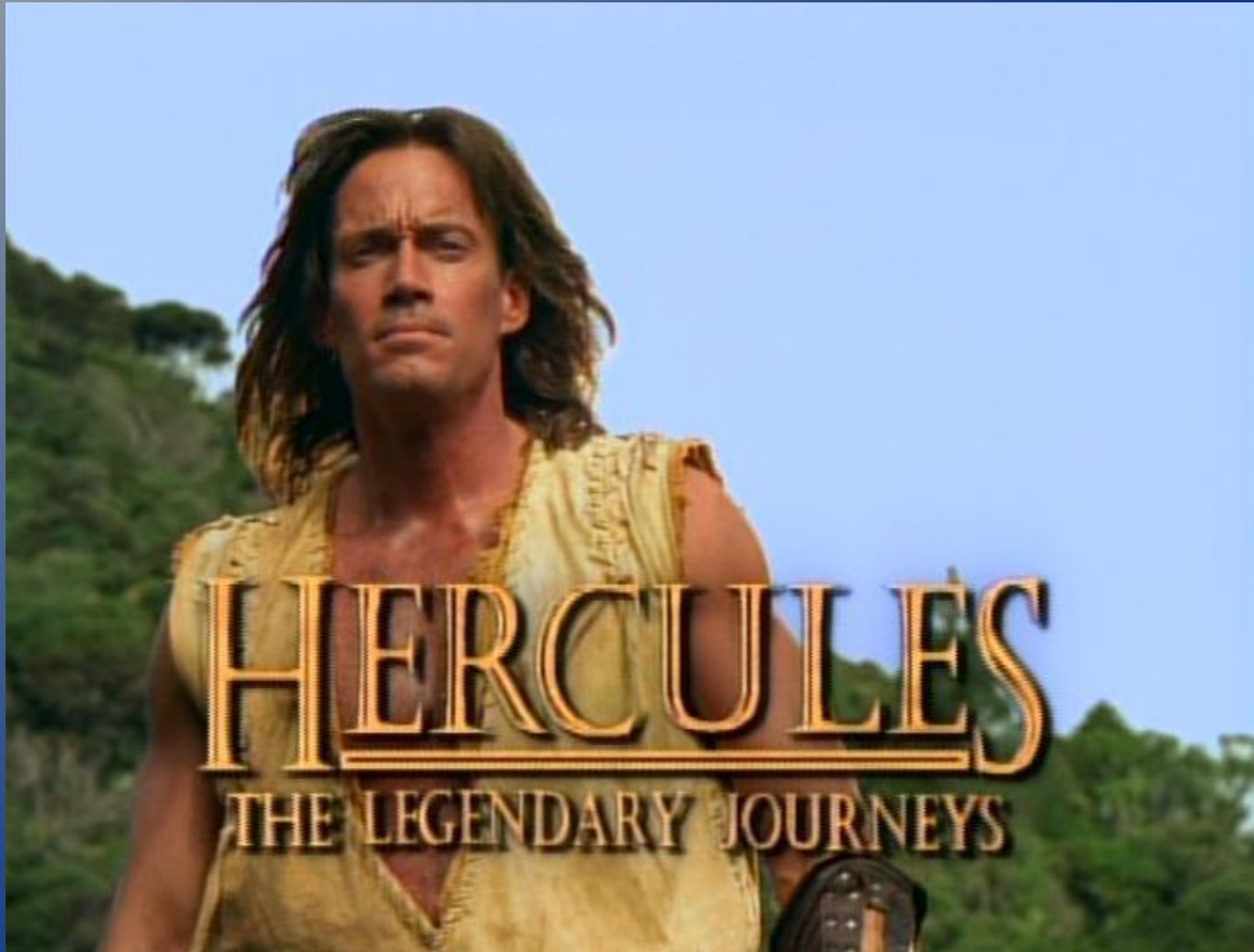


Classical Mythology

LLCU 316.010/080



Classical Mythology

LLCU 316.010/080



Class 18

The Age of Heroes

Heracles (Hercules); Jason and Medea (?)

Readings for Next Tuesday

Classical Mythology
pages 562-585
(614-628)

Next in-class writing assignment: Tuesday

Prompt question on Canvas

Exam 2 grades posted by this weekend
(or sooner)

Heracles' Early Exploits:

.Mount Cithaeron – defeats lion



Gilgamesh

Heracles' Early Exploits:

.King of Thespieae, Thespus [his name is clearly an instance of *back formation*], rewards his service by offering his 50 daughters

.Later leads Theban army against the Mynyans of Orchomenus – **Creon** gives Heracles his daughter **Megara** as a reward

Heracles Comes into his Own

- . Has made a name for himself
- . Is married and has children
- . But where does a hero go from there?



Disney Version:



Heracles and Megara: Not the Disney Story



Heracles' Early Exploits:

- . Heracles tried to have a normal life: settled down with Megara, had children

- . **Hera**, however, drove him “mad” and convinced him that his family were enemies: he murdered them

- . Had to “purify” himself through “labors”



Heracles' Early Exploits:

A heroic pattern:

- .Divine origin
- .cf. Theseus and Aegeus
- .Early test of strength
- .cf. Theseus lifting rock
- .Compelled from home
- .cf. Theseus to find father/tribune to Crete
- .Reintegrated back into society
- .cf. Theseus returns to Athens

Heracles:

Heracles to Odysseus in the Underworld:

“I was a son of Zeus, but infinite was my suffering; for I was a slave to a far inferior mortal, and heavy were the labours he laid upon me.”



Homer, *Odyssey*

Heracles: Labors of Purification for **Eurystheus** (King of Mycenae)



Heracles:

12 Labours: 6 Peloponnesian; 6 “International”

.Peloponnesian

- 1) Nemean Lion
- 2) Lernaean Hydra
- 3) Cerynean Hind
- 4) Erymanthian Boar
- 5) Augean Stables
- 6) Stymphalian Birds

Heracles:

Nemean Lion

- Hide cannot be pierced with weapons
- Would provide Heracles with his cape



Heracles:

Hydra

- Many-headed serpent: cut one, two more grow in its place
- Iolaus (H.'s nephew) helped by cauterizing stumps with torch



Heracles:

Augean Stables

- Augeas (the King of Elis, near Olympia) had stables that had never been cleaned
- Heracles charged with the task, and diverted two rivers to wash out the stables
- Augeas offered him money in return



Heracles:

12 Labours:

.Non-Peloponnesian

7) Creatan Bull (Crete)

8) Mares of Diomedes (Anatolia)

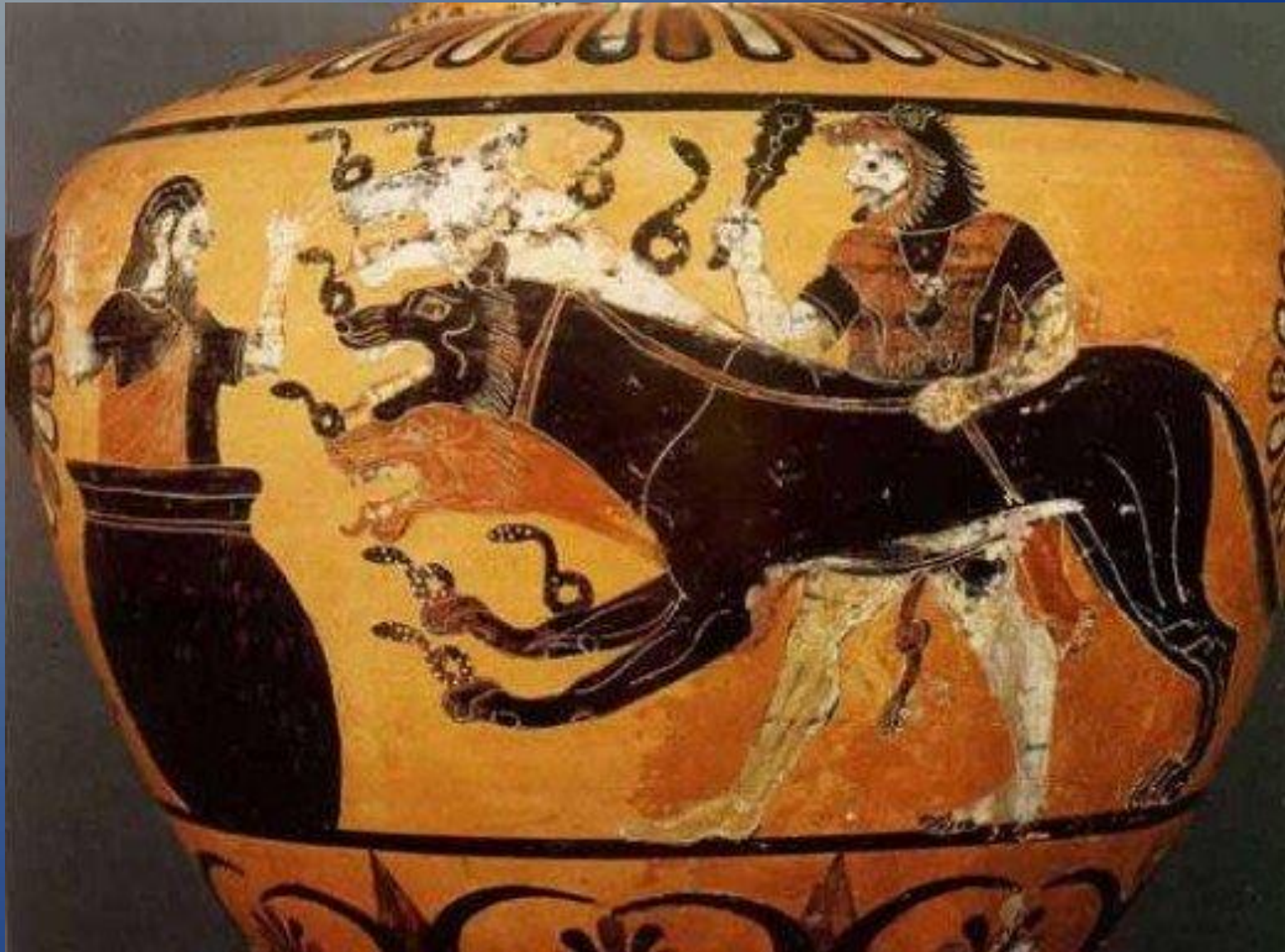
9) Girdle of Hippolyta (North of Black Sea)

10) Cattle of Geryon (Erythia)

11) Apples of the Hesperides (Hyperborea)

12) **Cerberus** (underworld; entrance at Tainaron, the southern peninsula of Peloponnese)

Heracles Brings Cerberus to Eurystheus



Heracles:

- .Greek for Labours = *athloi*
- .Heracles associated with creation of some Panhellenic games:
 - .Olympic games: Augean Stables
 - .Nemean Games: Nemean Lion
- .Core message: *athloi* brings fame and respect

Heracles:

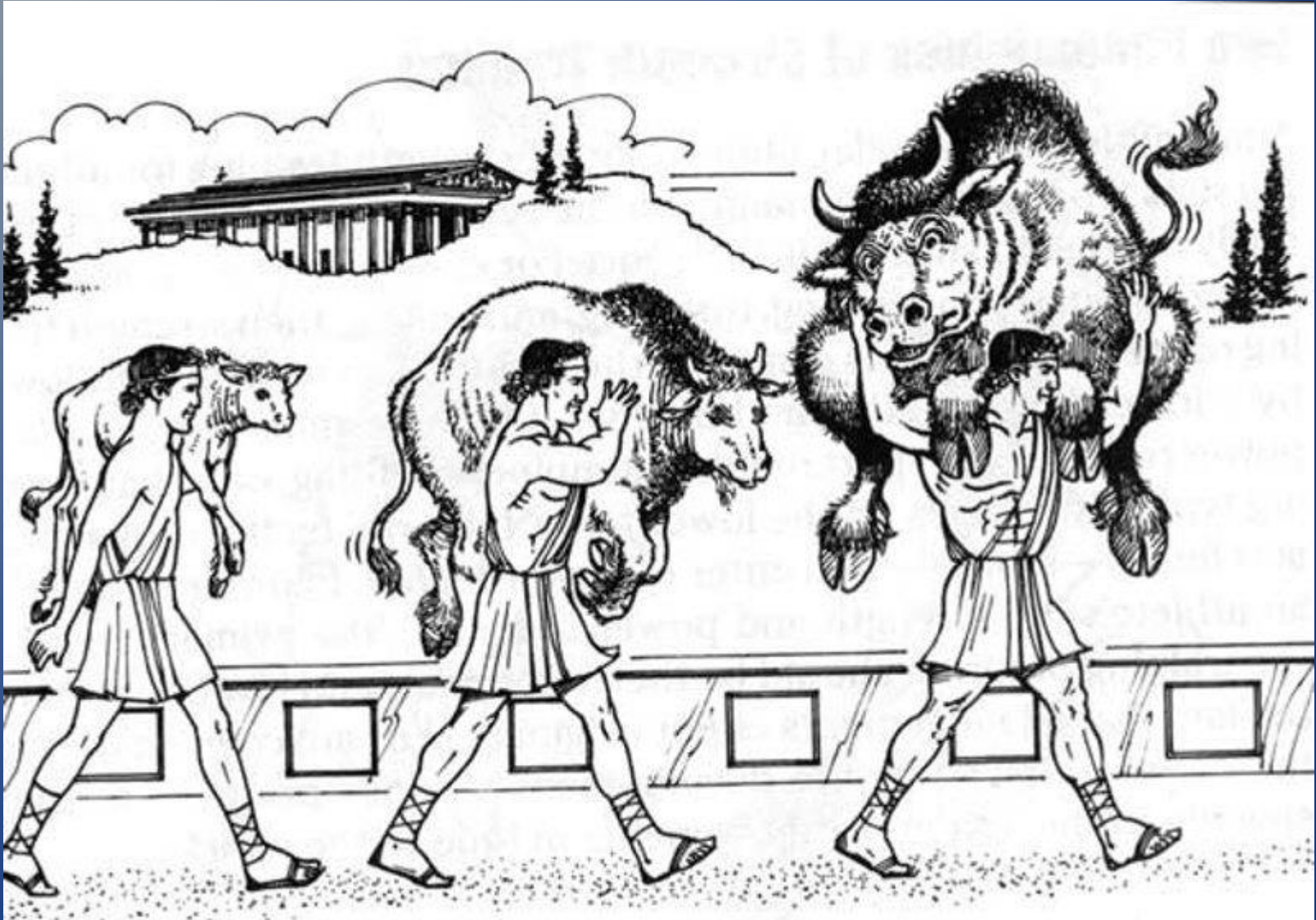
Milo of Croton:

- .6th century BCE
- .Greek wrestler
- .Fashioned himself after Heracles



Heracles:

Milo of Croton: Training Regimen



Heracles:

Milo of Croton: Death (?)



Heracles:

- .Marriage to **Deianira** and his death
- .Hero Meleager (in underworld) offered Heracles his sister's (Deianira's) hand in marriage
- .Had to wrestle the river god Achelous
- .On way back to Tiryns, couple had to cross a river: "helped" by centaur **Nessus**

Heracles:



Heracles:

- .Lived happily for a while: son Hyllus and daughter Macaria

- .But Heracles fell in love with a princess named Iole (daughter of Erytus)

- .Heracles killed Iole's brother Iphitus and was instructed to serve the queen Omphale for one year

Heracles:

- .Deianira learns from a herald that Heracles is in love with another
- .Uses Nessus' blood ("love charm") on a cloak to win back Heracles
- .Cloak clings to his flesh and slowly eats him away
- .Asks to be taken to **Mt. Oeta**

Heracles:



Heracles:

Jupiter: “He who conquered all will conquer the flames which you see, and only his mother’s part will feel the power of Vulcan. That part which he inherited from me is immortal, immune to death, impervious to fire, and it will I receive in the heavens when its time on earth is done.”

Ovid, *Metamorphosis*

Jason and the Golden Fleece

Jason and Medea

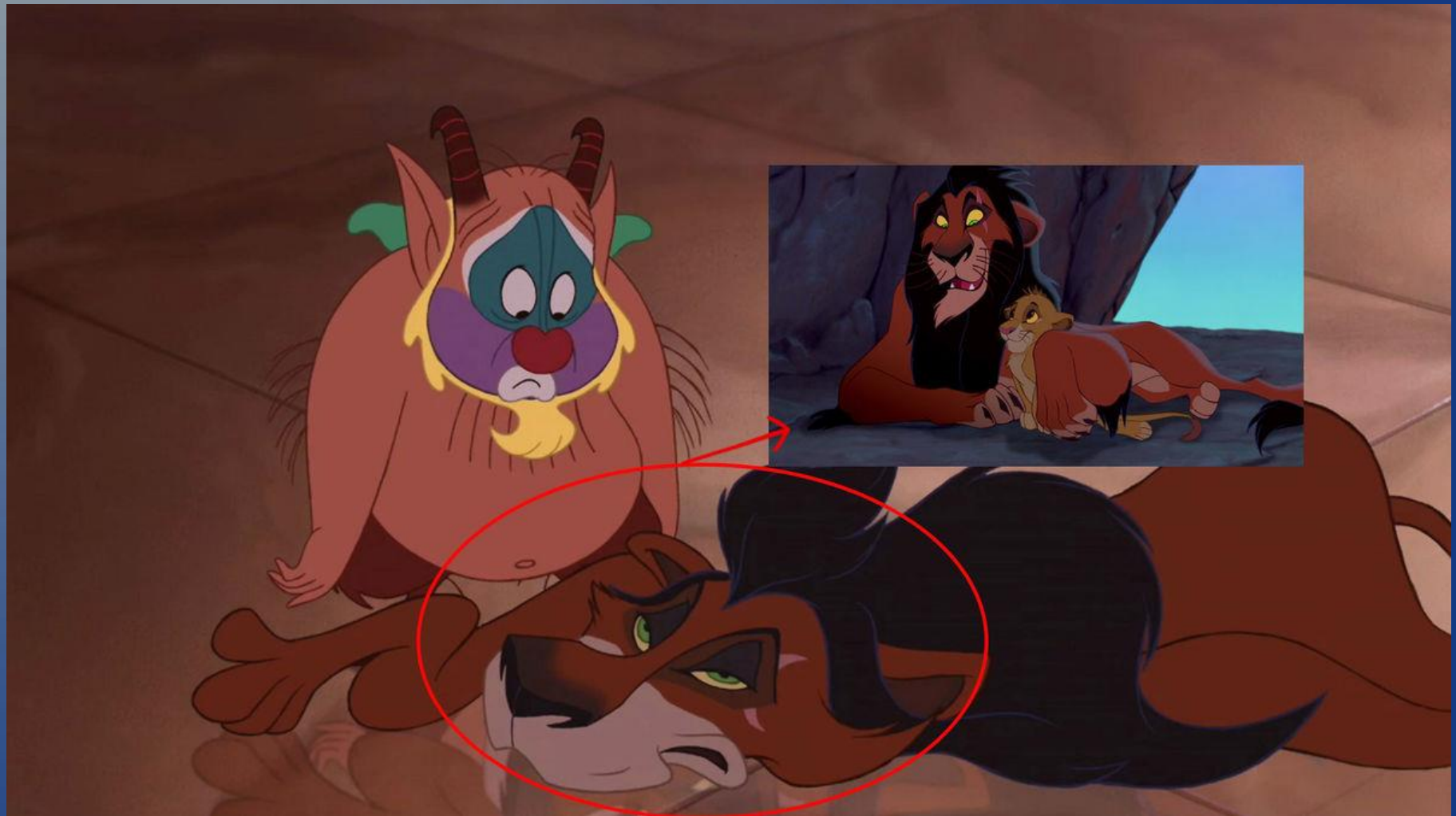
Apollonius of Rhodes (3rd century BCE)

- Author of the *Argonautica*
- Librarian of the Library of Alexandria (Egypt), the largest library of the ancient world
- Was able to draw upon his book learning to make many elusive “allusions”; references to other works, many not well known



Movie “Easter Eggs”

Hercules and the “Nemean Lion”



Movie “Easter Eggs”



Movie “Easter Eggs”
The Dark Knight:
Heath Ledger (2008) and Caesar Romano (1966)
as The Joker



Library of Alexandria



Callimachus (3rd century BCE)



ΜΕΓΑ ΒΙΒΛΙΟΝ ΜΕΓΑ
ΚΑΚΟΝ

“A big book is a big evil.”

The Legend of Jason

Jason



The Legend of Jason

Jason

- Son of Aeson (mother variously named)
- Step brother **Pelias** seizes the throne of Iolcus; Jason sent away to be raised by **Cheiron**, the centaur
- Returns to Iolcus to claim his birthright
- Pelias has heard a legend about being overthrown by a person with one sandal
- Jason loses his sandal crossing a river helping Hera



The Legend of Jason

Cheiron and Pupil (Achilles/Jason?)



The Legend of Jason

The **Argo**

- .Ship built by **Argus** (with help of Athena)
- .Athena placed a piece of timber in the hull from **Dodona** (a sanctuary sacred to Zeus) – ship could talk
- .Represents first example of significant sea-travel by ship in Greek myth

The Legend of Jason

The Argo



The Legend of Jason

The Argonauts

- A who's-who of legendary heroes (about 50) – 50 oars on the Argos
- Most notable, **Orpheus** and **Heracles**
- Also Meleager, Augeas, Castor and Pollux, Idas and Lynceus (keen eyesight); Periclymenus (change shape); Euphemus (fast runner); Zetes and Calais (had wings)

The Legend of Jason

The Argonauts

