

*Aquila (uh-kwil-uh) - The Eagle*

The Eagle is the bird of Zeus, the chief god of the Olympus. It was sometimes called the thunderbird, because it was the Eagle that carried the thunderbolts of Zeus and retrieved them after they were thrown.

It was the Eagle who carried out the punishment of the Titan Prometheus, who had stolen a ray of sunlight, wrapped it in a reed, and presented it to humankind as the gift of fire. Zeus was furious at this deed, which gave human beings some of the power that had belonged to the gods alone. So Zeus had the Titan chained to a rock in the Caucasus Mountains, and arranged that each day the Eagle came to gnaw at Prometheus' liver. As a Titan, Prometheus could not die. Each night his liver would grow back, for the Eagle to gnaw on the next day.

