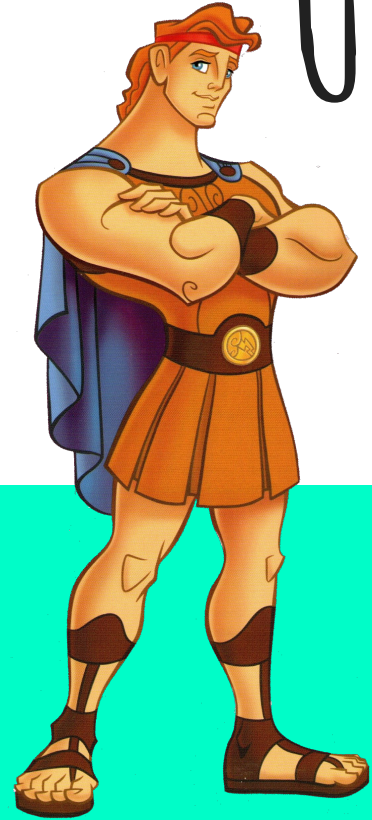


# UNRAVELLING THE MYTH



**Herakles**





AS NICE AS THIS MOVIE IS, THIS WAS NOT THE STORY OF HERAKLES

# CONTENTS

Today, we will cover:

- Early Life
- Total and Complete Meltdown
- The 12 Labours

If we can

- More Meltdowns
- Further Atonement
- Death

# EARLY LIFE PART 1

Born in Tiryns(debated)

Was the son of Zeus and mortal woman Alcmene, wife of Amphitryon, the king. Sleeps with her disguised as Amphitryon

Alcmene gives birth to Alcaeus/Herakles and Iphicles.

Hera sends snakes to kills them. Alcaeus strangles them both.

Alcmene tries to abandon the child to avoid Hera's wrath.

Alcaeus suckles on Hera's breast. He suckles to hard and the spray of milk creates the milky way



## EARLY LIFE - PART 2

Amphitryon finds out Alcaeus is Zeus's son and ensures the best of care.

Alcaeus leads an army to reconquer Thebes. He is a hero, and the king gives him his daughter, Megara as sign of his gratitude.

Many happy years and sons later ...



# THE MESS UP - WHERE IT ALL STARTS

Hera is extremely angry Alcaeus is doing so well.

Sends him in a fit of rage. He kills his sons and in most versions of the story, Megara as well.

Very upset at what he has done. Goes to Oracle at Delphi to find out how to atone for his sins.

Is informed he must do what his cousin, Eurystheus, King of Tiryns asks him to do.



# 12 LABOURS ... OR WERE THEY

His cousin devises impossible tasks to make Alcaeus REALLY work for atonement.

Originally start out as 10 task.

Why do they become 12? Let's find out...

# NEMEAN LION

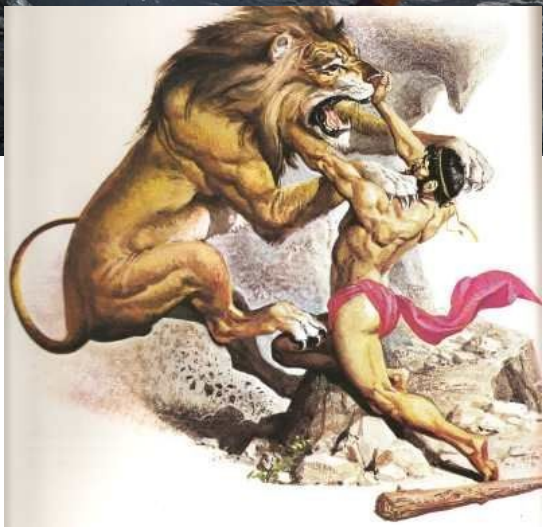
The lion was already famous in the countryside.

Had taken many people from towns nears its cave.

Skin was completely impenetrable by arrows and most conventional weapons.

Alcaeus beats it with a club, which disorient the beast

Strangles it with his bare hands. Then skins the lion.



Le lion de Nemée. Liebig 1927. Photo ©Maicar Förlag-GML

# THE HYDRA

The monster with 9 heads. 8 mortal 1 immortal. When he cut of a mortal head, 2 grew in its place.

Alcaeus enlists the help of his nephew Iolaus.

While fighting it, he sears the chopped Hydra heads with burning wood to stop it from growing back.

The beast is weakened enough for him to crush it.

Takes help so doesn't count



# ARTEMIS' SACRED HIND

He chases it for an entire year. Finally uses a trap

Catches it only for Artemis to object.

Convinces Artemis to let him borrow it. Eurystheus wants to keep the hind. Alcaeus accepts as long as the king himself comes to claim it.

Deliberately lets go prematurely to let hind escape to Artemis

# ERYMANTHIAN BOAR

Travels to the lands of centaurs for it

Lures the boar with wine that was given to him to attract it. Instead, it attracts centaurs.

Alcaeus ends up having to kill centaurs who attack him to defend himself. Centaurs are generally quite fearsome.

Captures the boar alive after cornering up a mountain





# AUGEAN STABLES

The next task is to clean King Augeun's stables which havent been cleaned for 30 years.

If Alcaeus can do it in a single day, he gets to keep one tenth.

Alcaeus diverts two rivers to clean the stables for them.

The king does not honor the bet and for trying to profit, this task does not count

# STYMPHALIAN BIRDS

Fearsome birds that have ravaged the countryside. Feathers are razor sharp and kill instantly.

Alcaeus stirs them up using a rattle given to him by Athena.

He then uses arrows dipped with Hydra's venomous blood to shoot down most of the birds.



# CRETAN BULL

King Minos of Crete hates the sacred bull of Poseidon, because his wife has fallen in love with it (and had its child, the minotaur)

Eurystheus does not know this, and Alcaeus doesn't tell him

Task Complete!

# THRACIAN FLESH EATING MARES

These horses have been fed with human flesh by the Thracian king Diomedes.

Leaves a companion with the horses, to go talk to Diomedes. When he returns , his companion has been eaten by the horses

Alcaeus gets angry and feeds Diomedes to the horses. The horses become calm

They are taken back to Tiryns with ease.

# HIPPOLETA'S GIRDLE (BELT)

Hippoleta was the queen of the Amazons, a tribe of ferocious warrior women.

Alcaeus was welcome because of this famous deeds.

Hera attempted to thwart him by disguising herself as an Amazon and spread a rumour that Alcaeus was there to enslave them.

2 versions: In one, a fight ensues and Hippoleta is killed.

Second version, Alcaeus kidnaps Hippoleta's daughter/sistera and ransoms her back for the girdle.



# CATTLE OF GEYRON

Alcaeus journeys to Cadiz. On the way to where cattle is grazing, he has to fight Geyron (amongst others).

Once he defeats his foes he has to herd the cattle

Hera sends gadflies to sting the cattle to constantly scatter them.

This labour takes him a year to complete



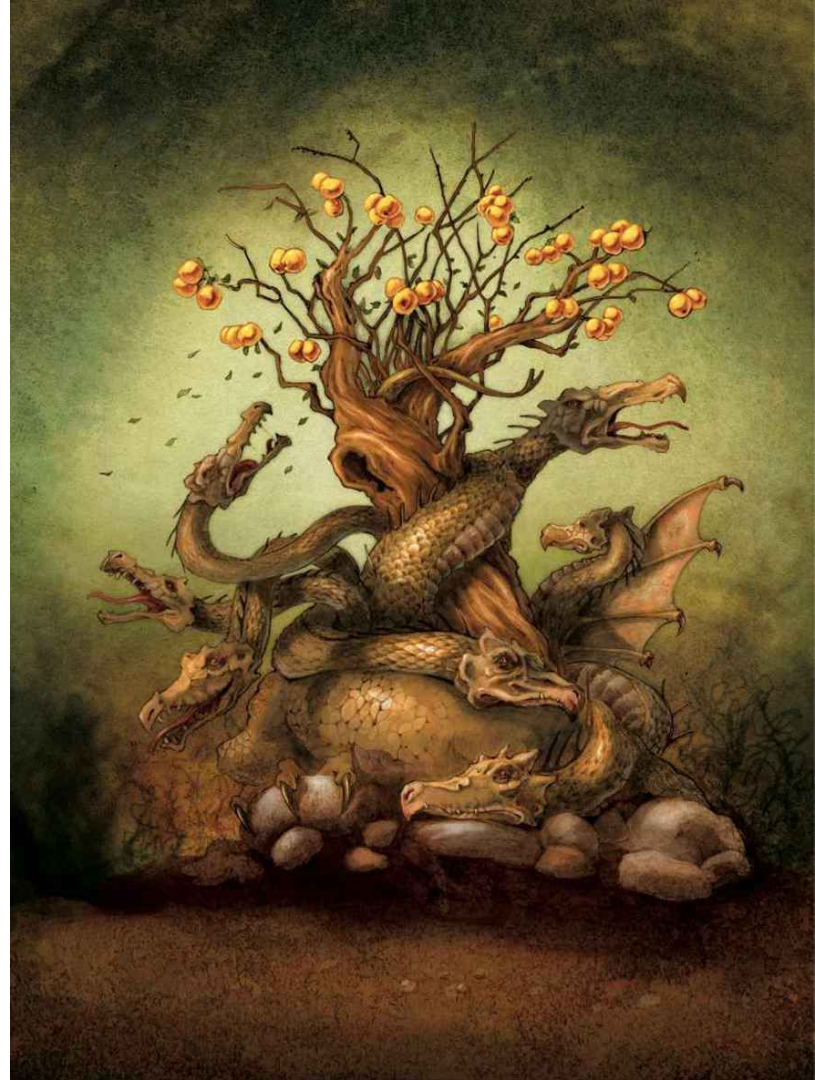


# GOLDEN APPLE OF THE HESPERIDES TREE

Sacred Tree. The apples started the Trojan War much later on Meets Prometheus on route. The grove is protected by a dragon. Prometheus tells him to make Atlas fight and recover the apples.

Atlas is the titan who hold the weight of the world. He agrees to help Alcaeus. When he returns, Atlas doesn't want the responsibility anymore.

Alcaeus agrees, but then asks him to just hold it up for a moment so he can adjust his clock. Atlas agrees and Alcaeus walks away



# CERBERUS

Recovering Cerberus was no easy task because Alcaeus had to enter the underworld and come back out alive.

Took help from Hermes, Athena and Hestia.

Asked Hades for permission to borrow the 3 headed dog. Hades accepts only if Alcaeus does not use any weapons.

Alcaeus slings upon the dog's back and subdues him.



# ALL DONE

In the completion of atonement, he , in spite of Hera's constant rage manages to overcome everything.

Thus he is known as Herakles or 'glory of Hera'

Herakles joins Jason and his argonauts in search for the golden fleece.

Lots more adventures!

NEXT TIME WE SHALL CONTINUE!