

# *Prometheus*



全能の神ゼウスをはじめとする神々は、オリュンポス山をすみかとしていました。そこにいた神々の中のひとり、プロメテウスは、人間に深い愛情を注いでいました。「先に考える」という意味の名前を持つこの神は、人間の将来を考えて、あることをゼウスにお願いします。それはどのようなことなのでしょうか？

## 1

There was a god named Prometheus. He put some soil in his hands and mixed it with water. With this mud, he made the first man. The man looked like the

5 gods, but it was much smaller. Prometheus put the man on the earth. Later, there were many men on the earth.

In the beginning, there was no fire on the earth. Fire was kept on Mount

10 Olympus.

On Mount Olympus, Prometheus said to Zeus, “I want to give fire to the men. There is no fire on the earth. Fire is only here on Mount Olympus. They

15 are cold and need something to keep warm and make tools with.”

“You cannot give fire to the men,” said Zeus.

“Why not?” said Prometheus.

20 “They will become too powerful if

**god** [gɒd] 神  
**Prometheus**  
[prəmiːθiəs]  
プロメテウス  
**soil** [sɔɪl] 土  
**mud** [mʌd] 泥  
**look like** ~  
~のように見える

**Mount Olympus**  
[maʊnt ɒlɪmpəs]  
オリュンポス山

**Zeus** [zjuːs]  
ゼウス

**tool** [tuːl]  
道具



they have fire,” said Zeus. “They are different from the other animals. They can talk. They may become as strong as the gods.”

5 Prometheus asked Zeus many times, but he always said no. At last, Prometheus decided to steal fire from Mount Olympus. Secretly, he put a stick into the fire. Then Prometheus went back to the

10 earth with the stick and the fire.

**always** [ɔːlweɪz]  
常に  
**decide to do**  
~することを決心する  
**steal** [stiːl]  
~を盗む  
**secretly** [sɪkriːtli]  
こっそりと  
**stick** [stɪk]  
たいまつ

Then Prometheus gave the stick and the fire to the men. He also taught them how to keep the fire. Men made many new things with fire. They made metal coins, tools and weapons. Prometheus was glad.

**how to do**  
~する方法  
**metal coin**  
[métl kóin] 硬貨  
**weapon** [wépon]  
武器

## 2

One day, Zeus saw smoke coming from the earth. Zeus knew that men had fire. He became very angry. “Who gave you fire?” he said to them. “Prometheus,” said the men.

Zeus said to Prometheus, “You broke the law of the gods. I told you not to give fire to the men.”

“But I made the men,” said Prometheus. “They are my children.”

But Zeus was angry because Prometheus broke the promise. Then Zeus decided to punish Prometheus. He told one of the gods to make strong chains.

**law** [lɔ:]  
おきて, 決まり  
**tell ... not to do**  
...に~しないよう  
に言う

**promise**  
[prámis] 約束  
**punish** [pʌnɪʃ]  
~を罰する

Prometheus was taken to a big mountain. The chains were put on him and he was fixed to a big rock. Prometheus could not move.

**be fixed to ~**  
~にくくりつけら  
れる

Prometheus tried to break the chains, but they were too strong. Then a vulture came. The vulture ate some of Prometheus' liver. But the liver grew back again.

**vulture** [vʌltʃər]  
ハゲワシ  
**liver** [lɪvər]  
肝臓  
**grow back**  
(元の状態に)回  
復する

Did Prometheus stay on that mountain forever? No. Many years later, a strong man named Hercules broke the chains and rescued him.

**forever** [fɔːrəvər]  
永遠に, 永久に  
**Hercules**  
[hɜːrkljuːz]  
ヘラクレス  
**rescue** [rɛskjuː]  
~を助け出す

