

K

For most Greek names beginning with kappa ('K') see the Latin forms under 'C'.

Ker (*Κήρ*, plural *Κήρες*). Goddess of doom and violent death; in the plural Keres were a version of the *Erinyes or *Fates. According to Hesiod they are daughters of Nyx ('night') and belong with other evils that afflict human life, built into the structure of the cosmos. In their representation on the *Shield of Heracles* they are grim females, their clothes red with human blood-stains, having glaring eyes, gnashing white fangs and finger-nails bent like talons; as soon as a man falls in battle, they swoop on him, drink the warm blood, send the soul to Hades and rush back to the fray. Medea calls on them as 'devourers of life' and 'dogs of Hades' in her curse on *Talus. In the *Iliad* Ker is also more abstract, as the fate that accompanies one through life, a choice that his made, and the death that comes at the end. Zeus is twice shown weighing the *κήρες* of two warriors in a balance to see which will survive the mortal combat and which meet his doom. [Apollonius 4.1665-70; Hesiod *Shield* 156-60, 248-57, *Theog* 211-9; Homer *Iliad* 1.228, 2.302, 8.70-74, 9.410-15, 11.332, 18.535-40, 22.209-13; Pausanias 5.19.6]

Kore (*Κόρη*). *See* Persephone.

Kratos (*Κράτος*, Latin 'Cratus'). *See* Bia.

Kronos (*Κρόνος*). *See* Cronus.

Ktesius (*Κτήσιος*). An ancient spirit who guarded domestic property; *θεοὶ κτήσιοι* ('gods of the storeroom') were the Greek equivalent of the Roman *Penates. Zeus Ktesios was a title of Zeus as the protector of the home and its wealth. [Aeschylus *Suppl* 445; Dionysius 8.41; Plutarch 10.828a]