



The Abbey

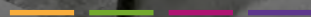
KINDNESS

Is kindness found in the myths  
and legends of the classical world?

Holly, Lower IV (Year 8)











# Is kindness found in the myths and legends of the classical world?

Holly, Lower IV (Year 8)

While classic mythology can be considered brutal and cruel, there is plenty of kindness in the myths and legends. There is even a God of Kindness, Eleos or Elea (Clementia if they are Roman), who was the personification of mercy, clemency, compassion and pity.

Now onto examples. One of the most famous examples could be Hephaestus giving fire to the humans. While he was punished for his kind act by Zeus it shows that even the gods show kindness. Another example could be when all the Lemnos women decided to kill all the men on the island, but Thoas the king of Lemnos, was secretly spared by his daughter.

Set against this, there is much cruelty in the classical world. It could be mortals boasting that they are better than the gods and getting punished like Arache and Athena, wars happening between different countries or simply the immortals fighting with each other.

So even if there are examples of kindness, doesn't this bring back the question of whether there is true and meaningful kindness in the myths and legends?

In my opinion, the fact that there are so many stories of kindness, whether it is Gods helping out humans or family members watching out for each other, actually shows the importance kindness has. Even among all the cruelty and brutality, kindness is a constant.





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