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**Rhea** A TITAN, the offspring of GAIA (Earth) and URANUS (Heaven). Sister of LAPETUS, HYPERION, COEUS, CRIUS, CRONUS, MNEMOSYNE, OCEANUS, PHOEBE, TETHYS, THEIA, and THEMIS. Classical sources are Apollodorus's *LIBRARY* (1.1.3–7), Hesiod's *THEOGONY* (132–136, 493–506), and Homer's *ILLIAD* (14.200–204, 15.187–188). Cronus wed his sister Rhea, with whom he produced the generation of Olympian gods: DEMETER, HADES, HERA, HESTIA, POSEIDON, and ZEUS. Wishing to prevent the succession of his own children, Cronus swallowed each child whole shortly after its birth. After the birth of their sixth child, Zeus, Rhea wrapped a stone in swaddling clothes and gave it to Cronus in place of the infant. Zeus was thus spared the fate of his brothers and sisters and grew to maturity on the island of Crete. The Curetes sheltered the infant Zeus by creating a racket to drown out his cries. With Gaia's help, Zeus made his father disgorge his siblings and eventually fulfilled the prophesy of unseating his father.

Pausanias describes a relief on the Temple of Hera at Plataea in Boeotia, depicting Rhea offering Cronus a swaddled stone to swallow in place of her last-born child, Zeus. A similar representation appears on an Attic red-figure pelike from ca. 475 B.C.E. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York).

**Romulus** Founder of Rome. Son of Mars (see ARES) and Rhea Silvia. Brother of Remus. The principal classical sources are Dionysius of Halicarnassus's *Roman Antiquities* (1.76–2.56), Livy's *From the Foundation of the City* (1.3.10–1.17), and Ovid's *FASTI* (2.381–421; 3.11–76, 179–228). Numitor, king of Alba Longa, was driven from the throne by his brother Amulius. Amulius then made Numitor's daughter, Rhea Silvia, a Vestal virgin, since this priesthood required the maintenance of chastity, which, in Rhea's Silvia's case, would prevent the birth of an avenger of Numitor. The god Mars, however, raped her, and she gave birth to twin sons, Romulus and Remus. Amulius ordered the twins to be thrown into the river Tiber. The Tiber was in flood, and the twins were washed ashore near a fig tree called the Ficus Ruminialis. A she wolf came upon them, suckled them, and brought them up. Eventually, Faustulus, the royal herdsman, came upon them, and he and his wife brought them up as their own children. As the boys grew up and became involved in various bold deeds, including robbery, Remus was taken prisoner by Amulius, while Faustulus revealed to Romulus the secret of his parentage. Romulus rescued his brother, defeated Amulius, and reinstalled Numitor as king. The twins then decided to found a city, according to Roman tradition in the year 754 B.C.E. According to