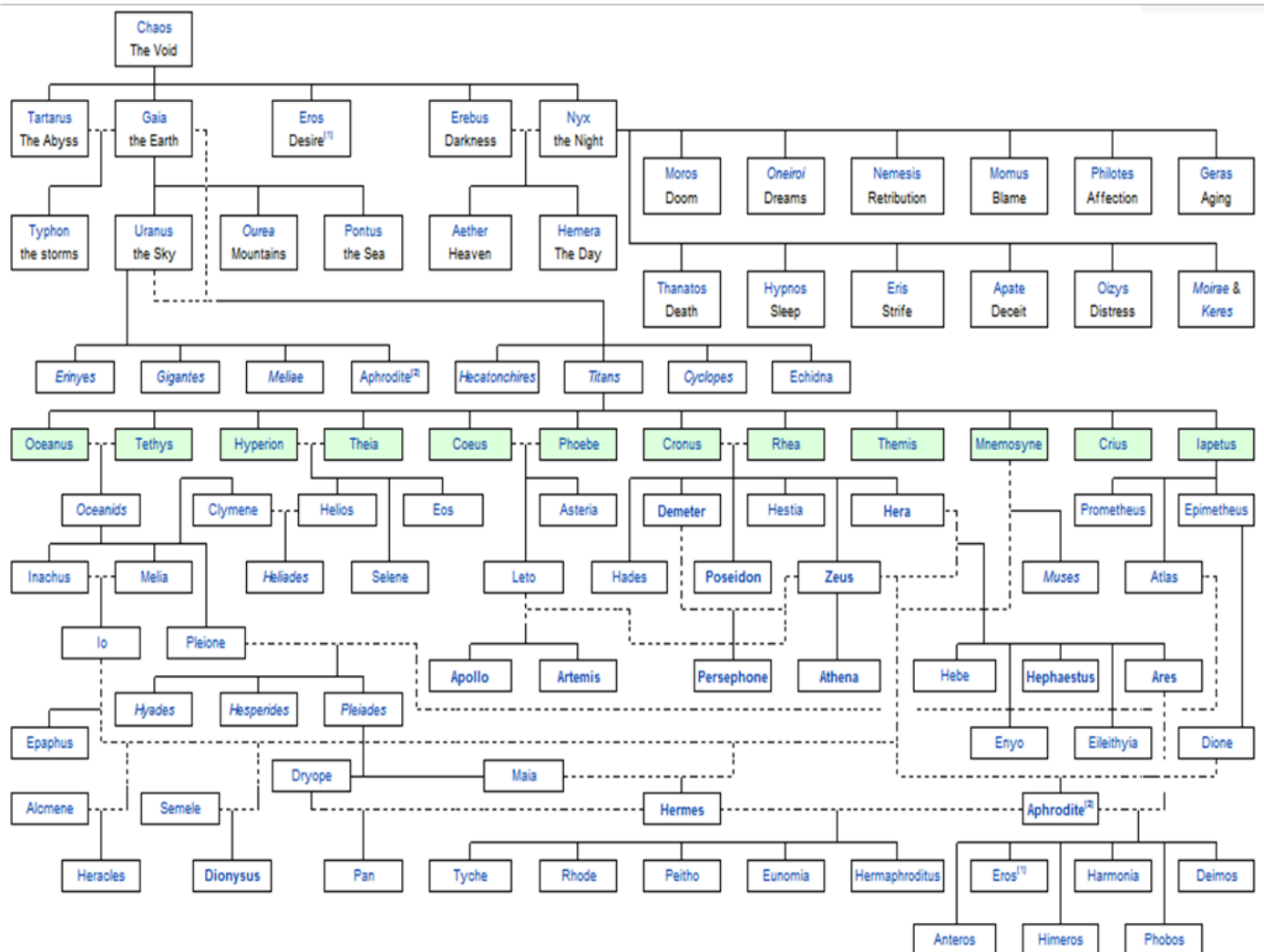
Delegates are expected to actively participate in debate, influencing committee decisions, calling for action against problems, and actively trying to improve the functional quality of the House of Hades. Along with this, delegates are expected to develop exciting crisis arcs to serve their personal interests—ones that influence the room as well. Committee members will be judged not only on their involvement in attacking problems and participating in debate, but their impact

(good or bad) on the room as a whole. The sky's the limit (or, I guess, the earth (since this is the Underworld)) when it comes to creative freedom. In a world of magic, monsters, and gods, anything is possible.

I am incredibly excited to see you all, and see what amazing ideas you've come up with, at GatorMUN! With any questions, please contact gatormun@gmail.com.

Alexandra Zuercher

A Family Tree



A Brief History

Before there was anything, there was Chaos. Chaos is the original primordial deity of Greek mythology—signifying the birth of the cosmos. Hesiod's *Theogony* cites Chaos's first offspring as Gaea (Earth), Tartarus (The Underworld), Eros (Desire), Erebus (Darkness), and Nyx (Night). From these beings, all that exists today was created.

Gaea, with her husband, Uranus, birthed the Titan race. Uranus, fueled by a prophecy that he would be overthrown by his offspring, hid his children in the depths of the Earth. This injustice led Cronus to ally with his mother Gaea, in a plot against his father. Armed with a sickle forged by Gaea, overthrew his father with the help of his brothers. They chained him down, keeping him from his domain, and cut him apart so he may no longer rule the cosmos. The Titan reign was referred to as the Golden Age—a period of peace and prosperity for humanity.

While Cronus, the Titan lord of time, ruled, he received a prophecy claiming he would be overthrown by his own offspring just as his father was. Cronus, in an attempt to avoid his prophecy, consumed his own children. Hades, Poseidon, Demeter, Hestia, and Hera were eaten by Cronus. Rhea, Cronus's sister and wife, took pity on their son Zeus. To avoid dooming him, she replaced him with a rock—giving that to Cronus to eat instead.

Zeus was raised in secret by the nymphs on the island of Crete. When he was strong enough he challenged his father, freeing his siblings and kicking off the Titanomachy.

The Titanomachy was the ten-year war between the Titan's and the Olympians. The Titans were based on Mount Othrys and the Olympians on Mount Olympus. The Olympians reigned victorious—imprisoning the Titans in the depths of Tartarus and taking complete rule for themselves.

Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades, at the start of their godly reign, decided to split the cosmos between themselves. Zeus became lord of the skies and king of Olympus, Poseidon was given the seas as his domain, and Hades, drawing the short stick, was given the Underworld.



This portion of mythology establishes the modern human order. It provides explanation for why things run the way they do, and highlights generational power conflict.

Hades, taking control of the Underworld, became the ruler of the dead. He oversaw the Underworld and all its functions and processes. Contrary to popular belief, Hades is not banished from Olympus. His responsibilities keep him in the Underworld, but he attends the Winter and Summer solstice meetings on Olympus. Hades's wife, Persephone, helps him keep this control. Persephone is the goddess of springtime and agriculture—daughter of Demeter and Zeus. In accordance to her original myth, Persephone ate six pomegranate seeds while in the Underworld. This binded her to return to the Underworld every year for six months. Despite her abduction, Persephone is a powerful figure in the Underworld as she rules alongside her husband.

The Underworld is by far the most populated domain. Every dead soul—mortal or otherwise—is bound to the Underworld. Hades is constantly working to maintain an orderly system and keep dead souls...*happy*.

The Pantheon



You can't hope to understand Greek mythology without understanding the Pantheon. The Pantheon consists of the twelve major Greek gods—Zeus being their leader.

Zeus is the youngest of his siblings, but freeing his brothers and sisters from Cronus's stomach qualified him as fit to rule the Pantheon. Zeus is lord of the skies, thunder, and lightning. He's often depicted holding his master bolt—a Cyclopes-made rod, about eight feet long, made of celestial bronze and crackling with raw electricity. As well as being Lord of the Skies, he is said to be god of law and justice. Zeus's sacred animals are the eagle and the bull. Zeus is known as an angry figure in Greek mythology—often meddling with mortal lives in a destructive way, much to his wife, Hera's, displeasure.

Poseidon is the second of the three brothers. He is god of the seas—ruling from his own palace deep in the ocean. Poseidon is the father of horses and often depicted holding a trident—his own powerful Cyclopes-made weapon. Poseidon is a volatile god—swinging between great



kindness and a destructive nature. Should any mortals have to take to the seas, it's wise they pray to Poseidon for safe passage on their journey. Poseidon's sacred animals are the horse and the dolphin.



Hades is the third of the three brothers—Lord of the Dead and ruler of the Underworld. Besides his common association with death, Hades is considered gods of wealth and precious minerals. He rarely interacts with the living, choosing to stay in his domain rather than in the upper world, but is not inherently evil, despite what most believe. Hades's symbol of power is his helm of darkness. The Cyclops made this helmet for him, granting him the ability to become completely invisible, not even detectable by other gods. He used this weapon during the Titanomachy, but was known to sometimes lend it to others. Hades's sacred animals are the screech owl, Cerberus, the black ram, and other black animals.

Hera is the sister of the three major gods and wife to Zeus. She is Queen of Olympus, goddess of marriage, women, family, and childbirth. Hera is a powerful and imposing figure, though often jealous of Zeus's many lovers, making her rather vengeful towards his demigod children and their parents. Hera is often depicted holding a scepter with a lotus leaf on top and her sacred animals are the peacock and the cow.



Demeter is another sister of the three major gods and goddess of grains, the harvest, agriculture, and fertility.

Demeter is a powerful mother figure in Greek mythology—considering her involvement in crops and human life as well as her actions in the myth of Persephone and the creation of seasons. Her common symbols are sheaves of wheat, a cornucopia, and a torch. Her sacred animals are the snake, the pig, and the spotted lizard.



Hestia is the last of the six oldest gods and goddess of the hearth and home. She is the firstborn child of the Titans Cronus and Rhea, and though originally one of the twelve Olympians, she gave up her seat to Dionysus upon his ascension to god-hood. Hestia is the goddess of the

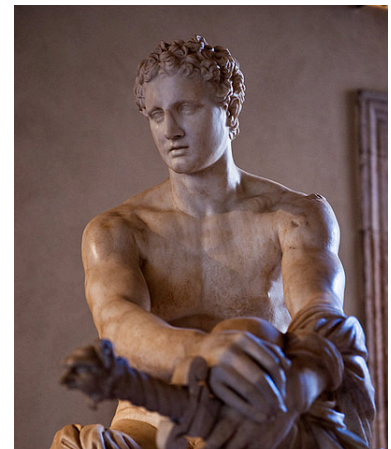


sacred fire—central in every home and civic center. Her sacred animals are the crane and the donkey.



Athena is the goddess of wisdom and battle strategy. She was born as an idea—erupting directly from Zeus’s head. She is often depicted wearing a helmet and holding a spear, completely ready for battle. She is the patron goddess of the city of Athens—winning their favor after bestowing upon them the first olive tree. Athena’s symbols are the olive branch and the owl. She is one of the two Greek gods concerning war and battle.

Ares is the Greek god of war. While Athena represents the strategy of war, he represents its brutality. Ares is the son of Zeus and Hera and famous lover of Aphrodite. His symbols include the spear, helmet, shield, and a chariot pulled by fire-breathing horses. His sacred animal is the boar. He is portrayed in a negative attitude considering his destructive and chaotic nature. His Roman counterpart, Mars, encompassed strategy as well as bloodshed, making him much more respected.



Aphrodite is the daughter of Uranus, born from sea foam. She is the goddess of love and beauty and wife to Hephaestus. Upon her birth, Zeus realized she was too beautiful and would be bothered by the other gods unless she took a husband. He married her to Hephaestus but Aphrodite, unhappy in this marriage, is popularly known to run off with Ares. Aphrodite’s symbols are seashells, myrtle, and roses. Her sacred animals are the dove and the swan. Aphrodite is most famous in Greek mythology for her involvement in the Trojan war—a war started for love.

Hephaestus is the son of Zeus and Hera and god of fire, blacksmiths, metalwork, and the forge. He is a craftsman god, developing marvelous inventions and typically withdrawn from society. Upon his birth, Hera thought he was so ugly that she threw him off of Mount Olympus in an attempt to kill him. Her efforts were unsuccessful, and he returned to marry Aphrodite. He is depicted as having a withered foot because of his fall. Hephaestus is closely associated with fire and volcanoes, his workshops often said to be inside volcanoes and the reason

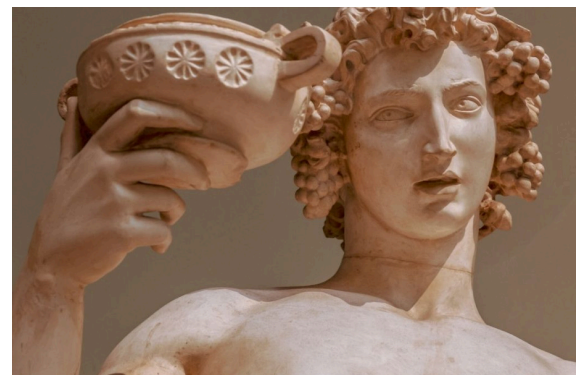


for cosmic activity. Hephaestus's symbols of power are the hammer and the anvil, and his sacred animals are the donkey and the crane.

Apollo and Artemis are the twin children of Leto and Zeus. They are the gods of the sun and moon, respectively. Apollo is also the god of poetry, music, medicine, plague, and fate. He is often depicted riding the sun chariot through the sky and is known for his involvement with the Oracle of Delphi—the speaker of prophecies. Apollo, also god of archery, is often depicted with a bow or a lyre. His sacred animal is the python—a serpent he himself bested. Artemis is the younger twin—goddess of the hunt, wild animals, and leader of the hunters. The hunters are a group of immortal maidens who live to serve Artemis. Artemis is also an archer, making her symbol of power a bow and arrow. She is also depicted by the crescent moon. Her sacred animal is the deer.



Dionysus is the final of the twelve Olympians. He started his life as a demigod son of Zeus and Semele, a princess of Thebes. Semele was tricked by Hera into asking Zeus to reveal himself in his true form while pregnant with Dionysus and therefore died. Zeus, guilty of this, rescued Dionysus and sewed him into his thigh to complete the gestation period. Dionysus is known as the twice-born god. He lived a full demigod life, but upon becoming an immortal, Dionysus became god of wine, religious ecstasy, insanity, and theatre. Dionysus's symbol of power is the thyrsus—a staff topped with a pinecone. His sacred animals are the leopard, panther, and goat.



Dying: A Step-By-Step

When a mortal dies there is a very exact process that occurs. Hades has perfected(ish) the system. To preface, the mortal must not follow the Greek mythological expectations for the Underworld. The mortal will see whatever it is they expect to see.

First, the mortal is guided to the River Styx by Hermes. There, Charon, Hades's ferryman, requests payment for passage across the River Styx and to the Underworld. If a mortal does *not* come with appropriate payment (a few Greek drachmas), they are refused entry until further notice. The wait may be thousands of years.



Once the journey through the River Styx is complete, the mortal will disembark Charon's ferry and face judgment. Cerberus, the fifty-headed monster with the body of a dog and a serpent's tail guards the entrance to the Underworld. Cerberus stops the dead from leaving and the living from entering.

Once past Cerberus, mortals face judgment. There are three potential outcomes for a mortal. They may be sent to Elysium, they may be sent to the Fields of Asphodel, or they may be sent to the Fields of Punishment. Tartarus is another sector of the Underworld but is reserved for enemies of the gods.



If admitted entrance to Elysium, the mortal has two options: stay there or try for rebirth. To reach the Isles of the Blessed a mortal must have lived three lives, reaching Elysium in each. The Isles of the Blessed is the ultimate paradise for heroes.

The Fields of Asphodel are quite simple. They are the place for souls with no particularly good or bad weight in the cosmos. The Fields of Asphodel are an in-between zone where the dead wander about without

much purpose or distinction. The Fields of Asphodel are absent of any joy or suffering and are associated with forgetfulness because residents drink from the river that runs through it—the River Lethe.

The Fields of Punishment are reserved for the worst mortal souls. Characters like Sisyphus, Ixion, Tantalus, and the Danaides, reside there. Punishments for these mortals are handcrafted by the Furies—Hades’s henchmen.

The Myth of Persephone



Persephone is queen of the Underworld, ruling side-by-side with her husband, Hades. Her story is insightful to the dynamic of the Underworld and how Hades rules. There are different versions of it—as there are for every Greek myth—but the most common adaptation cites that Persephone was gathering flowers in a meadow when Hades burst through the Earth in his chariot to kidnap her. Zeus, Hades’s brother, had permitted Hades to kidnap Persephone to be his wife, but Persephone’s mother, Demeter, was distraught. As goddess of agriculture and harvest, Demeter wreaked havoc on the mortal world by plunging them into a devastating famine—an eternal winter. Zeus, upon seeing the impact Persephone’s kidnapping had on Demeter, and therefore humanity, instructs Hades to allow Persephone to return to the upper world. Unfortunately, Persephone, while being in the Underworld, had eaten six pomegranate seeds from Hades’s garden. Pomegranates are the food of the Underworld—a symbol of Hades’s realm. Because Persephone ate six seeds, she was destined to spend six months each year with Hades in his palace. This myth explains the seasons of the year as being Demeter’s sadness at the lack of her daughter. Persephone, though saddened at first, grew to love Hades and now happily rules his kingdom by his side. Persephone’s original name was Kore—meaning *maiden*—however, as she took to ruling the Underworld with Hades she changed it to Persephone—bringer of death.

Persephone appears besides Hades in several myths. She's often depicted as his kinder counterpart. She was the one who encouraged Hades to allow Orpheus to return to the mortal world with Eurydice, and she helped Herakles free Theseus from the Underworld. When it comes to Hades's and Persephone's marital dynamic—Persephone calls the shots. What Persephone wants, Hades does, which means their marriage is one of the happiest in Greek mythology.

The Rivers of The Underworld

There are five rivers that run through the Underworld. The Acheron, Cocytus, Phlegethon, Styx, and Lethe.

“And the crag of Acheron dripping with gore can hold you.” A curse referenced in Aristophanes's *Frogs*. The Acheron is the river of woe and misery, full of miserable thoughts and souls. In the upper world, the Acheron fed from a lake called Acherousia and flowed through wild landscapes, dipping in and out of the Underworld until it fed into the Ionian sea. Plato in "The Phaedo" described Acheron as "the lake to the shores of which the souls of the many go when they are dead, and after waiting an appointed time, which is to some a longer and to some a shorter time, they are sent back again to be born as animals."



“A most unlovely way” is the perfect way to describe the River Cocytus. Referenced in Homer's “Odyssey”, the River Cocytus is also called the River of Wailing, a river of cries and lamentation. Souls who were refused by Charon because of a lack of payment would be doomed to spend eternity wandering the banks of this river.

The River Cocytus is one of the rivers that flows into the Acheron and starts as a branch of the Styx. “Streams of lava which spout up at various places on Earth are offshoots from it,” Plato says. “It” being the River Phlegethon. The River Phlegethon is known as the River of Fire, traversing to the deepest

parts of the Underworld that are filled with fire—Tartarus, where the Titan’s are imprisoned. The River Phlegethon has a unique quality. Its waters are made entirely of fire, burning at the touch, but should they be *consumed*, they can heal a mortal. This was primordially designed to allow for the continuation of torture in near-death conditions.

“The dread river of oath,” Homer called the River Styx. The River Styx is the most well-known river in the Underworld, flowing from Oceanus. In Greek, the word *styx* means to hate or abhor, and it was named after the river nymph daughter of Oceanus and Tethys. The River Styx is famous from the myth of Achilles—it is the river in which his mother dipped him to make him incomprehensibly strong and immortal. Charon also ferries newly dead souls across the River Styx to Cerberus, who greets them at the entrance to the Underworld. Zeus used a golden jug of water from the Styx to settle disputes among the gods. If a god swore falsely by the water he would be deprived of nectar and ambrosia for a year and banished from the company of other gods for nine years. Mortals are also known to swear on the River Styx. If their oaths are broken, they face a fate worse than death.



“Me, not the oblivious banks of Lethe’s stream, have made me forgetful.” Lucan quotes the ghost of Julia in *Pharsalia*. The River Lethe is the River of Forgetfulness. It is a crucial river in the Underworld, as all the souls of Asphodel must drink from it to wipe their memories. The River Lethe is so strong that it may even wipe the minds of gods and Titans.

Enemies of The Gods

Tartarus is the eternal prison for enemies of the gods. The Titans dwell in Tartarus, as well as many other terrifying beings. Titans, like the gods, are immortal beings. They have souls, and (despite the title of immortality) can actually die. Monsters, on the other hand, are better referred to as *archetypes*. They do not have souls, and therefore can regenerate endlessly. Tartarus is the birthplace for all monsters. When they are slain in the mortal world their beings return to Tartarus



where they are reformed and can reenter the mortal world through the Doors of Death.

There are hundreds of different ferocious monsters to watch out for in Greek mythology. Some of the most famous are the Minotaur, the chimera, the hydra, Medusa, the sirens, Cyclopes, and harpies. Except for those born from tragedy, every monster comes from the same mother: Echidna. Monsters are not typically known to attack mortals, but they have been cited as bothering villages, attacking demigods, and fighting in conjunction with the Titans and giants during their wars against the gods. Echidna's husband, Typhon, is the gods' worst enemy. Typhon is a monstrous giant depicted as a serpentine creature with hundreds of heads. He challenged Zeus for his throne, but was defeated and trapped under Mount Etna, where he still resides to this day. His plight is often associated with natural phenomenon, as the giants are.

Titans are Tartarus's most popular residents, but they are not the only enemies of the gods. Some of the giants, a mortal race of children from Gaea and Uranus, are also imprisoned there. The giants also waged war on the Olympians—The Gigantomachy.

The Gigantomachy took place after the Titanomachy. It was a fiercely fought battle between the Olympians and the giants driven by the giant's desire to overthrow the gods and claim what was rightfully theirs. The giants formed from the blood of Uranus after his death and they often possessed immense size, strength, and unique physical features such as extra limbs or animal limbs. The giants represent the eternal struggle between power and chaos. They are represented in various ancient texts such as Hesiod's *Theogony* and Homeric epics.

There were hundreds of giants, but twelve of them were specifically created to counter the Olympians. The giants were encouraged to wreak havoc against the gods by their mother



Gaea, who was upset with the fate of her son, Cronus. They were unable to directly challenge the gods, but they wreaked havoc wherever they went—explosions, natural disasters, and other events that could desolate humanity. Zeus discovered that the giants had a specific fate—they could only be killed by demigods. Many giants were killed, but the surviving giants were imprisoned in Tartarus.

The Current Situation



Recently, things have been going a bit wrong. Overpopulation is proving to be a catastrophe in the Underworld. The Fields of Asphodel seem uneasy, the wait times to see the judges of the dead are outrageous, and damned souls are flooding in faster than punishments can be dished out. Hades is a busy guy. He can't be doing it all by himself. To try to relieve his stress, Persephone encouraged her husband to create an advisory council.

The role of the advisory council is simple: keep Underworld peace, identify and address problems, and don't bother Hades unless necessary. Should the Underworld fail, more than just the dead will be in trouble. The Underworld is also the barrier between Tartarus and the mortal world. Without Hades's supervision, who knows what could crawl out of there?

Guiding Questions:

1. How can the Advisory Council address and correct problems like traffic, civil unrest, and potential rebellion? What safety measures should be in place?
2. How can the Advisory Council address the extreme overpopulation problem?
3. Is it Hades's responsibility to oversee the security of Tartarus, or should this be an Olympian group effort? If so, how can the Olympians be convinced to help?
4. Is Hades fit to rule the Underworld alone? No other god has a responsibility like Hades's. Is it too much for him to handle?
5. How can responsibilities be divided between council members and deities to ensure mortal compliance with regulations?
6. Should the Underworld secede from Olympus? Should it have to comply with Zeus's demands?

Position List

Alecto

Alecto is one of the three Furies. Alecto is the goddess of vengeance. She is known specifically for punishing mortal crimes fueled by anger and rage. Alecto, along with her sisters, oversees the Fields of Punishment, deciding on the appropriate punishment for mortals. The Furies are feared in the mortal world and even referencing them is considered bad luck. When necessary, mortals will refer to the Furies as The Eumnides or Semnai. Alecto is permitted to enter the mortal world to pursue the wicked.

Tisiphone

Tisiphone is one of the three Furies. She is the avenger of murder, especially where family members are involved. Tisiphone resides over the Fields of Punishment with her sisters, deciding on the appropriate punishment for mortals, but is also guardian of the gates to Tartarus. The Furies are feared in the mortal world and even referencing them is considered bad luck. When necessary, mortals will refer to the Furies as The Eumnides or Semnai.

Megaera

Megaera is one of the three Furies. She is the first of her sisters to emerge from Tartarus and acts as a messenger for Hades, travelling between the House of Night in Tartarus and Hades. She is known for causing jealousy and punishing crimes, particularly those of infidelity. Megaera resides over the Fields of Punishment with her sisters, deciding on the appropriate punishments for mortals. The Furies are feared in the mortal world and even referencing them is considered bad luck. When necessary, mortals will refer to the Furies as the Eumnides or Semnai.

Charon

Charon is the Ferryman of Hades. He guides dead souls across the River Styx, offering them passage to the Underworld. He is the son of Nyx and Erebus and depicted as a stern and aged figure. Souls must pay Charon for passage. It became custom to put a golden drachma under the tongue of the dead. Those who can not afford it are doomed to wander the shores of the rivers for hundreds of years.

Thanatos

Thanatos is the Greek god of Death. He ensures the crossing of dead souls to the underworld and oversees the Doors of Death. He is son to Nyx and Erebus and twin brother to Hypnos. Unlike Hades, who rules the Underworld, Thanatos is the god of the act of death itself. Thanatos is said to be extraordinarily beautiful—comparable to Eros, god of love, though death is sometimes kinder.

Hecate

Hecate is the triple-headed goddess of magic, crossroads, and the night. She may assist souls in their journey to the Underworld. She is portrayed as powerful and fearsome but is known for her protectiveness towards those who are marginalized and oppressed. Hecate is known in Greek mythology for training sorceresses like Circe and Medea, and is an incredibly skilled witch. Hecate's three forms are the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone.

Hippolyta

Hippolyta is the former queen of the Amazons. She is the daughter of Ares and Otrera, the first queen of the Amazons, and most famously known for her girdle, which Herakles stole as part of his ninth labor for Hera. She is the wife of Theseus. She represents the strength and independence of the Amazons. Her military prowess earned her a position in Hades's advisory council as a foremost military strategist and strategos of Hades's army of the dead. Hippolyta isn't known to work well with men, but she is a fierce ruler and strategist.

Morpheus

Morpheus is the son of Hypnos and the god of dreams. He is considered a messenger god, appearing to mortals in their dreams to deliver warnings and often forming dreams themselves. Morpheus is often depicted as a winged figure—sometimes a demon. Morpheus is the leader of the Oneiroi and dwells in Erebus in a cave full of poppies. Morpheus is kinder than his brothers, Phobetor and Phantasos, but he still reigns as a powerful and threatening entity.

Melinoe

Melinoe is the daughter of Zeus and Persephone, goddess of ghosts, nightmares, and funerary rites. She is known for wandering the Earth at night with a train of ghosts, causing fear and madness in mortals. She can influence mortal behavior with her overwhelming presence of dread and fear. Due to her godly status and involvement with the process of death, she is appointed to Hades's advisory council. Hades trusts her as a lookout in the upper world and a constant reminder to mortals of the power of the realm of Hades.

Hypnos

Hypnos is the god of sleep, twin brother to Thanatos. He uses the powers of the River Lethe to induce forgetfulness and drowsiness, putting people to sleep by pouring the liquid from his horn. He is one of the dearest friends of the muses, a calm, gentle god who helps humans in need, and due to sleep owns half their lives. Hypnos is depicted as a young, gentle man with wings sprouting from his shoulder blades or temples.

Orpheus

Orpheus is a legendary musician and prophet who travelled with Jason and the Argonauts in search of the golden fleece. He helped Jason's crew pass the sirens on their trip. He is one of the handful of Greek heroes to visit the Underworld and return to the land of the living, as he went looking for his late wife Eurydice. Upon his death, Hades appointed him to his advisory council and entrusted him as the head of godly entertainment, as well as monitor of potential horrible prophecies, though he doesn't seem to be as good of a prophet since his death.

King Minos

King Minos is one of Hades's judges of the dead. He is the former King of Crete, son of Zeus and Europa. Despite his Minotaur debacle, he was considered a just ruler who established a powerful navy and strong legal system. He is credited with colonizing the Aegean islands and ridding the seas of pirates. King Minos is the leader of the three judges and has the final say over a soul's fate.

Daedalus

Daedalus is a skillful architect. He is the son of Athena, goddess of wisdom and battle strategy, and best known for his invention of the Labyrinth on the island of Crete. Near the end of his life, he fled into his own Labyrinth, never to be seen again by mortals. Upon his death, Hades appointed him to his advisory council and tasked him with overseeing infrastructure development in the Underworld. Daedalus works closely with Medea as well, creating unique inventions to protect and improve the Underworld.

Achilles

Achilles, son of Peleus and Thetis, was known as one of the greatest warriors of Greek mythology. He is the hero of the Trojan War. Achilles is unimaginably strong, but most known for his biggest weakness: his heel. To prepare him for war, his mother dipped him in the River Styx, making him indestructible in battle except for the spot on his heel by which she dipped him. After his death, Hades appointed him to his advisory council and tasked him with supervising the rivers of the Underworld—warning any curious mortals to stay away lest they suffer his fate.

Pandora

Pandora is the first woman, created by the gods as punishment for mankind after Prometheus stole fire from them. Each of the gods gave her a divine gift upon her creation, as well as a jar containing all the evils of the world, instructing her not to open it. Her curiosity betrayed her, and she opened the jar, releasing all except hope and ending the Golden age. Upon her death, Hades took pity on her and saw her value. She has glimpsed every evil of the world as they escaped from her jar. Hades appointed Pandora to his advisory council and tasked her with assisting the Furies in tailoring punishments for mortals.

Odysseus

Odysseus is the legendary Greek king of Ithaca. Odysseus was favored by the goddess Athena, and she guided him through the Trojan War and his Odyssey. Odysseus is famous for having the idea of the Trojan horse and his perilous struggles as he tried to make it home to his wife, Penelope. After his death, Odysseus was sent to Elysium, and Hades appointed him to his advisory council as representative of heroes and appointed him ruler of Elysium itself.

Meneleus

Meneleus was the leader of the Spartan army in the Trojan War. Upon his death, he was promoted to head of security in the Underworld. He is Cerberus's caretaker and supervises every dead soul that enters the underworld—monitoring for potential threats. Meneleus was the brother of Agamemnon and husband of Helen, who fled to Troy with the Trojan prince, Paris. Meneleus is enjoying his retirement in the Underworld. He takes his job seriously, but you can also find him playing with Cerberus when he thinks nobody's watching.

Herakles

Most myths claim Herakles was made a god after his death, but the truth of his destiny is much more impressive. Herakles was the son of Zeus, named "the glory of Hera" to honor Zeus's wife. Herakles is most famous for his twelve labors, assigned to him as penance for killing his wife. Upon his death, Herakles was appointed to Hades's advisory council and dubbed 'hall monitor'. Herakles's job is to monitor the Fields of Asphodel, making sure all the dead souls there aren't up to anything suspicious. Occasionally, he receives orders to supervise other parts of the Underworld as well. He works closely with Meneleus.

Theseus

Son of Poseidon, Theseus is most famed for slaying the Minotaur. He is also credited with unifying Athens into a single kingdom and establishing the Panathenaia. Theseus is one of the few heroes to journey to the Underworld and make it back to the upper world. Hades is never one to underestimate those heroes. Due to these feats, upon death, Hades appointed him to his advisory council and assigned him to monitor Underworld resident satisfaction rates. Any complaints go straight to Theseus!

Medea

Granddaughter of the god Helios, Medea is a sorceress and princess of Colchis. Medea is famous for assisting Jason, her former husband, and his Argonauts steal the Golden Fleece, which had been her father's possession. Medea's life took a dark turn, but Hades saw the value of her, and appointed her to his advisory council. Medea works closely with Hecate, as she is her former student of magic, and helps guide prying living mortals *away* from the Underworld. She also works closely with Daedalus, cooking up unique inventions to protect and improve the Underworld.

Bellerophon

Bellerophon is a son of Poseidon and a divine Corinthian hero. Bellerophon is famous for killing the Chimera and taming the winged horse, Pegasus, on which he attempted to fly up to Olympus. Another hero misled by the gods, Bellerophon was struck down from his flight, fell to the ground, and died. Upon his death, Hades saw the value of his anger and assigned him to his advisory council. Bellerophon's hubris may make him an enemy to Zeus, but Hades believes that Bellerophon is right to think himself worthy of greatness. Now, besides his position on the advisory council, Bellerophon is also the rancher of the Underworld—taming and caring for Hades's skeleton horses, flesh-eating sheep, and holy cows.

Atalanta

Atalanta is one of the only female heroes in Greek mythology. She is Princess of Arcadia and was a member of the Argonauts. She was a follower of Artemis, therefore a maiden huntress, and impressed upon the ancient world with her athletic prowess, speed, and archery skills. Upon death, Hades saw her value as a skilled warrior, and brilliant huntress. Besides appointing her to his advisory council, Hades tasked her with scouting the mortal world—looking out for threats and reporting back to Hades. She was always stealthy, but taking on the form of a ghost ensures no mortals will witness her.

Akhlys

Akhlys is the goddess of misery and poisons. Her power comes not only from impressive emotional manipulation—inciting waves of misery upon mortals, but also her expertise in all things poisonous. Akhlys used to dwell in Tartarus by choice, but Hades requested she come to his realm to assist on his advisory council, promising her gardens of all her favorite deadly flowers. Nightshade, belladonna, and hemlock are just a few of the beautiful poisons she can grow with just a snap of her finger.

Agamemnon

Agamemnon was the King of Mycenae and commander of the Achaeans during the Trojan War. He is the brother of Menelaus and agreed to help his brother fight for the return of Helen, starting the Trojan War. He was a great warrior and leader, making him useful to Hades, and the betrayal that led to his demise made Agamemnon a rather vengeful spirit. Agamemnon doesn't trust the Olympians, especially Artemis and Aphrodite, but being able to control some of his fate from his position on the advisory council is a comfort to him. Hades also declared Agamemnon to be the polemarch of his skeleton army of the dead.

Perseus

Perseus is a son of Zeus, most famous for his victory over the gorgon, Medusa, as well as saving Andromeda from the sea monster. He is one of the only Greek heroes to get a happy ending in life, but unfortunately, nobody can outrun death. Perseus is sympathetic to the Olympians—eternally grateful for Athena and Hermes’s help on his quests, and conscious of his luck to have lived happily with his wife. Upon his death, Hades appointed him to his advisory council in recognition of his great feats as a mortal. Along with this, Hades entrusted Perseus with the keys to the Underworld. He understands Perseus to have lived a long and happy life, and trusts him to recognize the rule of death and not misuse the keys.