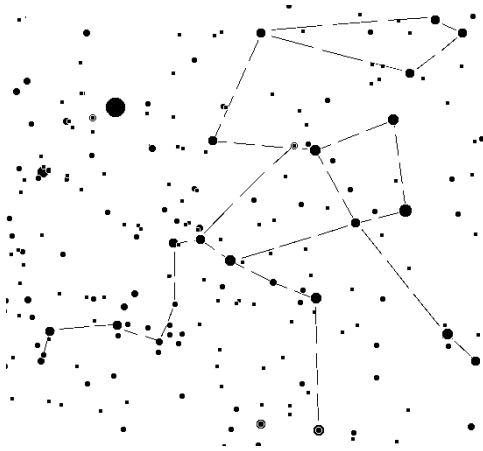


Hercules



Hercules was one of the sons of Zeus. Hercules became immortal, but ever after he was dogged by the enmity of the goddess Hera. Hera worked to make the life of Hercules a living hell. Since he had become one of the immortals, she could not kill him, but she could make his life miserable.

At one point Hera cast a spell on Hercules, such that he fell into a fit of madness and uncontrollable rage. Hercules was immensely tall and strong and skilled

with weapons, so that in his madness no one could oppose or control him. Blithering in madness, he slaughtered his children. Upon coming to himself, Hercules was stricken by grief and remorse at what he had done and appealed to the Oracle at Delphi as to what he could do to atone for the tragedy. The answer he received was that he must serve the King of Mycenae for twelve years. It was in fact from the Oracle at this time that Hercules received his name, which is written as "Heracles" in Greek, meaning 'glory of Hera'. The tasks that the King set for Hercules, became known as the Twelve Labors of Hercules.