Works And Days
Hesiod
(circa 700 BCE)

(ll. 42-53) For the gods keep hidden from men the means of life. Else you
would easily do work enough in a day to supply you for a full year even
without working; soon would you put away your rudder over the smoke, and
the fields worked by ox and sturdy mule would run to waste. But Zeus in
the anger of his heart hid it, because Prometheus the crafty deceived him; therefore
he planned sorrow and mischief against men. He hid fire; but that the noble son
of Iapetus stole again for men from Zeus the counsellor in a hollow fennel-
stalk, so that Zeus who delights in thunder did not see it. But afterwards Zeus
who gathers the clouds said to him in anger:

(ll. 54-59) 'Son of Iapetus, surpassing all in cunning, you are glad that you
have outwitten me and stolen fire -- a great plague to you yourself and to men
that shall be. But I will give men as the price for fire an evil thing in which
they may all be glad of heart while they embrace their own destruction.'

(ll. 60-68) So said the father of men and gods, and laughed aloud. And he bade
famous Hephaestus make haste and mix earth with water and to put in it the
voice and strength of human kind, and fashion a sweet, lovely maiden-shape,
like to the immortal goddesses in face; and Athene to teach her needlework and
the weaving of the varied web; and golden Aphrodite to shed grace upon her
head and cruel longing and cares that weary the limbs. And he charged Hermes
the guide, the Slayer of Argus, to put in her a shameless mind and a deceitful
nature.

(ll. 69-82) So he ordered. And they obeyed the lord Zeus the son of Cronos.
Forthwith the famous Lame God moulded clay in the likeness of a modest
maid, as the son of Cronos purposed. And the goddess bright-eyed Athene
girded and clothed her, and the divine Graces and queenly Persuasion put
necklaces of gold upon her, and the rich-haired Hours crowned her head with
spring flowers. And Pallas Athene bedecked her form with all manners of
finery. Also the Guide, the Slayer of Argus, contrived within her lies and crafty
words and a deceitful nature at the will of loud thundering Zeus, and the Herald
of the gods put speech in her. And he called this woman Pandora (2), because
all they who dwelt on Olympus gave each a gift, a plague to men who eat
bread.

(ll. 83-89) But when he had finished the sheer, hopeless snare, the Father sent
glorious Argus-Slayer, the swift messenger of the gods, to take it to
Epimetheus as a gift. And Epimetheus did not think on what Prometheus had
said to him, bidding him never take a gift of Olympian Zeus, but to send it
back for fear it might prove to be something harmful to men. But he took the
gift, and afterwards, when the evil thing was already his, he understood.

(ll. 90-105) For ere this the tribes of men lived on earth remote and free from
ills and hard toil and heavy sickness which bring the Fates upon men; for in
misery men grow old quickly. But the woman took off the great lid of the jar
(3) with her hands and scattered all these and her thought caused sorrow and
mischief to men. Only Hope remained there in an unbreakable home within
under the rim of the great jar, and did not fly out at the door; for ere that, the lid
of the jar stopped her, by the will of Aegis-holding Zeus who gathers the clouds. But the rest, countless plagues, wander amongst men; for earth is full of evils and the sea is full. Of themselves diseases come upon men continually by day and by night, bringing mischief to mortals silently; for wise Zeus took away speech from them. So is there no way to escape the will of Zeus.

(2) The All-endowed.
(3) The jar or casket contained the gifts of the gods mentioned in 1.82.

Original source: http://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/hesiod/works.htm