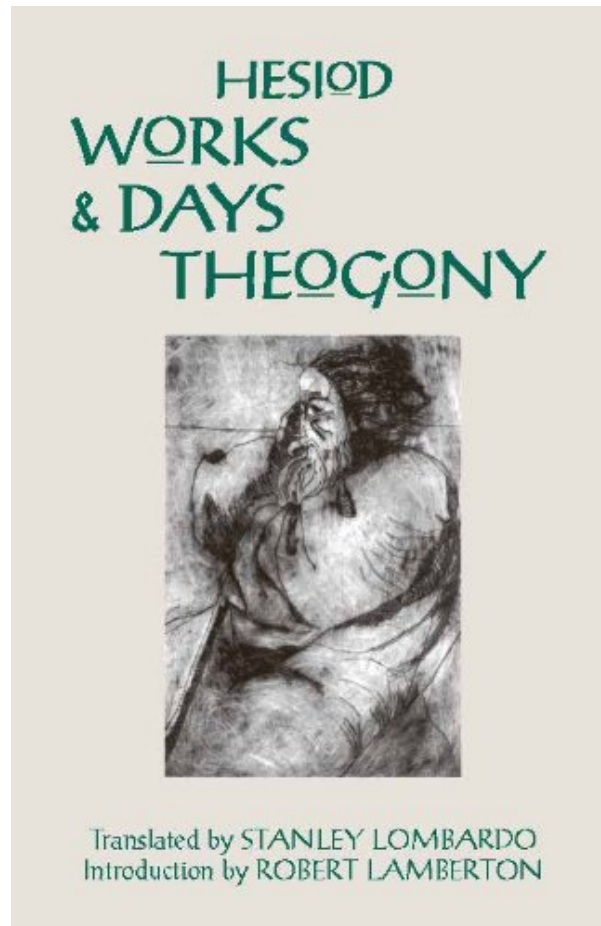


# WORKS AND DAYS AND THEOGONY (HACKETT CLASSICS) BY HESIOD



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WORKS  
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Translated by STANLEY LOMBARDO  
Introduction by ROBERT LAMBERTON

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## Review

This is by far the best rendering of Hesiod's poems in print. The translation is fully accurate but so readable one doesn't want to stop; it exactly captures Hesiod's rustic wisdom, his humour and his cautious pessimism. . . . Clear brief notes and a glossary make this a must for introductory courses: students will love it. --Richard Janko, University College, London

Spare, muscular, pithy, no otiose rhetoric. --Peter Green, University of Texas at Austin

These are both fine translations, each one suited to the character of the respective work. --Charles Segal, Harvard University

## Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Greek

## About the Author

One of the earliest Greek poets - celebrated in Greek literature, both for his moral precepts and his highly personal tone. He is often called the "father of Greek didactic poetry".

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## Most helpful customer reviews

20 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

Best translation available

By Ryan Kouroukis

I must have compared a number of different Hesiod translation before finding Stanley Lombardo's!

At once I felt at peace with my searching struggle and was extremely happy with his version!

He has presented the "Theogony" and "Works & Days" in a way that makes for easy and pleasurable reading, with a realistic power and a believability in Hesiod himself.

Not only that but he has taken the time to separated each text into paragraphs and sections, and has given each section a title for quick reference and artistic aesthetic!

I love this beautiful edition!

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Words of Wisdom from an Everyday Rustic

By Leah Jesse

Hesiod's Theogony was the best known poem in antiquity and the single greatest summary of the Greek gods and the theological tradition of Archaic Greece (800-480 B.C.) Its origins are based in oral tradition and the poem itself is structured in run-composition with framed episodes that use repetitious formulas. Due to its structure, the narrative can shift suddenly from one topic to another, thus leading to inconsistencies in the gods' parentage. The Theogony is a succession myth that explains how generations of patriarchal gods overthrow each other until one god consolidates power. Therefore, the story has a linear progression, but it also has a cyclical element since each generation represents a reincarnation of previous generations that all try to keep their children secluded from power. Four main themes in the Theogony include: the concern for the displacement of elders, the frustration of gender politics, the folktale element of moral messages, and the concern of sexual excess demonstrated by the gods.

Hesiod also wrote Works and Days which was a poem to his brother who had squandered his share of their father's inheritance. Throughout the poem, Hesiod outlines practical guidelines for basic living. He also gives examples of Greek cosmogony such as the Ages of Man that is not found elsewhere in Greek literary sources. Scholars have described Hesiod's worldview as apocalyptic and pessimistic, but Hesiod's stern dealings with his brother occasionally give way to a more lighthearted tone which Lombardo emphasizes in modern prose.

Both translations are enlightening reads and Lombardo gives extensive, useful notes, and Robert Lamberton provides an excellent introduction that outlines Hesiod's life and his poems.

36 of 37 people found the following review helpful.

Hesiod for pleasure? You bet!

By Timothy Dougal

At first I found the voice Lombardo uses for "Works and Days" a little off-putting. I mean, you don't expect an ancient Greek poet to come off like one of Huck Finn's more literate relatives. But as I continued reading, and, indeed, I had a hard time stopping, I was convinced this really was Hesiod's voice, at least for this group of poems and proverbs. He's a rustic, cranky know-it-all who's also quite entertaining. "Theogony" is more formal and stately, but as with Lombardo's recent "Iliad" and "Odyssey", compulsively readable. In this volume, Hesiod is more pleasurable to read than I had imagined possible. Bravo!

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