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Greek Mythology #31: HEBE

by Joy Journeay

Goddess of: Youth

Home: MOUNT OLYMPUS
Symbols: Cup, goblet,
Parents: Zeus and Hera

Consorts: Psyche Roman Counterpart: Juventus

Hebe was the daughter of Zeus and Hera, and the goddess of youth. Hebe was the cupbearer for the gods. Zeus in his eagle form was believed to have the power to impart eternal youth, and thus shared this focus on youth with his daughter. She is usually depicted serving nectar and ambrosia to her father, Zeus, in his form as this powerful eagle.

As part of her helpful nature, she drew baths for her brother Ares and helped her mother Hera into her chariot pulled by horsed.

Hebe was married to Heracles (Hercules) and succeeded in her duties as cupbearer by Ganymede upon his abduction by Zeus. In some myths she is known as Ganymeda, indicating this link between the two.



Cameo carved shell.

Large. Courtesy of Lucy

Carriero Traverse.



1860s Italian cameo carved shell. Large.



18th century cut ivory on silk in a glt copper rim. Large. Courtesy of R.C.Larner



18th century ink on silk in a metal rim. Large. Courtesy of Barbara Barrans.