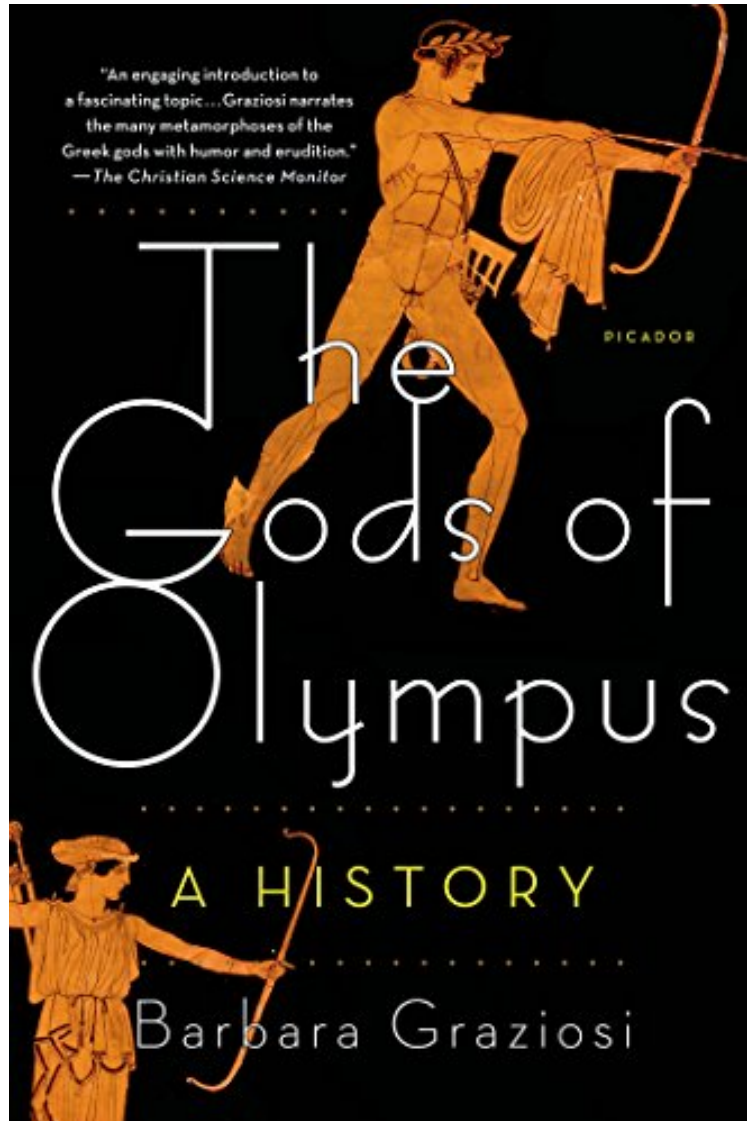


[Download ebook] The Gods of Olympus: A History

## The Gods of Olympus: A History

Barbara Graziosi

*\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

#1037262 in Books 2015-02-24 2015-02-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .81 x 5.50l, 1.00 #File Name: 1250062349304 pages | File size: 49.Mb

**Barbara Graziosi : The Gods of Olympus: A History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gods of Olympus: A History:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Truthful TitleBy C. J. WrightAs a docent at a large art museum, I have been doing for some years a tour focusing on classical gods. Barbara Graziosi's concise history--from a misty past to modern times--is one of the most helpful works that I have encountered. How so helpful? 1) Her vivid description Olympian family relationships in her Introduction was an eye opener for me. 2) In Chapters 2 and 3 she discusses in more detail than I have before encountered the question-- "Did the Greeks believe in their gods?" 3) In

Chapter 10 she lays out the big differences between Greek religion and Roman religion and what happened as the Romans absorbed and adapted Greek gods. Another eye opener. She writes with clarity and grace and documents thoroughly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By RMGood deal. Posted on time as promised. 14 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Great! By Manuel Gonzalez Aguade This is a great approach to the Olympians from a, at least to me, new perspective. Instead of retelling the familiar stories, the author takes the reader through a quick tour of Western history pointing out the parts these gods played at each stage. It is brilliant and fun. I highly recommend it to anyone who loves Greek myths.

"AN ENGAGING INTRODUCTION TO A FASCINATING TOPIC . . . GRAZIOSI NARRATES THE MANY METAMORPHOSES OF THE GREEK GODS WITH HUMOR AND ERUDITION." The Christian Science Monitor The gods of Olympus are the most colorful characters of Greek civilization: even in antiquity, they were said to be cruel, oversexed, mad, or just plain silly. Yet for all their foibles and flaws, they proved to be tough survivors, far outlasting their original worshippers. In Egypt, the Olympian gods claimed to have given birth to pharaohs; in Rome, they led respectable citizens into orgiastic rituals of drink and sex. Under Christianity and Islam they survived as demons, allegories, and planets. And in the Renaissance, they triumphantly emerged as ambassadors of a new, secular belief in humanity. In a lively, original history of mythology, Barbara Graziosi offers the first account to trace the wanderings of these inventive deities through the millennia. Drawing on a wide range of literary and archaeological sources, *The Gods of Olympus* opens a new window on the ancient world and its lasting influence.

From Booklist Children still learn about Zeus and Athena in elementary school, a fact we take for granted. But in this history of the Olympic gods in Western culture, classicist Graziosi makes it clear how remarkable that is. After all, the Olympians started as local gods on the small Greek peninsula. Thanks to the great artistic and philosophical achievements of the Greeks, Rome adopted the gods when it became a great power. Having survived the Roman takeover of the world, the gods faced their greatest challenge yet when Christianity swept the Mediterranean. As Christianity became less a matter of choice and more a matter of force, the gods were sidelined as either demons or abstractions. The survival of classical philosophy in this new world depended on Christian scholars who found in it useful figures of allegory or traces of the true revelation still to come. In this way, the gods made it to the Renaissance and beyond as symbols of creativity and the life force. Graziosi's volume is an engaging trek through the gods' story of persistence and transformation and their relationship to European history. --Lynn Weber Informed by considerable expertise, yet wears its learning lightly . . . A rich and stimulating introduction to the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. *Times Literary Supplement* (London) An engaging introduction to a fascinating topic . . . Graziosi narrates the many metamorphoses of the Greek gods with humor and erudition. *The Christian Science Monitor* Cutting-edge history . . . Deploying an intriguing combination of old-fashioned and inventive approaches to the classical world and its reception, Barbara Graziosi here breaks new ground in the interpretation of the major Greek gods. *Times Higher Education* (London) There is still life in the Olympians . . . An erudite and engaging account of their history and remarkable survival. *The Literary* (London) Graziosi's writing is accessible and entertaining, her passion for her subject obvious . . . A comprehensive and absorbing study. *Shelf Awareness* About the Author BARBARA GRAZIOSI is the author of *Inventing Homer and Homer in the Twentieth Century*, among other works. In 2011, she provided the introduction and notes for a new translation of the *Iliad* for *Oxford World's Classics*. A professor of classics at Durham University, Graziosi is also a contributor to *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, the *London of Books*, and BBC radio programs on the arts. *The Gods of Olympus* is her first trade book. She lives in the U.K.