

## Revenge *Isn't* Only for Mortals

Beautiful, young, and smart, she was the most perfect goddess of this time. This goddess was smart but she never considered what the consequences of her many tricks and pranks might be. One of these consequences was presented when one of her many tricks caught up with her, and I can tell you she wasn't very pleased.

Hera was the name of this multi-talented goddess, and Juno was her Roman name. When she walked into a room, her beauty would equal even the beauty of Mother Nature. She had young, smooth, milky white skin that complimented her golden blonde hair. These beautiful threads hung down to her slender waist and rippled like an ocean in the wind. Sapphire eyes and long lashes brought out the contours in her high cheek bones. The only disadvantage that was included was her wry attitude.

She was planning one of her greatest pranks when an idea struck her like a thunderbolt. She attained a pill to be dissolved in a drink for her brother and husband, Zeus, the god of the sky. Zeus walked into his fluffy cloud dining room to have his usual drink, but this one had a little extra flavor.

Zeus, an enormous man with such titanic weight, would shake the ground every time he was near. His huge chest enhanced his broad shoulders that would intimidate a bull. The muscles seemed to grow on his godly body like weeds. His biceps were as large as pumpkins. He fashioned long, curly white hair with a beard attached. His eyes were as blue as the sky and gray with the storms. This kind of god you stayed away from when he was not in a good mood.

This didn't show any of his personality that we know today. He was the greatest leader of the gods, but when it came to his marriage, he was a failure. He had a taste for the mortal women from earth and very often strayed, producing illegitimate children. This made Hera very angry so maybe Zeus deserved to be played with by her pranks.

Zeus soon fell asleep from his drink that was polluted. Hera gathered some friends and bound Zeus to a table with rawhide thongs pulled from a god's bull. He awoke and tried to free himself, but he didn't have his thunderbolts. He cursed the plotters to Hades' place, but they just laughed.

That night a cousin, Briareus the Titan, heard Zeus and cantered over to see what the problem was. Being a Titan, Briareus had the advantage of having one hundred arms. I don't know how they all fit onto his body, but they did. His stumpy body was topped off with a long narrow face. Briareus considered himself almost hideous to look at and liked to lurk in the shadows. He reached in the window and untied the one hundred knots that held the mighty god to the table. Unbound, Zeus sprang for his thunderbolts and ran straight after Hera. The skies turned black with his anger, and she knew he was coming.

She begged for mercy from her husband and it worked to a certain point. Zeus had some kind of feelings for his wife, so he went easy on her. He came up with the perfect punishment. Zeus went to the heavenly shed and grabbed the golden chains that were strung over a nail. With his mighty strength, he held up his wife with just one arm. The now-free, bulging god, threw the chains over the nearest cloud and carefully bound Hera there. The chains seemed to glitter and Hera's grief-stricken face was seen by all.

She was horrified and began to scream and wail. The moans that came from her mouth could be characterized as the wind growling angrily through the air. To Zeus, this was the perfect punishment, but he didn't think of one important fact. Her constant wails were enough for the sky god to be kept awake at night.

He went to her, and she pleaded to be released from her binding chains. He was ultimately merciful, so he made an agreement with her. Hera promised that she would stop playing pranks on him. In return, he was supposed to stop straying from her. Of course we know that this agreement never held together. With the smiling faces of the fair maidens of earth looking at him, Zeus quickly returned to his devious self. Hera still plays pranks but from what we know, none of them were directed towards the quick-tempered god.

