

## Muses, Graces, and Fates

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**Homer begins his epic, *The Odyssey*:**

"Tell me, O Muse, of that man,  
so in need of help, who wandered far and wide,  
after he had sacked the sacred city of  
Troy."

**In another section of *The Odyssey*, the blind poet wrote:**

"The herald came near, bringing with him the  
excellent singer  
Whom the Muse had loved greatly...  
She had deprived him of his sight, but she gave him  
the sweet singing art...  
The herald hung the clear lyre on a peg placed over  
His head, and showed him how to reach up with his  
hands to take it down."

**The early poet, Hesiod, wrote about the history of the gods in *The Theogony*. He writes:**

"One day the Muses taught me glorious song...  
They plucked and gave to me a laurel rod,  
A sturdy shoot, a truly wondrous thing,  
And into me they breathed a voice divine  
To celebrate the future and the past.  
My orders were to celebrate the gods who live  
Eternally, but most of all to sing  
Of them themselves, the Muses, first and last."

**Sappho was inspired to write about her daughter, Cleis in a poem entitled, "A Girl."**

"I have a child; so fair  
As golden flowers is she,  
I'd give her not away  
For Lydia's wide sway  
Nor lands men long to see."