

The Birth of Hunting, Farming, and a New Culture

[total words: 761]

There was a time when people only ate the plants they could find. They would wander around the land and eat whatever berries and plants they found. However, Demeter would change the seasons and they would have to go elsewhere for their food. But there came a time when humans wanted to eat more than raw plants, and stay in one area. So Zeus, king of the gods, put birds in the sky, his domain, for the people to kill for food. But no one was to kill an eagle. If that were to happen, Zeus would unleash a great thunder storm striking down the one who had killed his sacred bird.

Now the people needed a way to kill the birds in the sky, so Apollo taught them how to use a bow and arrow to shoot them down. Whenever they needed help with hunting birds, hunters would call on Apollo to guide their arrow, but only during the day, for Apollo was the god of the sun.

Some couldn't master the bow and needed a different way to collect food. Poseidon heard of their worries and disguised himself as a human to talk to them. The people who he talked to all complained about the bow and how hard using one was. In response, Poseidon, still in the form of a man, taught them how to fish with a trident. The men who were there were amazed and realized that Poseidon had visited them. They became the first fishermen.

There had been land animals roaming the land for as long as anyone could remember, but never had anyone dared hunted them. Then Artemis heard that her brother, Apollo, had taught the humans how to hunt the birds, and she became jealous. She taught many hunters how to track land animals and where to strike to kill them quickly. She even taught them how to track animals in the night, as long as the moon was out. Artemis was goddess of the moon, so she was able to guide hunters while it shined.

Once people began eating these new foods, some began to fall ill. Seeing this, Athena designed the stove, and had Hephaestus, the blacksmith god, build it. Hephaestus taught humans how to control the fire and how to use it to cook the meat. Athena also helped create farming. People were going hungry when Demeter mourned her daughter's return to the underworld and brought winter upon the Earth; the animals left and the normal plants they ate would die. To solve this, Athena, being the wisest of the gods, taught them how to plant their own food, how to store it, and how to preserve the leftover meat.

When Hera, queen of the gods, heard that Artemis had taught humans how to hunt land animals, she was terrified that they would begin to kill cows, her sacred animal. To prevent this, she went to a married couple (she was the goddess of marriage after all!) and taught them how to use cows to farm

the land. Hera is responsible for making farming much less strenuous.

Hades, the king of the underworld, wasn't very concerned with the farming and hunting practices of humans, but when people began to plant crops with roots that went too deep, he felt pity and lowered the bedrock to allow deep rooted plants to grow. Remember, Hades is god of everything below the earth.

Dionysus, who was already very fond of the grape vine, taught humans how to make wine from grapes. Hermes, the god of trade, then introduced humans to trade, and how to get a good deal for their harvest or game. He flew among them, quick as a flash, and either played tricks or helped in the trade depending on his mood.

Ares took no interest in farming or hunting or trading because he was the god of bloody warfare, the practices of humans meant very little to him. However, when one of Hermes's tricks lead to a feud between two groups, war over farms and animals broke out; Ares payed much more attention to farming after that.

The finishing touches of this new culture were put there by Aphrodite. She saw that the parents, who loved their children, couldn't get their kids to eat some of the food that they had farmed. So she put love and patience in their hearts to keep trying, and some mischief. This is how so many parents can trick their kids in to eating the food they don't like.