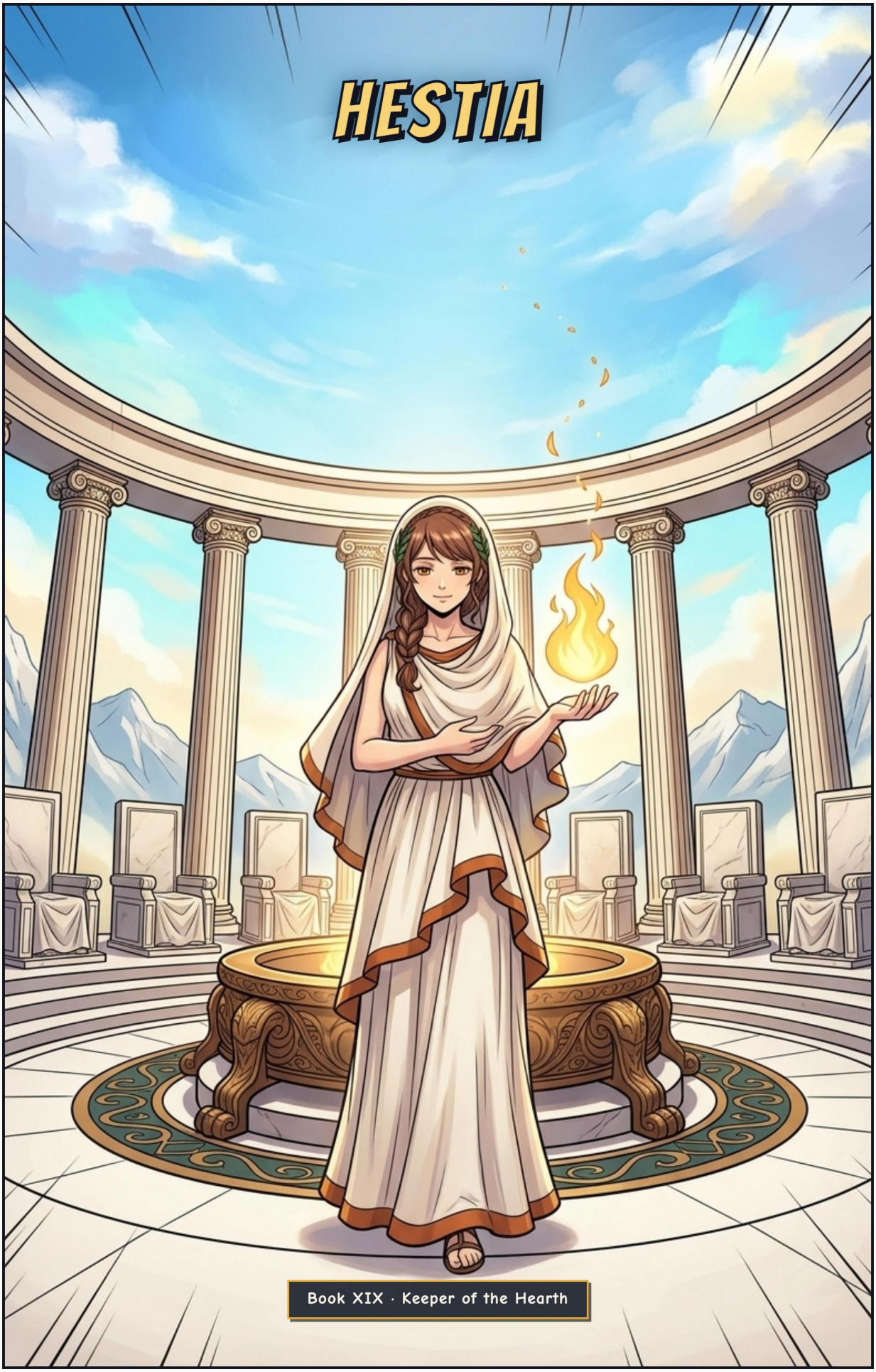
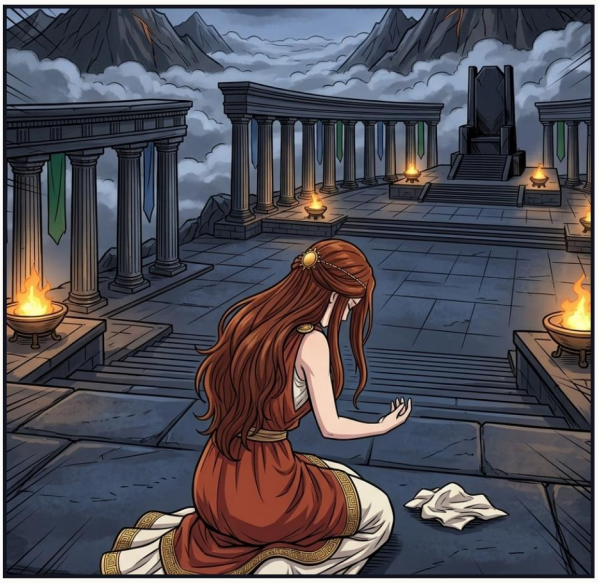
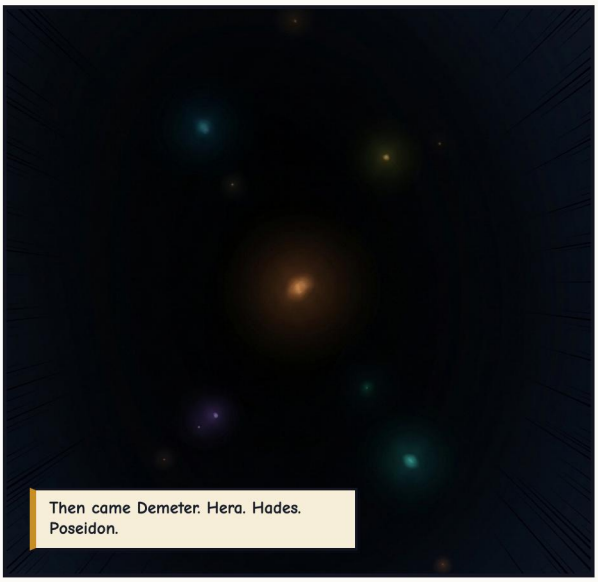

HESTIA
Book XIX · Keeper of the Hearth

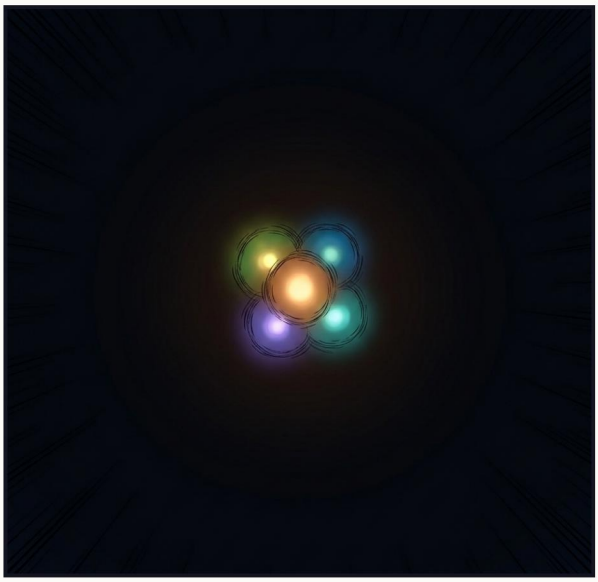
PROLOGUE — FIRST IN, LAST OUT







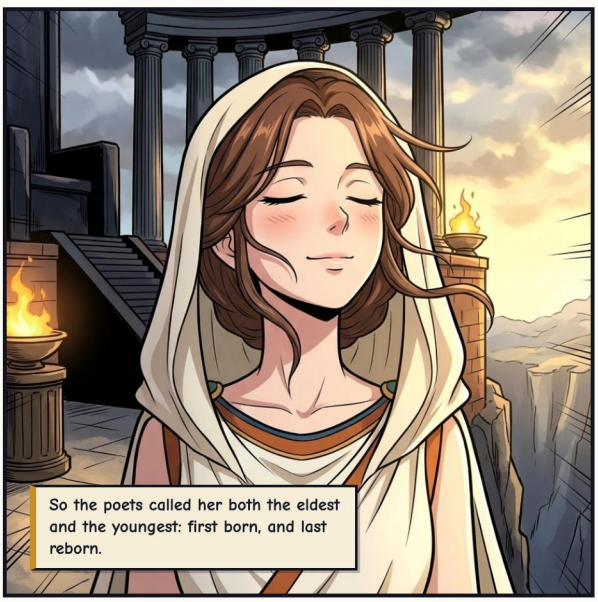





When Zeus forced Cronus to give them back, they came out in reverse: the last swallowed, the first freed.



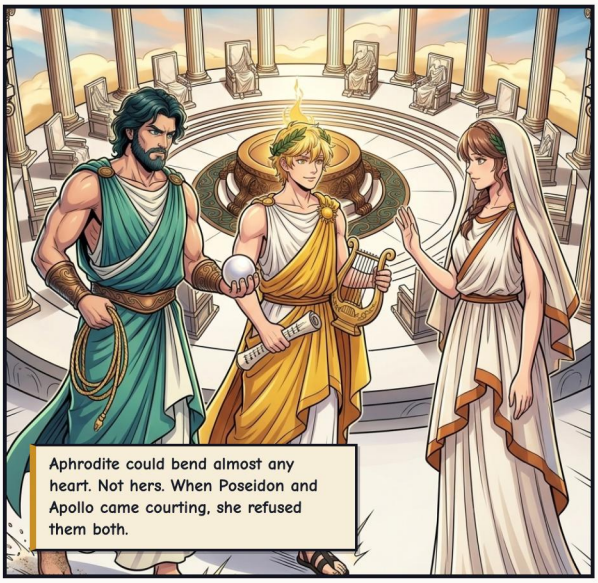

You're the last.
I went in first. Someone had to see that nobody was left behind.


So the poets called her both the eldest and the youngest: first born, and last reborn.

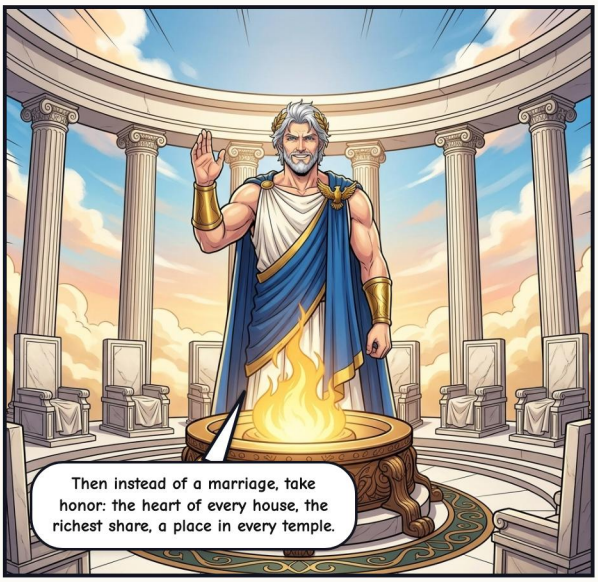

When the war was won, three brothers cast lots for sky, sea and the dead.
Hestia asked for no kingdom. She lit a fire.

ACT I — THE VOW


On Olympus, quarrels came and went. Hestia never joined one.


Aphrodite could bend almost any heart. Not hers. When Poseidon and Apollo came courting, she refused them both.


I swear by your head, Zeus: I will never marry. I will remain a maiden all my days.

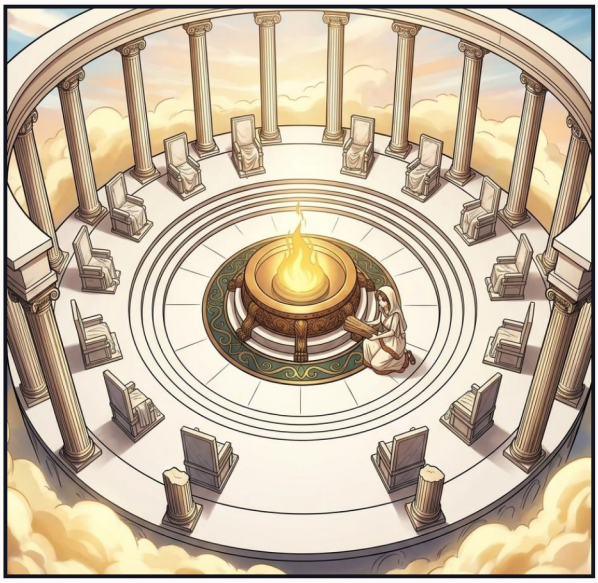

Then instead of a marriage, take honor: the heart of every house, the richest share, a place in every temple.


And from that hour, the heart of Mount Olympus never once went cold.

ACT II — THE ONE WHO STAYS











ACT III — THE HEARTH BELOW









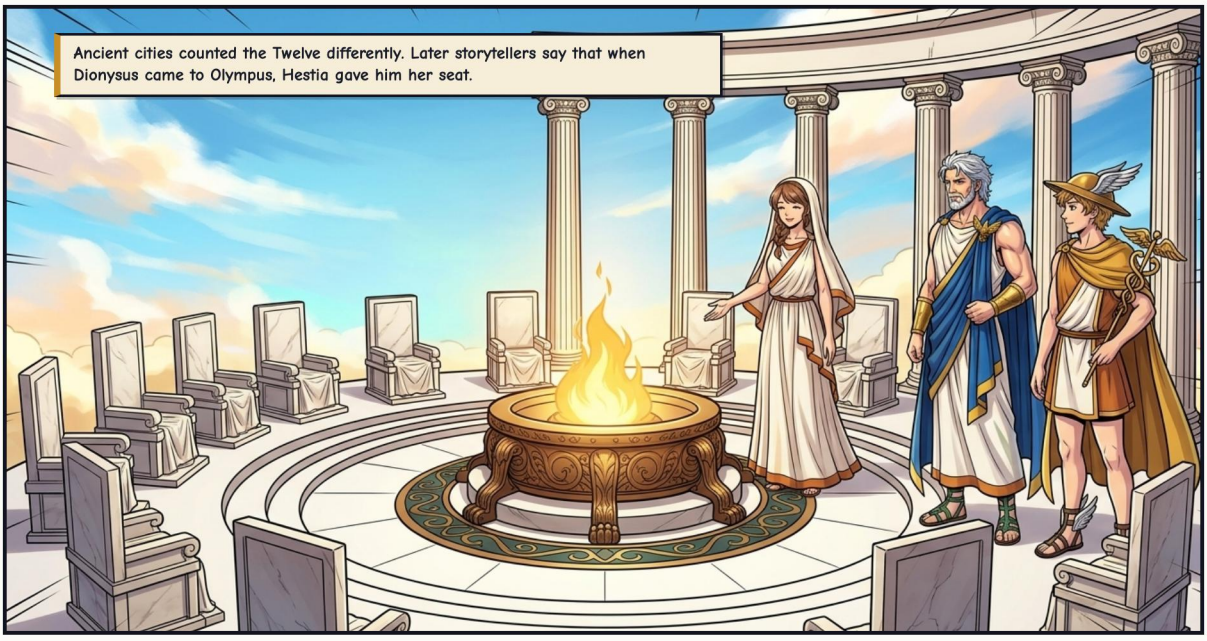

Every city kept a common hearth in its town hall. Its fire was never allowed to go out.

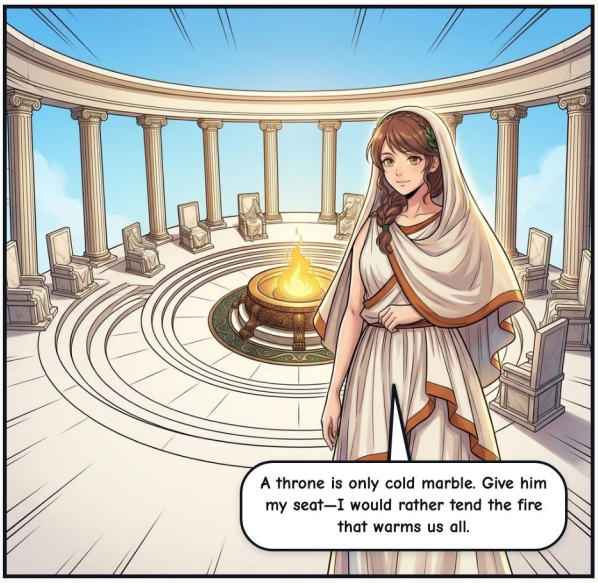

When Greeks sailed to found new cities across the sea, they carried a live ember from Hestia's hearth.

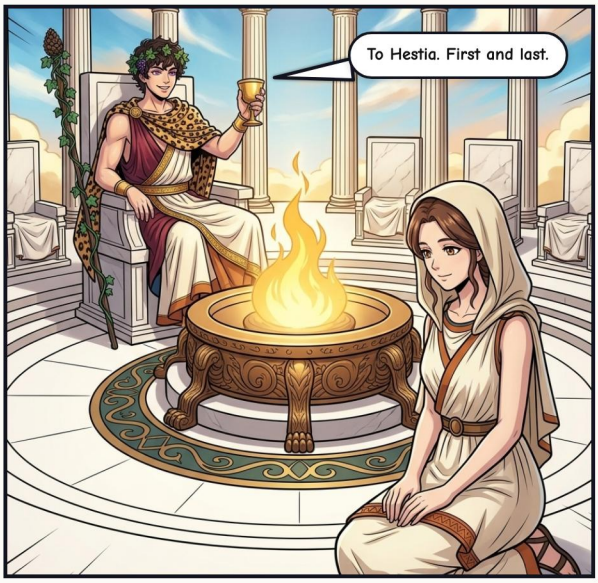

Don't go out. Please don't go out.

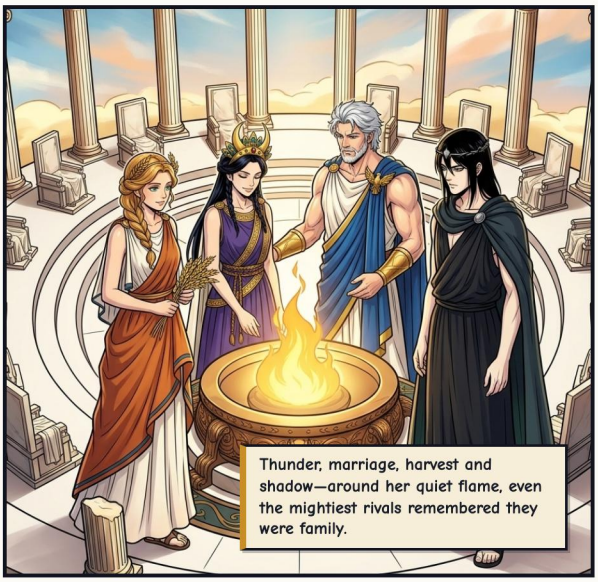


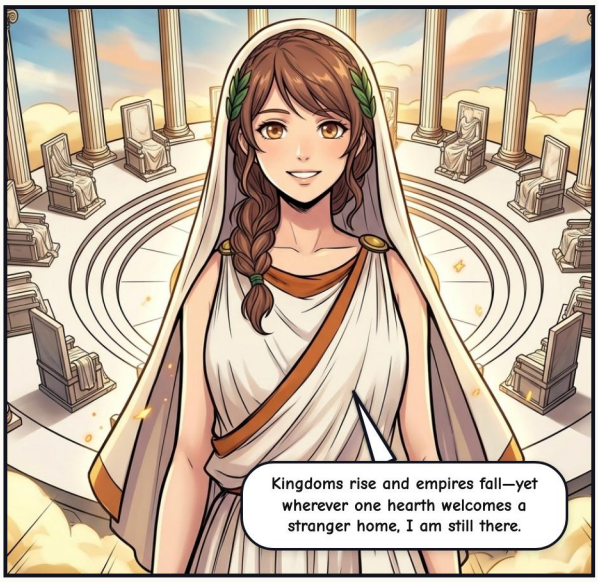
ACT IV — THE EMPTY THRONE





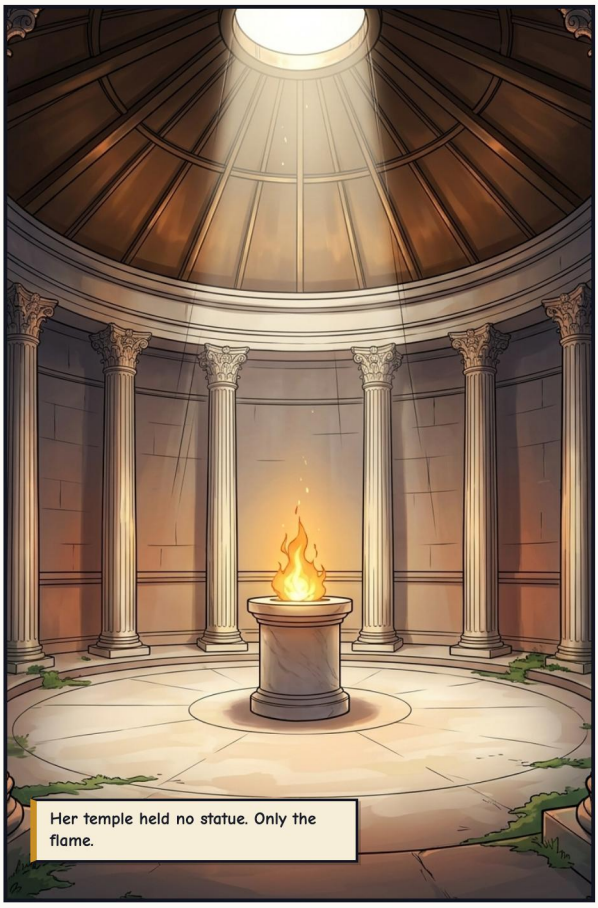


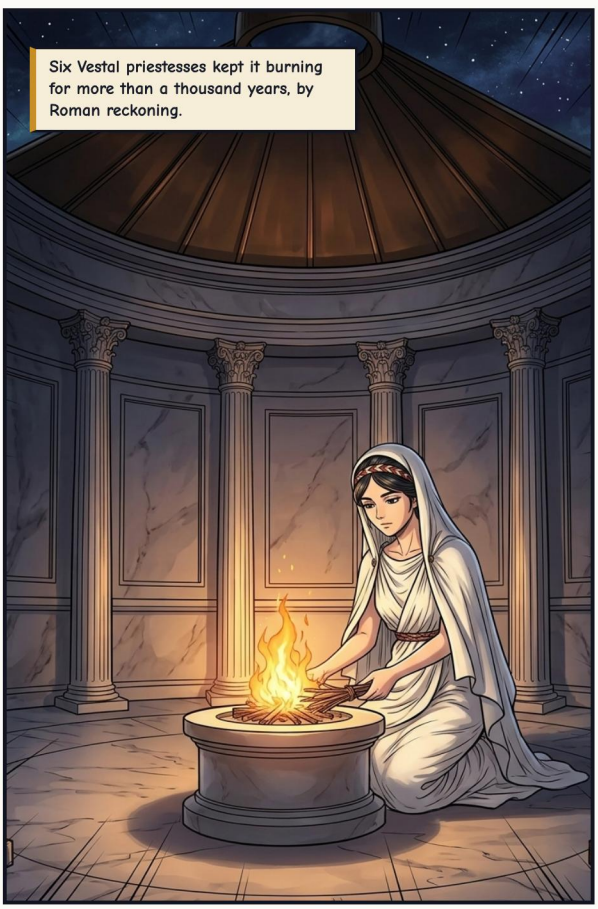


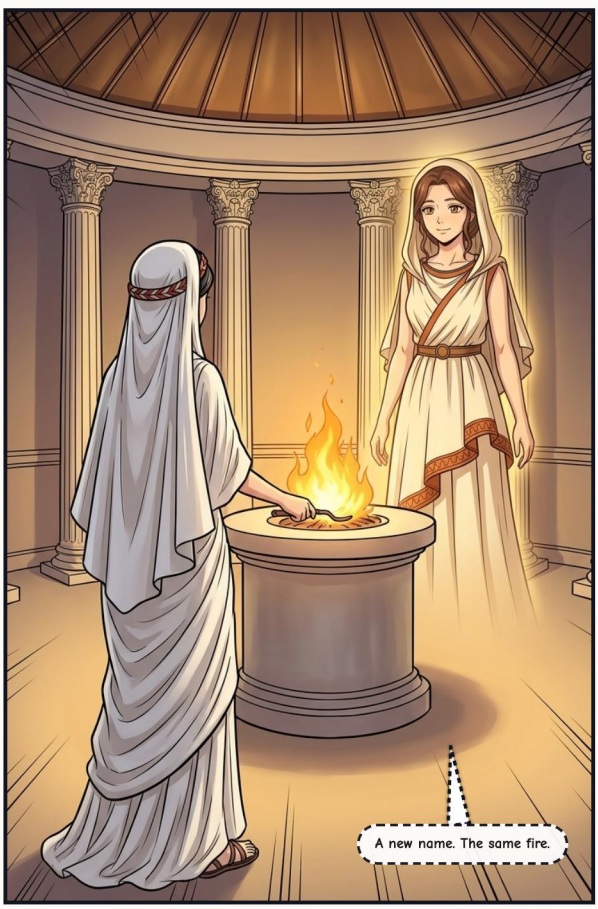


ACT V — VESTA


Centuries later, in Rome, they called her Vesta. Virgil says Aeneas carried her fire out of burning Troy.


Her temple held no statue. Only the flame.


Six Vestal priestesses kept it burning for more than a thousand years, by Roman reckoning.


A new name. The same fire.


She had no statues of conquest, no battles won by blood—only the quiet fire that kept humanity alive.
Guard the spark within your own home—and the darkness can never win.



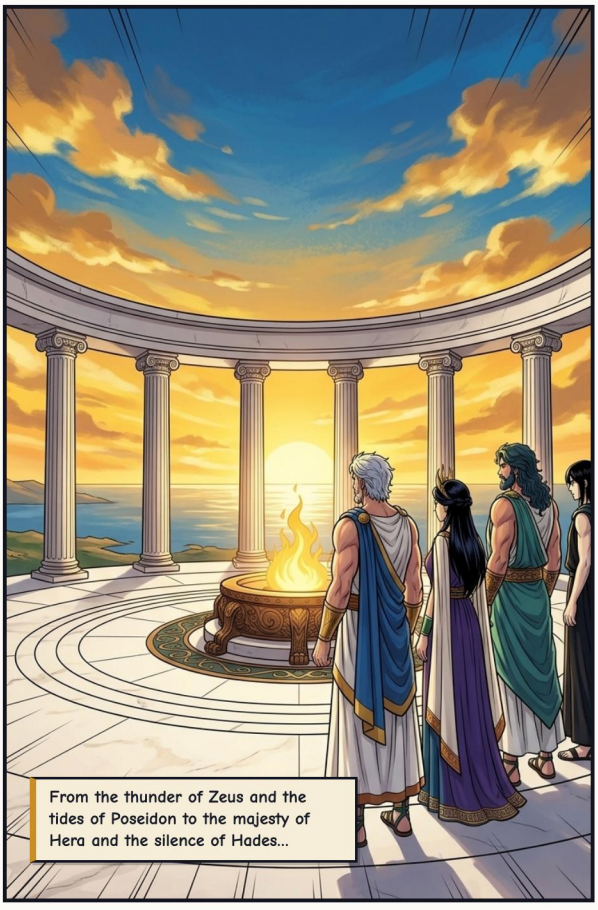


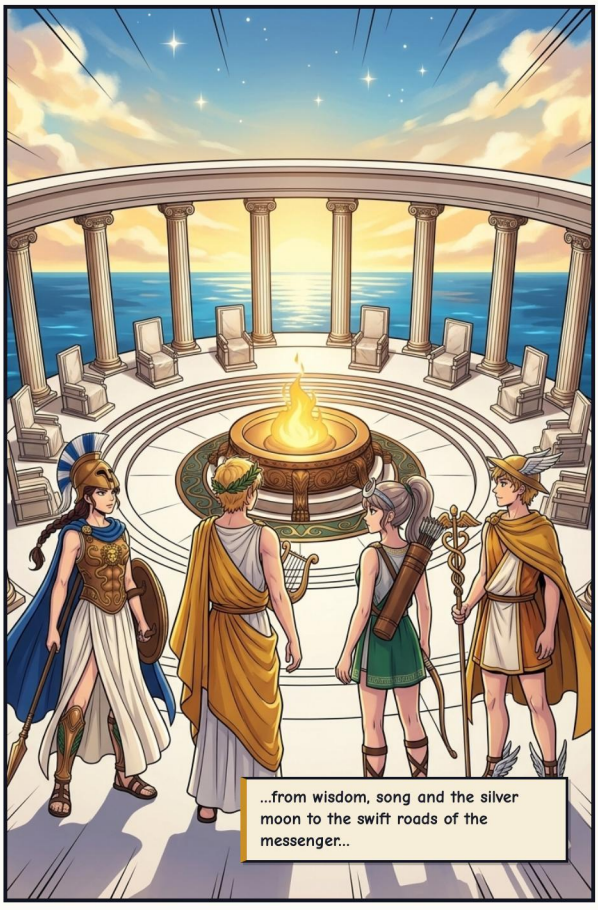


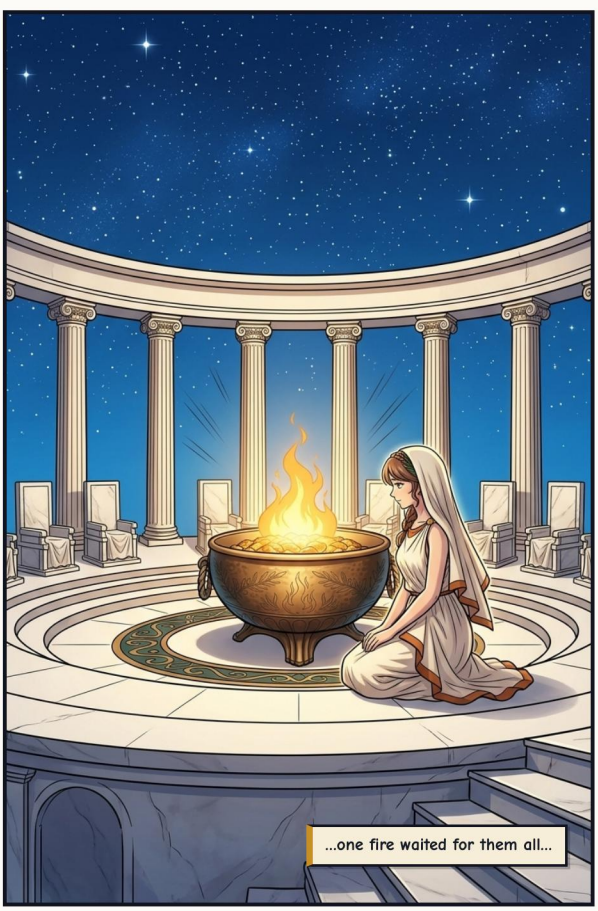




FINALE — THE GODS OF OLYMPUS









COLOPHON

Hestia: Keeper of the Hearth

Gods of Olympus: Greek Mythology

CLASSICAL SOURCES

Homeric Hymns 5 (to Aphrodite) and 29 (to Hestia); Hesiod (Theogony); Apollodorus (Library 1.1–1.2); Diodorus (5.68); Plato (Phaedrus 247a); Pindar (Nemean 11); Ovid (Fasti 6); Virgil (Aeneid 2). The throne story is modern (Robert Graves).

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WORK IN PROGRESS & FEEDBACK

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