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DGM - 4000

**Personal Movie Review**

**Hercules (Disney - 1997)**

**Opening Image**

Zeus and his wife are enjoying their new born son Hercules on the peaks of Mount Olympus. All the other gods are invited as well including the god of the underworld Hades. Hades is not very welcoming to the idea of a new god on Mount Olympus.

**Theme Stated**

The theme stated for this movie is when Hades returns to the underworld and talks to the three fates. They tell him that in 18 years the planets will align, and the titans will be released from their prison. However, the only thing that can change that fate is Hercules. So, the question is; Will Hercules be able to stop the titans from rising and taking over the world?

**Set-up**

For the set-up Hercules is kidnapped and drugged. Fearing the rise of Hercules to oppose his plans Hades orders pain and panic to feed Hercules a potion to make him mortal so he can be killed. Pain and Panic are nearly successful until a childless couple disrupts their plans leaving one last drop of potion left. Doing this makes it impossible for Hercules to return home. However, it also gives him inhuman strength as well. We watch Hercules grow up for roughly 18 years into a young adult with the childless couple as a do-gooder with freakish strength.

**Catalyst**

After a delivery goes horribly wrong Hercules begins to wonder where his strength is coming from and why it forced him to cause so much havoc in the town square. This event causes him to wonder where he came from and who he really is. Asking his “parents” for guidance they reveal that Hercules is an orphan and that he should seek out who he really is. Doing this prompts Hercules to go to the temple to pray to the gods. There we find out from a possessed Zeus statue that Hercules is a god.

**Debate**

For the movie the debate is an internal one. Hercules his whole life has been under the impression that he is some normal kid. However, with the news of his lineage he now must ask himself if he will take up the call to become a true hero so that he can return to Mount Olympus or return to his village and remain normal.

**Break into 2**

Wanting to show the world and himself who he truly is Hercules decides that he will become a hero. Thus he seeks out Phil on his trusty steed Pegasus. Upon arrival we notice that things are a lot more magical on the island that Phil resides. There he trains and becomes a strong young man with HUGE muscles. With his new-found strength Hercules forces Phil to help him show off his talent by traveling to Thebes.

**B story**

Our B story is quite clearly when Hercules delays his journey to help Meg. She appears to be under attack by a centaur. After helping her out Hercules becomes enchanted by Meg a young woman who we the audience find out is a minion of Hades.

**Fun and Games**

After Hercules saves Meg and she subsequently is ordered to help kill him Hades begins to throw several beasts at him in an attempt to kill him. Each one is destroyed further increasing Hercules strength and popularity while also foiling Hades plots.

**Midpoint**

Our midpoint focuses on the conversation that Hercules has with his father Zeus. Hercules explains all his good deeds and heroic acts and how he is seen in the eyes of the locals as a hero. However, Zeus explains that Hercules gaining fame will not equate to becoming a true hero. Learning this implies that all the work Hercules has done to this point has not furthered his goal.

**Bad Guys Close In**

After Hercules has a night out with Meg Phil learns that Meg is secretly working with Hades. In an attempt to explain this to Hercules Phil gets hurt and leaves Hercules on his own. After finding out that Meg is Hercules one and only weakness, Hades approaches Hercules. At his home Hercules learns that Meg is under control from Hades. Upset at the idea that the person he loves is being controlled he asks to have her freed. Hades accepts on the condition that if he is able to live without his powers for a day then he will release her if she doesn’t get hurt. Hercules accepts the deal and gives away his godly powers.

**All Is lost**

After accepting the deal Hades sends a huge cyclops to Thebes to destroy the city with the goal to either prevent the deal from going through or killing Hercules in the process. Wanting to save the city Hercules faces the monster with his human strength and is nearly killed.

**Dark Night of the Soul**

Hercules is badly beaten by the Cyclops as he continues to humiliate him. Internally Hercules must ask himself what it truly means to be a hero as he loses favor from all the Thebes residents. Is it his physical strength? Is it popularity? Or something else?

**Break into three**

With the help of Mega and Phil he is able to fend off the beast by blinding it. However, in the process meg gets hurt and the deal is broken. After this he uses his strength to stop the Titans from taking over Mount Olympus.

**Finale**

Upon returning to Thebes Hercules find out from Phil that Meg is dead. Upset Hercules travels to the underworld to save her. Upon arrival however, Hades refuses to release her. From there Hercules makes another deal that if he is able to save her from the River of Death that he will trade her places. Hercules prevails and saves Meg gaining back his godly status by demonstrating what it means to be a real hero in saving her.

**Final Image**

The gang fly back to Mount Olympus with Hercules new found godliness. There the gods are waiting to receive him back into the peaks. However, there he determines that he should stay on the earth so that he can live with Meg instead opting to visit from time to time. We are greeted with one of the gods creating a constellation in his honor cementing his god and hero status.