**Metaphorical Significance of Pandora’s Box**

"Pandora's box", a myth from Greek mythology, is a metaphor in our modern language and literature referring to a source of endless complications or trouble arising from a single, simple miscalculation. The proverbial phrase reflects the folk practice especially of the Greeks of holding women responsible for all the evils of the world. The myth also shows how the questions of use, exploitation and marginalization of women have been associated with them since their inception. Pandora's story, as found in Geek mythology or in epic poems by Hesiod called the *Theogony* and *Works and Days,* relates how gods the most powerful males came to create Pandora with a mission and how the box gifted by Zeus to her ultimately ended the endless heavenly pleasures of and brought sorrows and sufferings to mankind .

**The Story of Pandora's Box and All Ills of the World**

According to Greek mythology, after defeat of the Titan, [Prometheus](https://www.thoughtco.com/prometheus-fire-bringer-and-philanthropist-111782) stole fire from heaven and gave it to humans and thus made Zeus angry with. To take revenge on Prometheus [Zeus](https://www.thoughtco.com/profile-of-the-greek-god-zeus-111915) with the help of other gods created the first human woman and named her Pandora which means out of the earth. Hermes made her lovely as a goddess, with the gift of speech to tell lies, and the mind and nature of a treacherous dog. Athena dressed her in silvery clothing and taught her weaving; Hephaestus crowned her with a marvelous golden diadem of animals and sea creatures; Aphrodite poured grace on her head and desire and cares to weaken her limbs.

Thus Pandora, the first of a race of woman community, the first bride was created. Zeus sent this beautiful treachery as a gift to Prometheus' brother [Epimetheus](https://www.thoughtco.com/titanomachy-111784). Pandora appeared with all her majesty and beauty and also brought with her the beautiful box gifted by Zeus. Prometheus advised his brother not to accept any gift from cunning Zeus but [Epimetheus](https://www.thoughtco.com/titanomachy-111784) ignored his advice and accepted Pandora as his wife. One day Pandora, out of curiosity, opened the box though she was warned not to open it. Out from the box flew every trouble known to humanity. strife, sickness, sorrow, suffering, in fact all trouble or evils to humanity came out of the box and afflicted the human world. Pandora shut the box and managed to keep one spirit in the box named Hope. Since then, according to the myth, the endless pleasure of man came to an end and sorrows and sufferings, toils and troubles have been with the human community, but living with hope found intact.

**The Meaning of the Myth**

Pandora is a cult name of the great goddess [Gaia](https://www.thoughtco.com/gaia-the-earth-goddess-2561990). Pandora is not just any willful creature, she is the personification of Earth itself. The point is that the box minimizes her importance or cuts off the heavenly static life and gives the human community for the first time the real human life exposure. The myth explains why human must work to survive, that Pandora represents the beautiful figure of dread, something for which men can find no device or remedy. The quintessential woman was created to beguile men with her beauty and uncontrollable physical and mental power, to introduce falsehood and treachery and disobedience into their lives. Her task was to let loose all the evils upon the world or bringing reality to the human world while trapping hope, unavailable to mortal men. It is a question whether Pandora, Zeus's price of fire, marginalizes women or empowers them with the power of bringer of reality and making human life meaningful.Brown points out that Hesiod's story of Pandora is the icon of archaic Greek ideas of sexuality and economics. Hesiod didn't invent Pandora, but he did adapt the story to show that Zeus was the supreme being who shaped the world and caused the misery of the human lot, and how that caused human descent from the original bliss of a carefree existence.

**Pandora and Eve**

One may recognize in Pandora the story of the [Biblical Eve](https://www.thoughtco.com/eve-mother-of-all-the-living-701199). She too was the first woman, and she too was responsible for destroying an innocent, all-male Paradise and unleashing suffering ever after. Several scholars including Brown and Kirk argue that the *Theogony* was based on Mesopotamian tales, although blaming a woman for all the evils of the world is definitely more Greek than Mesopotamian. Both Pandora and Eve may well share a similar source. Rereading of the myths reveals that the reality of sustenance of human life and its beauty as an art lies with women along with the story of marginalization.