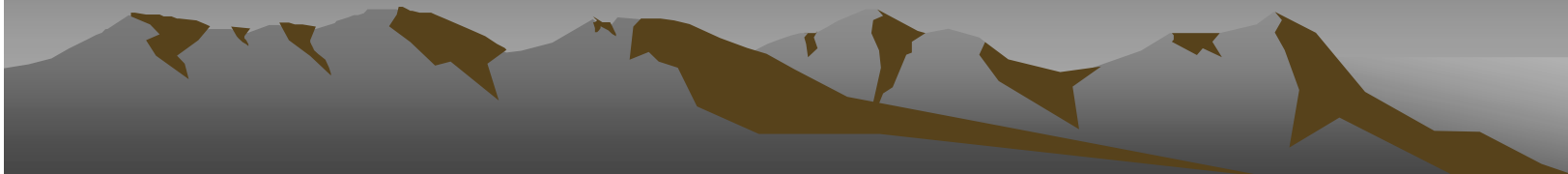


HERCULES

HIS LIFE,
AND THE
TWELVE LABORS



FAMILY TREE

DANAË = ZEUS

PERSEUS = ANDROMEDA

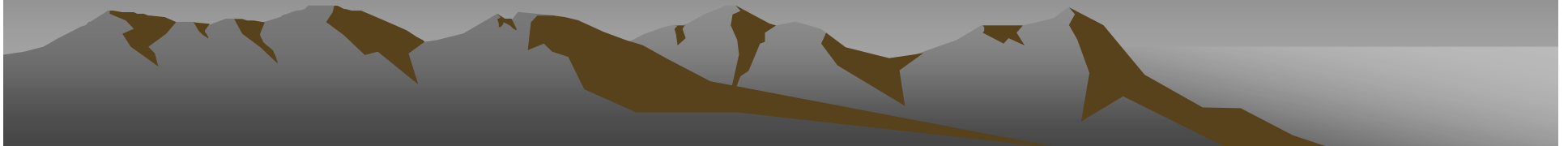
ELECTRYON

ALCAEUS

ZEUS = ALCMENA = AMPHITRYON

HERCULES

IPHICLES



ZEUS AND ALCMENA

- ZEUS APPEARED IN THE FORM OF THE GENERAL AMPHITRYON AND SLEPT WITH HIS WIFE ALCMENA.



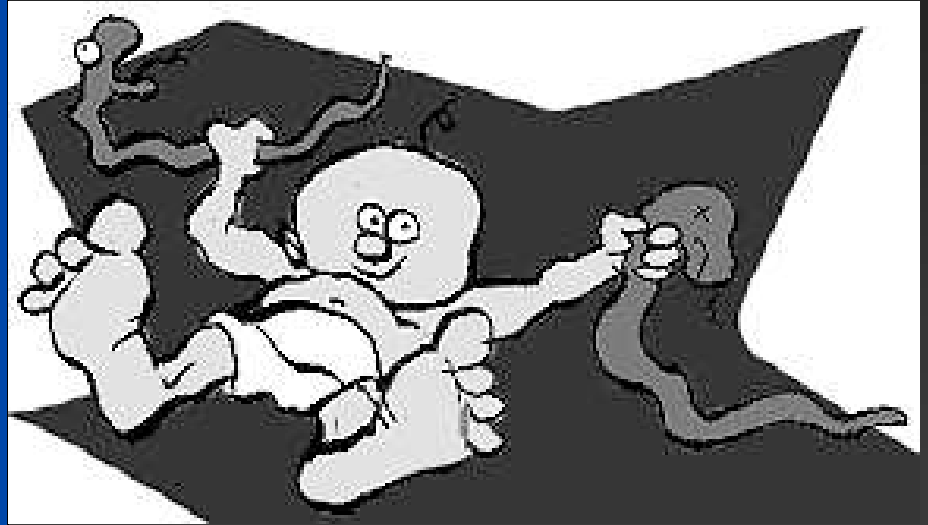
ZEUS AND ALCMENA



- SHE GAVE BIRTH TO TWO CHILDREN, HERCULES AND IPHICLES. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO WERE IMMEDIATELY CLEAR.
- HERA WAS JEALOUS AND SHE WAS DETERMINED TO KILL HERCULES.

HERA AND HERACLES

- ONE NIGHT WHEN BOTH CHILDREN WERE SLEEPING, HERA SENT TWO GREAT SNAKES INTO THE NURSERY.
- IPHICLES SCREAMED AND TRIED TO GET OUT OF THE CRIB. HERCULES SAT UP, GRABBED THE SNAKES BY THE THROAT, AND KILLED THEM.



THE CHILDHOOD



- HERA WAS ONCE TRICKED INTO BREAST FEEDING HIM, AND WHEN SHE WOKE UP SHE WAS STARTLED AND THE MILK ESCAPED INTO THE SKY, CREATING THE MILKY WAY.
- HE DISLIKED MUSIC SO MUCH THAT HE FLEW INTO A RAGE AND KILLED HIS TEACHER WITH A LUTE.
- HE DID NOT DO THIS ON PURPOSE. HE DID IT BY INSTINCT AND AT THIS POINT HE DID NOT KNOW THE EXTENT OF HIS STRENGTH.
- HE ENJOYED ALL OF THE ATHLETIC SPORTS HE LEARNED.

THE STRONGEST BUT NOT THE SMARTEST MAN



- HERCULES THOUGHT THAT HIS STRENGTH COULD SOLVE ANY PROBLEM.
- ONCE HERCULES WAS TOO HOT AND HE POINTED HIS ARROW AT THE SUN AND THREATENED TO SHOOT IT.
- ANOTHER TIME HIS BOAT WAS BEING TOSSED AROUND BY THE WAVES AND HE TOLD THEM HE WOULD PUNISH THEM.
- OFTEN HE LET HIS RAGE TAKE OVER AND THEN HAD TO ENDURE PUNISHMENTS.



HERCULES KILLS WIFE #1

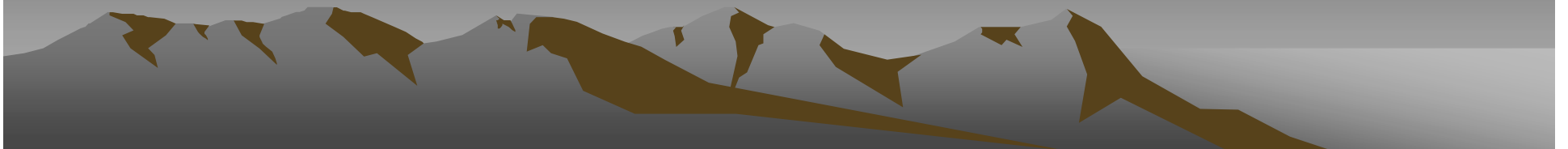


- HERCULES MARRIES PRINCESS MEGARA AND THEY HAVE THREE BOYS.
- HERA STRIKES HERCULES WITH MADNESS AND HE KILLS HER AND THE CHILDREN.
- HE THEN WAKES FROM THIS, AND FINDING THE DEAD BODIES BEFORE HIM, HE FEELS EXTREME GUILT.
- THE ORACLE AT DELPHI TELLS HIM THAT TO BE PURIFIED, HE WOULD HAVE TO DO LABORS FOR HIS COUSIN, KING EURYSTHEUS.

THE TWELVE LABORS OF HERCULES

EACH OF THE TASKS WERE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO
PERFORM; THESE 12 TASKS LASTED 12 YEARS.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. THE NEMEAN LION | 7. THE CRETAN BULL |
| 2. THE HYDRA | 8. THE HORSES OF DIOMEDES |
| 3. STAG WITH GOLDEN HORNS | 9. THE GIRDLE OF HIPPOLYTA |
| 4. EURYMANTHIAN BOAR | 10. THE CATTLE OF GERYON |
| 5. AUGEAN STABLES | 11. THE GOLDEN APPLES OF
THE HESPERIDES |
| 6. THE STYMPHALION BIRDS | 12. CERBERUS |



1. THE NEMEAN LION

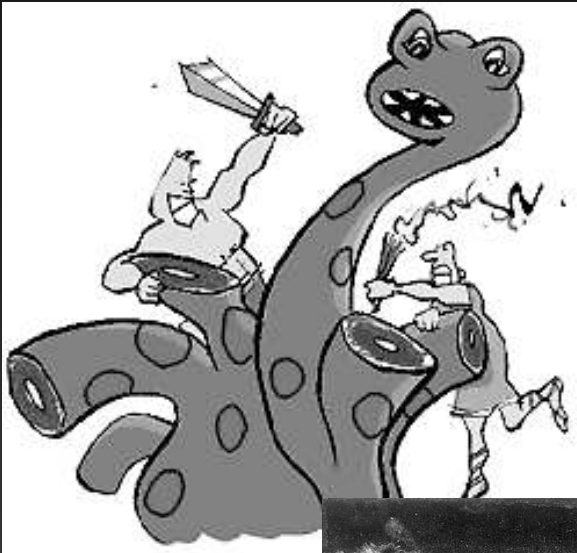


- THE LION FROM NEMEA COULD NOT BE KILLED WITH WEAPONS; HERCULES CHOKED THE LIFE OUT OF HIM.
- HE THEN HEAVED IT UPON HIS BACK AND BROUGHT IT BACK.
- EURYSTHEUS WAS FRIGHTENED AND WOULD NOT LET HIM INTO THE CITY ANYMORE.

1. THE NEMEAN LION



2. THE HYDRA



- THE HYDRA LIVED IN A SWAMP AND HAD NINE HEADS; ONE WAS IMMORTAL AND IF ANY OF THE OTHERS WERE CUT OFF TWO WOULD GROW IN ITS PLACE.
- WITH THE HELP OF HIS NEPHEW, HE BURNED THE NECK OF EACH HEAD AFTER IT WAS CUT OFF. THE IMMORTAL HEAD WAS BURIED UNDER A GREAT ROCK.
- HERA ALSO SENT A CRAB TO ASSIST THE HYDRA BUT HERCULES ALSO KILLS IT.

2. THE HYDRA



3. STAG WITH GOLDEN HORNS

- THE THIRD LABOR WAS TO BRING BACK ALIVE A STAG, SACRED TO ARTEMIS.
- HE COULD HAVE EASILY KILLED IT BUT BRINGING IT BACK ALIVE WAS FAR MORE DIFFICULT. IT TOOK HIM A YEAR.

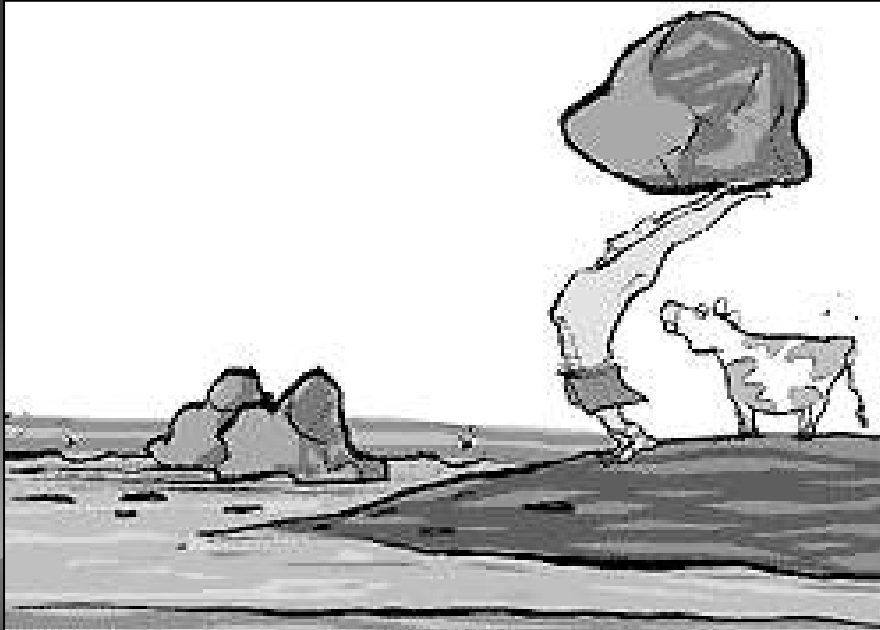


4. THE EURYMANTHIAN BOAR

- HERCULES HAD TO CAPTURE A GREAT BOAR. HE CHASED IT UNTIL IT WAS TIRED AND THEN HE DROVE IT INTO DEEP SNOW AND TRAPPED IT.



5. AUGEAN STABLES



- **LABOR 5 WAS TO CLEAN THE AUGEAN STABLES IN ONE DAY.**
- **THE STABLES OF THOUSANDS OF CATTLE HAD NOT BEEN CLEANED IN YEARS.**
- **HERCULES DIVERTED THE COURSE OF TWO RIVERS AND CLEANED IT OUT IN NO TIME AT ALL.**

6. STYMPHALIAN BIRDS

- THESE BIRDS WERE A PLAGUE TO THE PEOPLE OF STYMPHALUS BECAUSE OF THEIR ENORMOUS NUMBERS.
- ATHENA HELPED TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF THEIR COVERTS, AND HE SHOT THEM AS THEY FLEW OUT.



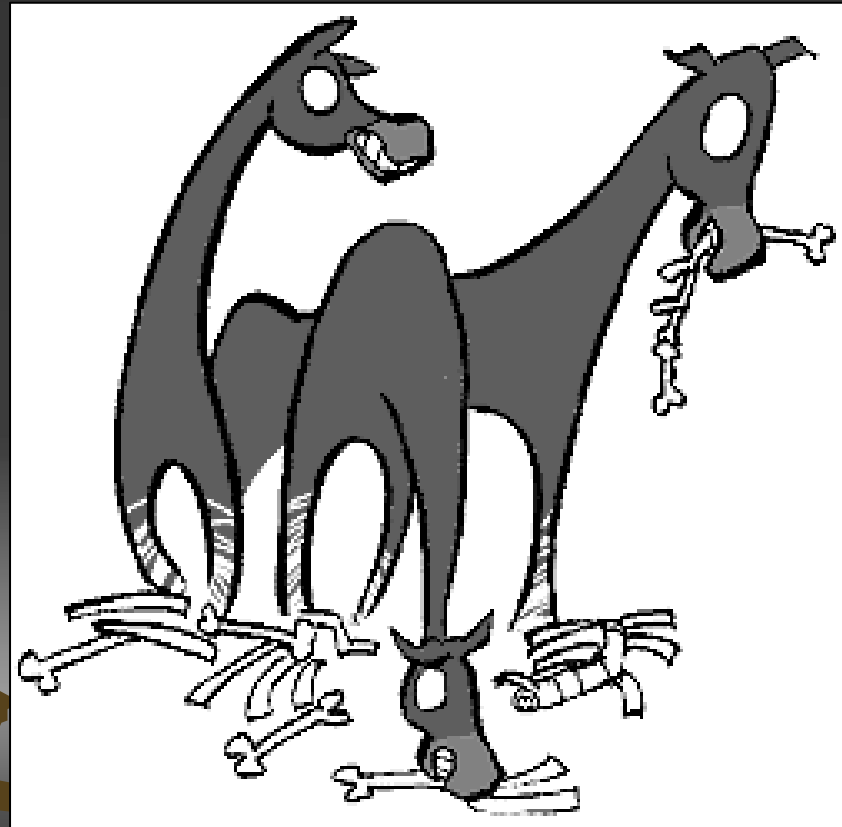
7. THE CRETAN BULL

- HERCULES HAD TO GO TO CRETE AND FETCH THE BULL THAT POSEIDON HAD GIVEN TO MINOS. HERCULES MASTERED HIM, PUT HIM IN A BOAT, AND BROUGHT HIM BACK.



8. THE HORSES OF DIOMEDES

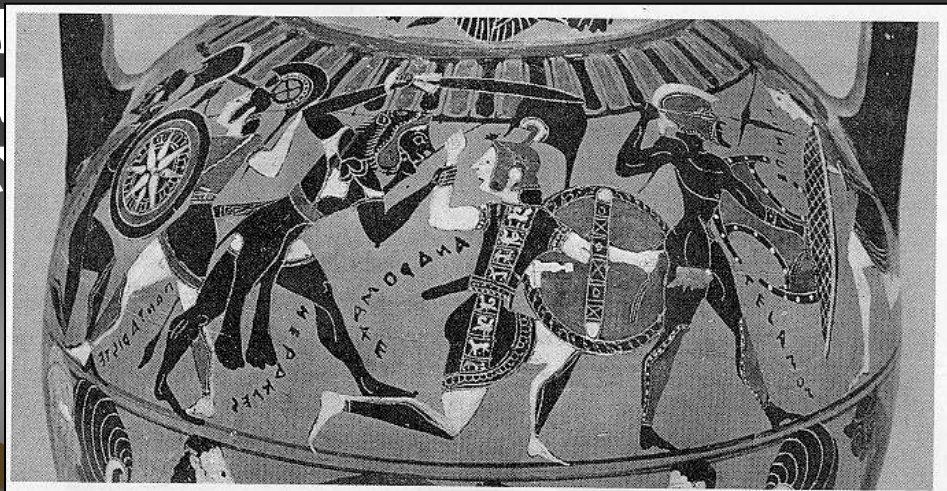
- HERCULES HAD TO GET THE MAN-EATING MARES OF KING DIOMEDES OF THRACE.
- HE KILLED DIOMEDES AND THEN DROVE OFF THE MARES.



9. THE GIRDLE OF HIPPOLYTA



- HIPPOLYTA IS THE QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS. HERCULES WAS TOLD TO GET HER GIRDLE AND WHEN HE SAW HER SHE TREATED HIM KINDLY.
- HERA, IN ORDER TO STIR UP TROUBLE, MADE THE AMAZONS THINK THAT HE WAS STEALING HER AWAY.
- THEY BECAME VIOLENT AND



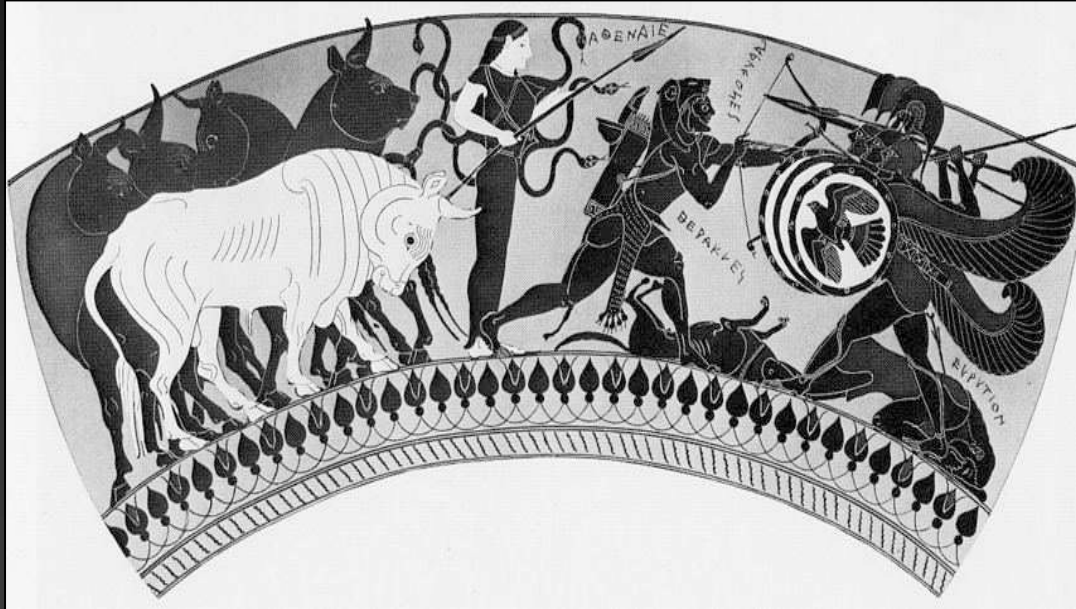
THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR



- ON HIS WAY TO HIS 10TH LABOR, HERCULES REACHED THE END OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND SET UP A MEMORIAL.
- HE SPLIT A MOUNTAIN INTO TWO FORMING THE PILLARS OF HERCULES OR STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR.



10. THE CATTLE OF GERYON



- GERYON WAS A MONSTER WITH THREE BODIES. HE HAD A TWO-HEADED DOG THAT HELPED HIM GUARD THE OXEN.
- HERCULES KILLS HIM AND THE DOG AND THEN RETURNS THEM TO EURYSTHEUS.

11. THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE HESPERIDES



- THIS WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK.
- THE HESPERIDES WERE THE DAUGHTERS OF ATLAS AND THEY PROTECTED THE GOLDEN APPLES HERA HAD BEEN GIVEN BY GAIA AT HER MARRIAGE TO ZEUS.
- ATLAS AGREES TO GET THE APPLES FOR HERCULES IF HE WILL HOLD THE WEIGHT OF THE SKIES FOR HIM.

ATLAS RETURNS WITH THE APPLES BUT DOES NOT WANT TO CARRY THE WEIGHT AGAIN. HE TELLS HERCULES THAT HE WILL RETURN THE APPLES FOR HIM.

HERCULES TELLS ATLAS HE AGREES WITH THE PLAN BUT ASKS HIM TO HOLD THE WEIGHT UP FOR A MOMENT SO THAT HE CAN PAD HIS SHOULDERS. HERCULES THEN PICKS UP THE APPLES AND LEAVES.



11. THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE HESPERIDES CONTINUED



12. CERBERUS



- **HADES GIVES HERCULES PERMISSION TO REMOVE CERBERUS SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T USE ANY WEAPONS.**
- **HERCULES WAS SUCCESSFUL AND CARRIED HIM UP. FRIGHTENED BY THE BEAST, EURYSTHEUS ORDERS THAT HE BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE UNDERWORLD.**

THE DEATH OF HERCULES



- HERCULES WAS BY NOW MARRIED TO ANOTHER WOMAN: DEJANIRA.
- ONCE A CENTAUR NAMED NESSUS GAVE HER A POTION THAT HE SAID SHOULD BE USED WHEN SHE NEEDED TO PRESERVE THE LOVE OF HER HUSBAND.

THE DEATH OF HERCULES



DEJANIRA BECOMES VERY JEALOUS OF ONE OF HIS CAPTIVES, IOLE. SHE DECIDES TO USE THE POTION.

- SHE PUT THE POTION ON HIS ROBE AND IT IMMEDIATELY BECAME WARM ON HIS BODY. HE TRIED TO REMOVE IT BUT IT BEGAN TO TAKE OFF ALL OF HIS SKIN. IT CAUSED HIM EXCRUCIATING PAIN.
- DEJANIRA COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER SEEING WHAT SHE HAD DONE.

THE DEATH OF HERCULES

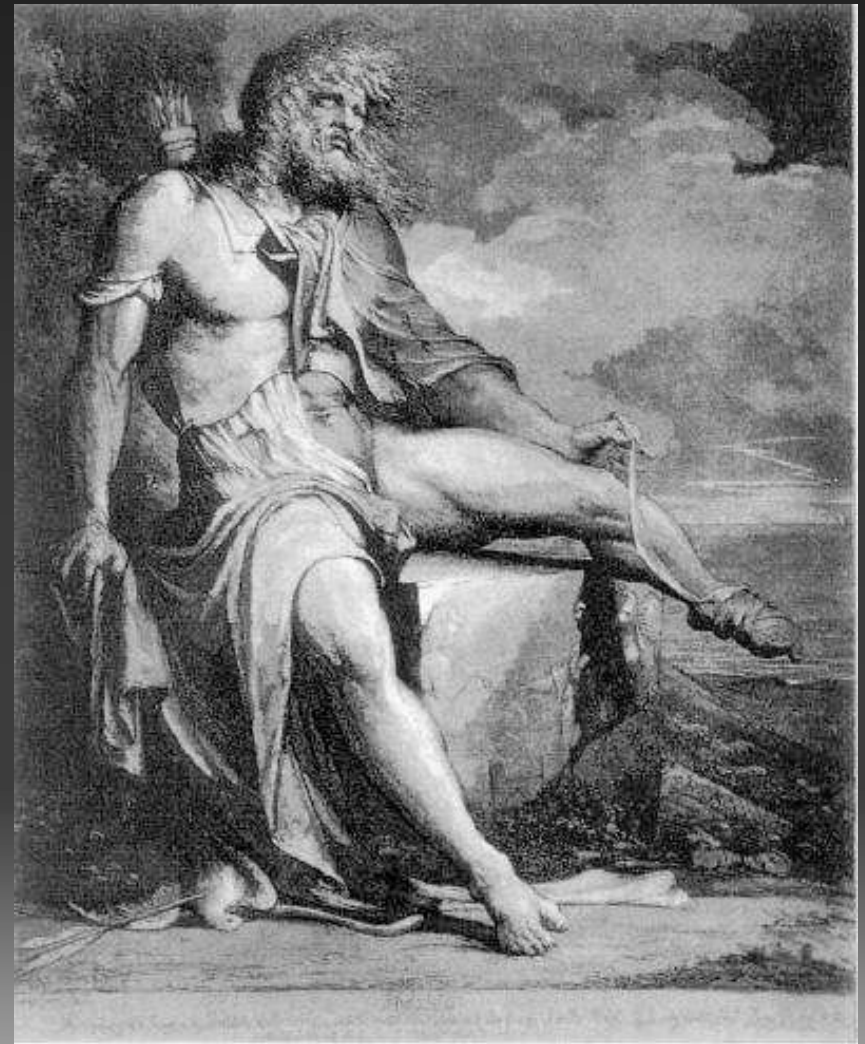


DEJANIRA

- **HERCULES GOES TO MOUNT OETA AND THERE BUILDS A FUNERAL PYRE. HE GIVES HIS BOW TO PHILOCTETES AND THEN BURNS HIS BODY, ENDING HIS MORTAL LIFE.**

THE DEATH OF
HERCULES

PHILOCTETES



- HIS MORTAL SIDE (ALCMENA) GOES DOWN INTO THE UNDERWORLD. HIS IMMORTAL SIDE ASCENDS TO THE STARS WHERE HE BECOMES A CONSTELLATION AND LIVES IMMORTALLY,

THE DEATH OF HERCULES

