

PROMETHEUS BOUND

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Prometheus Bound

At the J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Villa
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, September 5–28, 2013

Defying Zeus to Help Humans: What Was Prometheus Thinking?

Saturday, September 21, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
Auditorium, Getty Villa

Free admission; a ticket is required. Contact Getty Visitor Services at (310) 440-7300 or visit www.getty.edu. Parking \$15.

In the Greek tragedy *Prometheus Bound*, the protagonist defies the wishes of the king of the Olympian gods and suffers terrible consequences for helping the human race. What is the meaning behind Prometheus's "philanthropy" and his refusal to submit to Zeus's commands?

Classicist Mark Griffith examines this enigmatic play, unique among surviving tragedies in presenting a divine character as the focus of the audience's attention. He addresses the disturbing questions the play raises about the justice (or otherwise) of Zeus's regime and the nature of divine power. While it is unknown how ancient Athenians reacted to this tragedy, or how the story was developed in the other plays of the trilogy to which it likely belonged, *Prometheus Bound* is regarded today as one of the most startling and controversial of all Greek dramas and continues to speak profoundly to modern audiences.



Prométhée enchaîné (Prometheus Bound), Nicolas-Sébastien Adam, also known as Adam the Younger, 1762, French. Marble. Louvre Museum, Paris, MR 1745.
Photo: Marie-Lan Nguyen.

