

Workshop Report
Classics in a Nutshell Part 2: Gods and Heroes
Tim Meacham

In his second tour de force, Tim delivered a fascinating exposee of the apparent bonkersness of the excesses, vindictiveness and caprice of the Greek and Roman gods. What were mere mortals to make of their goings-on? Illustrated by Tim's own photographs reaped on his relentless quest to the astonishing architectural monuments dedicated to the gods, we were reminded of what we owe the Greeks and the Romans by their magnificence.

We started with a quiz: which Greek twins were the god of the sun and goddess of the moon? / Who cut off the head of Medusa? / Who was the small winged son of Aphrodite? / Which monster was fed 14 young people (7 boys and 7 girls) on an annual basis? / Who fired the arrow which killed Achilles? This revealed my woeful ignorance but some participants knew their stuff, with a top score, as I recall, of 15/20. Tim then gave us a run through the dramatis personae of Greek and Roman theology with some startling tales of just how malevolent, ingenious and capricious these heroes and gods could be.

I was inspired to rectify my ignorance! Firstly to read more of the mythology (Stephen Fry's series about Gods and Heroes was recommended) and secondly to see more of these remarkable sites with my own eyes. Destination Sicily for starters...

Many thanks to Tim for his talk which was greatly appreciated.