

## Hesiod



### life

Hesiod was a Greek poet generally thought by scholars to have been active between 750 and 650 BC. his father came from [Cyme](#) in [Aeolis](#) (on the coast of [Asia Minor](#), a little south of the island [Lesbos](#)) and crossed the sea to settle at a hamlet, near [Thespieae](#) in [Boeotia](#), named [Ascra](#)

### Facts

Hesiod is generally regarded as the first written poet in the Western tradition to regard himself as an individual persona with an active role to play in his subject. Ancient authors credited Hesiod and Homer with establishing Greek religious customs. Modern scholars refer to him as a major source on Greek mythology, farming techniques, early economic thought.

He is sometimes considered history's first economist, archaic Greek astronomy and ancient time-keeping. Various legends accumulated about Hesiod.

### Works

Three works have survived which are attributed to Hesiod by ancient commentators: [Works and Days](#), [Theogony](#), and [Shield of Heracles](#). Other works attributed to him are only found now in fragments.

He viewed the world from outside the charmed circle of aristocratic rulers, protesting against their injustices in a tone of voice that has been described as having a "grumpy quality redeemed by a gaunt dignity"

## Hesiodic *Works and Days*

Translated by Gregory Nagy

- 1 Muses of Pieria, you who make glory [*kleos*] with your songs,
- 2 come and tell of Zeus, making a song about your father,
- 3 on account of whom there are mortals both unworthy of talk and worthy,
- 4 both worth speaking of and not—all on account of great Zeus.
- 5 Easily he gives power, and just as easily he ruins the powerful.
- 6 Easily he diminishes the distinguished, and magnifies the undistinguished.
- 7 Easily he makes straight the crooked and withers the overweening
- 8 —Zeus, the one who thunders on high, who lives in the highest abode.