
HADES
Book III · The Throne of Shadows

ACT I — THE UNSEEN LOT

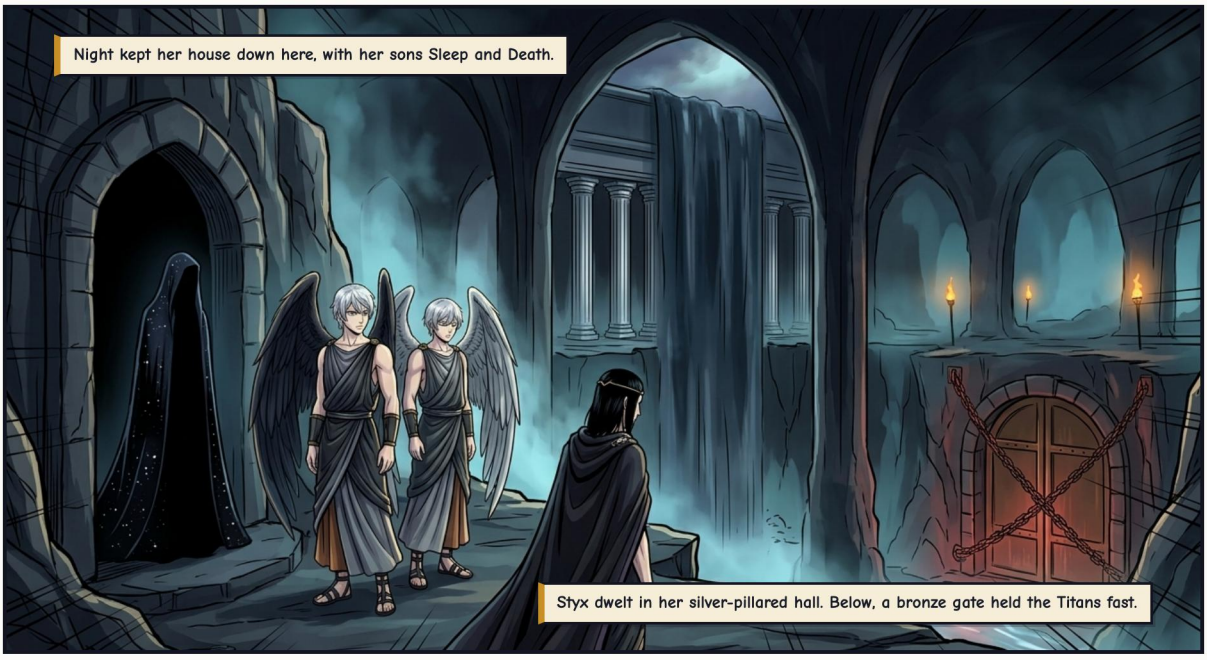




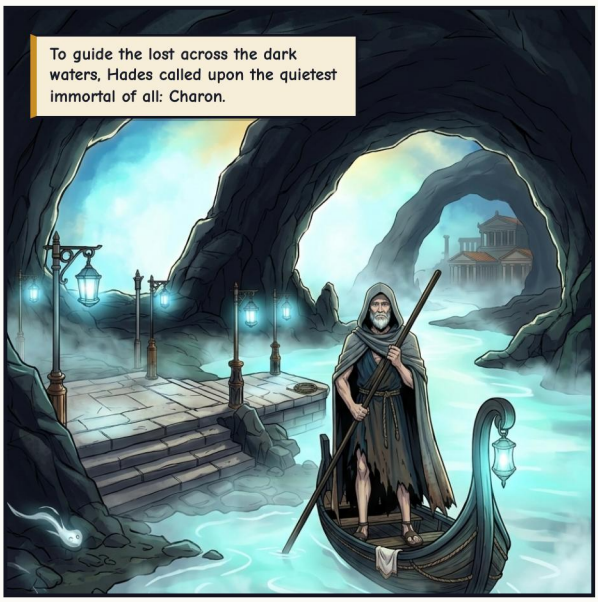







Night kept her house down here, with her sons Sleep and Death.
Styx dwelt in her silver-pillared hall. Below, a bronze gate held the Titans fast.


RUUUMBLE...
Among them, Hades raised a house of his own.


To guide the lost across the dark waters, Hades called upon the quietest immortal of all: Charon.


No king crosses faster than a beggar, Charon. One coin for every soul—no favorites, no bribes.


Fair terms, Lord Hades. My oar is yours until the last star fades.

ACT II — THE HOUND OF THE GATE











ACT III — THE THREE ROADS







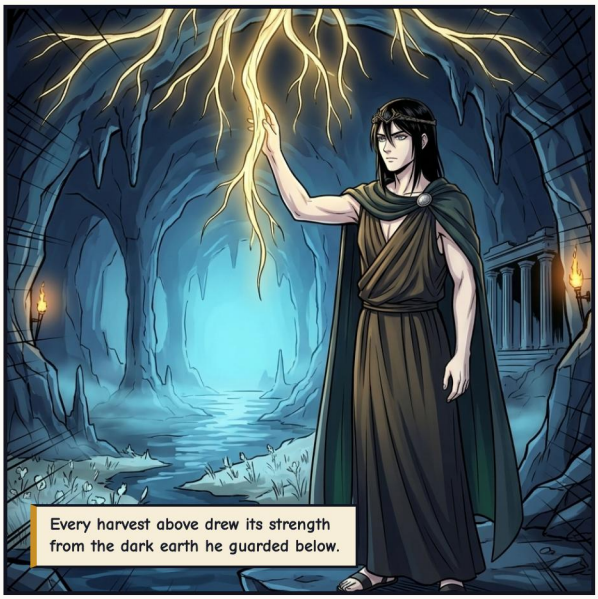




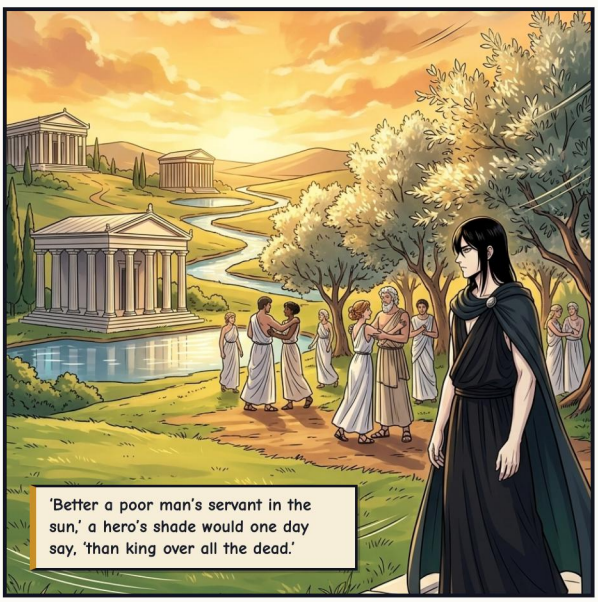
ACT IV — THE QUIET CROWN




Mortals feared to speak his name.
They called him Plouton instead—the Rich One, keeper of every gem and seed beneath the soil.


Every harvest above drew its strength from the dark earth he guarded below.

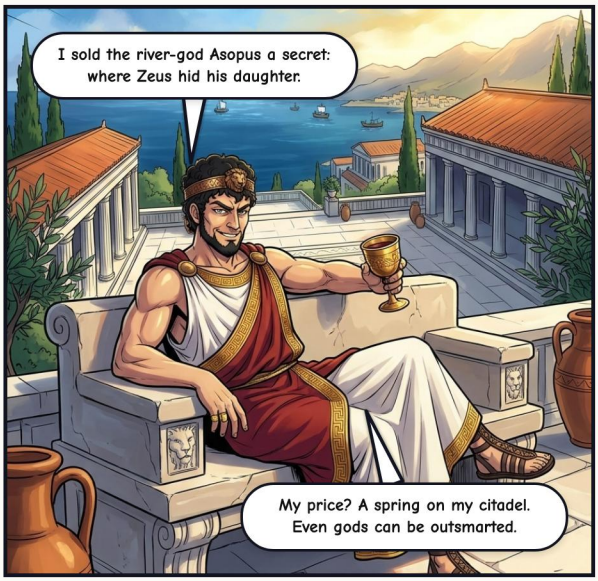

Of all the gods, mortals hated him most—for no prayer and no gift could move him.


'Better a poor man's servant in the sun,' a hero's shade would one day say, 'than king over all the dead.'


Still, the dead had their rest and the living their harvests. Every soul arrived on time.

ACT V — THE CHAINING OF DEATH











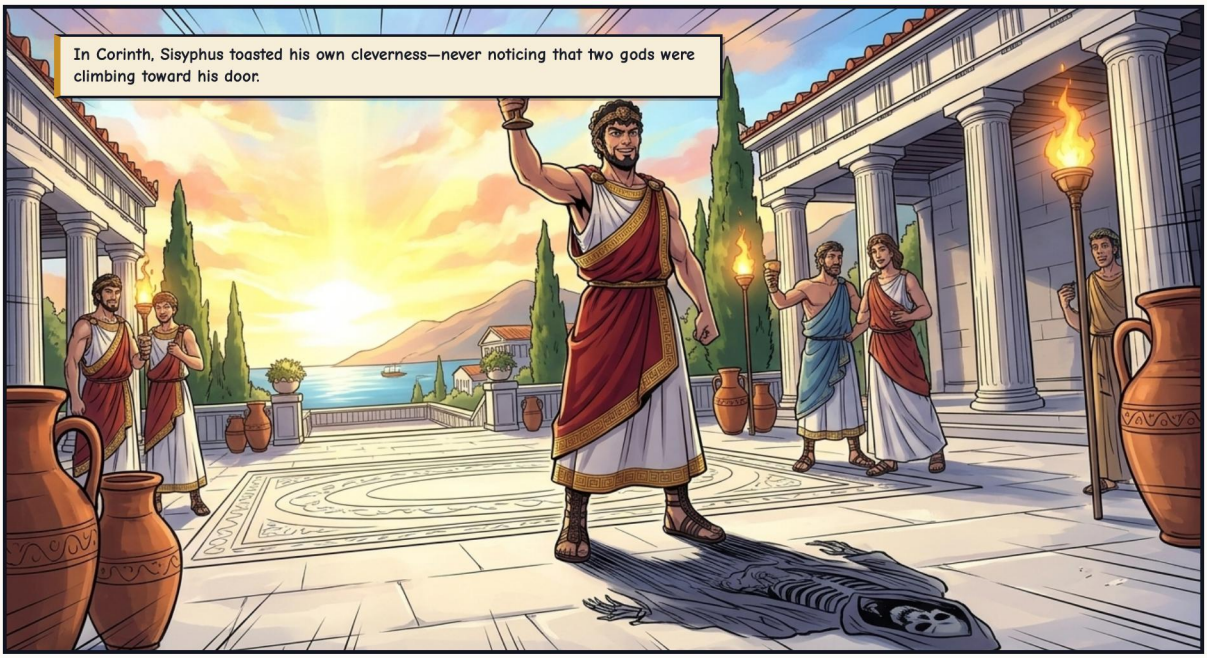

Stay comfortable down there, Death! As long as you're locked away, I live forever!


Across the whole earth no one could die.
The sick found no release, the old no rest—and the River Styx fell silent.


NO ONE DIES? THEN NO BATTLE CAN EVER BE WON! SOMEONE HAS CHAINED DEATH.
Below the Acrocorinth, a war that could not end: spears struck, and no one fell.


Seven days, Lord Hades. Not a single soul has reached the pier. Thanatos has vanished.


A mortal dared to break the cycle? Then I will collect him myself.


In Corinth, Sisyphus toasted his own cleverness—never noticing that two gods were climbing toward his door.


One came unseen, in the Helm of Darkness the Cyclopes forged for him.


There. Wars can end again. The liar is yours, Uncle.
KRANG!!


Forgive my carelessness, Lord Hades. I let pride blind me.

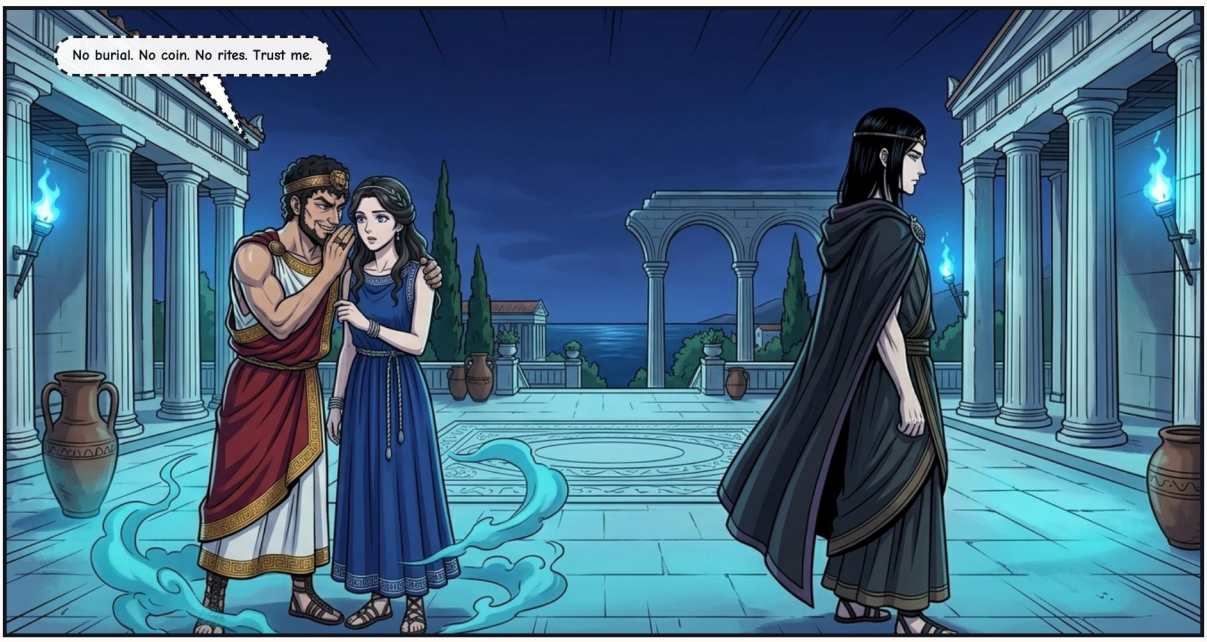

Return to your duty, Thanatos. I have a quiet word to share with King Sisyphus.

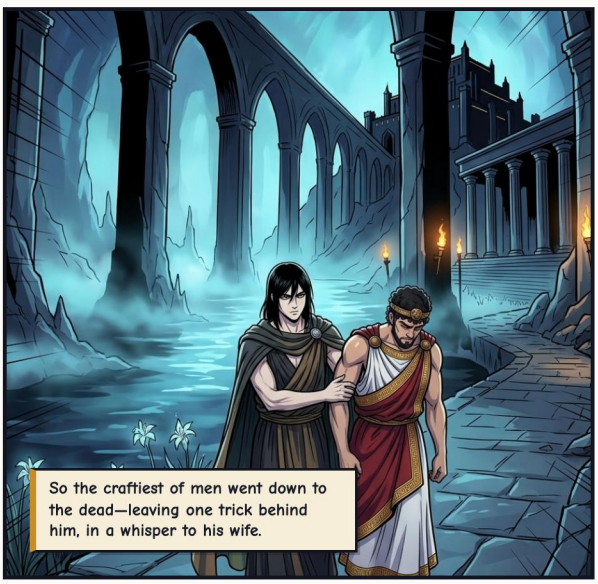

Every torch in Corinth guttered blue as the King of the Unseen stepped into the light.
Good evening, Sisyphus. You owe my house one soul. Yours.

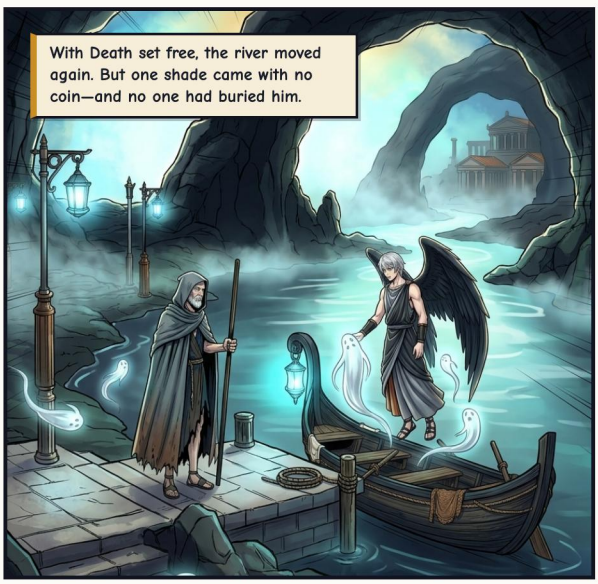
ACT VI – THE SECOND TRICK







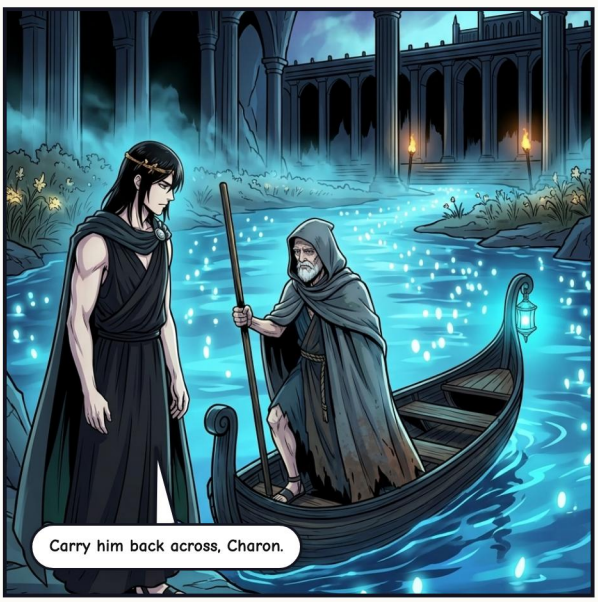





Lord Hades! My own wife left me unburied—no coin, no rites!
Let me go back three days, to shame her into doing right.


Even a liar is owed his rites.
Three days. Swear it by the Styx.


By the Styx, I swear it.

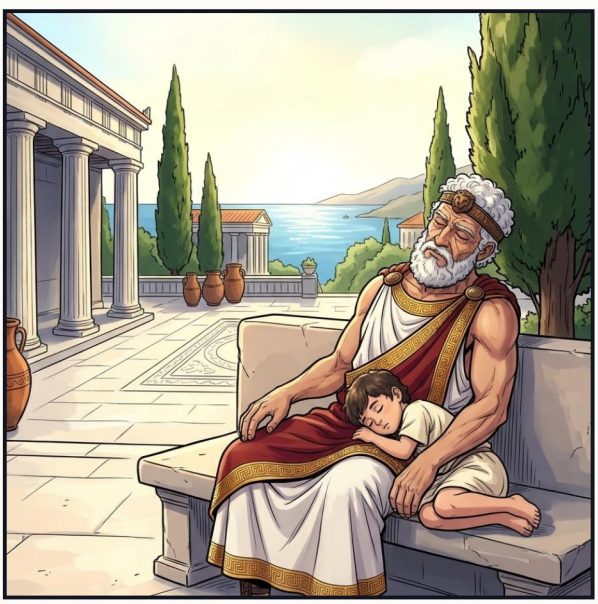

Carry him back across, Charon.

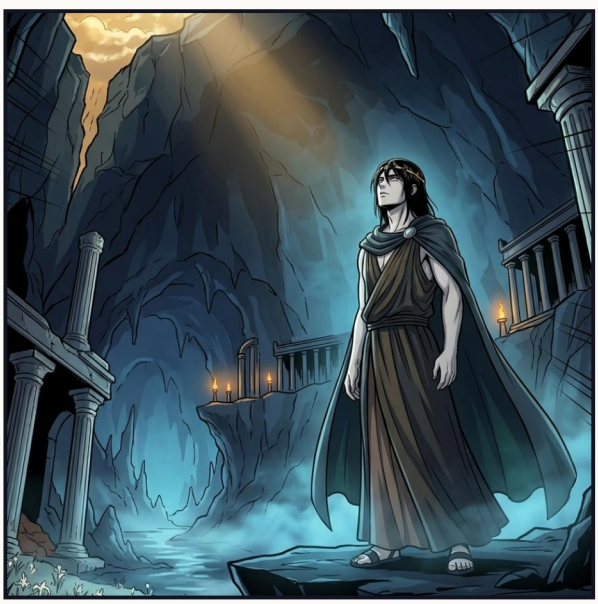

For the first time, the hound let a shade walk out of the gate.












Long years later, Death came for the old king again.
This time his queen gave him every rite—and a coin for the ferryman.


Paid in full, this time. Every soul arrives in the end, my lord—even the clever ones.


Great Hades—I always meant to come back. I was... delayed.

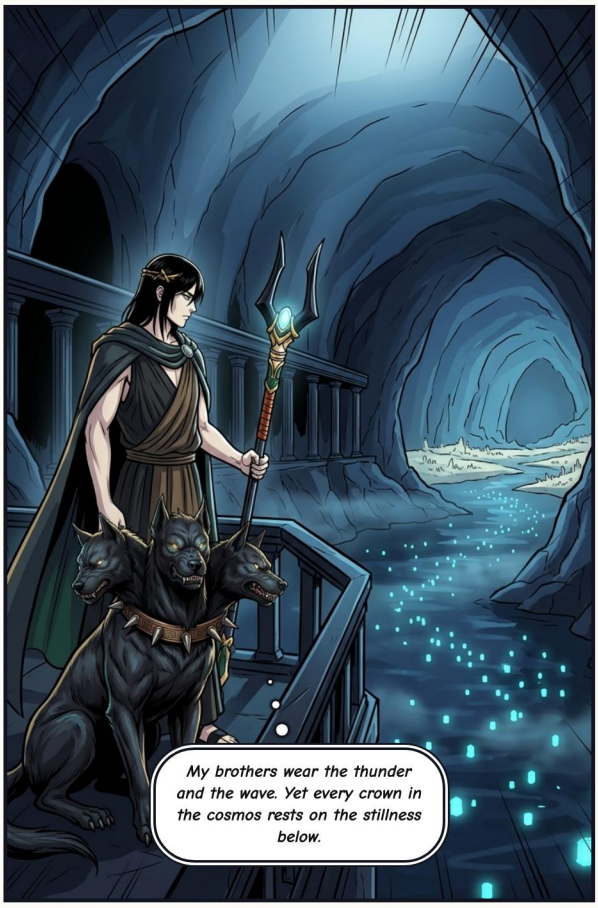

You cheated Death twice, Sisyphus, and made a liar of my mercy. There will be no third time.


Death went back to his work. Sisyphus went to his.

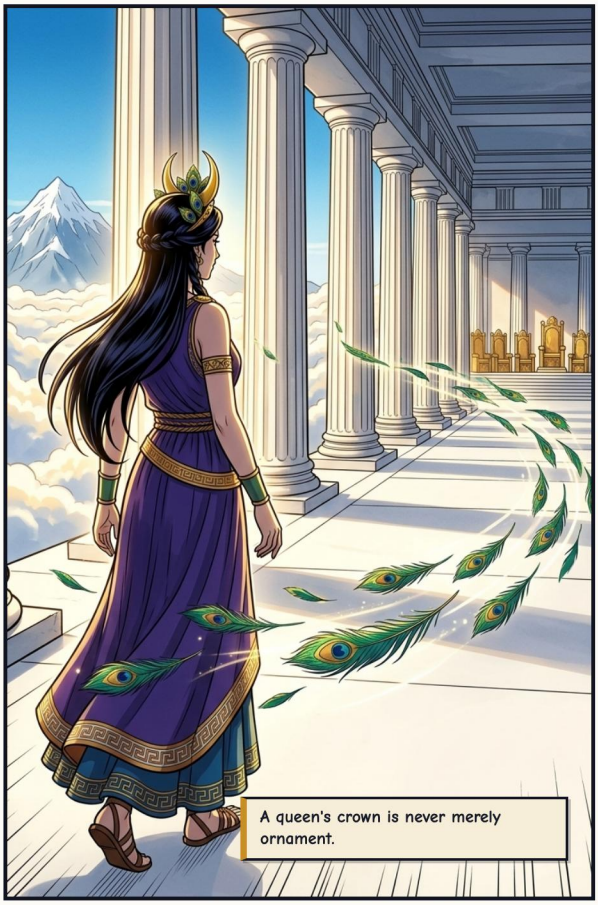

Hades did not choose fire or blades. He chose a mirror of Sisyphus's own pride.
Roll it to the summit, clever king. Then find a trick that keeps it there.
KRR-THUUUD!!
Always one inch from victory. Always rolling back to the start.
He wanted forever. Now he has it.

EPILOGUE — THE STILLNESS BELOW










In the quiet beneath every mountain, the Throne of Shadows endures.
End of Book III · Next: Hera, Queen of Heaven

COLOPHON

Hades: The Throne of Shadows

Gods of Olympus: Greek Mythology

CLASSICAL SOURCES

Hesiod (Theogony); Homer (Iliad, Odyssey 11); Apollodorus (Library); Pherecydes fr. 119 (in the Homeric scholia); Theognis; Plato (Gorgias); Pausanias; Aristophanes (Frogs); Virgil (Aeneid 6). The building of the realm, Charon's appointment, Cerberus's taming, Ares's battlefield, Hades's own visit to Corinth, Sisyphus's three days and his oath by the Styx, and Merope's coin are this series' telling; in the oldest account Ares frees Death and hands the king over to him.

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EDITION & ARTWORK

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WORK IN PROGRESS & FEEDBACK

This comic is part of a work-in-progress collection. If you spot a mistake or want to share feedback, please mention the version stamp below.

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