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C & T Notes

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Why Elvis on cover of book?

- Represents love and pleasure.
- He's the King of Rock and Roll.
- Could be Dionysus because they were both unknown at first.

Was Dionysus portrayed positively or negatively?

- Positively. Very attractive, charming, cunning, great wit.
- Negatively. Very selfish, vengeful, overly prideful, cruel.

Cadmus tried to get Pentheus to honor Dionysus, but was punished heavily in the end.

Dionysus has little loyalty to his followers.

Agave's Punishment:

- Happened because she was Pentheus' mother.
- Extreme, as she madly kills her own son.

Can gods do whatever they want?

- Our Christian morals and beliefs clash with these ancient views.
- They can as long as they don't conflict with other gods.
- Gods are very much like people. They act in their own interests.
- Hierarchy of Gods. Minor gods fear the repercussions of the more powerful gods.

Views of Pentheus:

- Made to be a fool.
- Dressed up as a woman to see party.
- Disrespects the gods.
- Disregard of good advice.

Pentheus may have been unfairly portrayed by Euripides.

Similar to Dionysus?

- Both are unwilling to relinquish any of his own power and women. Too much pride.

Point of the play? Is there a moral?

- Speaks out against foolishness and rash judgment.
- Respect and obedience to the gods.
- Be open to change.
- View the whole situation.

What is the ritual in the mountains?

- Thought to be a party.
- Frenzied actions with no control.