

## **Pandora: First Human Woman**

Zeus found a subtle way to punish humans for having the gift of fire. He created the first human woman, Pandora.

Hermes ushered her to Earth and presented her as a wife to Prometheus' brother Epimetheus, who happened to be living with the mortals. Prometheus had warned him not to accept any gifts from Zeus, but he was awestruck by Pandora's beauty. She arrived with a sealed jar that Zeus told her never to open.

She wasn't happy because she didn't know what was in the jar. It wasn't long before curiosity got the better of her. She unsealed the jar for a quick peek.

Out came a horde of miseries: Greed, Vanity, Slander, Envy and all the evils that until then had been unknown. Horrified, Pandora snapped the lid shut just in time to keep Hope from flying away.

*Noteworthy: Both Eve and Pandora were given only one "divine prohibition" in their otherwise idyllic lives, and both found themselves irresistibly drawn to violate it. In addition to the similarity, there is a difference. Eve was created to help Adam; Pandora to bring punishment to the men who benefited from the crime of Prometheus' gift.*