



ARTEMIS

You may be surprised to hear me speak against Atlantis, but I am outraged by their destruction of the virgin forests, habitat of all wild creatures and plants born of Gaia. The trees of the forests and green plants are Gaia's lungs, using our cousin Helios's rays to give life and food, and maintaining her mantle in stable equilibrium.

They not only destroyed the forests, but upset the delicate balance of life that plants and living creatures had developed, and upset the chain of life that Gaia had created. Creatures small and large that depended on each other as prey, or lived together in mutual dependence became isolated and died.

You may have expected me to defend their hunters, and the weapons of war they adopted for their sport. But it was hunters that prized the skins or horns of magnificent animals, which were slaughtered in such huge numbers, that they were driven to extinction. At other times it was food or substances yielded by magnificent creatures like whales, that they valued which led them to send fleets into Poseidon's domain to drive them into near extinction. Animals were killed simply for sport, to exhibit their heads or pelts as trophies. Worst of all, they developed a culture based on fear of their neighbours, or imagined enemies, of possessing deadly weapons in enormous quantities and used frequently to deadly effect on their innocent fellow citizens.

Demeter has spoken of the poisons used to kill insect pests to improve the production of crops, but these kill many other creatures whose deaths are not anticipated, and whose loss has unintended consequences for the web of life that Gaia initiated.

I am in favour of our father Zeus punishing the Atlanteans in any way that will stop their willful destruction of the natural world.