

Prometheus and Epimetheus by A. Roz Mar

Prometheus Pyrphoros is the *fire bringer* of Greek mythology. He it was that dared to reach the Cosmic Sun so to bring fire, thought-spirit, to mankind. Prometheus is the representative of our spirit, our *inner sun*. Thought occurs in man when we receive them from the Cosmologic world. Sensory based “brain” thoughts comes to us when we receive impressions from the outer world. Thought is fire kindled in the blood that is the home of our Spirit “I”.

Prometheus, which in Greek means *forethinker*, represents the endowment of Reason that man was capable of receiving because the human being is fashioned with spirit and possesses a spirit derived of the *diokosmesis*; the Cosmic word-world order. We could also identify it as a golden droplet of the infinite ocean of consciousness.

Prometheus had a brother named Epimetheus which means *afterthinking* and whom Plato labeled “dull witted.” Dull wittedness is passive thinking i.e. materially based, inartistic, objective and uninspired thinking that takes the world at face value derived from the senses, the external material world through the sensory brain. Epimethean thinking is fatalistic in nature in that only afterward does something become known, which is akin to being dragged along by the fates, while Promethean thinking, that which is enflamed by one’s own spirit sees afar and implies taking hold of destiny.

The Golden Eagle symbolizes the will to see beyond and foresee consequences of actions, what Native Peoples identify with the east direction on the Medicine Wheel. Golden thought is the *inner sun* or fire of Prometheus. Thought that evolves to the imaginative, inspirational, and intuitional becomes the potential ground for cosmic intelligence to become manifest.

The myth of Prometheus is expounded on by writers such as Hesiod, Plato, Pythagoras and Pindar. There are other aspects to the story including Prometheus being chained to the Caucasus (earth) where each day an eagle eats at his liver which means that what is not of use to the Ego is cast off but is renewed each night; salt in the blood that is formed when we think during the day is dissolved and refreshed through sleep in the night. Chained to the earth is a way of saying Materialistic.

Do we not see in our world, in our leaders and in ourselves the dilemma when Epimethean thinking predominates? Think Iraq or Vietnam wars or Global climate change. Prometheus, forethought, must become the guiding spirit of this time we live in.

To quote Rudolf Steiner: “It was this spark of spirit which made us into free beings and enabled us to desire what is good out of our own impulses. The Spirit which descended to human beings at the great festival of Whitsun is akin to the spirit which was thrust down, and which is embodied in the figure of Prometheus. This has blown the spark into a flame so our ego can make up its mind to follow the Spirit (spirit self), just as it will later follow the Son (life spirit) and still later the Father (spirit man).”