

Main Character

Heron Euclipoulos

Background

Heron son of Euclid—also referred to as Heron Euclipoulos—grew up in the countryside of ancient Greece and was raised mostly by his mother due to the common absence of his father Euclid, a battalion commander of the ancient Greek army. His mother stuck to strict parenting and made constant comparisons of Heron to his father in an attempt to create an idealization of the man. It worked, for the first few years of Heron's life, until he grew bitter about how he never could achieve the bar that his mother set for him. She expected much of him, even giving him the name Heron, a name derived from the Greek word ἥρως, meaning hero. He grew up with a sister who he loved more than anyone—Theano Euclidou—and was very close to her before her untimely death at just twenty-four. Her death is what actually drove him to join the military and work hard at climbing the ranks to avenge her death. He participated in war frequently and led many men to their deaths. In his last battle, they were defeated for the first time and he sustained an injury to his leg that hit the artery. Though he bled thoroughly, he somehow survived, which the healers called a miracle of the gods. But Heron didn't feel like it was a miracle, he only felt a deep guilt. He didn't know why he survived and sequestered himself to his old farmhouse in the country, wallowing in his guilt and farming to take up his time.

Story

Heron Euclidopoulos is a forty-five-year-old retired commander living in the countryside of Greece with his dog. He has a small farm with only a few pigs he uses as truffle hunters and some crops he grows for himself. Heron doesn't talk to people, he spends his days alone working on his farm and avoids the people in the closest village to him. He's unhappy and dissatisfied, yet he does nothing to improve, with every day being the same as the last. That is until one day, while asleep, he awakes to his bed shaking. He believes it must be a figment of his imagination, maybe another nightmare that he experiences so often. But when his dog Lykos begins to bark and howl, he realizes it's no such thing. It's morning, he thinks, he went to bed at night, but the sun is all wrong when he looks out the window. It's rising in the east. The ground shakes more and more violently as he tries to get out of the house with Lykos, but Lykos stands still, shaking and too scared to move. Before Heron can pick him up and run out, a piece of the roof falls on Lykos. Heron scrambles to save the dog, he can't let another thing die, and he lets everything he loves and appreciates die and fade. But he can't get Lykos out from under the heavy piece of roof, he tries and tries to no avail. He continues on until a piece of the roof falls on him as well, finally bringing him to his demise. After all those years of battle, he meets his death by a piece of wood from the ceiling.

He wakes in the underworld, alone and kneeling on the ground in the few inches of water that coat the floor. The room is dark, so very dark, and he can only feel the water and the pain in his leg until a glowing sphere appears in front of him. It expands and expands, until a woman with wings and an ethereal appearance steps out, speaking to him in a soft voice. She tells him the

world is ending, and she has chosen him to save it. He doesn't understand, believing himself to belong in the underworld for the mistakes he made throughout his life. But she tells him she *did* save him when he was injured and that he was always meant for this task. She promises him that if he succeeds, he will be redeemed and join Lykos and his sister, Theano, in the Elysium fields. He agrees almost immediately, seeking a reunion and a chance at redemption.

Heron is resurrected with the healthy body he would've had if he had not been injured all those years ago and he goes through multiple sanctuaries of the gods, using his combat skills to cure them of poison. He is unafraid in these moments, using the anger he has finally gained back to fuel his drive to save everyone he can. When he succeeds, Psyche fulfills her promise and takes him to the Elysium fields where he finds Theano and Lykos waiting for him.

Motivations

His motivations.

- His top motivation has always been the early death of his sister at the hands of the enemies of Greece. He seeks to avenge her, though it seems lost in time now.
- Anger. Heron has buried his anger, but it's in there, and it's a flame that will light the fire under him for his mission to save the world. Deep down, he's also motivated to stop the anger that he feels so regularly. Throughout the years since he was injured, his grief and sadness have overshadowed the anger that drove him as a younger man.
 - He's angry about the enemies of Greece, the ones who killed countless citizens and soldiers he couldn't save.
 - He's angry at the gods who he feels have smited him throughout so many years. This last action of theirs, trying to destroy the entire world and killing his dog—his only companion—in the process has pushed him to the brink of his anger.
 - Most of all, he's angry with himself. He's angry he let so many people die and somehow he was the one to survive.

Personality

Heron, once a motivated man, has become cynical and hateful of the world. He talks to no one and rarely leaves his farm. His only soft spot is for his dog, Lykos. He was not always this way, he was once motivated and outspoken.

Character Arc

Heron starts as a guilt-ridden, unmotivated man with a traumatic leg injury that makes him feel like he's not himself. He also suffers from loneliness. When he's killed and sent to the underworld, it's the first thing that feels right since he was in the military. But when Psyche floats down, a goddess in the darkness of the underworld, he's confused. He follows her anyway, motivated by the way she explains that he will go to the Elysium fields and finally be with his

sister without pain. By the end, Heron feels like he has redeemed himself and saved the world because he has. He reaches the Elysium fields, finally at peace with his sister and his dog at his side and no pain in his body. He no longer feels the guilt and loneliness that was buried so deep inside him.

Physical Description

Heron changes his physical appearance from the beginning to the end. In the beginning, before his mission:

- He has a limp due to his injury.
- His shoulders are slumped and he carries himself without the confidence he once did.
- His hair is almost completely gray due to age and stress.
- He wears clothing that is worn and dirty.
- He's uncaring about his appearance.

When Heron begins his mission, his physical appearance has changed:

- He no longer limps.
- He carries himself with confidence and his shoulders back.
- The brown has returned to his hair with some gray streaks.
- He wears his old Greek uniform and looks put together.

His overall physical appearance stays steady:

- He is tall, around 6'1.
- He has brown hair.
- He is muscular, even in his older age. When his mission starts, he is a little more muscular thanks to the restoration of his leg and healthy body.
- Heron is practiced in combat and flows through moves.





Gods and Goddesses

Psyche

Background

Psyche, the Greek goddess of souls, originally started as a human woman with great beauty and one of three daughters to a King and Queen. She was stated as so perfect that human speech could not describe her accurately, bringing people from all over to look at her beauty. Due to the travel of so many people to look upon her, Aphrodite was not worshiped as thoroughly as before. It angered the goddess of love that a mortal woman could take so much attention away from her. She commanded her son Eros to make Psyche fall in love with a monster as punishment for her beauty. But when Eros went to her bedchamber as she slept to shoot her with one of his arrows in order to get her to fall in love with a creature, he was distracted by her beauty and accidentally poked himself with an arrow, causing Psyche to fall in love with Eros instead. After being unable to marry a mortal and eventually marrying Eros, Aphrodite was still angry and had Psyche punished and forced through trials when Eros was injured and couldn't get to her. Eventually, he escaped his mother's house and returned to



Psyche, convincing Zeus to make her immortal and turning her into a goddess, then they were officially married.

Though that is the traditional mythological story that Divine Ruin follows until the end point of Eros and Psyche being married, Divine Ruin breaks off from the story to create a divide between Eros and Psyche. After being married for quite a while, Eros begins to join in with his mother in punishing Psyche when she angers him. He even encourages Aphrodite to brutally punish his wife when Aphrodite begins to believe she no longer needs punishment due to her deal with Zeus to no longer punish her and Psyche now being a goddess. Due to the unfair punishment Eros insists on, Aphrodite helps Psyche escape her son and get her to safety. This angers Eros deeply and he decides to enact revenge by poisoning some of the most powerful gods, including his mother, and convincing them to destroy the Earth and the souls there that Psyche cares so deeply for. Psyche is upset by this, but saw it coming years before, which is why she decided to save Heron.

Story

When Psyche finds out about Eros' plans to destroy the world and all the souls within it, she enacts her own plan to save Earth. She searches through souls for years before finding Heron whom she believes is the hero of the world. She saves him from a fatal injury and resurrects him when he dies after the gods begin the destruction of the world. She sets him in the sanctuaries of different gods with the mission to drain poison from their hearts. Psyche also gives him abilities so he can succeed in each sanctuary, though she convinces the other gods to help give him blessings when he saves them from poison.

When Heron is successful, Psyche is relieved that most of the souls she cares for are safe. She sends Heron to the Elysium fields in thanks for his efforts and the world—and Psyche herself—are finally free from the terror of Eros.

Motivation

Psyche is motivated by many things for her to employ Heron to save the world from Eros.

- She's motivated by her past with Eros and wants to stop his evil reign.
- The souls that could be lost motivate her to protect them.
- Wanting to save Heron's soul from the damnation she knows he doesn't deserve.

Personality

Soft-spoken and kind, Psyche is the epitome of a goddess.

- Caring for mortals and their lives.
- Speaks kindly but confidently, even when faced with others who are unkind.

Physical Description

Psyche has an ethereal beauty since she became a goddess, moving past even the perfection that was described when she was mortal.

- Carries herself with grace and confidence.
- Seems to float wherever she goes.
- Has wings that allow her to fly and seem to sparkle a pearly white when in the light.
- Relatively small in stature for a goddess, around 6' 6



Eros

Background

Eros, the Greek god of love and beauty—better known in popular culture by his Roman counterpart Cupid—fell in love with Psyche, even though it was forbidden. Eros was not originally evil necessarily, more of a mischievous figure in Greek mythology, but he turns evil in Divine Ruin when Psyche leaves him with the help of Aphrodite. After this, Psyche becomes an obsession of his and he quickly falls into madness.

He has previous relationships with many of the gods thanks to aiding them with his powers. Thanks to this, the other gods have a certain amount of trust in him and are indebted to him.



Story

Due to Eros' obsessive anger towards Psyche, he devises a plan to hurt her as much as he can. Eros is so used to getting his way—especially through the influence of his arrows—that he doesn't know how to handle the rejection from Psyche. He can't digest it and after multiple failed attempts of getting Psyche to join him again, he sinks lower and lower into anger and loathing. He decides that hurting Psyche as much as she hurt him will relieve his pain and so he comes up with a poison that can be injected into the hearts of some of the most powerful Greek gods. He

tricks each god into letting him into their sanctuary, leading him to find their heart, a physical object, and shooting an arrow covered in poison into their hearts that lets them join him in madness. The poison allows him to partially control their thoughts and motivations while under his spell leading them to believe that the motivations are his own. He even poisons his mother's heart after she resists his plans.

The Olympians are prone to love and desire, tending to use Eros as an easy way to get what they desire. Eros has built up these debts in preparation for vengeance. Eros is not practiced in combat and so employs the other gods and his own minions to fight Psyche's champion, Heron.

Throughout Heron's journey through each sanctuary, Eros hides in Aphrodite's sanctuary and only fights him at the end of the game when he is forced to.

Motivation

Eros is driven mostly by his anger and resentment towards Psyche.

- Hatred of human souls due to Psyche's connection to them.
- Resentment of mortals.
- Unhappiness due to loneliness without his wife.

Personality

Eros has a complex personality that can bounce back and forth between behaviors.

- Charismatic and intelligent.
- Manipulative in his wording and actions.

Physical Description

Although Eros is sometimes depicted as a child or infant, Divine Ruin takes the depiction of him from ancient Greek mythology where he is a young adult.

- Wings of gold
- Arrows with a heart shape at the end
- Skin that shines a golden shade



Ares

Background

Ares is the Greek god of war and an unpopular god. He's synonymous with brutality and war. Ares is also not known for success in Greek mythology as he is often subjected to humiliation by the other gods. He was not worshiped often in Greece and had very limited cult participation. Thanks to this, in Divine Ruin Ares is bitter towards the other gods and the worship they receive from the people of Greece, not to mention the distaste they regularly show him.

Story

Eros knows Ares is indebted to him and shows up to his sanctuary asking for payment. Ares begrudgingly allows him in, and Eros uses his charisma to get relatively close to Ares' heart so he can shoot it. Ares is immediately under a spell when he is poisoned and Eros has a much easier time manipulating Ares into listening to him, using all his dislikes to get him to help Eros in his mission.

Ares readily prepares his minions to attack the world as foot soldiers on the ground. The loss of control of his mind allows Eros to control most of Ares' minions.

Motivation

Ares' motivations are not completely his own, though Eros does play off of Ares' personality to manipulate his motivations for destroying the world.

- Eros plays off of Ares' love for warfare to motivate him to take part in the destruction.
- Thanks to the poison that Eros injected into Ares' heart, Ares has gone mad and takes his love of brutality further than usual.

Personality

Ares has never been known to have a personality that incited anyone, gods and mortals alike, to be fond of him. He's apathetic and rude, unafraid of hurting others. But Ares always settles debts.

- Speaks harshly and without thought.
- Most of his emotions manifest into anger.
- He feels no reason to withhold his anger when he appreciates savagery.

Physical Description

Ares has some similarities in appearance to an average Greek soldier.

- He always wears a uniform and carries his spear
- He's very large compared to the average human, being at least 8 feet in height and having a heavy muscular build.
- Always wears a helmet and doesn't show his face.
- He represents the most brutal parts of warfare and the fear soldiers feel in battle when they see intimidating foes.
- The way he carries himself goes past confidence and into cockiness.



Poseidon

Background

Poseidon is the Greek god of the sea, water, horses, and earthquakes. He was a god popularly worshiped in ancient Greece. He is known for both creating disasters and mitigating them.

Story

Like the other gods involved, Poseidon was indebted to Eros. Evidently, he allowed Eros to come into his sanctuary, where his heart was poisoned. Eros played off his insecurities and frustrations to help fuel the poison's effects. His frustrations involved the humans who believed or contemplated Poseidon's role in natural disasters. Some humans believed he didn't do enough to protect them from earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, etc. while others believed that Poseidon himself caused these disasters. With the poison, Poseidon loses control of his thoughts and actions, leading to his desire to destroy humans.

When the destruction starts, Poseidon begins an earthquake that ultimately leads to Heron's death. He began the earthquake, but Eros increased the intensity so it was more violent and deadly.

Motivation

Poseidon frequently got frustrated with humans and the way they treated the earth, especially the sea, and how they blamed Poseidon for natural disasters. Eros' poison increases his feelings.

- Punish humans for their misconceptions of him.
- Show humans how much he could actually hurt them if the cause of all-natural disasters was truly him.

Personality

Poseidon, like many of the other Olympians, is prone to anger and violence. However, he was also the protector of sailors and kept the balance of the sea.

- Hot-blooded and freely speaks his mind.
- Intelligent but can get overly confident in fights or debates.
- Powerful.
- Cares for the Earth and its creatures, but especially the sea and sailors.

Physical Description

Poseidon has the stature and look of a Greek god. Except he is tinted blue for his love of the sea.

- He takes on the appearance of an older man.
- Blue skin and hair.
- Large stature.
- Carries a trident.
- Has water swirling around him.



Zeus

Background

Zeus, king of the gods of Olympus, is the god of the sky and thunder. With extreme power and the respect of almost everyone, Zeus was one of the most popular gods to worship in ancient Greece. His amorousness led to him using Eros to find love affairs, indebting him to the god.

Story

Zeus was the most resistant god to Eros when he arrived to collect his debt. A long debate occurred before Eros was finally let into the sanctuary. Zeus didn't have many frustrations or insecurities for Eros to play off of, due to his great concern for the affairs of humans. Eros had to be more creative, instead motivating Zeus' part of the destruction to show the other gods his power.

Motivation

Zeus oversaw everything on Earth, punishing and rewarding the behavior of humans as he saw fit. His main conflict came from other gods, including his brothers Poseidon and Hades as well as the other Olympians.

- Keeping his position of king of gods solid.
- Showing off his power to both humans and gods.

Personality

Zeus' personality is defined by his drive for power and justice.

- Confident in his decisions and power.
- Reckless in his love affairs and conflict with his wife, Hera.
- Speaks his thoughts readily.
- Cares about what goes on with humans.
- A proponent of justice.

Physical Description

Zeus is a large figure who, like his brother, appears as an older man. His appearance reflects his power over the sky and especially the clouds.

- Looks almost completely gray and statuesque.
- Carries a thunderbolt.
- Dressed in robes.
- Gold as decoration on his clothing.

Divine Ruin

Chloe Walsh

