



Historically Speaking

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What were the gods like?

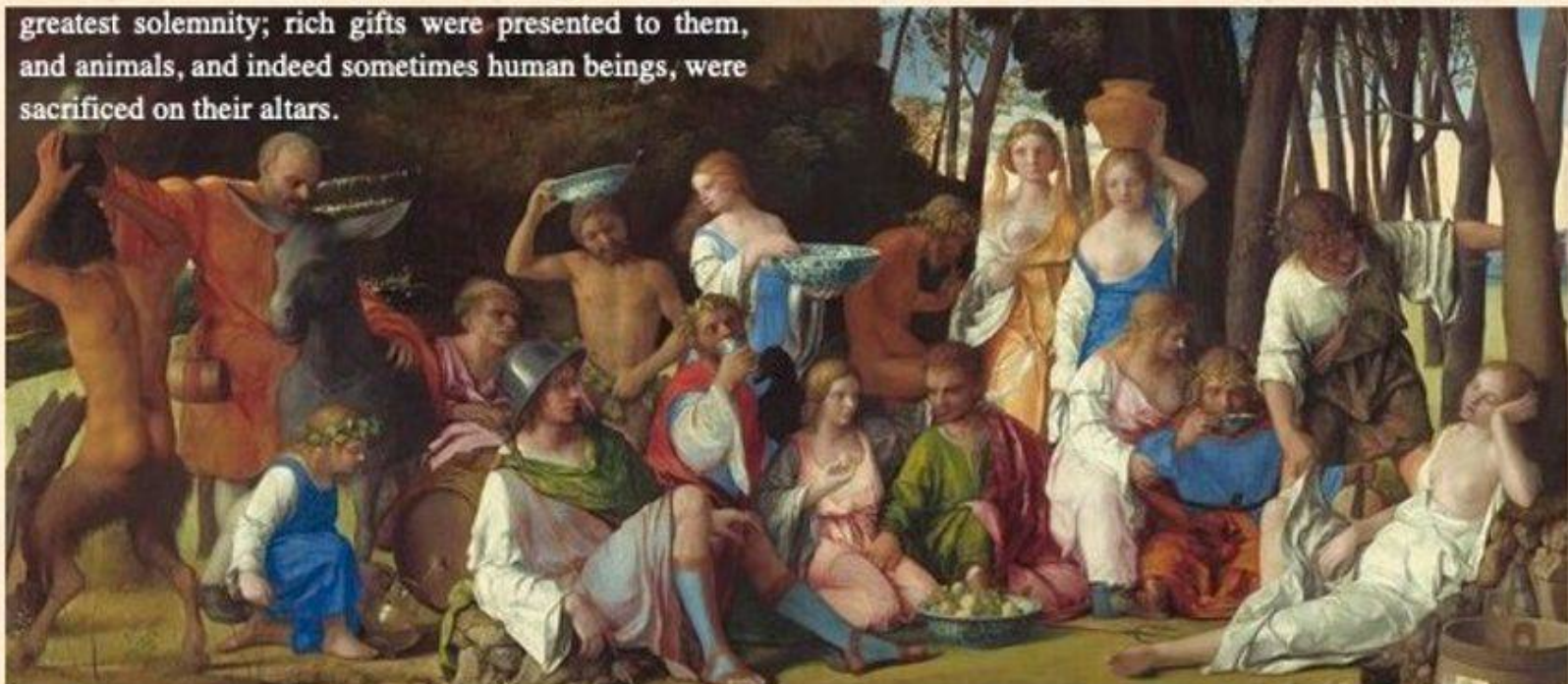
The following excerpt is from *The Myths and Legends of Ancient Greece and Rome* by E.M. Berens as taken from Gutenberg.org.

The gods knew no limitation of time or space, being able to transport themselves to incredible distances with the speed of thought. They possessed the power of rendering themselves invisible at will, and could assume the forms of men or animals as it suited their convenience. They could also transform human beings into trees, stones, animals, (etc.), either as a punishment for their misdeeds, or as a means of protecting the individual, thus transformed, from impending danger. Their robes were like those worn by mortals, but were perfect in form and much finer in texture. Their weapons also resembled those used by mankind; we hear of spears, shields, helmets, bows and arrows, (etc.), being employed by the gods. Each deity possessed a beautiful chariot, which, drawn by horses or other animals of celestial breed, conveyed them rapidly over land and sea according to their pleasure. Most of these divinities lived on the summit of Mount Olympus, each possessing his or her individual habitation, and all meeting together on festive occasions in the council-chamber of the gods, where their banquets were enlivened by the sweet strains of Apollo's lyre, whilst the beautiful voices of the Muses poured forth their rich melodies to his harmonious accompaniment. Magnificent temples were erected to their honour, where they were worshipped with the greatest solemnity; rich gifts were presented to them, and animals, and indeed sometimes human beings, were sacrificed on their altars.

The Name Game

the twelve Olympians

Greek	Roman
Zeus	Jupiter or Jove
Hera.....	Juno
Poseldon.....	Neptune
Hades.....	Pluto or Dis
Athena.....	Minerva
Ares.....	Mars
Hermes.....	Mercury
Hephaestus.....	Vulcan
Hestia.....	Vesta
Aphrodite.....	Venus
Artemis.....	Diana, Selene, Luna
Apollo.....	(no direct Roman name)
Two other key gods often associated with Olympians:	
Demeter.....	Ceres
Dionysus.....	Bacchus
Some other gods include:	
Persephone.....	Proserpine
Pan.....	Faunus
Eros.....	Cupid
Gaia.....	Terra or Tellus
Rhea.....	Ops
Eleithylia.....	Lucina
Helios.....	Sol
Hebe.....	Juventas
Ouranos.....	Caelum
Kronos.....	Saturn



segment of painting by Giovanni Bellini and Titian