

The Minor Boy's Hearth

People would call me normal, but I am definitely far from normal. Here I am getting way ahead of myself, let me introduce myself, my name is Asclepius. I know hard name, but all Greek gods have hard names, yes I know I said Greek gods I am quite a minor god though, always doing the mail, serving food, healing people etc. here let me be quiet and let the story begin! "Asclepius! Hurry up with my food!" Zeus called out angrily. "Coming coming, sorry for being so late but I need to eat too." I said exhausted from all the running I had to do. Zeus gave me an irritated look "well don't do it again." "Oh by the way I noticed a ship down sailing in the sea of monsters. I think you should go check that out." "Probably another hopeless hero on his way to the golden fleece I gotta talk some sense into the gray sisters going around telling everyone the coordinates." I grumbled, as I wandered off. I might as well tell you about the poem that I'm reading that I keep on blowing up over and over

again, it's called the odyssey and the reason I blow keep on blowing it up is because it's all about the Greek gods, except, *they don't mention my name once!* It's an outrage and I am furious cause of it! Well back to the main plot line. Oh great, another disruption, Artemis and Apollo are screaming at each other they haven't been this mad in a *long time*. "It wasn't my fault I killed your cerinnean hind!" Screamed Apollo. "Well of course it was! What do you think hunting it down and shooting it, also stealing my arrow is!" Artemis replied defensively. "Fine then, I declare a war under the river styx!" Apollo said glaring at Artemis. Please excuse me for this disruption but I didn't see this, now back to the book... "Asclepius get over here, your good at making contracts!" Artemis said. So *so* close to getting back to the book, now time for some official contracts making. "This sounds serious, now what may this be about?" I asked nervously. "Apollo killed a cerinnean hind!" Artemis said giving me a, you-better-not-argue-with-me look. "No I did not I clearly just went for a nice hunting game and accidentally killed a dear." Said Apollo matter- a-factly. "Guys just quit it! Your becoming too mad, calm yourselves!" "No!" shouted Artemis taking her bow out and aiming it at

Apollo. "This is so serious too my sis then I must take it as seriously." Apollo agreed taking out his bow and now aiming it at Artemis. Zeus came over to see what the commotion was, when he saw it he gasped. "Stop this instance, children! I will not tolerate this!" he said fuming. "They can't, they swore under the river styx." I said scarcely breathing. "You're not helping!" said Zeus angrily. Ares came over to see what was happening. "Ooh a fight I am so on Apollo's side!" The rest of the Gods started taking notice of the problem that was taking place. "Well I am on Artemis's side not only is she wise she is also a fine warrior, like me." Said Athena, giving Ares a deadly look. Then the other gods started taking sides too. "Well I am on both sides." "Hey you can't do that!" Yelled out Dionysius. "Nor on either side." I said not entirely sure of my plan "I quite acknowledge that." Said Hera, obviously trying to bribe me over to Artemis's side. I knew this was something bad I was getting into so I walked away going to see Pan in his "secret" hideout. I found him lying where he usually was in his special tree he named "The Pannius tree." "Apollo and Artemis are fighting now, except its bigger than usual, even worse, they declared a war under the river styx." Pan had a

frightened look on his face. “Oh dear, well we must do something!” he said. “I’m afraid I already did “something”, I said I was on neither side.” I muttered under my breath. Suddenly Pan’s face lit up. “I know!” he said joyously, he then whispered the plan to me. “Now you my friend, are an intellectual.” I said while we were heading to where the war was commencing. “I have decided my choice, I am on Artemis’s side!” I announced proudly. “How could you Asclepius? My own friend! Well I am on Apollo’s side.” Pan shouted a little too loud. “Perfect, now we shall crush Apollo’s team.” Said Athena surprisingly evil. “By law of the river of styx, *let the war begin!* Zeus said already getting out his master bolt. When a war is going on you never really realize how much chaos it is until it officially starts, Athena yelling out battle orders, Ares charging at free will, Poseidon calmly beating up everyone in his path, you get the idea. “*yahh!!! die people!*” I said, though not knowing what the heck I was doing. Suddenly I saw Pan running at me at full force, of course it was just simple and friendly thing, then again I did not yet know that friendly *things* like this could end up in, well... deadly problems. “Die, Asclepius!” he shouted looking for a

weapon that couldn't harm a fly, well this weapon could harm a fly, if you knew how to use it. Pan saw a fly swatter on the floor and starting swinging it wildly around. "Ah!! The fly swatter, of doom! Run for your life!" I shouted trying extremely hard not to hold back a laugh, I saw Pan's face and knew he was also on the verge of cracking up. "Take this, an- and that!" He said smacking it in my face. "Ouch, oww! You're killing me! Stop stop!" I said in a lame "real" way. "Team huddle up we need to discuss battle tactics!" Rang out Apollo as all of his team started forming in a big circle. "Yeah my team huddle up!" Artemis shot back. "Why are we huddling up?" Asked Athena. "I don't know but the other team is doing it so I was thinking we should." Said Artemis with an exhausted look on her face. "Ok team, attack!!" Apollo said ready for action. "Team give 'em all you got!" said Artemis. We all got in such a confusing jumble that no one remembered a single person on their team (except Apollo and Artemis, of course). I took the dumbbell Ares as my victim. I saw him running towards Dionysus with his knuckles clenched. "Hey, Ares!" I called out. "Why are you attacking your own team?" I inquired. "I thought I was on Apollo's team!" he shouted

back, half puzzled half worried. “Who’s too say?” I said knowing it was working. “Uh, I don’t know, time for some Apollo’s team head bashing time!” He said with a dazed expression. Just then a centaur came barging in through the door. “Chiron! Why must you come with such a surprised expression at a time like this?” Poseidon said. “What has happened? Whatever it is it’s making tons of noise in Italy I was enjoying such a lovely cup of tea and then the entire table collapsed! Care to explain that?” He said acting as if he was still drinking it. “Err, Chiron please follow me for a moment.” I said walking him away from the giant battle. “APOLLO DID WHAT NOW?!” he yelled out. “I know quite surprising but it caused an extreme uproar.” I gloomily said. Meanwhile... in Tartarus pit, underworld. “Muahahaha!” Cronos cackled hollowly, slowly starting to rise from the depths of Tartarus “Finally, perfect timing too, with the gods fighting.” Now back to the slowly expanding war. “Eros, dear please show Zeus that you do NOT want to be called a baby.” Said Aphrodite happily. “Yes, mother.” Said Eros in a “good boy” voice. Eros walked up to Zeus and took out some chocolates, that’s right chocolate. “Here, Zeus this is my way of

saying truce.” Zeus gave Eros a suspicious look. “Well, ok I accept your peace offering.” “No! Zeus don’t- eat those.” Cried out Apollo, It was too late at that minute Zeus at all of them. “Tastes sweet a little crunchy, ooh and smooth. What the what’s happening to me?” Zeus suddenly started turning redder and redder than he just turned into one giant flame. “Ugh! I told Zeus not to eat any “peace offerings.” Said Apollo, now calming down. “Oh, just remember, I am NOT a baby.” Said Eros flying away. “Asclepius follow me.” Said Chiron. He led me to these giant golden doors. “Since when was this here?” I inquired. “Oh, quite some time actually just it’s only activated when I use the sacred key.” Chiron said. “So, then what’s in here.” I said. “Oh you’ll see.” What was in there was glorious yet I had no clue whatsoever what it was. “What is this?” I asked. “That is yet to be known, child but when known they say it lies a secret that could change godkind forever.” Chiron said with such a distant voice you could swear I was on the phone with someone from another planet. “But why did you bring *me* here?” I said still very confused. “That is a question yet to be answered, but who knows maybe this could become a secret of great use.” Said Chiron mystically. “Mmmm

hmm, ok then!” I said in a voice that said “ok I get it, now can I leave?”. “Remember to consult with Delphi.” Chiron said. I suddenly understood how serious this was so I quickly flew off without a single word.

Meanwhile in the depths of Mountain Etna...

“Typhon gather the other fearsome creatures, we’ll need them. Be careful of some though, they can be quite tricky and some like Scylla, the 3 gorgons, etc.” “Yes, master.” Replied Typhon obediently. “Now who shall I get next? Maybe the minotaur, perhaps the triton.” Cronos said with a wicked smile spreading across his face. Switching back and forth is quite annoying, you know. But I guess I have to do it for the reader’s enjoyment.

Meanwhile Asclepius is in the Oracle of Delphi’s lair... “Crooked voice? This is me Asclepius please tell me my oracle.” I said. A raspy voice replied, “You shall travel forth the seven seas to find what is hidden within, friends shall betray you, you will find the devastating truth about the fire.” “Ugh, geez! Ever thought of getting a breath mint?” I said will all layers of disgust. “Besides, how harsh can it be to find out a truth about a tiny little fire?

Friends betray me, well my word! That is so rude for you to think that! I will definitely *not* travel any seas whether there are seven or a thousand.” I said unhappily. As I flew off the same words were stuck in my head “Friends shall betray you.” I keep on trying to think it’s nothing but then it lures me to think about it again what why would any of my friends betray me? It’s a silly thought. What are those three giant weird flying things up ahead? Wait, is that, but how? Oh, no this can NOT be good. “Hello Asclepius we have been waiting for you.” Said the three fates in unison. “I will not take any “alliances” or “peace offerings.” I said suspecting an eternal lie. “We have know alliance nor peace offerings, oh definitely not we come to kill you, we have to for we don’t see you in our future.” “Number one, saying every word at the same time is seriously scary so just cut it out, Number two, the winds of change has changed and now they are showing *my* path, it seems you three have all chosen the wrong path.” I knew that it’s my life my destiny their destiny is to be killed harshly by hopefully, me. “No! It is impossible we make fates! We make destinies! They can’t bend against our will!” They cried out soberly. “Mmmm hmm, watch me.” I said. I also did a silly jig to

the reader but really this is the silly jig of well... death.

“no! No! No! No! No! No! No!” They chanted out, just then they turned a very weird bluish green and in a flash they disappeared, for not even I know where they went. “Just remember, this is my life, my rules.” I cheered as I went back to Mount Olympus. As I went back I saw Hermes (whom is on my side.) struggling to carry a flying boar, yes I know what I just said so now your friends can finally owe you back the money when they said “when pigs fly.” “Um, Hermes you need any help there?” I inquired. “Hard question, lemme think about it, YES!!!” he said. “Ok, ok-geez! How much does this thing weigh?!” I asked. “I don’t know maybe a few thousand pounds.” Hermes heaved out. “Oh, ok a few wait, THOUSAND?!!” I said shocked. “No time for talking more carrying!” Hermes yelled back. “And what do you exactly plan to do to this thing?” I asked worried if he was going to throw it’s manure on everyone. “Well, that’s a good question, I really don’t know but it’s so fat it ought to be a good distraction.” Said Hermes. “Good point.” I said releasing a sigh. As soon as we let go of the pig all underworld (also known

as heck) went loose. “FIRE THE CANNONS!” Apollo said with a voice with such intensity he could just explode. “Release the hydras!” Artemis said gaining more and more ferocity by the minute. “Did Artemis just say hy- AH WATCH OUT! STOP THE HYDRA!” I said, suddenly aware of the giant creature looking straight at me. I looked around helplessly when I suddenly saw something that caught my eyes the reason I said eyes is because I am not a Cyclops and Cyclops, oh you get what I mean! It was the pig but the only reason I saw it was cause it was kicking it’s enemies and breathing fire, yes actually breathing fire. Sadly the breathing fire effect was mostly on Poseidon who just got rid of it by shooting a little water at it. “By order of the gods, I SUMMON MY SON POLYPHEMUS!” Poseidon said, as soon as I heard that I actually screamed in terror, the giants were bigger than even us gods. Just then an earthquake started up that could easily kill every human in over a thousand miles struck I decided to cling tightly to the flying boar, bad idea. “Eek! It’s trying to breath fire on me! Ah watch out mister Pigs your gonna crash into the throne of Hades!” Too late, I hit it. “Oww, bad piggy!” I then saw something slowly emerging from

the earthquake a dark shady figure with a misty eye. “*oh, no.*” I thought. “Daddy did you call me?!” Polyphemus roared. “Yes son, those Gods are not being nice, please kill them.” “Yes daddy.” I ran to the hearth for I knew Hestia is the only one that could really help. “Hestia, please help me! Polyphemus is after me and I just can’t escape!” I said taking a quick breath so I could quickly talk again. “Slow yourself, please sit by the hearth.” Said Hestia calmly. “Thanks but I really don’t see how sitting by a hearth will help.” “Patience, child.” Said Hestia. Polyphemus was coming closer and closer and now he was towering over us, he took his enormous fist and was about to smash us. I closed my eyes and tried to scream but none came out, instead I heard a loud “*oof!*” and when I opened my eyes there was Polyphemus laying on the ground, dead. All the Gods stared at me awestruck, except Hestia who carried on happily tending her hearth. “Uh, what happened?” I asked Hestia in disbelief. “Only time will tell, Asclepius. Only time will tell.” Said Hestia wisely. Poseidon was infuriated, though. “Asclepius, how could you! Poor Polyphemus here wasn’t going to cause *that* much harm, just enough to wipe out all of Artemis’s side of Gods! “I guess I’m sorry? But what

really happened?” I asked just as confused and shocked as the other Gods. I saw Pan, but his face wasn’t happy or going with the plan, a matter a fact he seemed dismayed stressed, and even mad. I went to the place Pan and I usually go to discuss our teams tactics and weaknesses, but when I got there Pan wasn’t there. I was worried about what could have happened to Pan. But just then a chilling thought came to my mind. *Friends will betray you.* she couldn’t mean Pan, could she? I quickly shook the thought out of my head, what fiend am I becoming? Thinking my best friend betrayed me.