

'Hesiod's Works and Day' and 'Euripides' Ion' are both ancient poems that express their beliefs of how men's behaviours, actions, and their darkest desires have evolved as time passes on, and written in a poetic form.

In Hesiod's Works and Days, he described the five eras of man in a very dark and heavy tone, expressing the importance of reflecting on the past. Since this poem was written in 700 B.C, Ancient Greece, their gods were of great importance meaning it had a great influence on the people. Hesiod started by writing about the first era of man, 'a golden race of mortal men', and stated that they lived 'in the time of Cronos', who is known to be the king of titans and the father of Zeus. Hesiod explained that they 'lived like gods' with no sorrow and did not let evil reach their hearts. Later on, he explained that the new age had 'pure spirits' who were kind, in contrast to the 'guardians of mortal men' who he stated that they 'clothed in mist'. These might signify man's morals and their conscience, or desires and these are what made the second generation 'less noble by far'. Emphasizing the differences of the two generations. Hesiod warned that 'Zeus son of Kronos was angry' and would soon punish the people who did not honour the blessed gods. By ending the segment with that 'threat' it shows the significance of the gods and actions. Hesiod has therefore shown the injustice clearly and the true nature of man. He mentions Olympus three times in his poem, once again warning man. This poem is very strong on its own and at that time in Ancient Greece poems were seen as art. It had mostly been graceful and beautiful but in Hesiod's Works and Days, he did the quite opposite which must have been a shock to all who have read it. He wrote in confidence and no hesitation in his poem.

On the other hand, the poem Euripides' Ion goes against Hesiod's eras of man idea, instead in Euripides' Ion it is said that a god had bed Creusa and that 'Creusa gave birth in the house to a child'. She then let the child die alone in the same cave that the 'unknown god' bedded her. Athena, daughter of Zeus, made two serpents guard the child, the child was then taken to a shrine in Delphi. Euripides' story is quite different to Hesiod's. Instead of man evolving through generations, he says that man came out of the earth and he puts this idea in a dramatic show which captivates his audience especially the myth itself.

Both poems have two different ideas of how man came to be and both had a different approach to how their ideas were executed. I think Hesiod's Work and Days were the most convincing, due to the fact he wrote about how with each era of man, more corruption occurs and how soon we will pay for all the wrong man has done by incorporating religion and myths. Of course, others would believe that Euripides' poem was more persuasive and that is also true. He was very creative in trying to captivate the Athenian audience and to tell the truth I think in that time Euripides' Ion would have been more believed than Hesiod's Works and Days. Since now we have proof of evolution and some ideas of the past, and that might influence the person's idea of who is more persuasive.