The divine dynasty that rules from “above,” led by Zeus.

The opposite of the Olympians. These are the spirits that are said to inhabit the earth or the nether regions. Hecate and the Furies are both chthonic forces.

A liquid offering to the gods or the dead. This could be water, wine or honey, olive oil and milk, or a combination. A *sponde* was offered for heavenly protection, a *choe* to appease the dead or chthonic forces.

Pollution. A religious virus that could infect a whole community if not treated with ritual purification. Oedipus is a prime example of a man with Miasma.

A cult shrine where mortals could receive divine guidance on the future. Apollo’s shrine at Delphi was one of the most important oracles.

In addition to consulting oracles, Greeks read signs, usually of birds in the sky, such as the omen of the eagles in Aeschylus’*Agamemnon*. They also examined the entrails of birds to seek to understand

divine will.

Cult sites for worship and reverence, often sacred spaces clearly defined by strict rules of entry.

The god of the underworld but also the place mortals went when they died, where they wandered as shades. There were different beliefs of the afterlife, including reincarnation, a blessed existence in Elysian, a transformation into a star, and diffusing into the ether.

Cults of initiation that offered degrees of enlightenment. The most famous mystery cult was at Eleusis near Athens.

The invocation of a particular deity, usually a reciprocal offer in which the person praying would offer to perform a service or make an offering in return for a divine favor. Curses also operated in similar fashion.

**Prayers — Olympians— Chthonic— Miasma— Mystery Cults— Libation— Hades— Sanctuaries— Divination— Oracles**