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Greek Mythology #10: GANYMEDE by Joy Journey

[Ganymedes] was the loveliest born of the race of mortals, and therefore the gods caught him away to themselves, to be Zeus' wine-pourer, for the sake of his beauty, so he might be among the immortals.

— [Homer, Iliad](#), Book XX, Lines 233-235

Ganymede, the son of King Tros

of Troy, was a beautiful young shepherd tending flocks on Mount Ida when Zeus spied him. Zeus assumed the form of an eagle, and carried Ganymede to Mount Olympus where the boy became a cupbearer to the gods.

King Tros grieved the loss of his son, and, as comfort, Zeus sent Hermes to deliver two fine horses that could run over water as a gift to Tros, with a message that Ganymede would be immortal. Later, Heracles used the two horses when he destroyed the sea monster Poseidon sent to destroy Troy.

Zeus did bestow eternal youth and immortality upon the beautiful Ganymede.

No Greek story is complete without jealousy and treachery. Hera became outraged at Zeus's love for the boy, so Zeus set Ganymede's image among the stars as the constellation Aquarius.



Ganymede by Adamo Tadolini (Italian 1788-1868). Marble. Hermitage Museum.



Stamped brass over a wood background. Thin white metal collet. Original tint. Medium. Collection of Byson Buttons. Small from the author's collection. Notice that this image mirrors "The Abduction of Ganymede," (ca. 1650) by Eustache e Le Sueur (at left).

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Stamped & pressed wood.
Ganymede holding a laurel
wreath and the eagle. Set in
brass imitation bamboo
border. BBB 775-8. Large.
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Chalmers.

American creativity shown in
1906, when Anheuser-Busch
used an image of Ganymede's
abduction in their advertising
campaign for the "Introduction
of Budweiser to the Gods." In
his hand can be seen a bottle
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