

HERACLES

Greek name Ἡρακλῆς

Latin name Hercules

Name in your language

Parents Zeus and Alcmene

Role hero

Home Earth / Mount Olympus

Attributes bow and arrows, club

Pets lion skin

The distance between divine and human reached its shortest length when Heracles was born. At the heart of Greece, Zeus once fell in love with a mortal girl, Alcmene. As a result, Alcmene delivered twin sons: Iphicles, a mortal, son of her husband, Amphitryon. The other was Heracles, son of Zeus. He was half-divine on his father's side (these demigods were called heroes by the ancient Greeks). Hera got quite jealous. She considered it a matter of principle to make Heracles' life difficult. She caused him to carry out the most difficult tasks ever performed by a mortal: they later passed to history as "Twelve Labours of Heracles". Heracles spent years killing deadly lions, capturing monsters (like Cerberus), fetching hidden objects (the apples of the nymphs Hesperides). Eventually, Heracles completed the Twelve Labours. He ascended to Mount Olympus, was promoted from hero to full god, and lived happily forever after alongside his father, Zeus, and Hera, who accepted his presence.

