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Jupiter got really creative. He turned himself into a swan and produced twins via a laid egg with Leda. He got Danae’s attention by appearing as a shower of gold—insert your own joke there. He seduced and impregnated the virgin nymph (any words derived from that?) Callisto by morphing into Diana, goddess of the hunt. OK, can’t mark him down for that, that was inspired infidelity. Hey folks, they don’t call him the god of gods for nothing.

Since Juno could do little to Jupiter, her scorn and enmity were focused on the women and children of his trysts. He kept her busy. They had four children together (one of whom, Mars, they both hated), and, by my count, Jupiter sired 45 other children. Take that, Shawn Kemp and Osama.

To protect Io from Juno, Jupiter turned her into a heifer, which Juno requested as a gift. She set Argus—he of the hundred eyes—to “protect” her. Jupiter sent Mercury to kill Argus, after which Juno sent a gadfly plague on Io, driving her mad. That’s just petty.

The next time you order beef at a June wedding, think twice. That just might be one of Jupiter’s mistresses you’re biting into. Or that salt shaker? Might be one of his bastard kids. And, if you’re thinking of getting married, maybe Juno isn’t the goddess you want blessing your marriage, what with all the rampant infidelity, incest, bestiality, and pederasty. Oh yeah, did I forget that one? Ole Jupes kidnapped and abducted a young prince as well. But I’ll let Dateline NBC’s Chris Hanson tell you that story.

—Jeff Hanna

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