

The story of Vulcan

According to Roman mythology, Jupiter, the king of the gods, married his sister Juno. They had a son by the name of Vulcan, who was so ugly that he was driven out from the sky by his mother and was obliged to hide underground. He was very gifted in working metal, he installed immense forging mills under Mount Etna and, with the assistance of Cyclops, manufactured Hercules' invincible armour, Neptune's trident, Jupiter's lightning, as well as many weapons and jewels for the other gods and goddesses.

He thus became the god of fire and metal and was recognized by all. Vulcan, ugliest of all the gods, deformed and lame, received in marriage Venus, the most beautiful of the goddesses. She did not care for such a husband and was often unfaithful. This caused Vulcan to go into terrible rages, causing violent explosions of the Etna, sending large flaming jets and clouds of hot ashes into the air, and pouring out torrents of molten rocks.

Nowadays, Vulcan is the patron of blacksmiths.