



Athena is the goddess of Justified War and Wisdom. She is the daughter of Zeus. She sprang from his head wearing armor. Athena is the protector of city life. She is gray-eyed. She is also the goddess of handicrafts, like weaving. Her bird is the owl, her tree is the olive, and her city is Athens.

Athena challenged Arachne to a weaving contest, Arachne accepted. Both goddesses thought the things that they weaved were full of fineness and beauty, but Athena was horrified when she heard that Arachne declared her own work to be superior. Then, they both set up their looms and stretched the warp upon them. Then they went to work. Arachne's result was in no way inferior, but Athena's work was the best and the result was a marvel. The goddess in anger slit the web from top to bottom and beat the girl around the head with her shuffle. Arachne was mortified, disgraced, and furiously angry, therefore, she hung herself. The goddess then lifted the body and sprinkled it with a magic liquid. Because of this, Arachne was changed into a spider, and her skill in weaving was left to her.