Table of Contents

• Historical Overview
• Major Gods and Goddesses of ancient Rome
• Gods of Mt Olympus
• Family Tree
• Conclusion
The early Romans were farmers.
They did not understand science, instead they believed in forces or spirits.
These Gods did not have human forms or minds.
Gradually the Romans were influenced by the Greeks and adopted many of their Gods and gave them Roman names.
Early Roman Gods and Goddesses

• Some Early Roman Gods or “Numen”
  - Bellona  Goddess of War
  - Cardea  similar to Artemis, had power over doorways
  - Cupid  God of love like the Greek Eros
  - Dis  God of the underworld like the Greek Hades
  - Faunus  God of fields and shepards like the Greek Pan
  - Glaucus  God of the sea
  - Lares  God of the household- represented dead ancestors who protected the family
  - Liber  God of fertility, identified with Baccus, the god of wine
  - Saturn  God of agriculture and the Roman like the Greek Cronus
  - Vesta  Goddess of home and hearth similar to the Greek Hestia
Jupiter

- King of the Gods/Ruler of the Skies
- Greek name is Zeus
- Married to Juno
- Symbols: Eagle, Shield, Thunderbolt and Oak Tree
Neptune

- God of the Sea
- Second most powerful God on Mt. Olympus
- Greek name is Poseidon
- Symbols: Trident, Horse and Bull
Pluto

- God the underworld and wealth
- Greek name is Hades
- Symbols: Helmet, Metals, Jewels
Juno

• Queen of the Gods
• Goddess of Heaven, Marriage and Childbirth
• Greek name is Hera
• Married to Jupiter
• Symbols: Peacock and Cow
Vesta

- Goddess of the Hearth. Protector of the home and the family
- Greek name is Hestia
- Never married
- Symbol: fire
Mars

- God of War
- Greek name is Ares
- Bloody, fiery character – not well liked
- Symbols: Vulture, Dog
Minerva

- Goddess of Wisdom, War, Arts and Crafts and the City
- Zeus’s favorite child
- Greek name is Athena
- Never married
- Symbols: Owl, Shield and Olive Branch
Apollo

- God of Light and Truth, Healing, Archery, and Music
- Greek name is Apollo
- Brother of Diana
- Symbols: Crow, Dolphin, Laurel and Lear
Venus

- Goddess of Love and Beauty
- Greek name is Aphrodite
- Married to Vulcan
- Symbols: Dove, Sparrow, Swan and Myrtle
Mercury

- God of Motion, Sleep and Dreams, Commerce and Travelers
- Graceful, Clever and Quick
- Greek name is Hermes
- Symbols: Wand, Winged Sandals and Winged Helmet
Diana

- Goddess of the Hunt, the Moon and Children
- Greek name is Artemis
- Sister of Apollo
- Symbols: Stag, Moon and Cypress
Vulcan

- God of the Forge
- Greek name is Hephaestus
- Married to Venus
- Symbols: Fire and Blacksmith’s Hammer
Conclusion

• The Roman mythology and Gods tell us a lot about what the early Romans thought was important.
• The Romans valued family, beauty, honor, truth, wisdom, wealth, courage and strength.
• They were a people who were building a great city and testing the courage and honor that their ancestors would cherish.
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