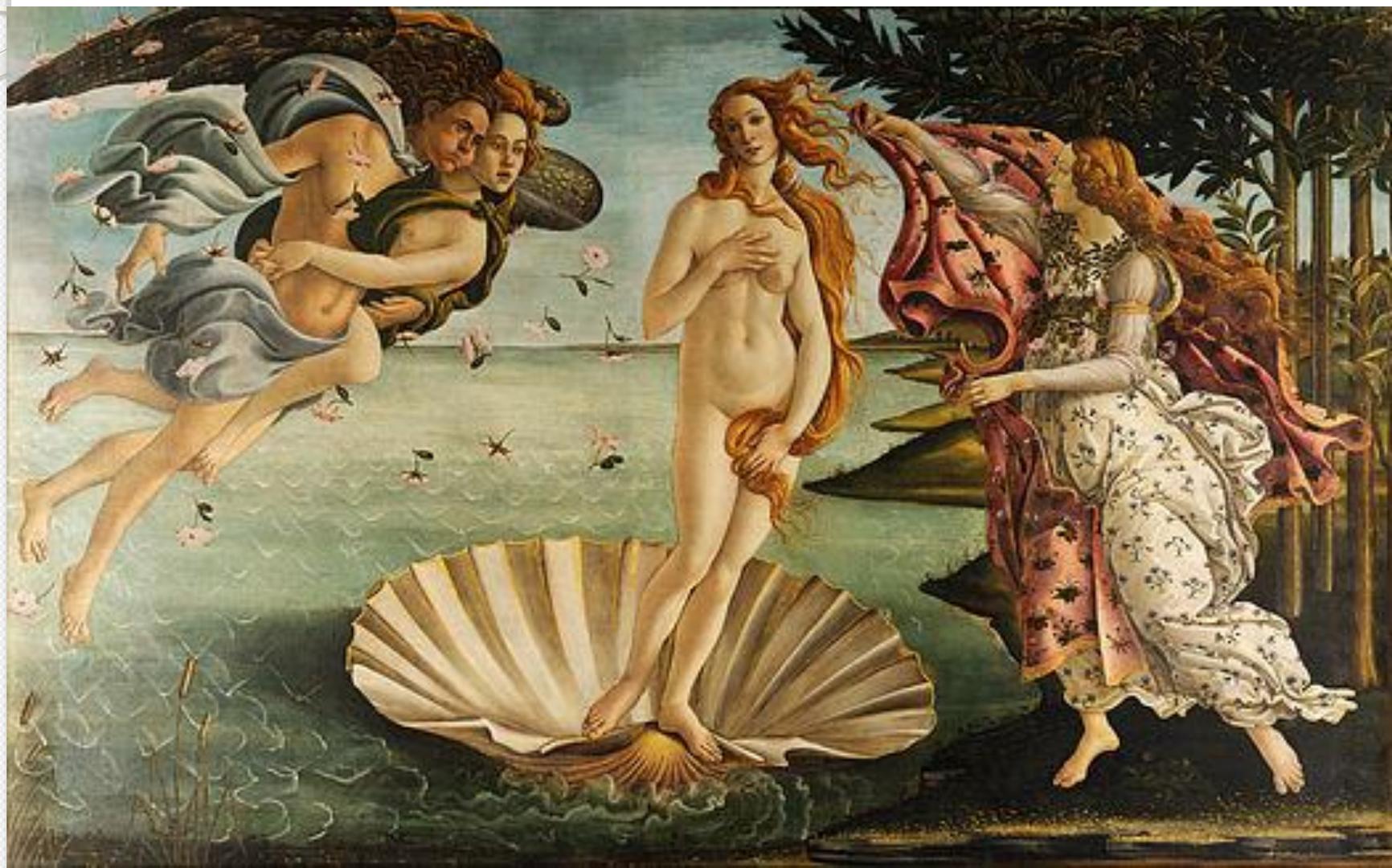


THE BIRTH OF AFRODITE



The Birth





Her father was Uranos

- Aphrodite was born in Cyprus, well not born exactly because as the story goes, she was "foam born". Her father in a manner of speaking was Uranus (Father Heaven). In fact her conception was caused by her half-brother Cronos.



The castration

- Cronos was a son of Uranus and Gaea (Mother Earth) and at his mother's instigation had castrated his father with a sickle. The resultant blood that dripped from his severed organ (as it was carried off on the shoulder of Cronos) created a race of giants, the nymphs and the furies, as they landed in the sea, white foam was created from the friction of water and flesh.



Aphrodite: “Born from the foam”

- This foam formed the shape of a beautiful woman when it came to the island of Cyprus. When Aphrodite stepped on the ground, beautiful flowers blossomed, anemones and bonnets, which to this day still bloom on the rocks in Paphos.

Aphrodite of Milos and from Cyprus



Cypris: Born in Cyprus

She has also been called "Goddess of love" "Cytherea," " Cypris," " Cypria," and "the Cypriate". Since then, Cyprus became the favorite island for the goddess of love, where she preferred to spend all of her time.

Explains etymology

- This story was handed down to us by Hesiod, one of the earliest Greek poets. He explains that Aphrodite's name comes from the Greek word ἀφρός [afrós], meaning "foam," which could refer to the sea foam or to Uranos' semen. This myth is etiological, with Aphrodite's birth from foam explaining the origin of her name. This is a poetic invention, however, and the true etymology of Aphrodite's name remains unknown.

Goddess Ashtart



Although these myths surrounding Aphrodite are Greek, Aphrodite is not a Greek creation, but more of an acquisition. She is a version of the goddess Ashtart, also called Astarte, Ishtar, Isis, and a number of other variants, when she appears in different places around the Mediterranean and throughout the Middle East.

Love and War

- As a goddess, Astarte held dominion not only over love, but also heaven and war. Aphrodite's function was narrowed down to the goddess of love, although she is occasionally depicted with weapons or married to Ares, the Greek god of war, which is evidence of her bellicose beginnings.





“The legend of Aphrodite”

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