

# OLYMPIAN GODS AND GODDESSES

The ancient Greeks lived  
thousands of years ago around  
the Mediterranean sea.



They were polytheistic, which means they worshipped many gods and goddesses.

Poly=  
More  
than 1

POLYTHEISTIC

theistic=  
related to  
belief in god

Mono= 1

Monotheistic= Worshipping of 1 god

It was believed that the Greek gods lived in a cloud palace above Mount Olympus (the highest mountain in Greece).



As they lived on Mount Olympus, these Greek myth characters were called 'The Olympians'.

The Olympians originally came to power through the massive war of the gods, between Zeus and the Titans, that lasted 10 years.



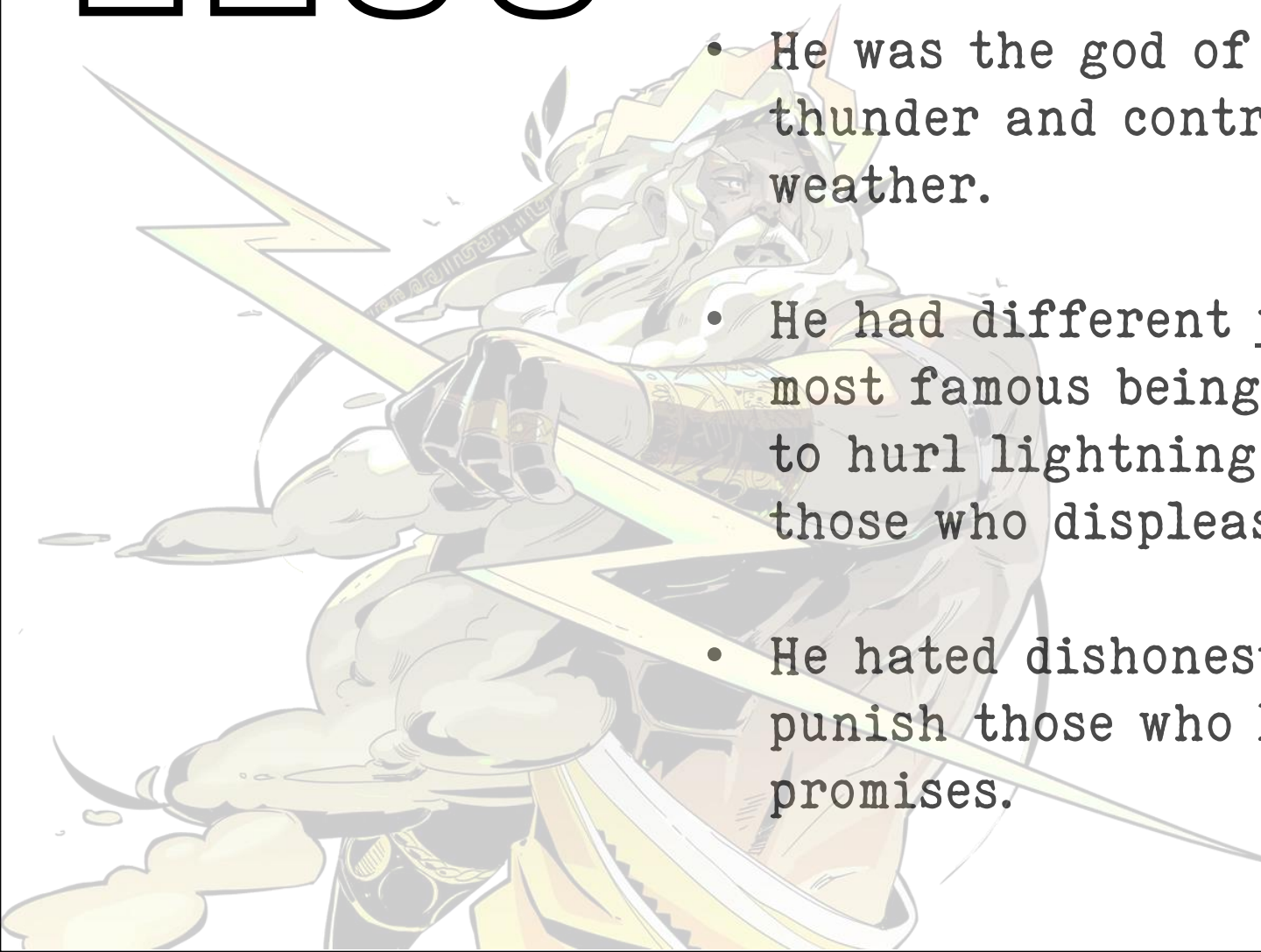
These gods were thought to have special powers, and each had control over a different aspect of life.





# ZEUS

- Zeus was the king of the gods, and the most powerful.
- He was the god of the sky and thunder and controlled the weather.
- He had different powers, his most famous being the ability to hurl lightning bolts at those who displeased him.
- He hated dishonesty and would punish those who lied or broke promises.



# HERA

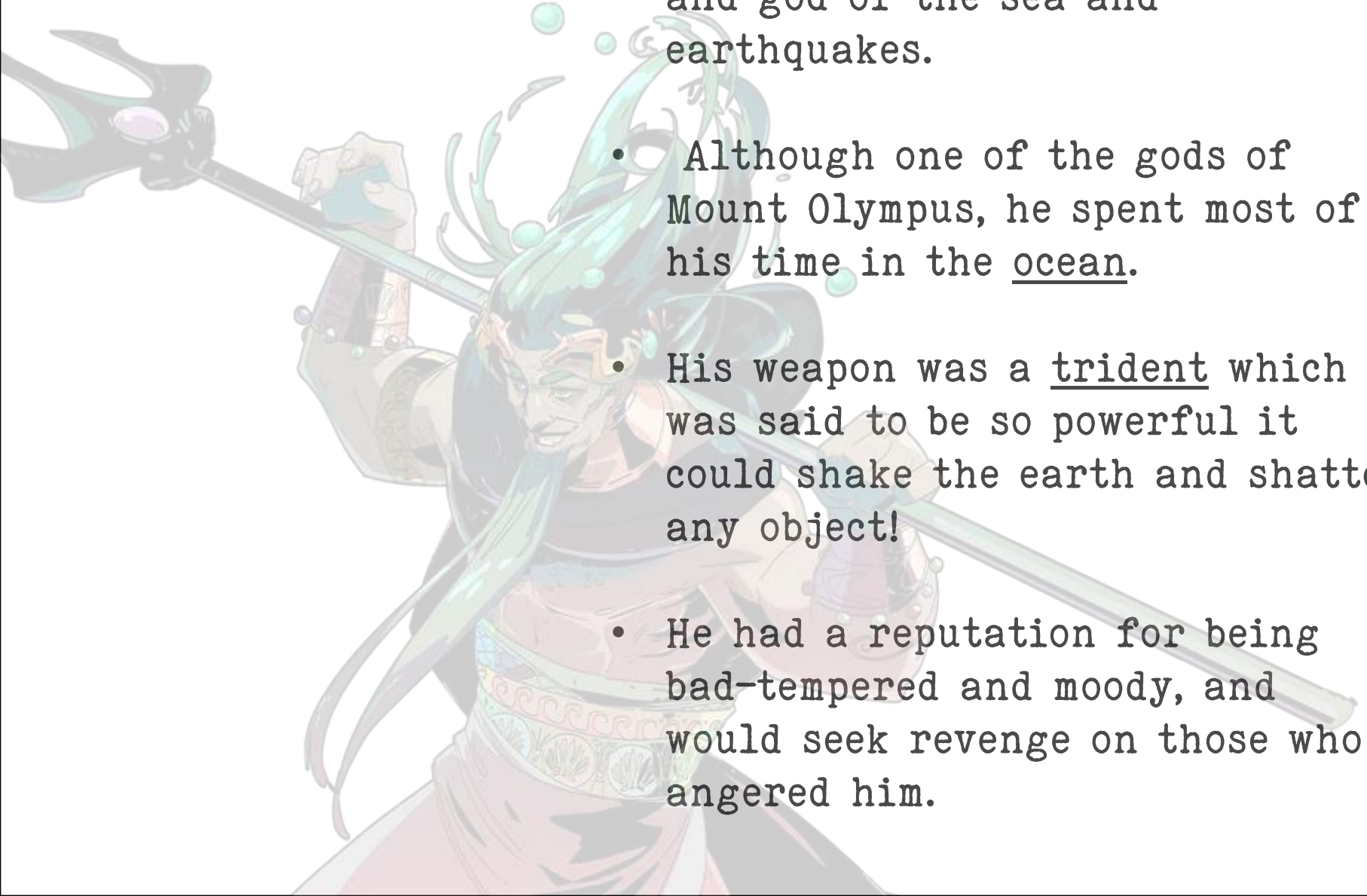
- Hera was Zeus' wife and queen of the gods.
- She was the goddess of women, marriage, and family.
- Hera was well worshipped by the Ancient Greeks, and the oldest and most important temples of the region were built in honor of her.
- Her sacred animals were the cow, lion and peacock.





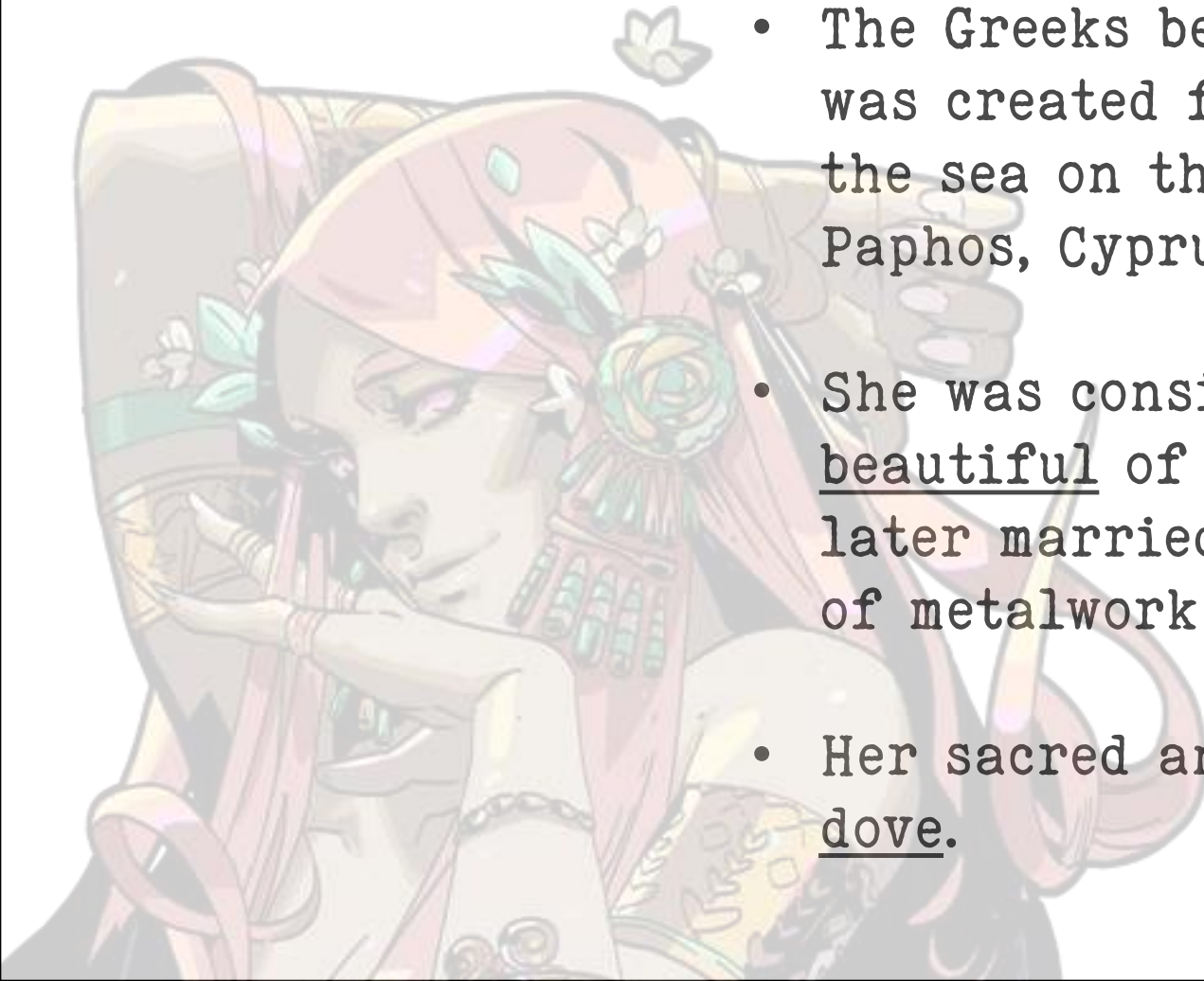
# POSEIDON

- Poseidon was the brother of Zeus, and god of the sea and earthquakes.
- Although one of the gods of Mount Olympus, he spent most of his time in the ocean.
- His weapon was a trident which was said to be so powerful it could shake the earth and shatter any object!
- He had a reputation for being bad-tempered and moody, and would seek revenge on those who angered him.



# APHRODITE

- Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty.
- The Greeks believed Aphrodite was created from the foam of the sea on the shores of Paphos, Cyprus.
- She was considered the most beautiful of the gods, and later married Hephaestus, god of metalwork and fire.
- Her sacred animal was the dove.



# HADES



- Hades was Zeus and Poseidon's elder brother.
- Although a god of Mount of Olympus, Hades rarely left his dark kingdom, the underworld, where he ruled over the dead.
- Because he represented death, Hades was the most feared of the Ancient Greek gods - some people even refused to say his name.
- Hades was aided in the underworld by his three headed dog, Cerberus.

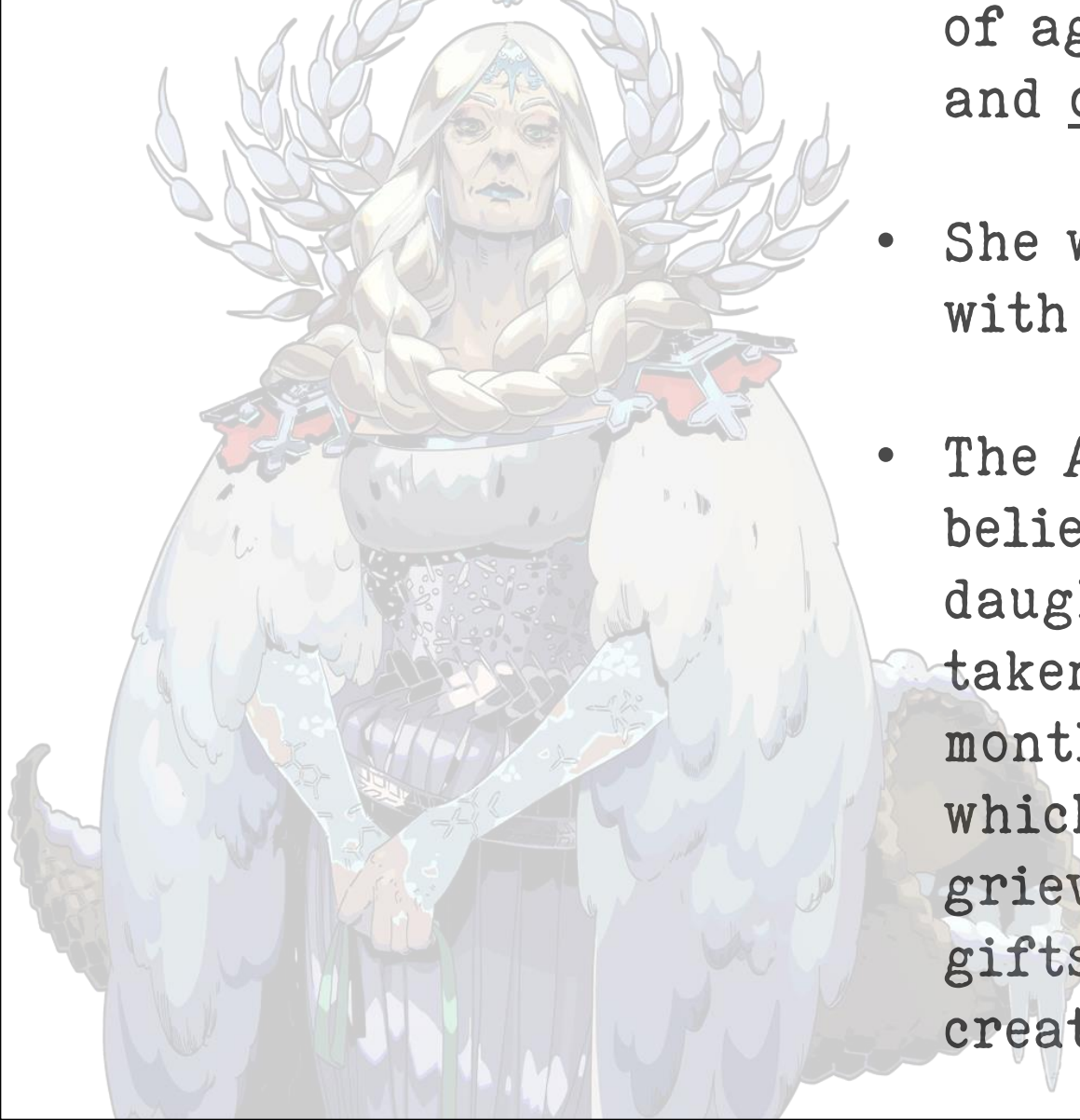
# HERMES

A detailed illustration of the Greek god Hermes. He is depicted as a young man with dark hair, wearing a white tunic with a red sash and a red and white striped skirt. He has a winged yellow hat and winged sandals. He is holding a golden caduceus in his right hand and a large, ornate brown bag in his left. The background is a soft, light blue and white gradient.

- A son of Zeus, Hermes was the messenger of the gods.
- He was also responsible for guiding the dead to the underworld.
- Hermes was said to be the fastest of the gods and wore winged sandals and a winged hat.
- He was also known for his intelligence and wit, and would help Zeus with his important decisions.

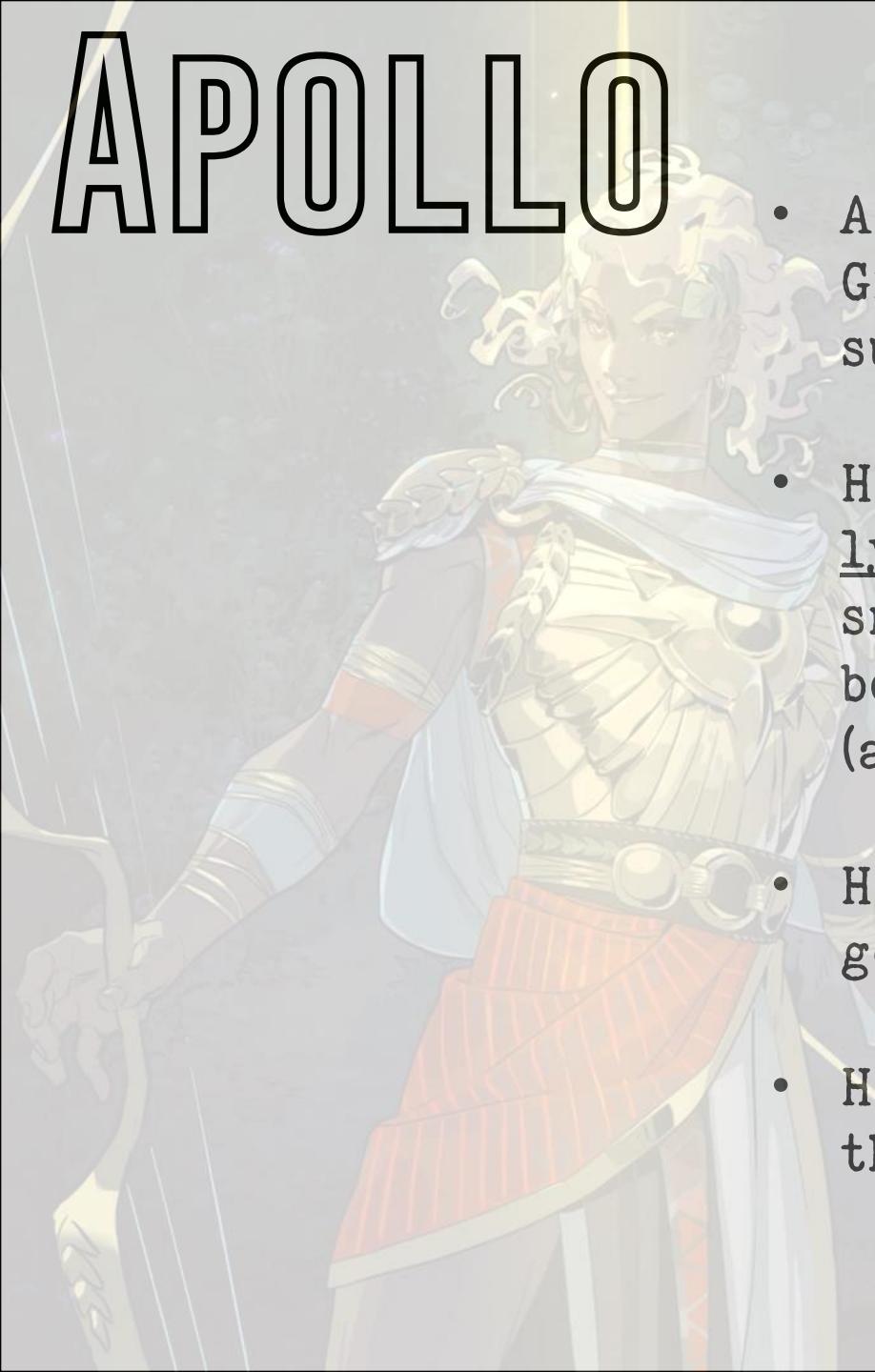


# DEMETER



- Demeter was the goddess of agriculture, vegetation and crop growth.
- She was also associated with the seasons.
- The Ancient Greeks believed that her daughter, Persephone, was taken from her for six months each year, during which Demeter would grieve and withdraw her gifts from the world, creating winter.

# APOLLO

A stylized illustration of the Greek god Apollo. He is depicted from the waist up, facing slightly to the left but looking towards the viewer. He has long, wavy, golden hair and is wearing a golden breastplate with a blue and white striped pattern. A blue and white striped cloak is draped over his left shoulder. He is holding a bow in his right hand, which is visible on the left side of the frame. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a warm, golden light.

- A son of Zeus, Apollo was the Greek god of music, poetry, the sun, and medicine.
- He was famous for playing the lyre (an instrument a bit like a small harp) – and he was also believed to have invented the lute (a pear-shaped string instrument).
- He had a twin sister, Artemis, goddess of the hunt.
- He was the leader of the Muses, the nine goddesses of the arts.

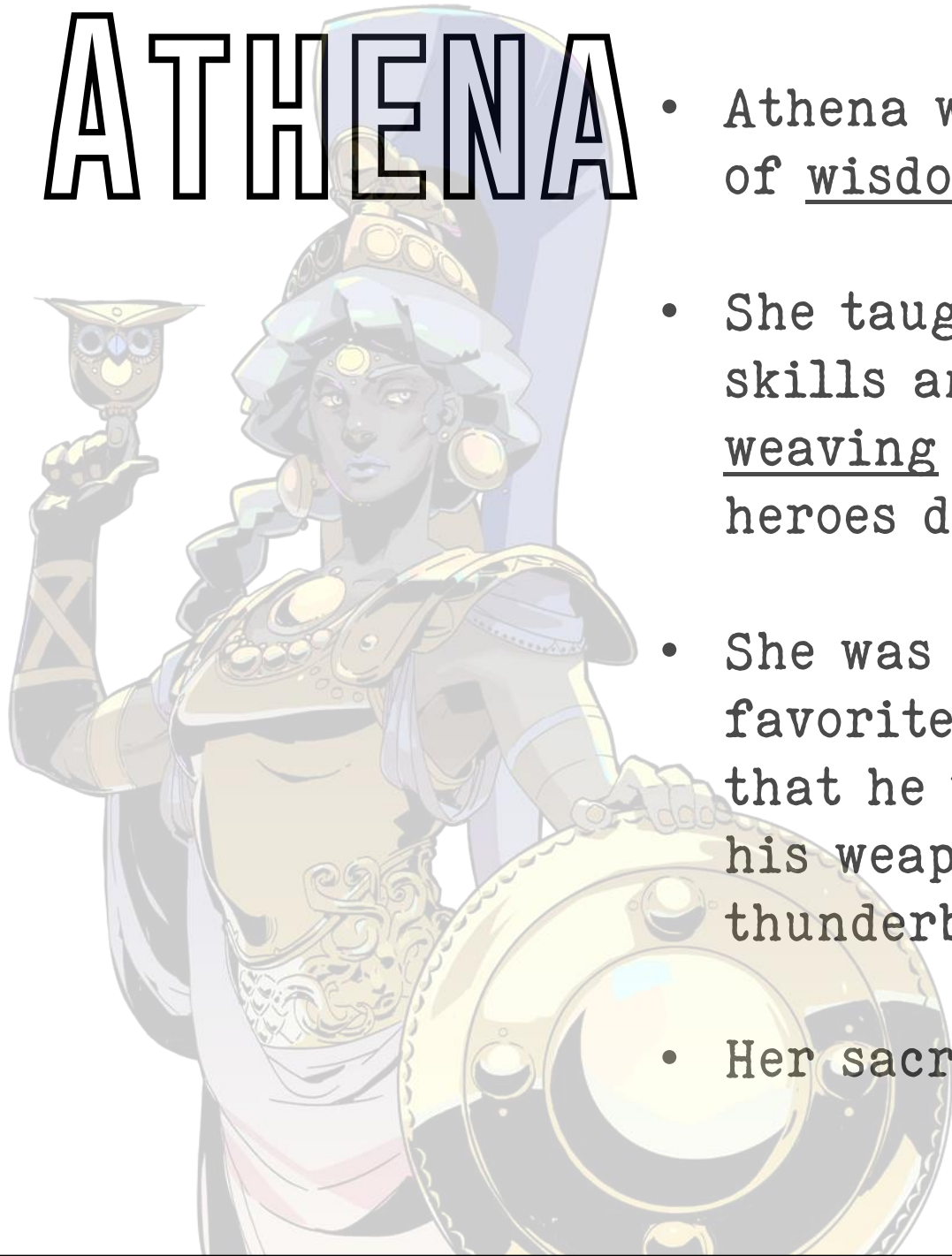


# ARTEMIS



- Artemis was Apollo's twin sister.
- She was the goddess of the moon and the hunt.
- She didn't like the city and was known to roam forests and mountainsides.
- She carried a silver bow with silver arrows, and took special care to watch over animals.

# ATHENA



- Athena was the Greek goddess of wisdom, skill and war.
- She taught humans various skills and crafts such as weaving and would protect heroes during war.
- She was said to be Zeus' favorite daughter, so much so that he would allow her to use his weapons – even his thunderbolt!
- Her sacred animal was the owl.

# ARES



- Ares was the Greek god of war, although he represented the negative aspects of battle.
- He was the son of Zeus and Hera, although both disliked him, like everyone else.
- Ares was known a troublemaker.
- He was in love with Aphrodite.

# HEPHAESTUS



- Hephaestus was the only ugly god.
- He was known as the god of fire.
- He was a blacksmith whose forge was in a volcano.
- His helpers were the one-eyed giants called Cyclopes.