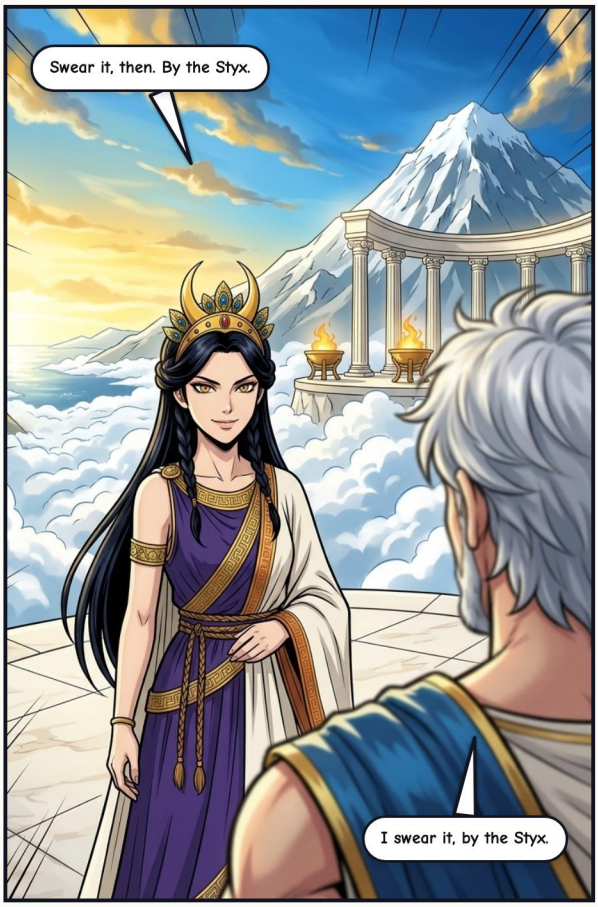

HERACLES
Book XVIII · Son of Two Worlds

# PROLOGUE – THE OATH









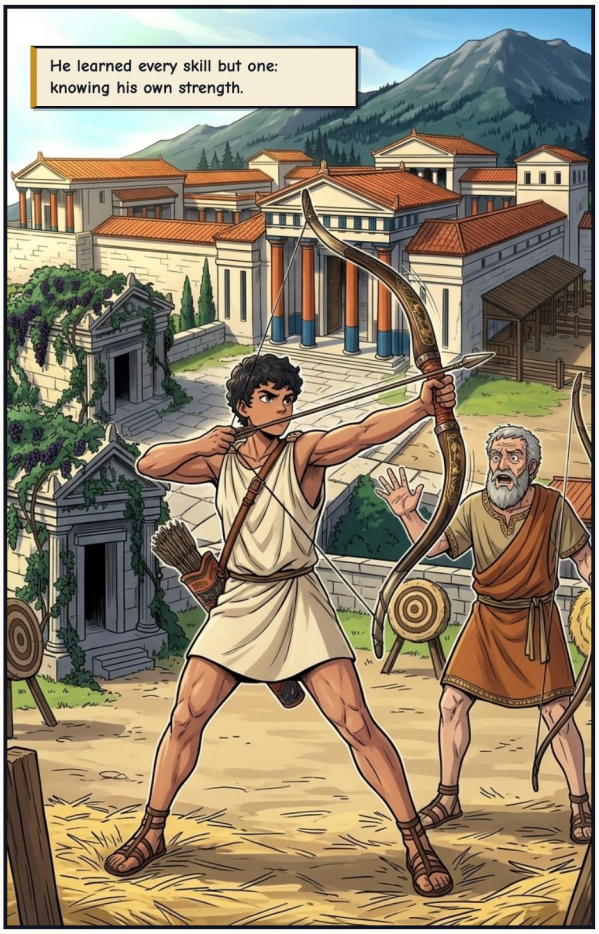

Eight months later. Hera had not forgotten.

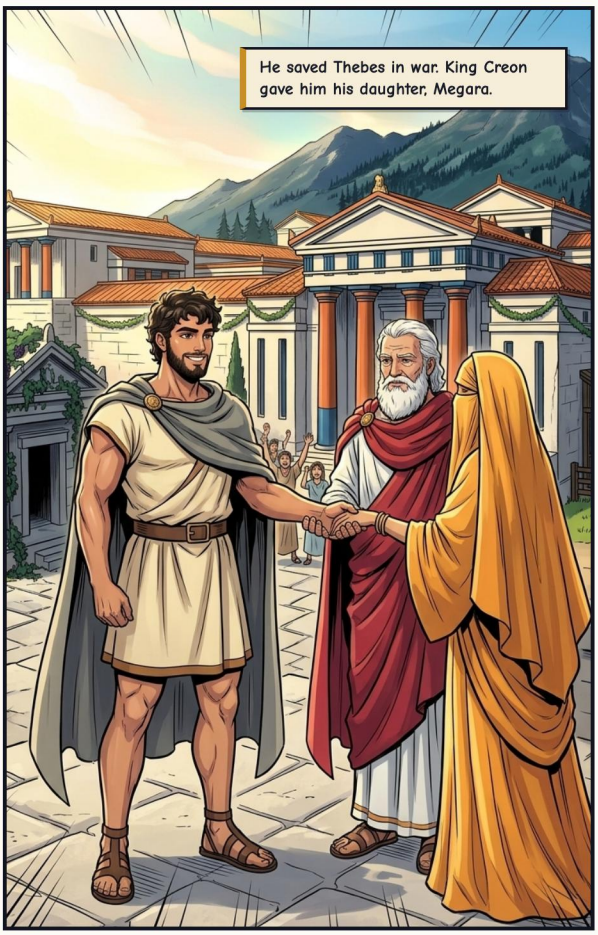

WAAAH!
HSSSS


Amphitryon: "Gods above..."


Fetch Tiresias.

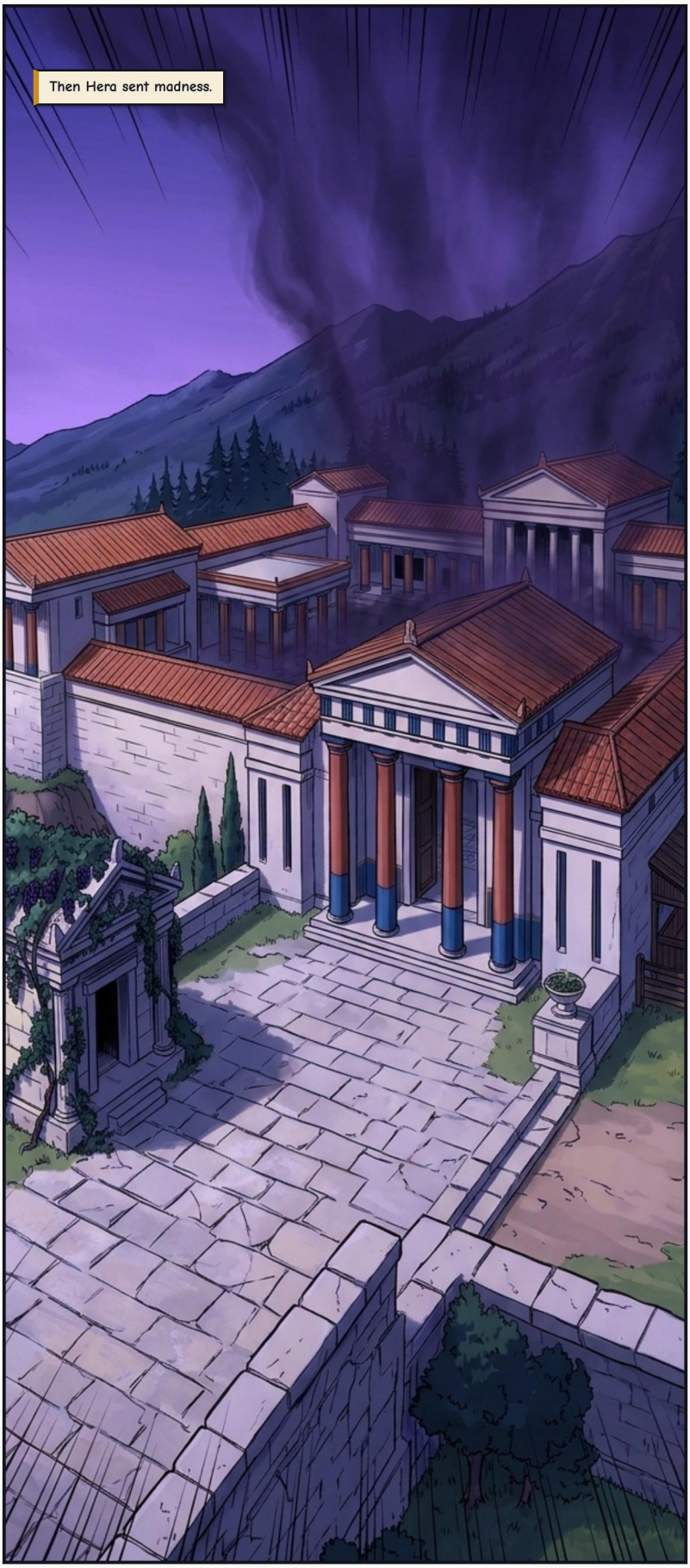

He will tame monsters on land and sea. He will fight beside the gods against the sons of Earth.
And at the end: rest, and a bride among the immortals.

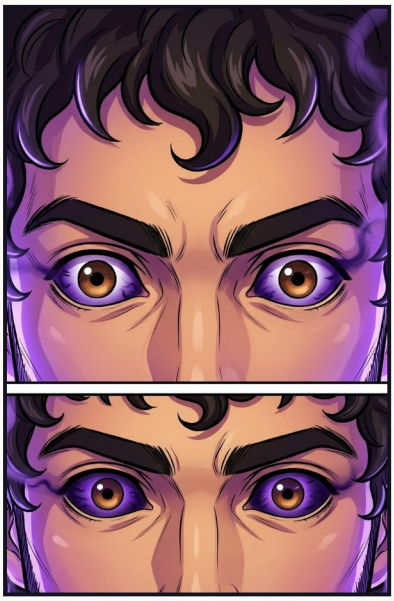

He learned every skill but one: knowing his own strength.

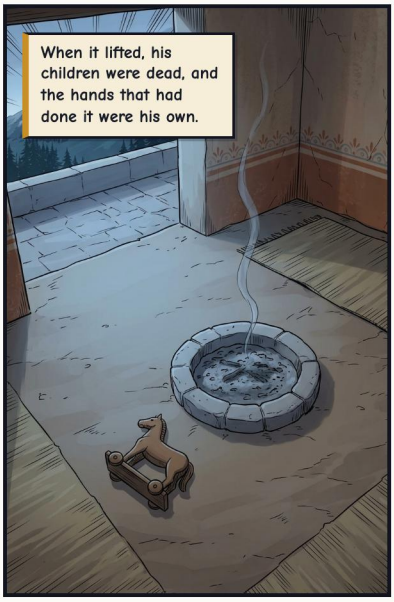

He saved Thebes in war. King Creon gave him his daughter, Megara.

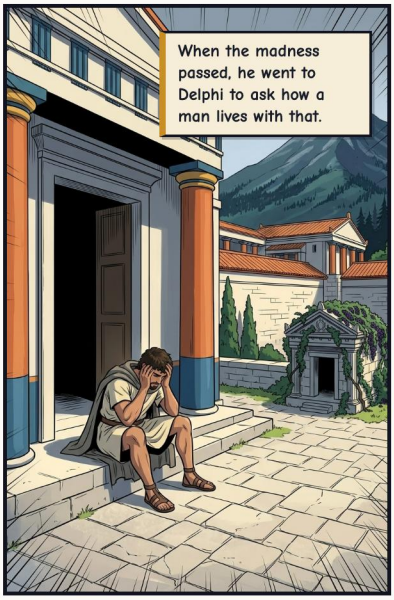

For a few years, he was happy.

# ACT I — THE NAME








The Pythia: "Go to Tiryns. Serve Eurystheus twelve years, and do the ten labours he sets you."
"Then you will not die. And from today, your name is Heracles."


Heracles. "Glory of Hera." The goddess who did this to me.


First labour: the lion of Nemea. Bring me its skin.

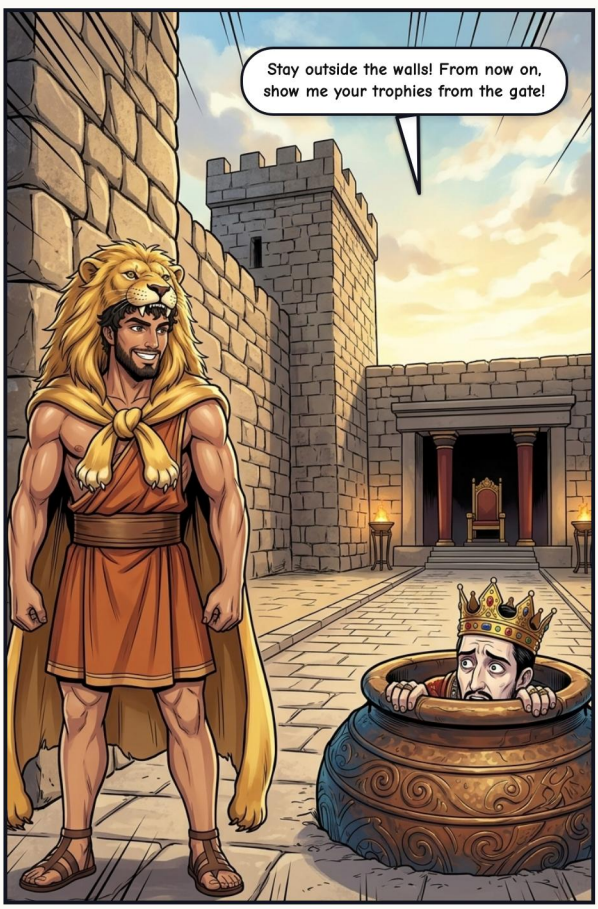
# ACT II – THE LABOURS











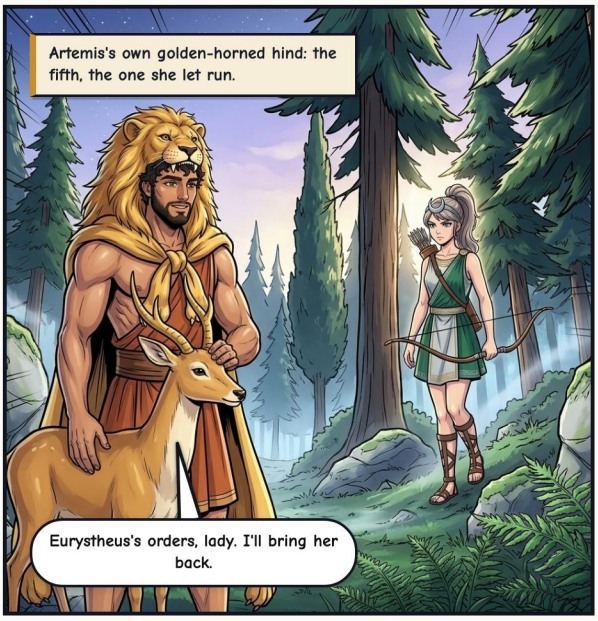

The second labour: the Hydra of Lerna.


IOLAUS! FIRE!


FWOOOSH


The last head, the one that could not die, lay buried under a rock.
Whatever these arrows touched, they would poison. Remember them.


It doesn't count. You had help.

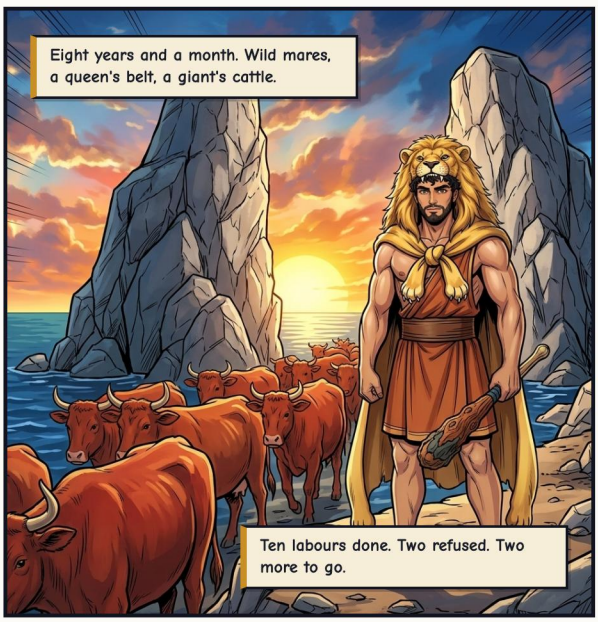

Artemis's own golden-horned hind: the fifth, the one she let run.
Eurystheus's orders, lady. I'll bring her back.


EEEK!


The stables of Augeas, cleaned in a day. Eurystheus refused that one too: Heracles had been paid.


The birds of Stymphalus.




Eight years and a month. Wild mares, a queen's belt, a giant's cattle.
Ten labours done. Two refused. Two more to go.

# THE EDGE OF THE WORLD















Fetch me three apples, and I'll hold that for you.




I'll take them to your king myself. You keep that.
Of course. Just hold it a moment while I fold my cloak into a pad.


HEY!

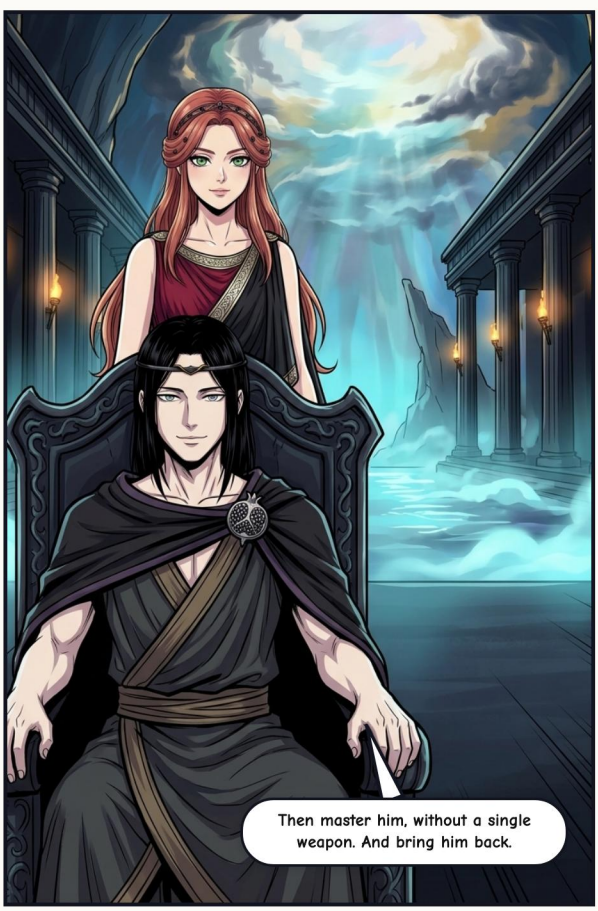
# THE LAST LABOUR







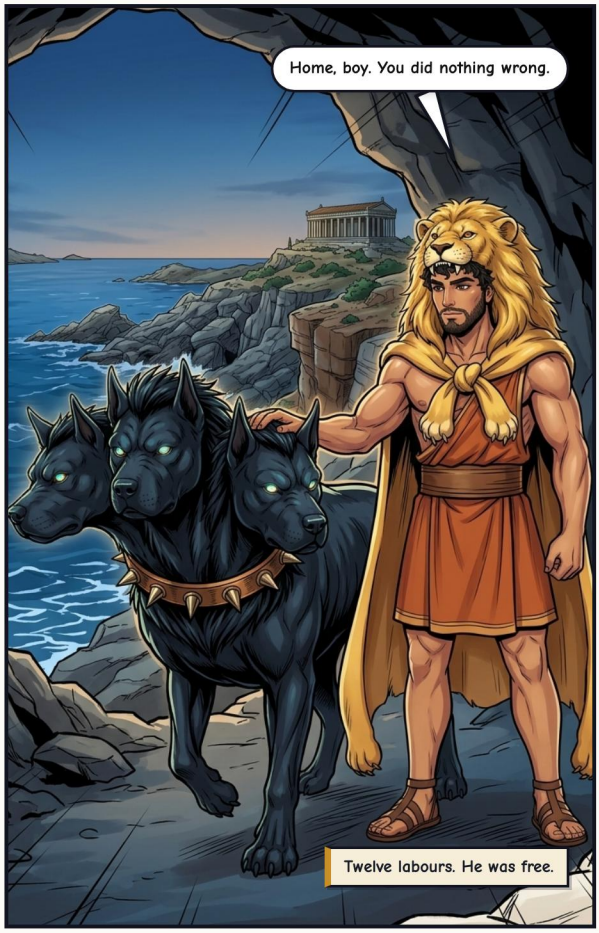


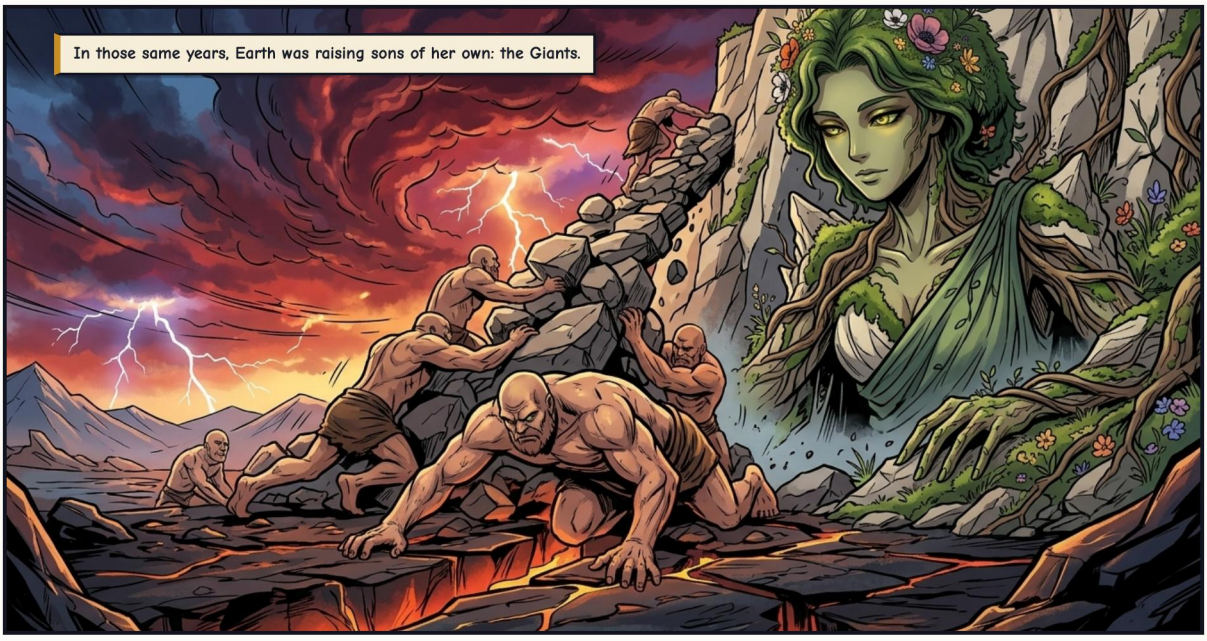



GRRRAAAH!


TAKE IT BACK!


Home, boy. You did nothing wrong.
Twelve labours. He was free.

# ACT III – THE WAR OF THE GIANTS















Every god fought, and no Giant stayed down.


TWANG


THIS IS HIS NATIVE SOIL. DRAG HIM OUT OF PALLENE!

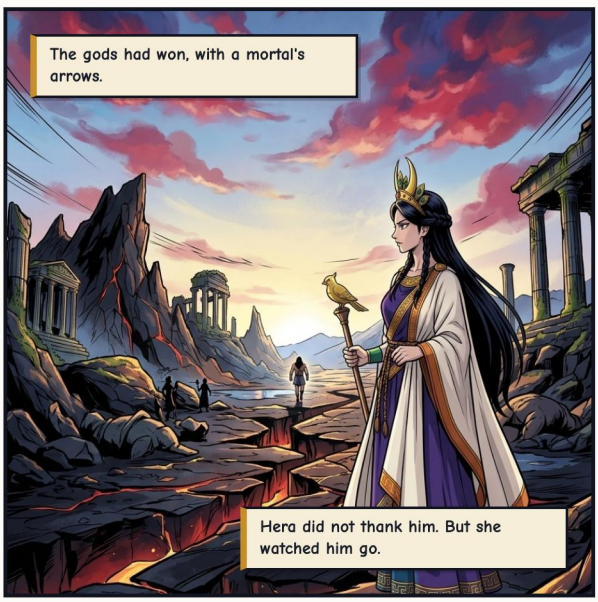



Come, then.




KRA-KOOOM!




The gods had won, with a mortal's arrows.
Hera did not thank him. But she watched him go.

# ACT IV – THE GIFT







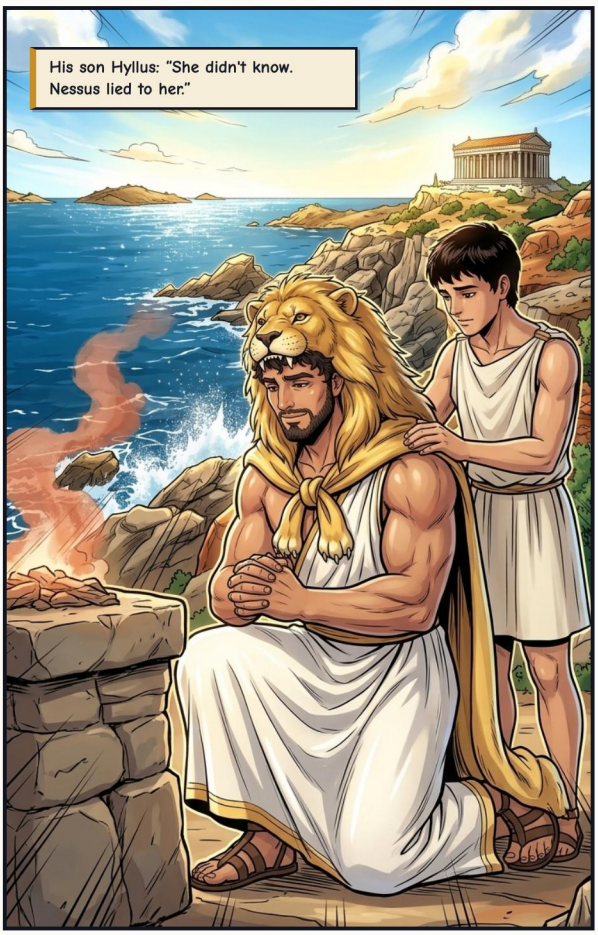






Years later, he sent home a captive princess, Iole.
Deianira was afraid of losing him.


FSSSSH


His son Hyllus: "She didn't know. Nessus lied to her."


An oracle said no living thing would kill me. A dead one has.
Carry me to Oeta.



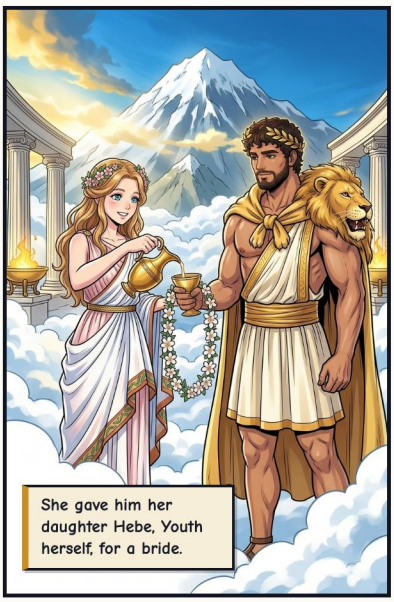


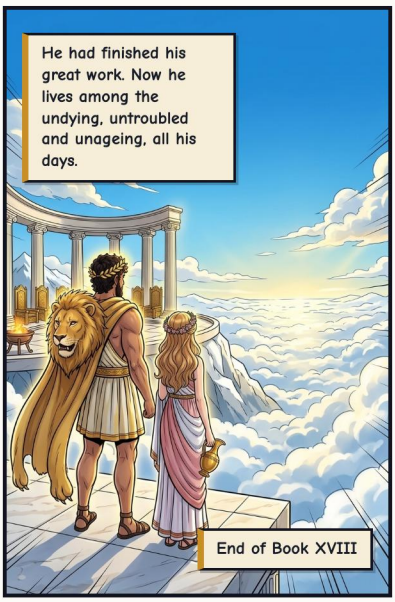


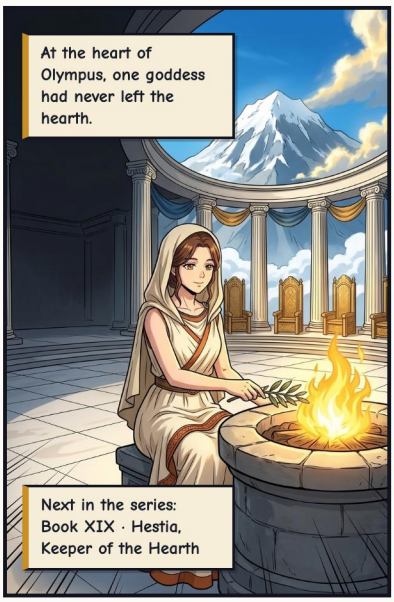


# EPILOGUE — GLORY OF HERA



COLOPHON

# Heracles: Son of Two Worlds

*Gods of Olympus: Greek Mythology*

## CLASSICAL SOURCES

*Apollodorus (Library 1.6, 2.4–2.7), Hesiod (Theogony), Homer (Iliad 19, Odyssey 11), Pindar (Nemean 1), Theocritus (Idylls 24–25), Euripides (Heracles), Sophocles (Trachiniae), Diodorus (Library 4), Ovid (Metamorphoses 9), Virgil (Aeneid 6). Eurystheus's third retreat into the jar and Hera's words on Olympus are this series' staging.*

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

## EDITION & ARTWORK

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