
APOLLO
Book X · The Golden Bow

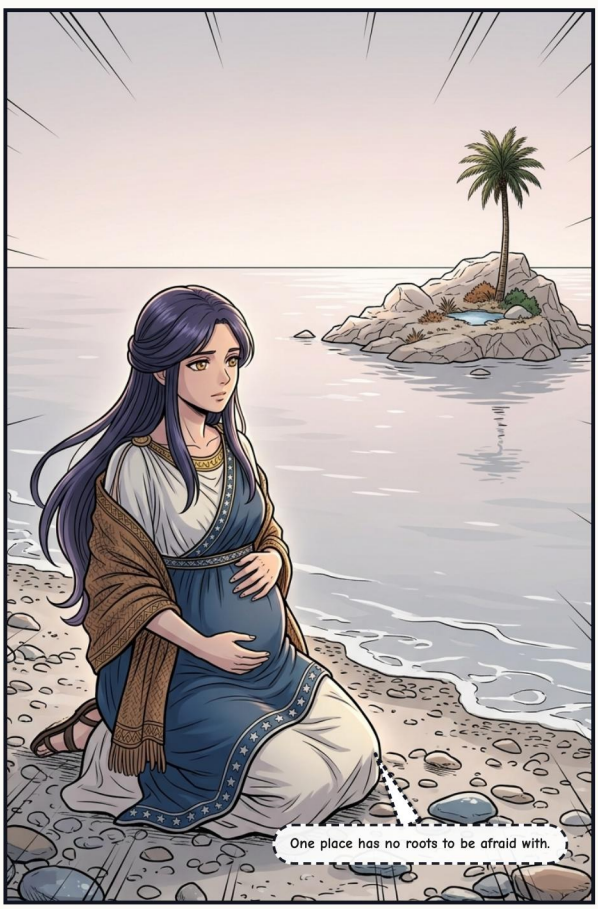
# ACT I — THE FLOATING ISLAND









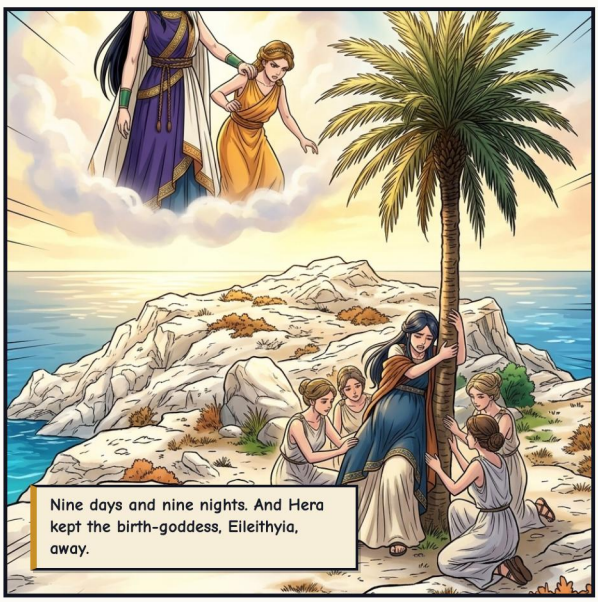




Only Delos said nothing. A bare rock adrift on the sea, with no roots at all.


Shelter my son, and he will build you a temple. The whole world will bring you gifts.

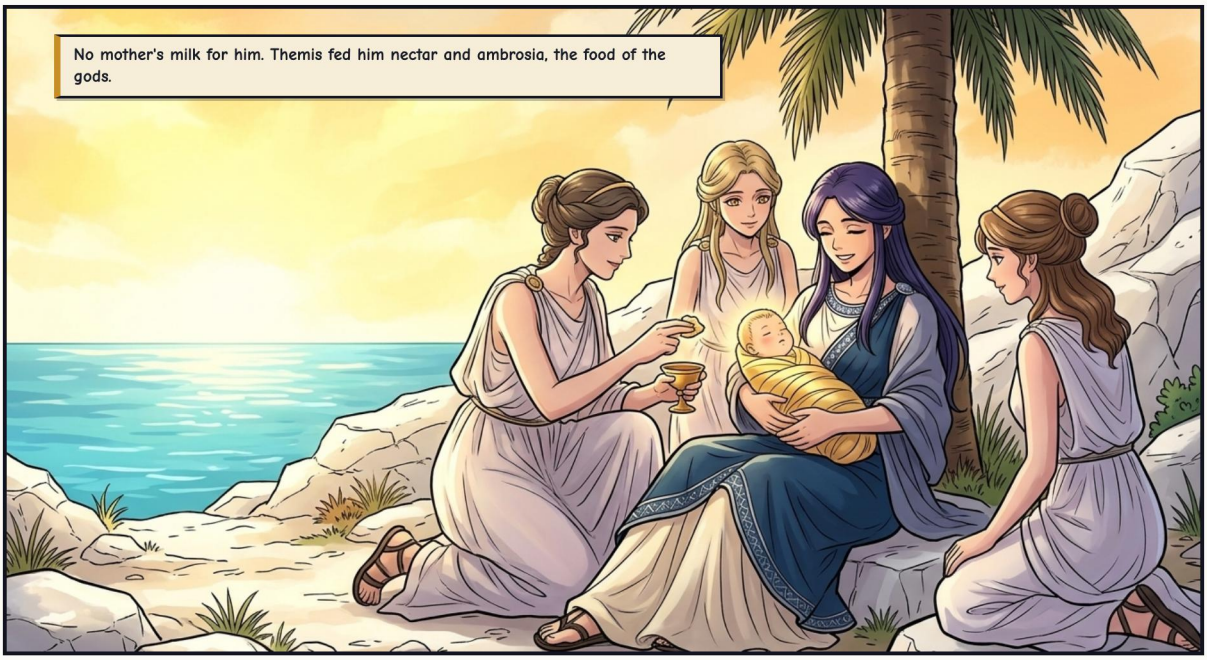

They say he'll be terrible. He may scorn my bare rock and kick me into the sea. Swear first.


The poet Callimachus called the wandering island Asteria.
I swear by Earth, by broad Heaven, and by the falling water of the Styx.


Nine days and nine nights. And Hera kept the birth-goddess, Eileithyia, away.


The goddesses sent Iris with a bribe: a necklace of gold and amber, nine cubits long.

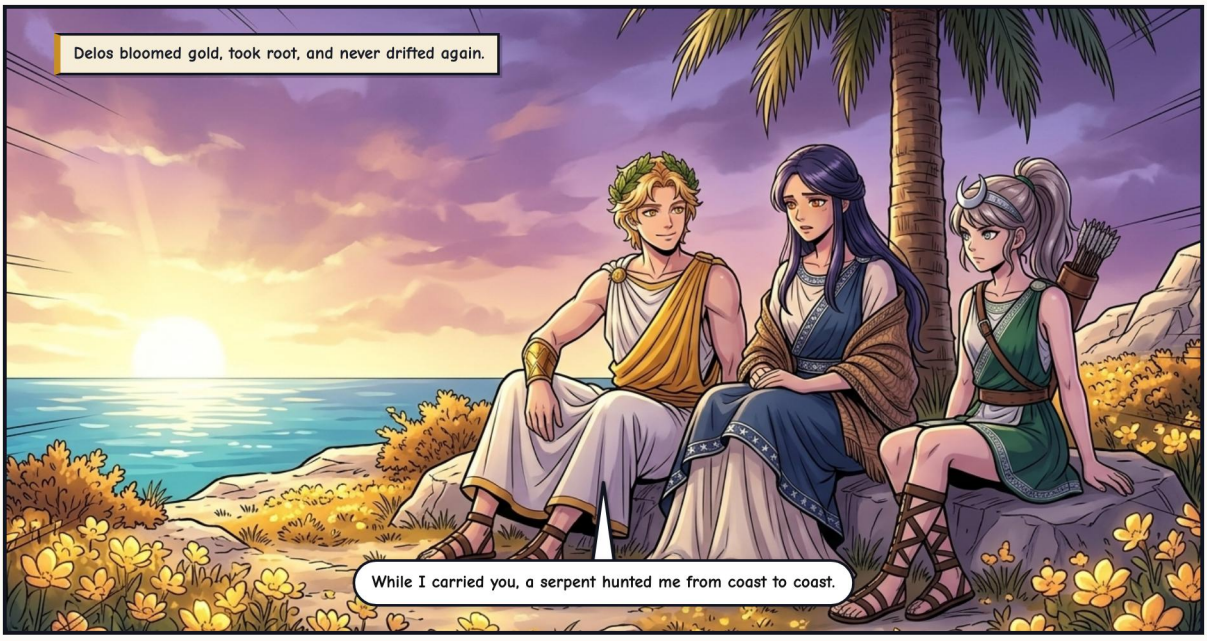

Artemis was born first and helped her mother. Then Apollo leapt into the light.


No mother's milk for him. Themis fed him nectar and ambrosia, the food of the gods.


SNAP! SNAAAP!!

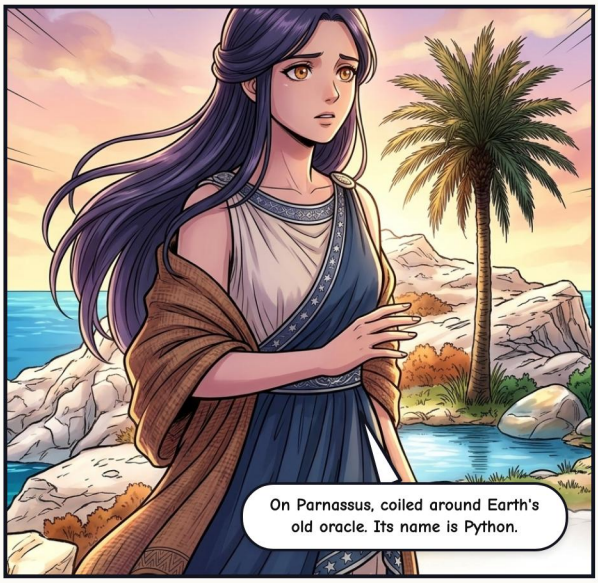

In another hymn, baby Hermes made the first lyre.
The lyre and the curved bow shall be dear to me, and I will tell mortals the unfailing will of Zeus.

# ACT II — THE SERPENT OF PARNASSUS















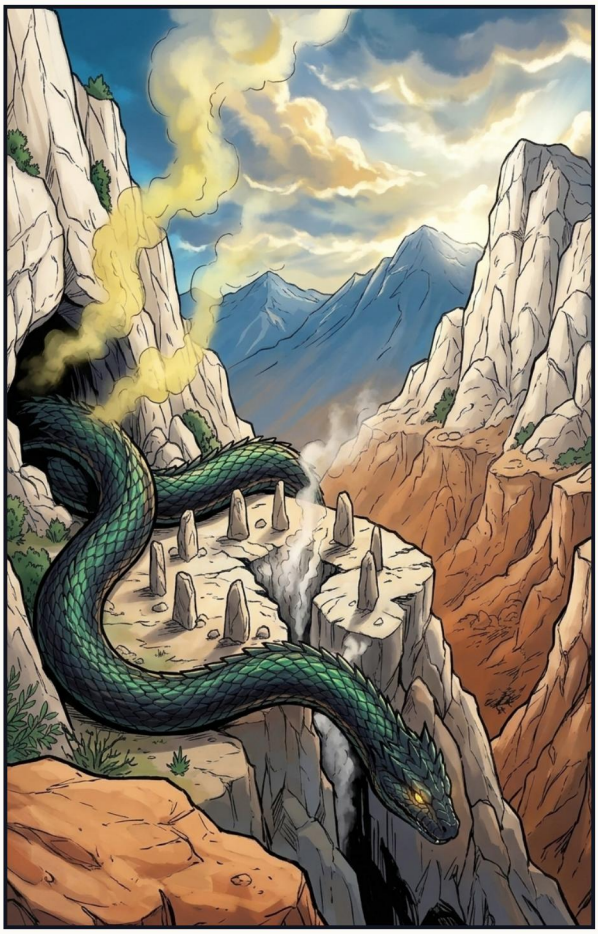

YOU HUNTED MY MOTHER THROUGH THE DARK, PYTHON! NO MORE!!


KRAKOOOM!!!




Again.


SHING!! ZAAAP!!

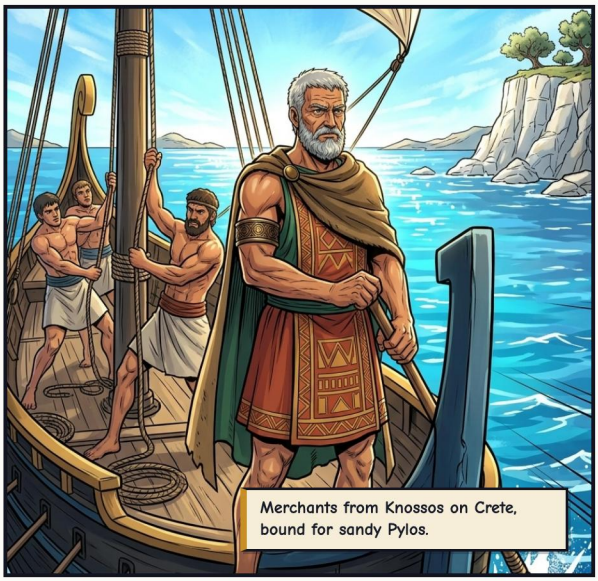



Now rot here, on the earth that feeds mortals.


The sun rotted the serpent where it lay. So the place was called Pytho, from an old word for rot.
This oracle was Earth's. Whose is it now?

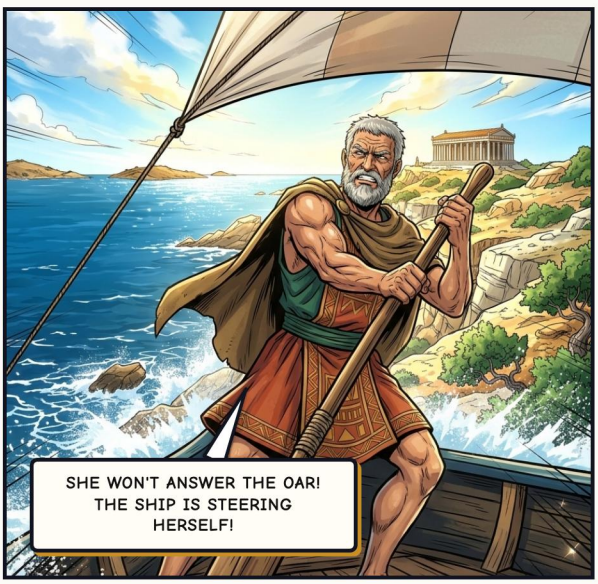
# ACT III – LORD OF DELPHI

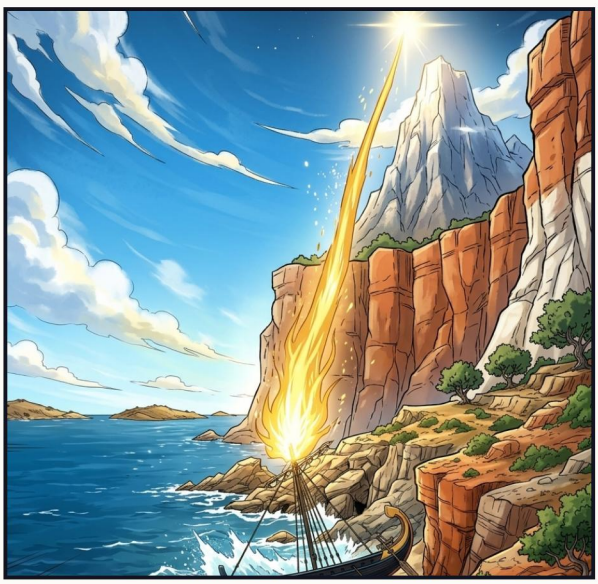








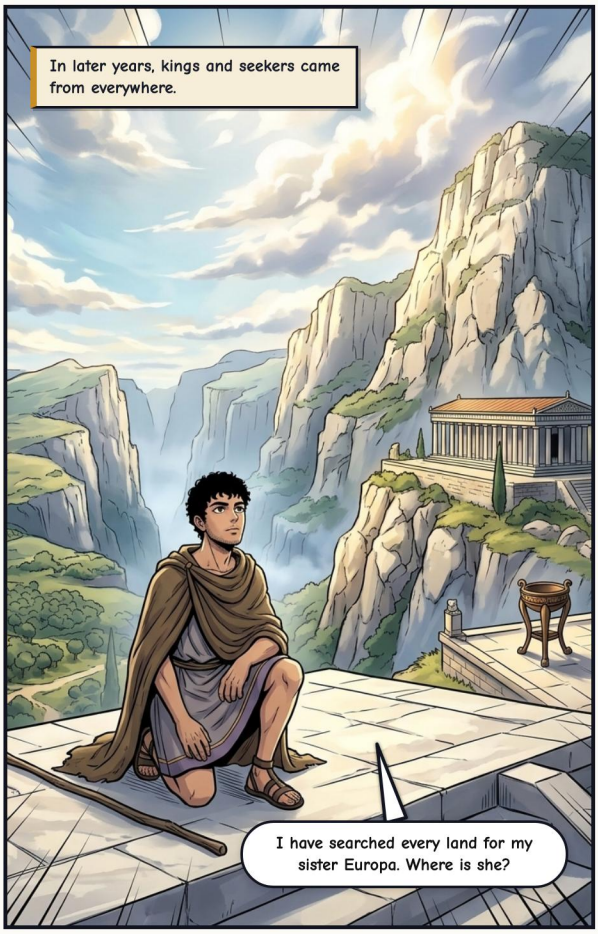

You'll never see Knossos again. You will keep my temple.
Lord, how will we live on bare rock?


To mark his victory, he founded the Pythian Games.

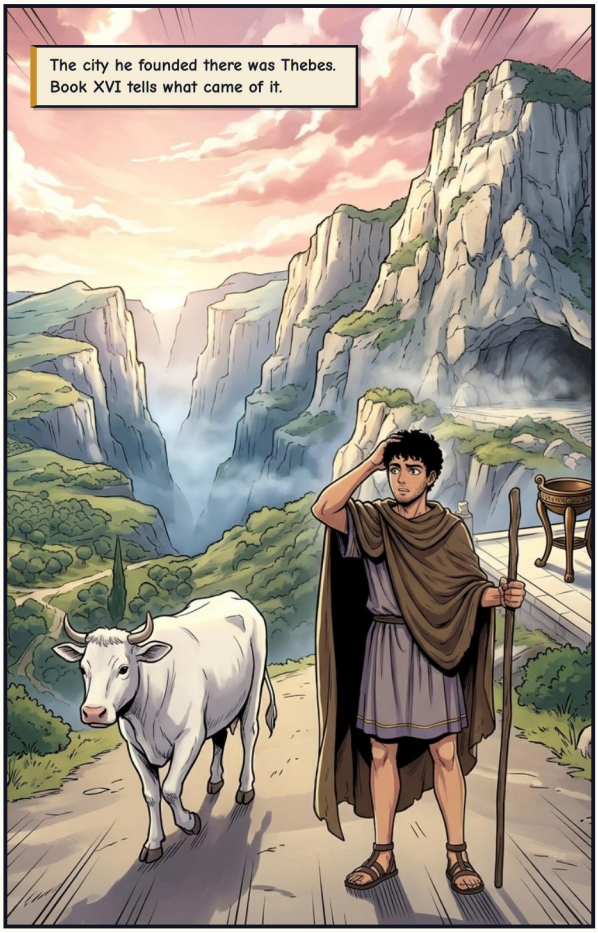

Oak crowned the winners. The laurel did not exist yet; the god wore leaves from any tree.


Where the serpent rotted, Apollo laid his temple's foundations. The Cretans became its priests and called him Delphinius, the dolphin god.


Earth's priestess stayed. Phemonoe became the first Pythia, and the god spoke through her in verse.
People said a breath rose from the earth.


In later years, kings and seekers came from everywhere.
I have searched every land for my sister Europa. Where is she?


Stop searching. Follow a cow that has never worn a yoke. Where she lies down, build a city.

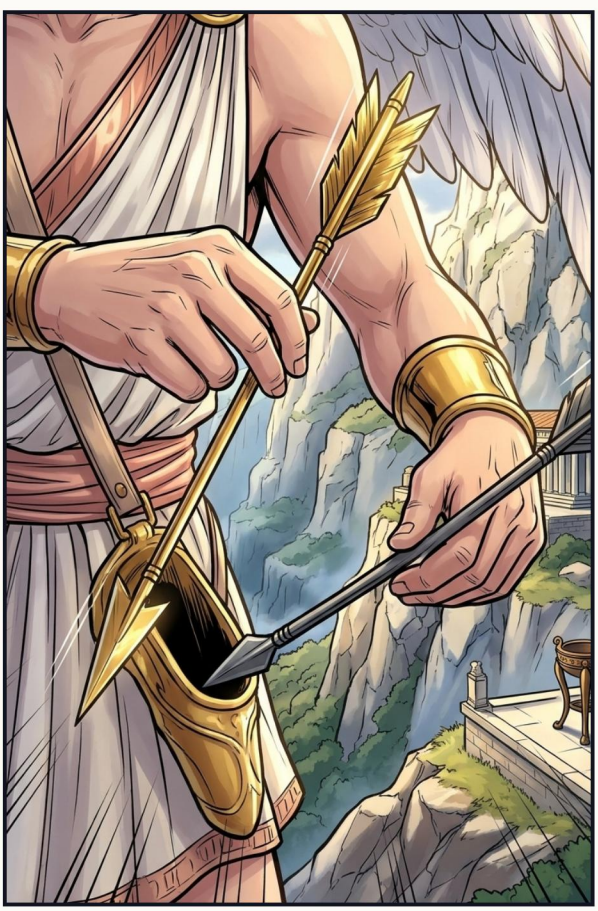

The city he founded there was Thebes. Book XVI tells what came of it.

# ACT IV – THE LAUREL CROWN

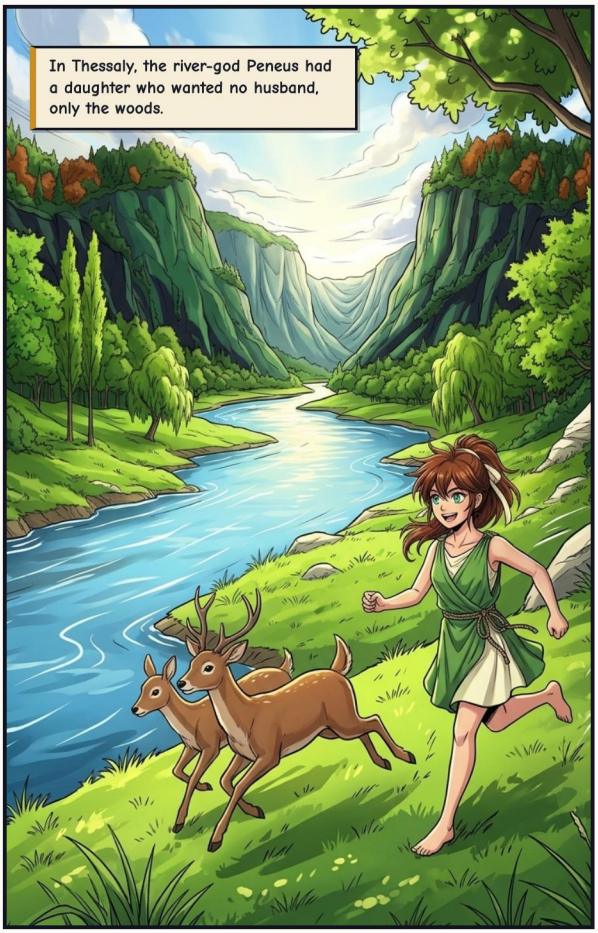




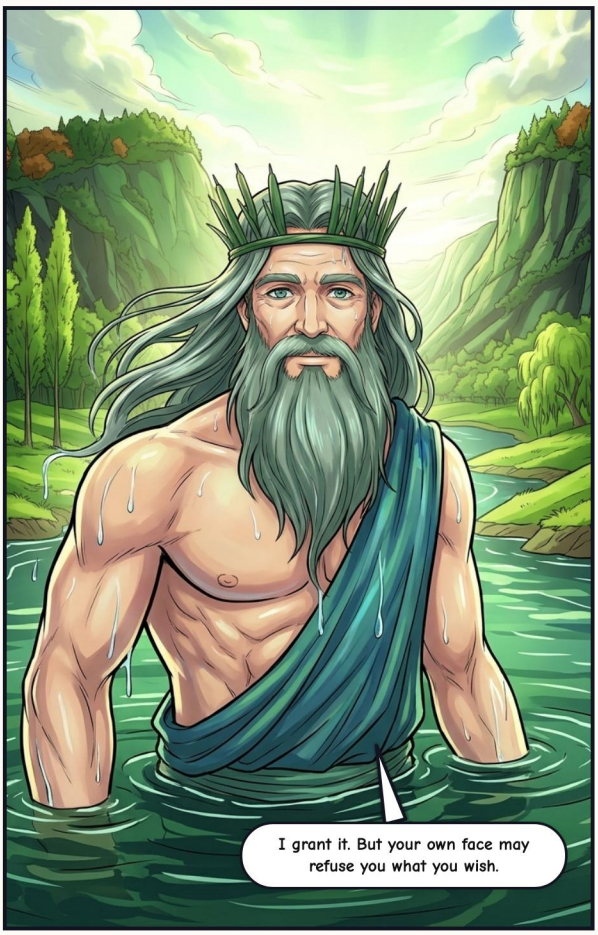






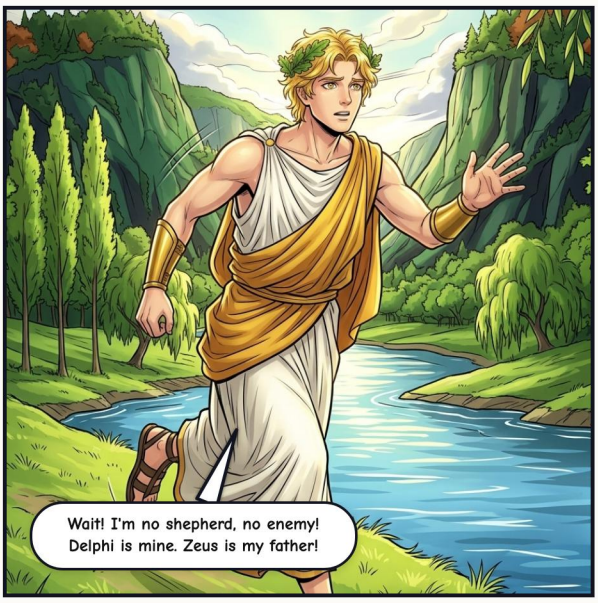

In Thessaly, the river-god Peneus had a daughter who wanted no husband, only the woods.


Father, let me stay unmarried forever. Artemis's father gave her that.


I grant it. But your own face may refuse you what you wish.

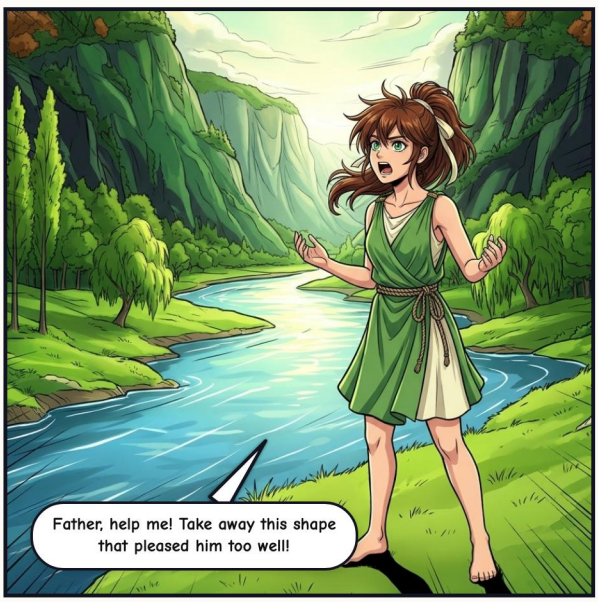



The gold arrow lit him like a stubble field. The lead one made her run.

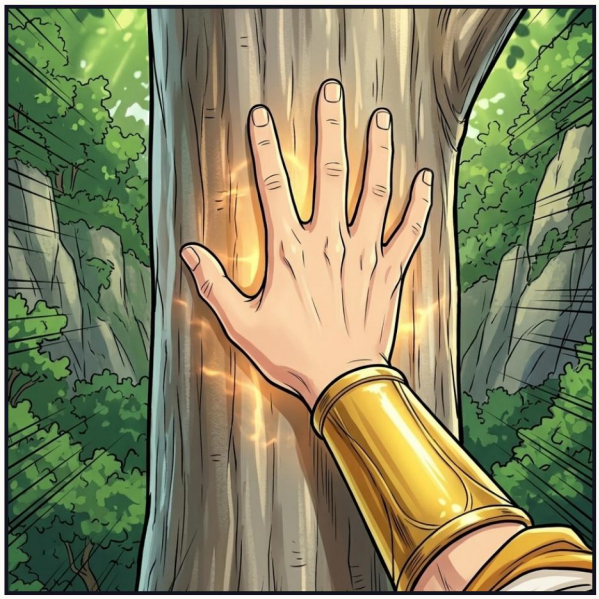

Wait! I'm no shepherd, no enemy! Delphi is mine. Zeus is my father!

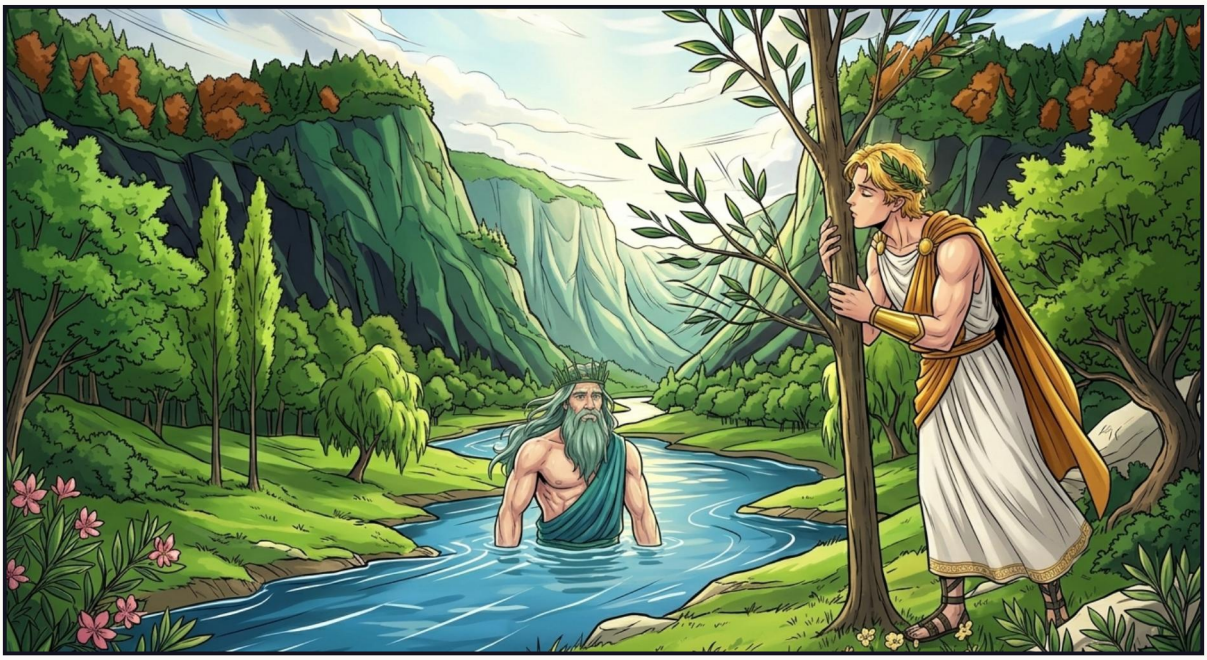


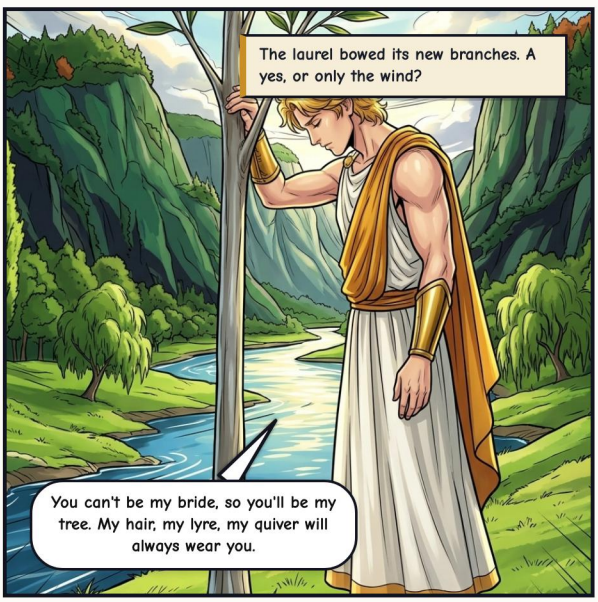

I invented medicine... and no herb cures this.


Father, help me! Take away this shape that pleased him too well!



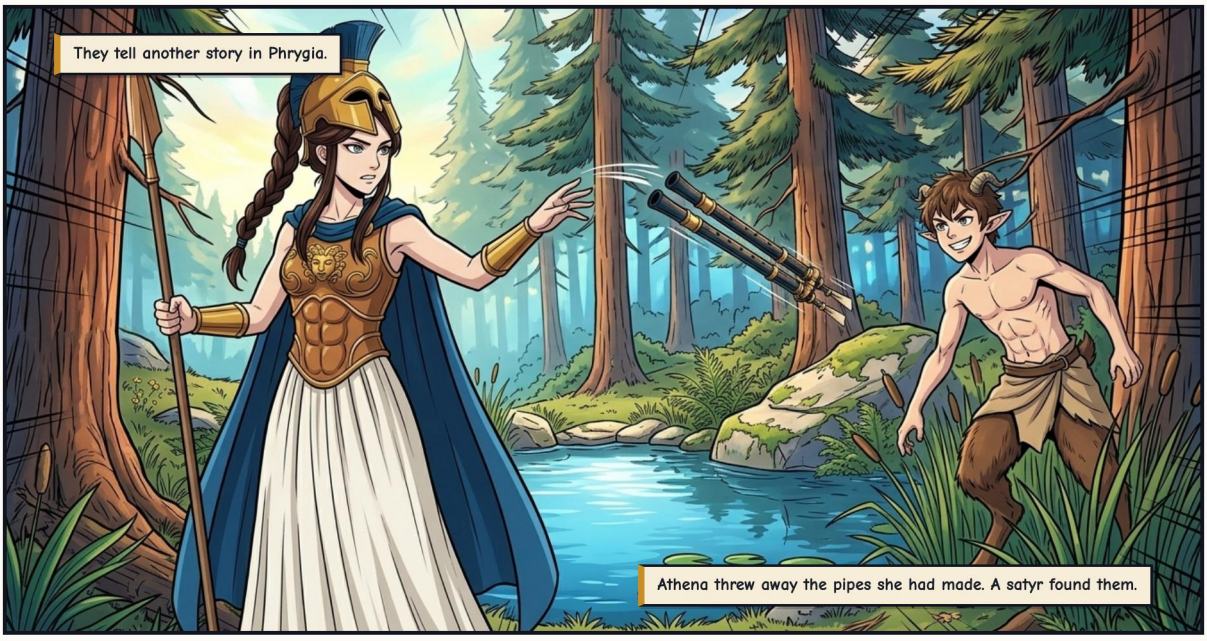





The laurel bowed its new branches. A yes, or only the wind?
You can't be my bride, so you'll be my tree. My hair, my lyre, my quiver will always wear you.


Back at Delphi, he wove the first laurel crown. He wore her leaves ever after, and so would every victor and poet.

# ACT V — THE PRICE OF BRILLIANCE





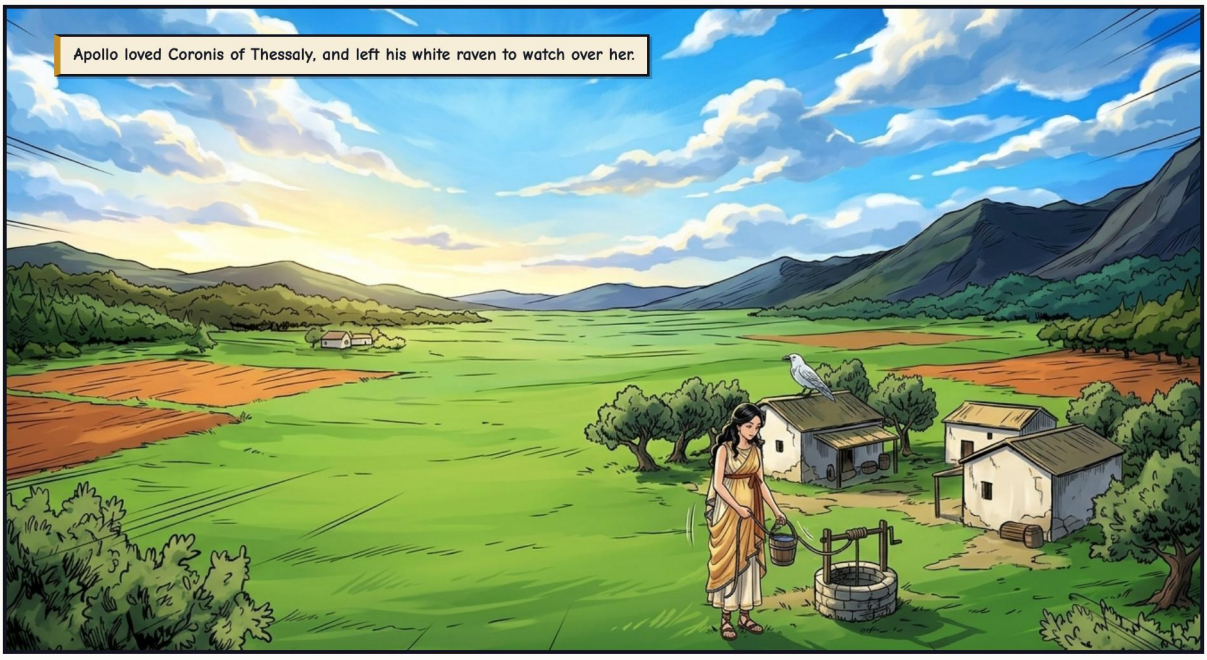








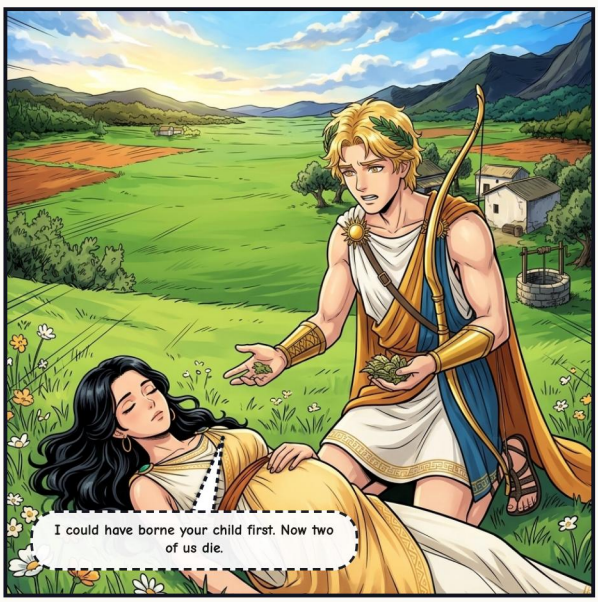


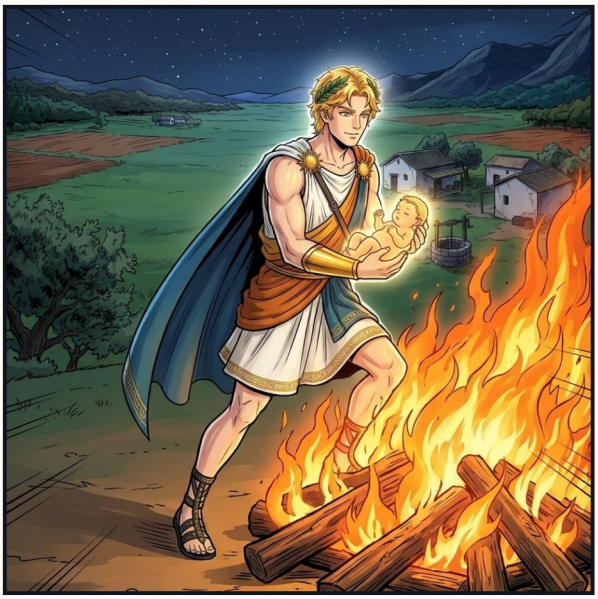

Apollo loved Coronis of Thessaly, and left his white raven to watch over her.




She's taken another: Ischys, a stranger.




I could have borne your child first. Now two of us die.




So ravens turned black.
You told the truth. Wear black for it.


Chiron raised the boy, Asclepius, and taught him every herb that grows.


He became the greatest healer who ever lived.

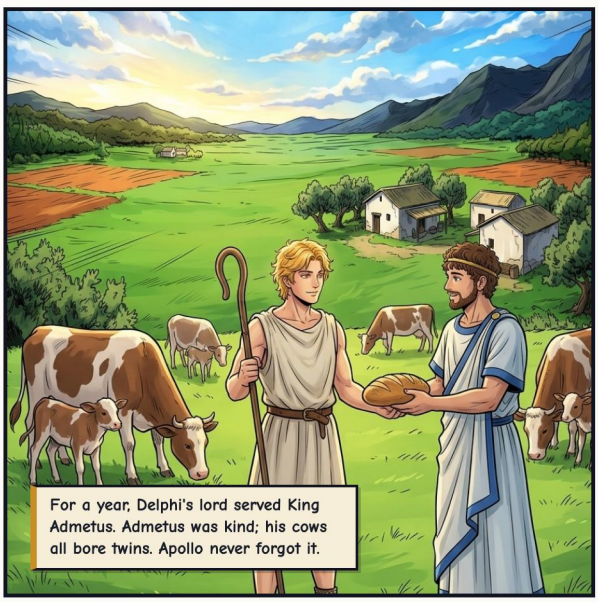

Hippolytus, who had been dead.
Breathe.


No mortal hand opens the gates of death.
Later, the Greeks worshipped Asclepius as a god of healing.



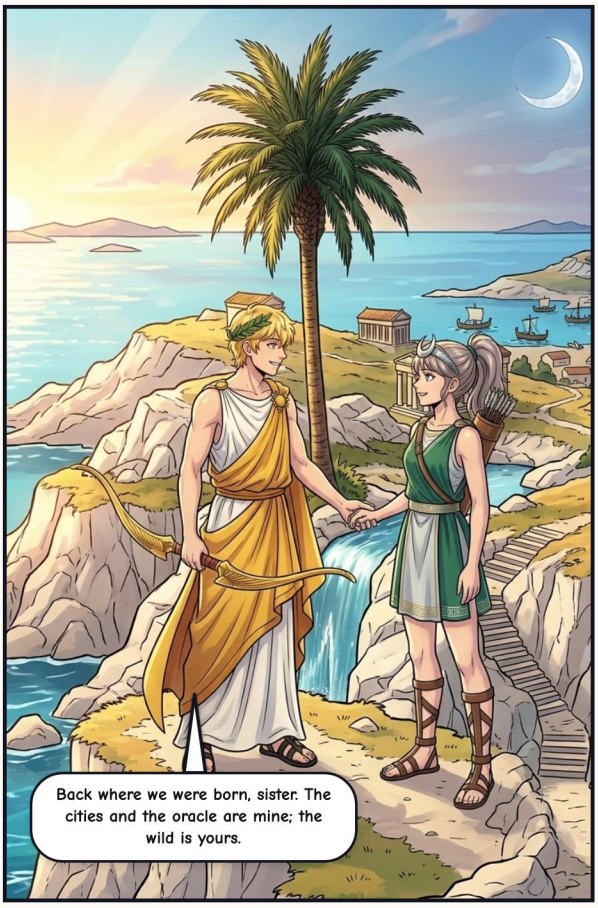

Tartarus, for that.
He is my son!

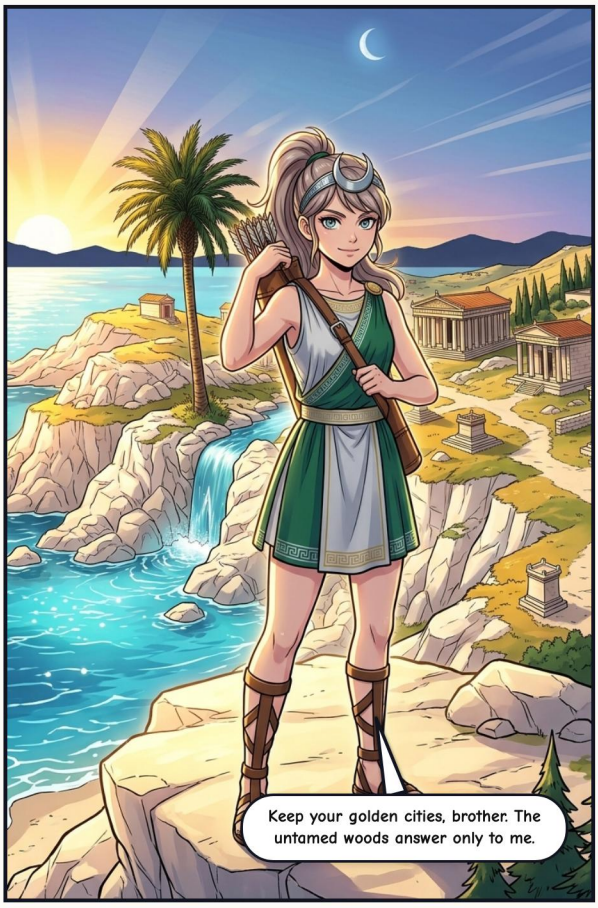

Then a year as a mortal's servant.


For a year, Delphi's lord served King Admetus. Admetus was kind; his cows all bore twins. Apollo never forgot it.


God of bow and lyre, plague and healing, oracles and hard truths. When he played, Olympus fell silent.
Over his temple door: KNOW YOURSELF. The Greeks read it as: remember you are mortal.

# EPILOGUE — THE TWINS OF DELOS









COLOPHON

# Apollo: The Golden Bow

*Gods of Olympus: Greek Mythology*

## CLASSICAL SOURCES

*Homeric Hymn to Apollo; Ovid (Metamorphoses 1, 2, 6); Hyginus (Fabulae 140); Apollodorus (Library 1.4, 3.10); Pindar (Pythian 3); Euripides (Alcestis); Pausanias*

Freely adapted from classical Greek and Roman mythological sources in the public domain.

## EDITION & ARTWORK

Adaptation, curation, and edition by Guillem Cantallops Ramis. The comic adaptation and illustrations were created with artificial intelligence; no copyright is claimed over raw AI-generated imagery.

## LICENSE

The editorial adaptation, translations, and edition are shared under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 (Attribution – NonCommercial – ShareAlike).

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/deed.en

## 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.

https://olimp.talaiot.net · olimp@talaiot.net

**Version 1 · 2026-11-26**

10-apollo_en.pdf