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Hercules

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*This article is about Hercules in classical mythology. For the Greek divine hero from which Hercules was adapted, see *Heracles*. For other uses, see *Hercules (disambiguation)*.*



Hercules is the Roman name for the Greek divine hero Heracles, who was the son of Zeus (Roman equivalent Jupiter) and the mortal Alcmene. In classical mythology, Hercules is famous for his strength and for his numerous far-ranging adventures.

The Romans adapted the Greek hero's iconography and myths for their literature and art under the name *Hercules*. In later Western art and literature and in popular culture, *Hercules* is more commonly used than *Heracles* as the name of the hero. Hercules was a multifaceted figure with contradictory characteristics, which enabled later artists and writers to pick and choose how to represent him.

