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**Making a primal fire**

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# Importance for the mankind

**Fire was a turning point for all humanity, and it's one of the most important happenings in our history. Fire gave us much more than just a warm, it gave us the opportunity to evolve. Human - it's the only one creature, who can use fire.**

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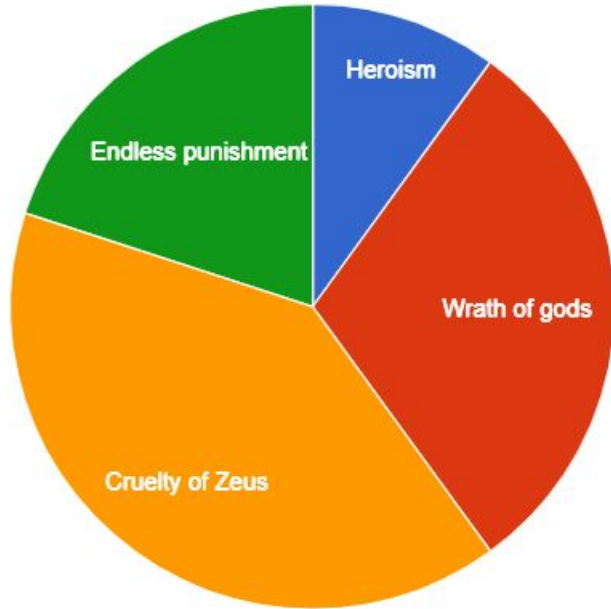
# What do we know from fables?

Actually, we don't know a lot about our primal times. Scientists can't really say, how primitive man learned to make a fire. There are many legends in different cultures, but the most famous is about Prometheus, the Titan who stole the fire and presented it to people.

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## What Greek legends consist of

- Heroism
- Wrath of gods
- Cruelty of Zeus
- Endless punishment



Actually, most of greek legends consist of the same things. But this one is especially known because of really hard punishment in the end.

On the example of legend about Prometheus we can see, that fire was very important thing, and even gods were afraid to lose it.



**In Greek mythology, Prometheus is a Titan who challenged the gods by stealing fire and giving it to humanity. Prometheus is known for his intelligence and also like a symbol of kindness, that is why it is associated with fire.**

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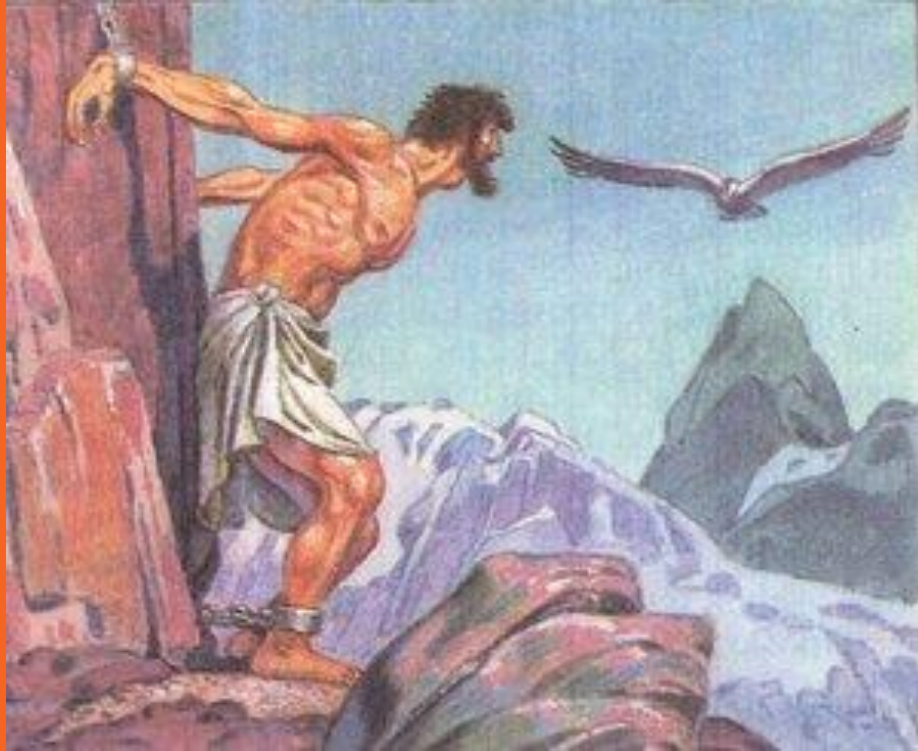
**Moreover, several Greek legend says that Prometheus made people from clay and later stole fire from another god, Hephaestus.**

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Of course Zeus, the main god from the Olympus was angry, and soon Prometheus learned the wrath of the gods.

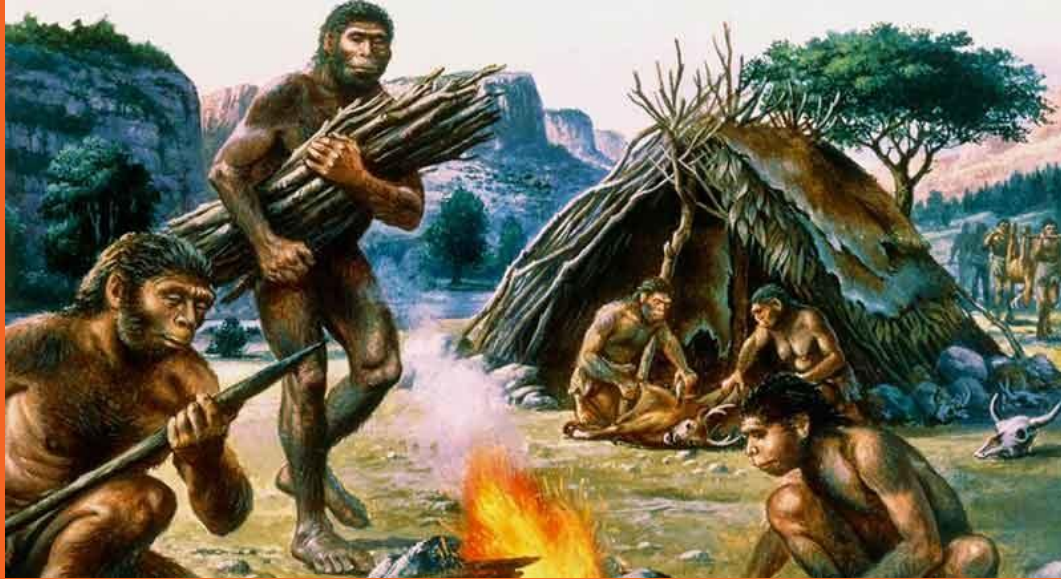
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The punishment was really hard. Prometheus was chained to a rock. Every day an eagle, a symbol of Zeus, comes to prisoner and eats his liver.

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**Just a legend,  
but what about  
the truth?**

**In the beginning, primal people were afraid of fire, like animals. But later, they started to understand, that fire can be useful. First evidence of using fire is the shards of a red clay with traces of fire, that was found in Africa. Age of that shards is 1,42 million years.**

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# For understanding



**Homo habilis, 2 million years  
before our era**



**Homo erectus, 1 million  
years before our era**



**Neanderthal,  
500-300  
thousands  
before our era**

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It's a plane! It's a bird! No, it's  
a thunderbolt!

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People didn't  
learn how to  
make fire at  
once. The  
theory says,  
that some  
tribes saw a  
burning tree  
because of the  
thunderbolt.

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Of course, primal people took fire from different sources. Anyway, next step was to save the fire because it was a key to prosperity of the tribe. It was a task of a special person - sentinel of fire.

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**Sentinel of fire was a man, who watched the fire day and night. He had no any different purposes. Price of the mistake was too high, usually it was a hereditary business.**

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That was one of the most important persons in the tribe. If the campfire dies - the tribe may die too.

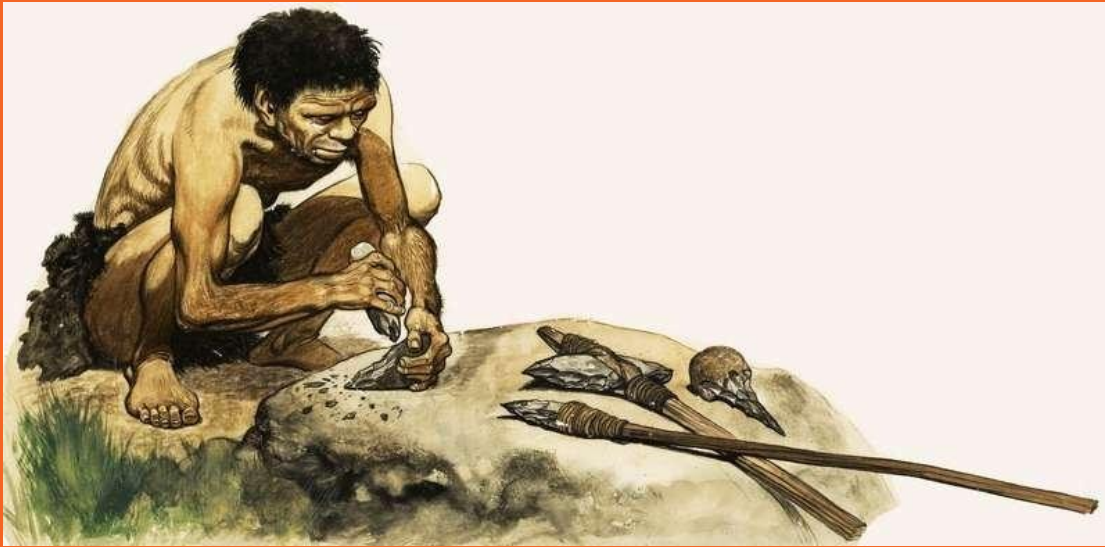
Also, the fire is a dangerous thing, so the sentinel of fire had to be very responsible.

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**It took a lot of resources and forces to saving the fire. Just imagine, that you need to keep fire for weeks.**

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# Making of fire

Soon, primal people learned how to make fire himself. Apparently it was just an accident, actually, several accidents: One of the primitive people used to make some sort of weapon or implements by hitting stone on stone. During this process there were sparks and probably they burned the grass.

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**Another possible accident.**

**For some reason primitive people rubbed stick on stick, and soon the fire appeared.**

**So we can truly say, that these 2 usual way to make fire are the oldest.**

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**Unfortunately, we have not enough information about food of primitive people, but it's very important.**

**Remember this guys?**



**All of them were our ancestors. And all of them had primitive primal speech, they knew how to make fire, simple weapons and some implements. But fire gave us much more than that. It gave us the ability to process food. And it became another turning point in our evolution.**

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- *Presentation is a fire lol*

## Australopithecus, 4 millions years before our era

One of the oldest ancestors, what we know. They were the last kind, who didn't know, how to make fire. The most interesting thing is, that they had large and heavy skull, but small brain. Next type of mankind had larger brain. Why?

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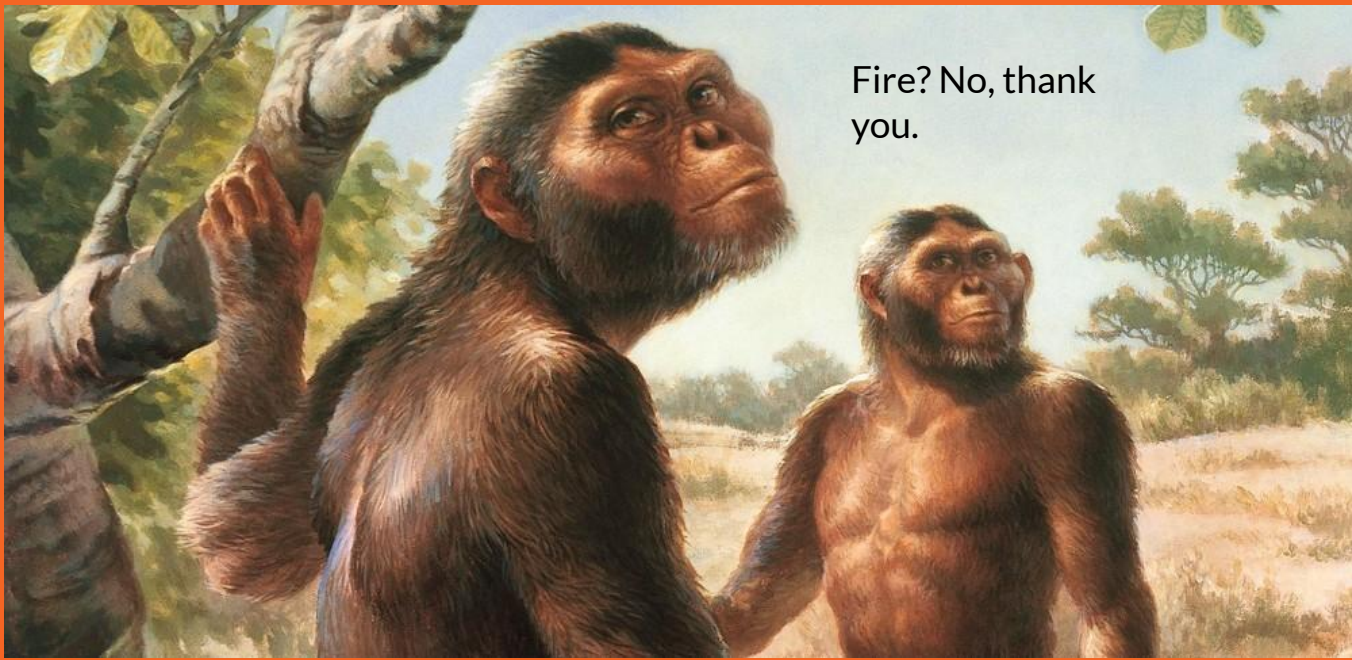
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# That's how it looks like



Homo Sapiens vs Australopithecus

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**The reason is simple, they didn't use fire and ate raw meat. That's why their digestion needed a lot of time to absorb it. Even now, gorillas, close relatives of australopithecus, eat for about 15 hours to get necessary calories.**

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*\*Reconstruction of the dying of the Australopithecines*

Without the ability to evolve, Australopithecus slowly died and was displaced by Homo sapiens. And one of the main reasons - this species did not know how to make or even use fire

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# Conclusions

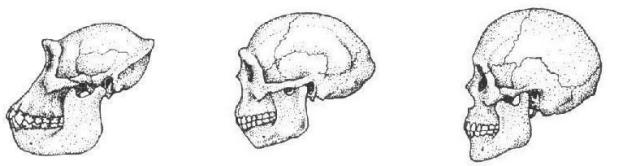
What did the fire give for us?

Warm and light

Making a crockery



opportunity to  
develop



processing of  
food



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Fire helped us to develop. Without fire and all the good it has given to us, it would be impossible to survive. That's why fire plays a key role in our history.



Thank you for attention!

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