

# THE TWELVE LABOURS OF HERACLES



As part of his 12 Labours, Heracles was instructed by King Eurystheus to fetch Hera's golden apples. Heracles didn't know where to find them so he asked for help from Atlas (the Titan who holds up the sky). Atlas offered to fetch the apples if Heracles would take his place and hold up the sky while he was gone. Heracles agreed and Atlas left ... but Atlas enjoyed his freedom so much that when he returned he was reluctant to take back the sky from Heracles. Instead Atlas insisted that he would take the apples to Eurystheus but promised he would return. Heracles knew this was a trick and that he might be stuck forever holding up the sky so he made a plan. Heracles agreed with Atlas but first asked if Atlas would temporarily hold the sky up again while Heracles adjusted his position to get more comfortable. Atlas agreed but as soon as he was holding the sky up again, Heracles made his escape.