

Gods of Legend

HERCULES

ERIC BRAUN



**BLACK
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An ANCIENT Story

A lion **terrorized** the Greek town of Nemea. But it was not just any lion. The beast was huge. It had razor-sharp claws and a strong **hide**. No weapons of any kind could pierce its skin. People tried and tried to kill the lion, but they all failed. It seemed impossible to **defeat** the beast. Then came Hercules.





Beating the Beast

Hercules went to the lion's cave. He wasn't afraid. When the lion charged him, he clubbed it. The attack **stunned** the beast. Since no weapons could kill the lion, Hercules used his bare hands. He strangled the lion. He then skinned the beast and took its hide.

Stories say
Hercules wore
the lion's
hide.

Greek MYTHOLOGY

The story of Hercules is a Greek **myth**. The **ancient** Greeks told stories about heroes like Hercules. They also told stories about gods and goddesses. They used the stories to help explain the world.

Greek myths were told for hundreds of years. People first wrote them down around 750 BC. But they were shared long before then.



Ancient Greeks called the hero Heracles. Romans changed his name to Hercules. That is the name people use today.