

# Hercules - The Strong Man

Hercules was the son of Zeus and Alcmene. He was the favorite son of Zeus, who had made special preparations for Hercules' birth so that he would be the mightiest of all the heroes. In keeping with this plan, Hercules would spend the first part of his life living among, and even serving, mortals. He would learn how they lived and what was important in their lives. Then, he would be brought up to Mount Olympus to join the Olympians there, and having lived among the mortals, could help the gods in their discussions and plans.



Hercules was known for his great strength, courage, and agility. He was also known for his Twelve Labors, which he undertook as a result of Hera's scheming. Hera tried many times to get Hercules to fail at some task, and as a result, fall out of favor with his father Zeus. However, Hercules not only completed these twelve tasks, but did them in such a way as to win even more favor from his father, and at the same time make Hera look bad.

In addition to these famous Twelve Labors, he also sailed with Jason and the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece, took part in the war between the gods and the giants, and still had time to sack Troy.

Zeus commemorated all the mighty acts of Hercules by placing his constellation in a very prominent place in the sky.