

## **Selected Passages from Edith Hamilton's *Mythology***

### **\*Section I: Introduction to Classical Mythology (3-15)**

1. According to Hamilton, why should one study classic mythology? (What does it take us back to?)
2. What is the first written record of Greece?
3. What, in your best words, is "the Greek miracle"?
4. What is curious about the gods of Greece in regards to how the Greeks "made" them?
5. What is the Greek idea that explains this?
6. How did the Greek deities behave?
7. So what, according to Hamilton, are myths?
8. Describe how the gods changed. Hamilton writes at length about Zeus so feel free to use that as an illustration.

### **\*Section II: The Gods (21- 52)**

9. Who were the Titans?
10. Identify the following Titans
  - a. Cronus:
  - b. Ocean
  - c. Hyperion:
  - d. Mnemosyne:

e. Atlas:

f. Prometheus:

11. Describe Olympus:

12. How does Hamilton explain the fact that Zeus seemed to have many extramarital affairs?

13. Hera had a unique relationship to Zeus. What was it?

14. Hera may have been beautiful, but what actions marred that beauty?

15. Poseidon lived in what two places? What is the object he is associated with?

16. Hades was lord of the underworld but also of wealth. Why is this fitting?

17. Hades was king of the dead, not death itself. Who was that?

18. Who were the parents of Pallas Athena?

19. Athena pops up often in the Iliad. Give me a brief description of her, including any epithets [descriptive nicknames].

20. Phoebus Apollo is associated with what weapon? [This is important in the Iliad as well!]

21. Why is the city of Delphi associated with Apollo?

22. Apollo was often called the sun god but there was another, actual sun god. Who was that?

23. Artemis is the independent woman of the Greek world. What is she associated with?

24. What is her role in the Iliad?

25. Oh, Aphrodite. She was called “the foam-risen”. Why is this?

26. Oh yeah, and what is Aphrodite the goddess of?

27. Hermes is the messenger and what does he wear?

28. Ares was either loved or hated, sometimes both? What are some of the perceptions of him, even in a war poem like the Iliad?

29. Iris was a colorful goddess. Over what did she reign? Did she have another job?

30. At the beginning of the Iliad, Homer makes an invocation to the Muses to help him tell his story. What were they?

**\*Section III: The Trojan War. (Homer assumed his audience knew the tales that led up to the Trojan War, at least in its legendary aspect... but we don't know it!) Pages 254-263**

31. The goddess Eris was the goddess of discord. How did she live up to this after not being invited to the wedding of King Peleus and Thetis the Sea Nymph?

32. Who did the apple decision ultimately come down to? What was his promised reward?
33. So who was the fairest woman in the world and what was the catch?
34. What was the sacred bond that was broken when Paris seduced Helen?
35. Okay, so the oath that all the former suitors of Helen swore is now in play. But Odysseus doesn't want to leave his family. What does he do to try to get out of going?
36. Why doesn't Achilles's mother want him to go?
37. Fast forward a bit: the Greek army is trying to leave from a dangerous and windy coast and they need to appease the goddess Artemis who can help calm the winds. Who has the answer to the problem and what is the proposed solution?
38. Who are the greatest warriors on the Greek and Trojan sides?
39. By the time the *Iliad* opens, how long has the war been going on?

