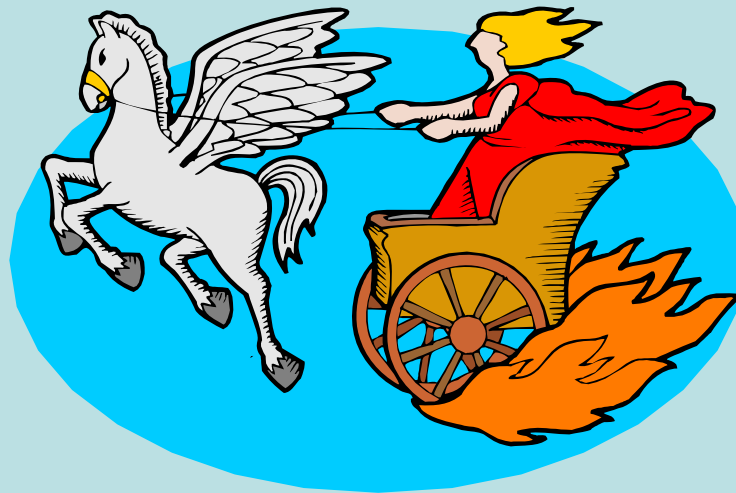


The Story of Gaia and the Chariot Boycott



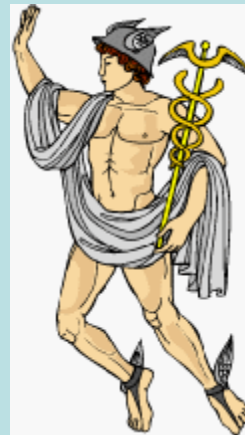
The Journey Begins

Gaia, the Earth Mother, decides to make a journey to visit her husband and son, Uranus, the sky. She rarely takes the occasion to go up to Uranus, since he usually comes to visit her. She calls for a chariot. Knowing that the chariots are run by the Olympians, who do not favor the Titans, she decides to disguise herself. She becomes a snake as she boards the chariot to the sky. It's a busy day in the heavens, so the chariot is very full. It's a long ride, so Gaia takes a seat. She knows that Titans are not supposed to sit at the front – these seats are reserved for the Olympians. But, Gaia is tired of this.





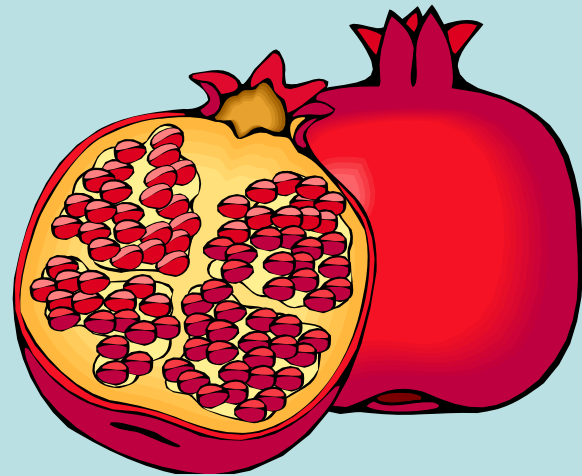
On the chariot, Gaia notices other Titans, such as Leto and Koios. She is holding a poppy that she plans to bring as a gift to Uranus. The chariot is being driven by Hermes, messenger of Zeus.



The Power of the Pomegranate

As more and more Olympians get on the chariot, Hermes, with his winged hat and winged shoes, demands that the Titans move aside. With his powers, he threatens to transform them. One by one, he transforms the Titans – one into a stone, another into a raven, and another into a mouse. However, he was having trouble transforming the one remaining Titan – Gaia. Hermes would not dishonor Zeus and was given strict orders to uphold the laws of the Olympians.

With all her might, Gaia resists transformation by Hermes. She grasps the poppy which turns to pomegranate and provides strength, fertility, and abundance.





Gaia transforms back from a snake to herself and tells Hermes that she will not get off the chariot – that she, a Titan, can ride on the chariot just as the Olympians. Hermes's wings fall off his shoes, and the wings on his hat turn to large ears.

The chariot comes to a halt and turns into several cattle. Gaia sits atop one of the cattle. She is approached by a bearded god, with a spear, followed by vultures and dogs. Ares, son of Zeus and god of war, begins to battle with her. Gaia does not believe in war and battle, so she allows Ares to take her with him. She is led back down to Earth where she must face Zeus.



Gaia comes before Zeus who tells her that as punishment, she is to stay in the chambers of the underworld – for fifty days and fifty nights, so that she may get a taste of the underworld. Her first night in the underworld, she is visited by Atlas. As she and Atlas discuss the plans for overtaking the Olympians, Gaia remembers the pomegranate that is tucked away under a scarf. She grasps it tightly and from its seeds, emerge numerous Titans. Atlas promises to lead these Titans in the struggle against the Olympians. Since they have refused to ride the chariots, he must carry them all on his shoulders to take them from the underworld back to Earth.

Under the leadership of Atlas and with the help of the Titans, the Olympians are defeated – not through bloodshed and war, but through nonviolent acts, such as boycotting the chariots. It is said that Atlas “supported the sky on his shoulders.”





Gaia's Powers

As Gaia fulfilled the rest of the days in Hades, she notices that she has new survival powers. She is able to produce bees who in turn produce honey which she survives on. When she hears others in Hades wailing out of hunger, she spills the honey and shares it with them. She recognizes that her actions, though small they may seem, can help many people.





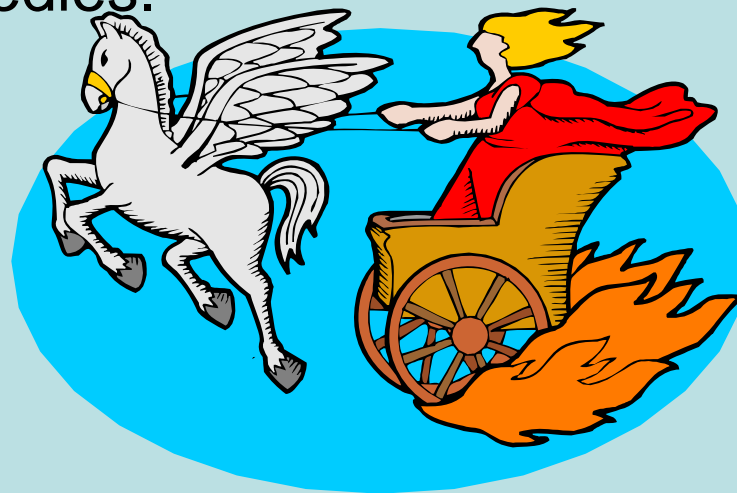
At the end of the fifty nights, Gaia is ready to be free. She feels a new found sense of strength and is determined to continue the struggle against the Olympians, despite the possible consequences.





When Gaia is freed from Hades, she is met by Atlas. Atlas presents her with a gift – her own golden chariot. Atlas and Gaia board the chariot and Atlas shows Gaia the progress that the Titans have made – all because of her leading the way.

The Titans are now feasting with the Olympians at great banquets, shooting archery bows together, and acting in the same tragedies.



Graphics courtesy of

- www.webclipart.com
- www.100000freecliparts.com
- Microsoft Clipart

Research About Rosa Parks

- www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/par0bio-1