

Handout of quotes for Dialogue from Hesiod's *Works and Days* and *Theogony*

Questions to consider as we examine Hesiod:

- a. How do the Greeks conceive of justice?
 - b. How do the Greeks conceive of time?
 - c. What do the story about Pandora and Prometheus tell us about how the Greeks?
 - d. Does the message of the story seem different if viewed artistically? Or do myth and art reinforce the same philosophical value system?
- 1) Strife is no only child. Upon the earth two Strifes exist; the one is praised by those who come to know her and the other blamed. Their natures differ: for the cruel one makes battles thrive, and war; she wins no love but men are forced, by the immortals' will, to pay the grievous goddess due respect. The other, first-born daughter of blackest Night, was set by Zeus, who lives in air, on high, set in the roots of earth, an aid to men. She urges even lazy men to work: a man grows eager, seeing another rich from ploughing, planting, ordering his house; so neighbor view with neighbor in the rush for wealth: this Strife is good for mortal men—Potter hates potter, carpenters compete, and beggar strives with beggar, bard with bard. *Works and Days*
 - 2) Ages of Men: Golden, Silver, Bronze, Heroic, Iron (current). Zeus will destroy this age when fathers and son, guests and hosts, and friends will lose the common bond. Men will dishonor their parents and destroy the towns of other men. "Might will be Right and shame will cease to be. Men will do injury to better men by speaking crooked words and adding lying oaths; and everywhere harsh-voiced and sullen-faced and loving harm, Envy will walk along with wretched men. Last to Olympus from the broad Earth, hiding their loveliness in robes of white, to join the gods, abandoning mankind, will go the spirits Righteousness and Shame. Only grievous troubles will be left for men, and no defense against our wrongs." *Works and Days*
 - 3) We start then, with the Muses, who delight with song the mighty mind of Zeus within Olympus, telling of things that are, that will be, and that were, with voices joined in harmony....The Muses and Apollo, bring minstrels to the earth, and players on the lyre; Lords are from Zeus. And he is lucky whom the Muses love. His voice flows sweetly from his mouth, and when a man has sorrow newly on his mind and grieves until his heart is parched within, if a bard, the servant of the Muses, sings the glorious deeds the men of old performed, and hymns the blessed ones, Olympian gods, at once that man forgets his heavy heart, and has no memory of any grief, so quick the Muses' gift diverts his mind." *Theogony*

- 4) "Chaos was first of all, but next appeared broad-bosomed Earth, sure standing-place for all the gods who live on snowy Olympus' peak, and misty Tartarus, in a recess of broad-pathed earth, and Love, most beautiful of all the deathless gods. He makes men weak, he overpowers the clever mind, and tames the spirit in the breasts of men and gods. From Chaos came black Night and Erebus. And Night in turn gave birth to Day and Space whom she conceived in love to Erebus. And Earth bore starry Heaven, first, to be an equal to herself, to cover her all over, and to be a resting-place, always secure, for all the blessed gods." Theogony
- 5) Sacrifice: "For at Mekone, once, there was a test when gods and mortal men divided up an ox; Prometheus audaciously set out the portions, trying to deceive the mind of Zeus. Before the rest, he put pieces of meat and marbled inner parts and fat up on the hide, and hid them in the stomach of the ox; but before Zeus the white bones of the ox, arranged with skill, hidden in shining fat. And the spoke, the father of gods and men, and said to him, "My lord, most famous son of Iapetos, the shares you've made my friend are most unfair! Thus Zeus, whose plans are everlasting, spoke and criticized. But sly Prometheus did not forget his trick and softly smiled, and said, Most glorious Zeus, greatest of all the gods who live forever, choose your share, whichever one your heart leads you to pick. He spoke deceitfully, but Zeus who knows undying plans, was not deceived, but saw the trick, and in his heart made plans to punish mortal men in future days. He took the fatted portion in his hands and raged within, and anger seized his heart to see the trick, the white bones of the box. (And from this time the tribes of men on earth burn, on the smoking altars, white ox-bones.)" Pandora made as the curse paid to men for this trick.
- 6) Second "evil" is the necessity of marriage to have children: "He made a second evil as a price of fire, man's blessing: if a man avoids marriage and all the troubles women bring and never takes a wife, at last he comes to miserable old age, and does not have anyone who will care for the old man. He has enough to live on, while he lives, but when he dies, his distant relatives divide his property. The married man who gets a good wife, suited to his taste, gets good and evil mixed, but he who gets one of the deadly sort, lives all his life with never-ending pain inside his heart."
- 7) But Zeus himself produced, from his own head, grey-eyed Athena, fearsome queen who brings the noise of war and tireless, leads the host, she who loves shouts and battling and fights. Then Hera, angry, quarreled with her mate and bore, without the act of love, a son Hephaistos, famous for his workmanship, more skilled in crafts than all the sons of Heaven."