

APHRODITE

Greek name Ἀφροδίτη

Latin name Venus

Name in your language

Parents Zeus and Dione

Role goddess of love and beauty

Home Mount Olympus

Attributes rose, scallop shell, mirror

Pets dolphin, swan, dove

Aphrodite was the most beautiful goddess of all. This title was important to her. The contest of the golden apple provides evidence for it. All began when Peleus and Thetis decided – with good reason – not to invite Eris to their wedding. Eris was the goddess of discord, and the loving couple desired a peaceful celebration. Soon Eris enacted her revenge. In anger, she cast a golden apple among the goddesses present at the wedding. The apple was addressed “To the Fairest”. Three goddesses claimed this title: Aphrodite, Athena, and Hera. Paris, prince of Troy, was made judge of the contest. To ensure victory, Aphrodite promised Paris he would marry Helen, the most beautiful woman on Earth. Thrilled at the idea, Paris gave the apple to Aphrodite. It was not long before Paris kidnapped Helen from her palace in Sparta, which was the reason for Troy’s tremendous war. Thus, Aphrodite got her title... at the cost of war.

