

Therocules and the Lost Trident

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Hades in his lair of the underworld receives word of a prophecy from one of the dead souls. The soul tells Hades of a prophecy that mentions that a son of Athena and Seti I, the king of Egypt, would prevent him from becoming the King of the Gods on Olympus, instead damning him to the underworld forever. If, however, he stopped this child from being born, he would rule for all eternity. With this he set out to kill Seti I before he could meet Athena and have the child that would bring about his defeat. Seti also hears this prophecy and knows that Hades will come for him so, in desperation, he prays to the Greek gods, instead of his own Egyptian gods, for their help. Athena is sent, not knowing about the prophecy, to protect him from Hades. Seti and Athena fall in love over that night and in the morning, he tells her of the prophecy and tells her to take the child away from Egypt. She sneaks away from Egypt, out of the sight of Hades, who kills Seti, thinking he has won. Athena leaves the child, who she named Therocules, with the Amazons, and they raise him, molding him into an excellent warrior.

As Therocules, reaches manhood, on his 18th birthday, he is approached by Poseidon, who asks that he retrieve his trident. Poseidon tells Therocules that he was tricked by the sneaky King of the Underworld, his brother, Hades. The sea god promises to Therocules that he could take any of his daughters as a wife. He tells him that the journey will be dangerous and that he may die. Poseidon sends the best men of his patron city, Corinth, to assist Therocules in his adventure.

The first place their journey takes them is through the land bridge of Isthmus. As they trek through the beach on the land bridge, the beast known as the Hydra bursts out of the water, sent by Hades to stop the warriors in their tracks. Thinking quickly, Therocules swipes at the beast's legs with his sword. He cuts clean through the front two legs, causing the hydra to lurch forward and collapse. They decided not to wait around for it to recover, and they quickly left. But as they left the Hydra regains its balance with only two legs and chases after the well-trained warriors. They all swing with their full might and swipe the other two legs off the Hydra before anyone could be damaged by its fiery breath.

After passing their first test they reach Thebes, the city in which the tricky Sphinx dwells. As they walk through the beautiful city they admire the great buildings and towering castle of the king. They meet the high-class, luxurious people of the city and the travelers get invited to a great feast after word of the warriors grand quest reaches the townspeople. The king was very welcoming, but was deceitful and had hatched a plot to kill them in the name of Hades. The king had poisoned their drinks, but to his chagrin, Poseidon had already warned the adventurers of this deceit and they had switched their glasses before the festivities had begun. It just so happened that the king had received the poisoned glass and in his castle that night he writhed throughout his bed and ceased to live. After hearing word of the dead king Therocules rounds up his troops and heads for Delphi. But before they could leave the city, the Sphinx that guards the city, confronted them and said 'Answer me this riddle and you may pass. Fail, and you will perish', the great beast continued "What has cities, but no houses; forests, but no trees; and water, but no fish?" In Therocules ear he could hear a voice from somewhere in his head that he

hadn't known to exist. It was Athena, his mother speaking to him helping him with the tricky riddle of the Sphinx. She spoke to him softly that the answer was a map, but before he could tell the Sphinx what his mother had suggested another man shouted out "an ocean", and with that he was eaten alive in front of the others and then, though too late to save the man, Therocules yelled to the Sphinx the answer and with that they were on their way one man down.

The next part is thankfully uneventful for the heroes, and they reach Delphi without further loss. Here they hope to hear a revealing prophecy from the Oracle of Delphi in the temple. When they arrive it's much different than they imagined it would be, they thought it would be lustful and magnificent but, in fact, it was simply a small, weathered, beaten stone building with small gifts a food littered about for the gods. As they're walking through they are greeted by some locals that tell them the way to the temple where the Oracle is. On their walk to the temple, Therocules tells the rest that they should stay behind and watch for anything suspicious around the temple. Therocules walks up the steps to the temple and enters, seeing the Oracle draped across her throne. Therocules calls out to her, and she rises from the throne and walks up to him inspecting him, almost looking through his body, into his soul. Therocules explains his quest and asks for any prevalent information that would help him along his journey. She responds telling him

"If you wish to see the god of the oceans reclaim his weapon,
Then your blood must stain the water
After doing what must be done your ship must sail to the lost city
To navigate these treacherous waters
You must sacrifice the blood of a warrior of the god's city
This will open the passage to the lost island where the Trident is located"

As they set sail on a ship provided from the King of Delphi who had heard of their heroic journey, they approach another ship from the south. One of the crew members recognizes the ship as one from Egypt. They try to signal that they are friendly and mean no harm, but the ship doesn't acknowledge their message. They realise that they may have to fight so they prepared the bronze battering ram on the bow and braced themselves. The smaller, quicker vessel outmaneuvered them and avoided the battering ram, swinging around to the hull. The Egyptian soldiers leapt off of their ship and boarded the heroes' ship. The Egyptians drew their khopeshes, the standard sword for the Egyptian army, and attacked the Greek men. The men were quickly overpowered and forced to surrender. After the carnage, a tall, dark man about the same age as Therocules stepped onto the Greek boat. He looked up and down the men and walked straight to the biggest man there. The man revealed that he was Therocules' brother, and challenged him, saying that beating him would validate his rule over Egypt. The man told him that he was Ramses II, and that Therocules was his brother. Therocules quickly worked through it in his head. The Amazons who had raised him told him that his mother was Athena. That meant that his father must have been Seti I, the father of Ramses II. As the realization crossed his face, Ramses took the chance to gloat. Therocules, in one quick move, snatched the khopesh from the closest guard. The movements came naturally, and he dismantled the three closest men in seconds. He turned to face his brother and charged. Ramses, reacting far too late, reached for his own weapon, but his head was sliced clean off before his fingers

contacted the hilt. Outnumbered, and without a leader, the Egyptians were forced to surrender and return to their ship, defeated.

After defeating his brother, Therocules moved on with the quest. He sailed from the battle to the lost city of Atlantis in the middle of the Aegean Sea. When he arrived, Therocules saw nothing but fog and jagged rocks. He told the men what had to be done for them to continue on with the quest. One man volunteered to be the one sacrificed for the whole crew. It was Therocules' best and favorite warrior, Hemocrolus. Therocules pushed him back and said that he wouldn't sacrifice Hemocrolus. Instead of letting Therocules kill him, Hemocrolus ended himself, thrusting his sword through his own torso, allowing the others to move on with their quest. The fog cleared and the rocks disappeared. They sailed on like nothing had happened but in all of their hearts Hemocrolus would be missed. They all prayed to the gods the next night, thanking Hemocrolus, and wishing for his safe passage to Elysium. When they passed through the opening they saw the magnificent city that had been seen only by a few before them. They sailed right to the island and disembarked the boat before anything could happen to them while they were on their ship. When they reached the middle of the island they saw the gleaming trident of the Sea God, Poseidon. Therocules snatched it out of a statue in the Town Center, and as he did this everything began to shake around them. Therocules noticed the passageway was closing so that they couldn't escape the island. They all raced back to the ship and boarded as quickly as they could. They set sail out of the lost city and just as they got to the edge of the city's waters, it closed shut and they rammed it with the ships bow. Something inside of him told Therocules of the extent of the power of the Trident, and Therocules slammed it down on the deck of the ship creating a massive wave that broke open the passageway. It also broke open a canal near Corinth that allowed for an easier passage home, as they would later find out.

In the end, Therocules was rewarded with his pick of Poseidon's daughters, and he was given the ship and men that he had journeyed with. The men had no problem with this, and they joined him to sail and adventure the seas until the end of his days.