

The myth of Prometheus

Prometheus was one of the Titans. The Titans were sent to Tartarus by Zeus, because he didn't accept the Titans' fighting against him (famous Battle of the Titans – Titanomachy).

However Prometheus was not directly involved in the war, so Zeus saved him from Tartarus and gave him a mission – to form a man from water and earth. Prometheus forms men from mud and animates them with fire.

He had to attribute to men the "good qualities" received from Athena, but his brother Epimetheus had already started the distribution in a random way, so these qualities are finished, but there are some men who still don't have them. Prometheus, who feels a sympathy for men, decides to steal the chest with the qualities of intelligence and memory from Athena and give them to men. Zeus didn't agree with this relationship Prometheus had with men.

During a meeting between men and gods, an ox was brought and it had to be shared between Zeus and men. Zeus gives the task of the division of the sacrificed beef to Prometheus, who gives men the best pieces of meat. From this event arises the contrast between gods and humans. Zeus gets angry and casts a curse on men: he took the fire out of men and hid it.

Prometheus found the torch in the forge of Hephaestus, stole some sparkles and, regardless of the consequences, took it to men. Zeus punished Prometheus, chains him to a tree and every day an eagle tore his soul, which grew back every night.

Frankenstein

Frankenstein or the modern Prometheus is a gothic, horror, science fiction novel written by the British author Mary Shelley.

Victor Frankenstein is a young Swiss scientist who, driven by the ardor of scientific research, finds a way to create life. He builds a human creature with pieces of corpses, but is terrified by the monstrosity of his creation. The monster escapes and stains itself with horrible crimes, killing William, Frankenstein's younger brother and the scientist's closest friend, Henry Clerval.

During an excursion on Mont Blanc, Frankenstein meets the monster (who has taken refuge on the peaks) who tells him his story. In him there was a native kindness, a need for love and communion with men; but men had rejected and persecuted him, terrified by his monstrosity. The unhappiness had made him wicked, generating in him the desire to take revenge on his creator, who had not cared for him.

The full title of Mary Shelley's novel is *Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus*. So it shouldn't come as a surprise that Mary Shelley was influenced by this tale. Shelley borrows from the tale of Prometheus a sense of consequence resulting from seeking enlightenment and power. Victor is her modern incarnation of Prometheus. He as Prometheus was, is

fascinated by the power of electricity. Another common theme is obviously the creation of the men because Victor creates a monster too. There is a sort of similarity between the old Prometheus and the modern Prometheus, both of them arrogantly challenge the rules imposed by the Gods and Nature, and try to do something good for human beings, using technology, fire and 'electric energy. However, the mythical Prometheus has been more successful in helping evolution with technology than the modern one : the old Prometheus has never left men alone, he has never betrayed them, despite he is full of vices. On the contrary, Frankenstein abandons his "creation". The Creature, at the very moment of its birth due to the only guilt of being horrible, yet it was condemned because its creator was unable to master its technology better.

Prometheus' bet

Composed from April 30 to May 8, 1824, this work imagines that the gods submit their inventions to a college of judges to determine which is the most important. Bacchus win for the invention of wine, Minerva for that of oil and Vulcano for that of an economic pot. Prometheus, who had participated in the competition by presenting the model of land from which the first men had been formed, complains to Momo of the verdict. He wanted to win because he had invented the mankind. Momo listens with skepticism to Prometheus' complaints, and to settle the matter the two agree to come down at random among men to verify if truly humankind is the best thing that the gods have created, engaging each other with a bet on the result of the verification . But what Prometheus and Momo meet on earth shows that mankind is not the perfect thing that Prometheus believed. So he pays the bet to Momo.