

Aphrodite

Vocabulary Words

1. commotion (noun) a sudden, short period of noise, confusion, or excited movement
Example: His arrival caused quite a commotion.
2. fall apart (phrasal verb) If an organization, system, or agreement falls apart, it fails or stops working effectively
Example: Their marriage fell apart when she found out about her husband's affair.
3. determined (adjective) wanting to do something very much and not allowing anyone or any difficulties to stop you
Example: I'm determined to get this piece of work done today.
4. silence (noun) a period without any sound; complete quiet
Example: A loud crash of thunder broke the silence of the night.
5. proclaim (verb) to announce something publicly or officially, especially something positive
Example: All the countries have proclaimed their loyalty to the alliance.
6. dismay (noun) a feeling of unhappiness and disappointment:
Example: The fans watched with dismay as their team lost 42–11.



In ancient Greek mythology Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. She was one of the 12 chief gods believed to live on Mount Olympus. Aphrodite is associated with the Roman

goddess Venus because they shared many of the same characteristics. The symbols of Aphrodite are the dove, rose, myrtle tree, and swan.

Due to her incredible beauty, Aphrodite caused a lot of problems on Olympus when she first arrived. While Zeus, Poseidon, Ares, Apollo, and Hermes all instantly wanted her for themselves, Hephaestus didn't participate in the **commotion**, and instead sat in the shadows, quiet and unhappy, knowing that his ugliness stripped him of any chance of competing for the gorgeous Aphrodite.

Hera, feeling that her godly family was about to **fall apart**, was **determined** to prevent that, and ordered the other Olympians to **silence** themselves. As the goddess of marriage, she felt a responsibility to pick the perfect husband for the new goddess and **proclaimed** that such a perfect match was her son Hephaestus, much to Ares' and Aphrodite's **dismay**.

Hephaestus himself was so surprised that he fell off of his throne. Athena was quick to agree with Hera as well, pointing out that if Aphrodite were to marry anyone else, all of the other male gods would never stop fighting about it, while it would be nearly impossible for them to be jealous of Hephaestus.

Hence, Zeus married both of them right then and there, with Hephaestus promising to be a loving husband. She would later have her husband **forge** her a magical golden girdle, which made her completely **irresistible** to anyone she liked. Hera would borrow it from her on at least one occasion, to make **amends** with Zeus after a particularly **unpleasant** argument or if she ever wanted something from him.

Discussion

1. Who do you think is the most beautiful person alive today?
2. Who was the most beautiful person in history?
3. Does beauty affect one's success in life?
4. Is it better to be physically attractive or intelligent?
5. Do people spend too much time and money on beauty?