

Archetypes and Symbols

What archetype from Greek Mythology do you most closely relate to?

12 Archetypes in Greek Mythology

The most established archetypes from Greek culture are:

Zeus - The Ruler

Greek god of the sky, lightning and thunder, ruler of all the gods on Mount Olympus and supreme deity of the Greek Pantheon. The Zeus archetype is a judge-like character answerable only to himself, responsible for the maintenance of order, the authority that inspires others to follow where he leads and sometimes a tyrannical nature, willing to indulge his own vices.

Poseidon: The Destroyer

Greek god of the sea, storms, earthquakes and horses. Widely considered the most bad-tempered and greedy of the Greek gods, the archetypal Poseidon thus possesses a depth of feeling which makes him unable to express normal emotion, instead lashing out in a destructive manner and taking pleasure in the anguish of others.

Demeter - The Innocent

Greek goddess of the harvest, earth's fertility, sacred law and the lifecycle. The Demeter archetype is often described as having innocent and childlike qualities, with a sweet and unassuming nature and desire not to disappoint. Demeter's heart is ruled by innocent rather than sexual love. As an embodiment of Mother Nature, Demeter is a relationship-oriented, warm and nurturing source of life.

Hera - The Caregiver

Greek goddess of women, marriage, family and childbirth. The resulting Hera archetype is a caregiver, representing the capacity to be loyal, caring and committed even through life's most difficult challenges. Hera will not tolerate anything which distracts her from her main motivation in life, which is to act with devotion and care towards her husband and family, even sometimes to her own cost.

Aphrodite - The Lover

Greek goddess of love, passion, pleasure, female beauty and procreation. Whilst most well known in the form of femme fatale or seductress, the Aphrodite archetype can actually embody all forms of love, be it sexual, maternal, companionship or spiritual. She embodies the side of each person that is passionate and emotional, capable of forging lasting partnerships based on mutual love

Ares - The Warrior

Greek god of war, often representing the physical and violent aspects of conflict and being seen as the personification of war's brutal nature. The resulting Area archetype is one of a warrior who lives for combat and takes what he wants by force, the stereotypical man who acts first and thinks later unless it relates to combat strategy.

Hephaestus - The Orphan

God of fire, volcanoes, blacksmiths and other artisans, and of sculpture. Hephaestus was thrown out of Olympus by his fellow Gods including his own father Zeus, and so his archetype has come to be known as the orphan, one rejected and undervalued by others in society unable to see their true worth.

Hermes - The Fool

Hermes was conductor of the soul into the afterlife, herald of the gods, protector of human heralds, travellers, merchants, and orators. Despite these serious functions he was known for being the most mischievous of the Olympian gods and very clever, hence he also became the herald of thieves. This association has led to him becoming the archetypal fool or jester, mischievous in nature, willing to cross boundaries and good at communicating.

Dionysus - The Magician

Greek god of wine, vegetation, festivity, pleasure, ritual madness and religious ecstasy who was depicted both as an older God with a beard or as an effeminate, long-haired young man. As a result of his association with transformation, for example of grape juice into wine, his archetype has in turn become associated with the transformational powers of magic and the manipulative power of the mind and body which magicians can hold.

Athena - The Sage

Greek goddess of wisdom, courage, civilization, law and justice, mathematics, skill, strategy, arts and crafts. She spent her time in the company of philosophers and inventors in the pursuit of knowledge. These qualities mean that the Athenian archetype has become one of the sage, pursuing strategic and wise courses of action based on logic and thought, not being afraid to assert herself in order to achieve her end goals.

Artemis - The Seeker

Greek goddess of the hunt, the moon, chastity and childbirth. Artemis's association with hunting has led her becoming the archetypal seeker, embarking on a journey to seek and discover, often preferring their own company over that of society. Like Artemis, this archetype tends towards

perfectionism and fears conformity, thus becoming known for their seeking of individuality.

Apollo - The Creator

Greek God of healing, medicine, archery, music and poetry, the Sun, justice and the leader of the Muses. As such he was associated with the creative arts and the creation/recreation of nature, thus ensuring that the Apollo archetype has also become the Creator who is associated with imagination, creativity, hard work and self-expression

Find a picture as a symbol of your archetype and place it on your Third Eye Body Map.