
HEPHAESTUS
Book XIII · The Forge of Olympus

PROLOGUE — THE QUARREL











ACT I — THE FIRST FALL







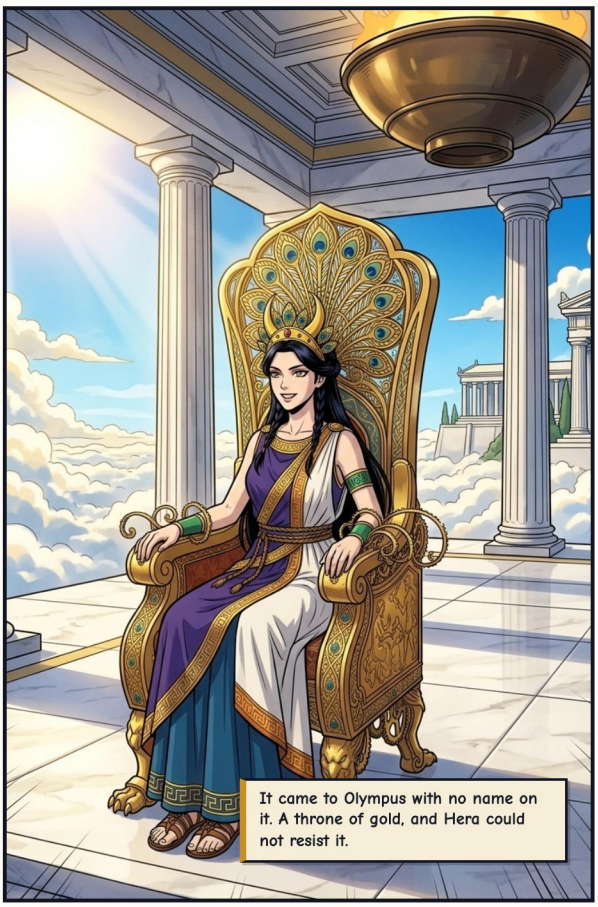




ACT II — THE GOLDEN THRONE









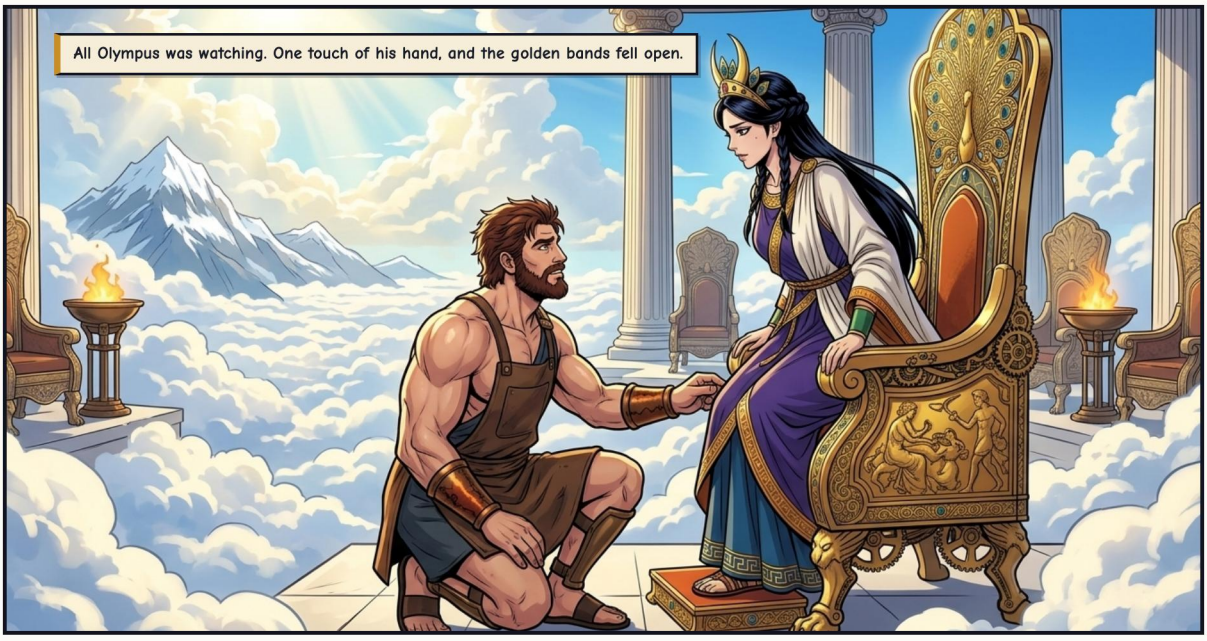

Tell Olympus that threats don't work on me, Ares! I have no mother in heaven!


Ares brought spears. I brought wine, the best on earth. Drink, brother.

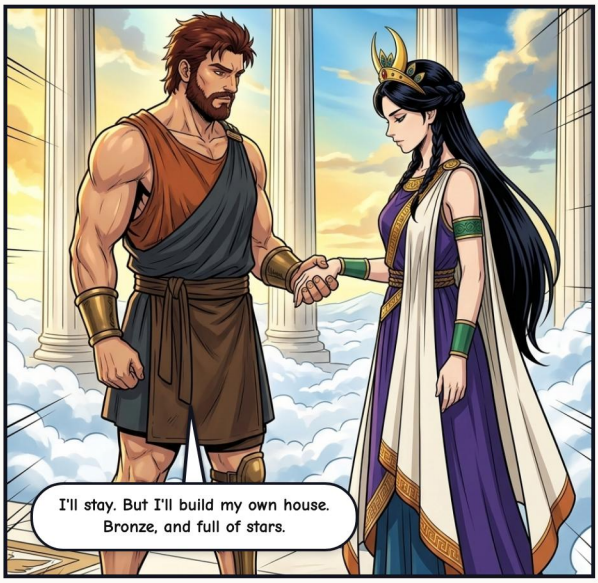

Now. Shall we go and see your mother's face?
...Just to see her face.


Where force failed, wine and friendship won. Hephaestus rode back to heaven on a mule, tipsy and grinning.

ACT III — A SEAT AMONG THE TWELVE











ACT IV – THE SECOND FALL







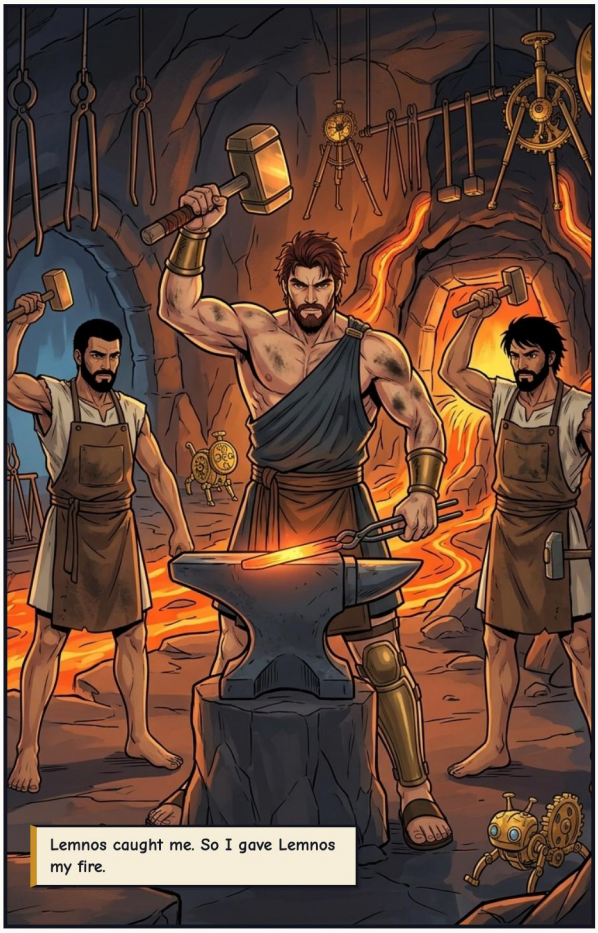





All day I fell. At sunset I struck Lemnos, with little breath left in me.


Rest, stranger. Our mountain keeps a fire. You can have it when you can walk.




Lemnos caught me. So I gave Lemnos my fire.


Back at the feast, Hephaestus stood up.
Mother, bear it. Once, when I tried to help you, he threw me by the foot.
I can't help you if he does it again.






HA HA HA HA!

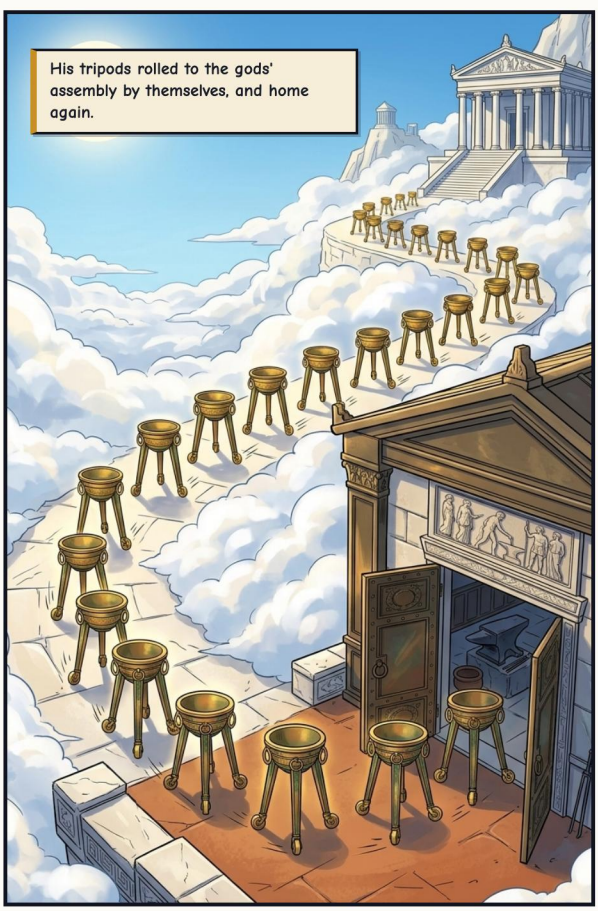

Let them laugh. Better laughing than fighting.

INTERLUDE — COMMISSIONS









ACT V — THE SHIELD



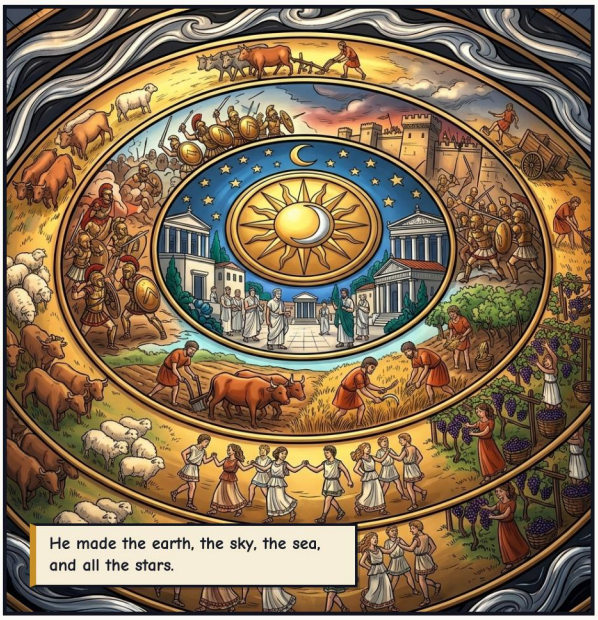


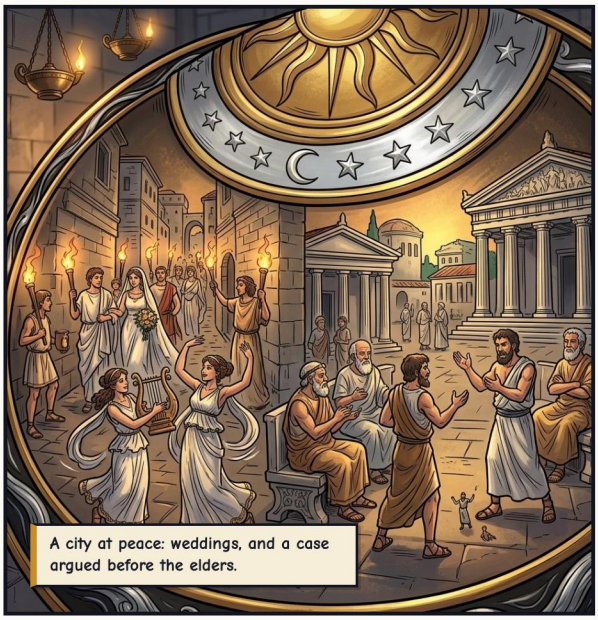







Bronze, tin, gold and silver into the fire. In one hand the hammer; in the other, the tongs.
They threw me into the dark. So I learned to make light.


He made the earth, the sky, the sea, and all the stars.


A city at peace: weddings, and a case argued before the elders.


A city at war.






And round it all, the river Ocean, as the sea had once held him.

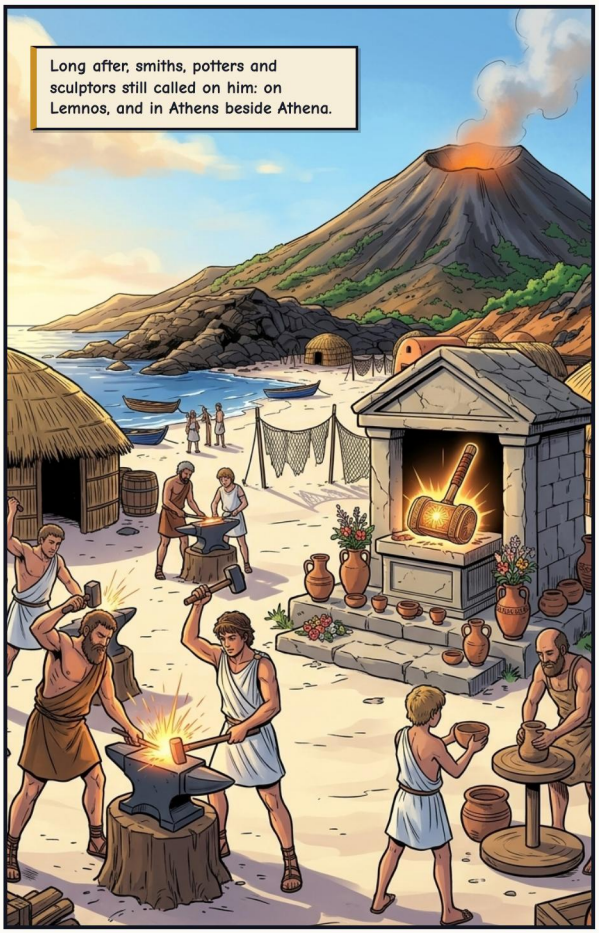

Take them to him.

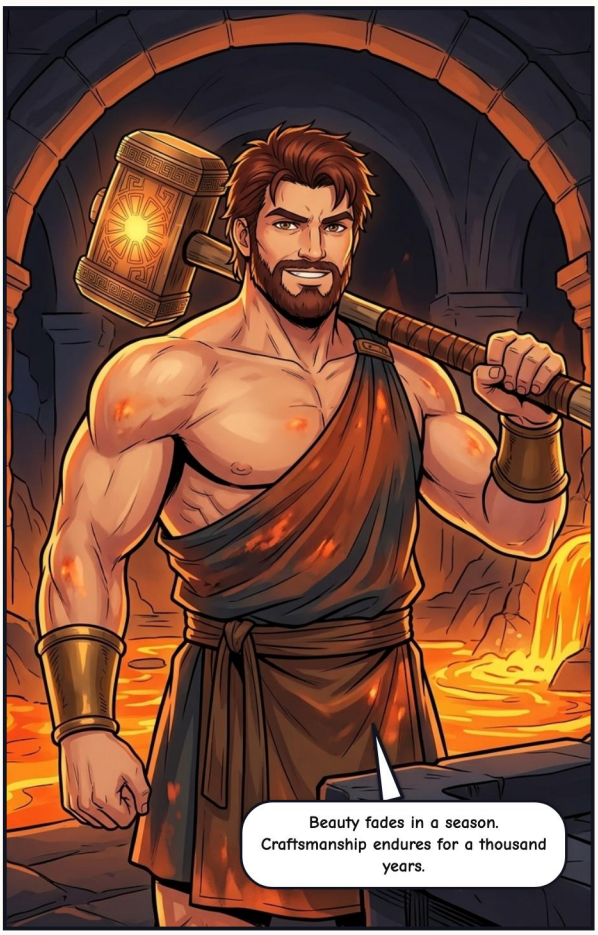


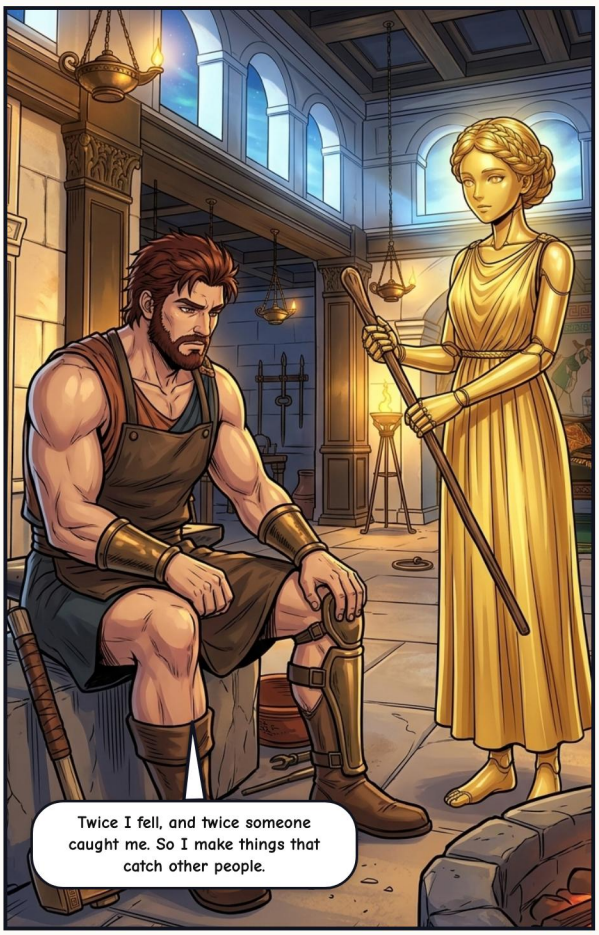



No forge could change his fate. But every man who saw that shield saw the whole world on it.


Walking tripods, maids of gold, the gods' palaces, and a shield with the world on it. Every marvel bore his mark.

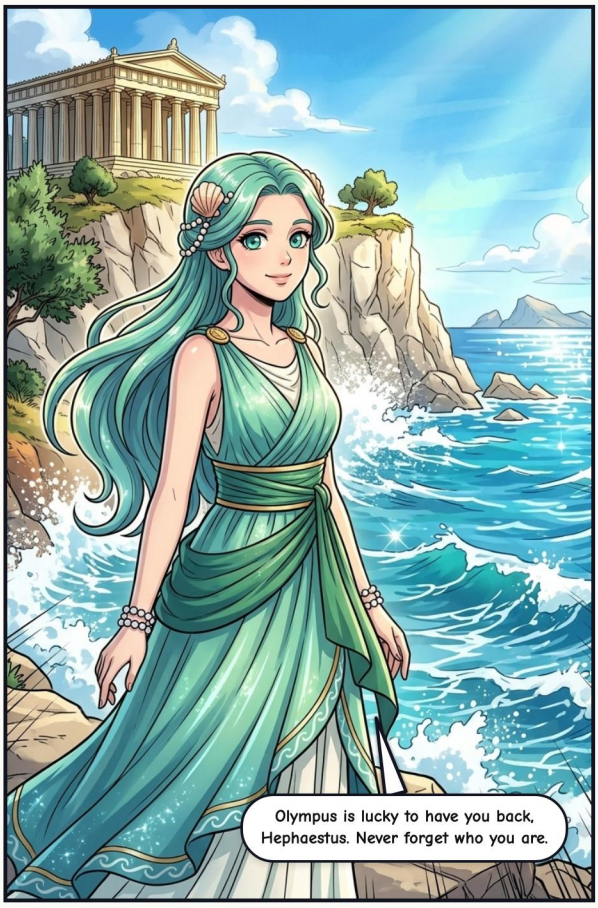

Long after, smiths, potters and sculptors still called on him: on Lemnos, and in Athens beside Athena.


Beauty fades in a season. Craftsmanship endures for a thousand years.


Twice I fell, and twice someone caught me. So I make things that catch other people.

EPILOGUE — THE SHORE OF LEMNOS









COLOPHON

Hephaestus: The Forge of Olympus

Gods of Olympus: Greek Mythology

CLASSICAL SOURCES

Homer (Iliad 1, 15, 18–19; Odyssey 8), Homeric Hymn to Apollo, Hesiod (Theogony; Works and Days), Pausanias (1.20.3), Hyginus (Fabulae 166), Apollodorus (Library 1.3.5), the François Vase

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