A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of two overlapping parallelograms. The front one is blue and the back one is a light green. They are positioned diagonally, with the blue one partially covering the green one.

The Augean Stables - the 5th task of Heracles

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9S

What was the task?

Herakles taking a
break from digging



- The task was the 5th set by Eurystheus
- Heracles had to clean the Augean Stables in one day
- The cattle that resided in these stables were known for the extraordinary amount of faeces they produced.
- When Heracles arrived, he said he would clean the stables of all the faeces in one day
- When he said this he didn't say anything about King Eurystheus or his 10 labours



This is where Elis is in Greece. It is in
the far west of the Peloponnese.



How was the task done?

- To clean the Augean stables Heracles used his signature mix of brain and brawn to overcome the challenge
- His idea to clean the stables was to dig a trench between the two rivers flowing nearby and then divert the two rivers into the front of the stables and then out the rear carrying all of the faeces back into the river
- After completing his challenge Heracles returned to the Augean king to retrieve the money prize promised by the king if he completed the challenge in one day
- Sadly the king never gave his payment, so Heracles returned with an army and defeated the king, to commemorate this Heracles founded the Olympic games for his father Zeus



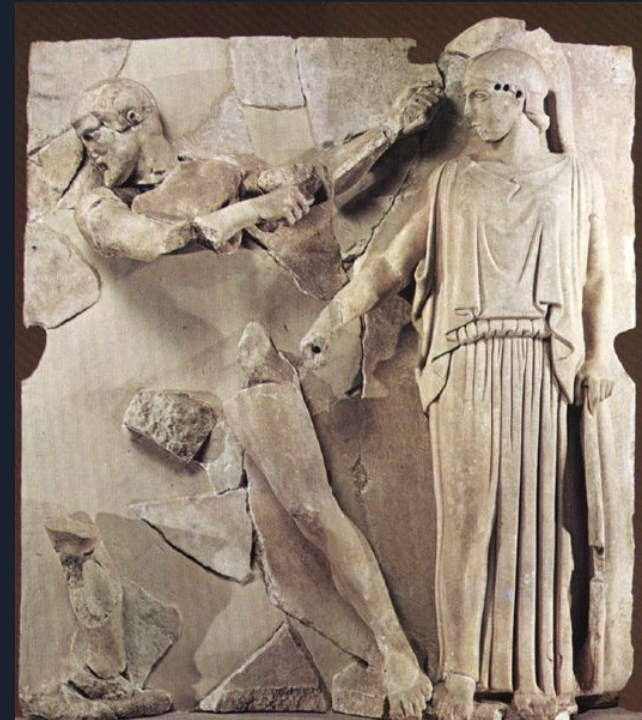
Why was it invalid?

- The task was regarded as invalid as Heracles said he'd clean the stables for a reward, 1/10 of the herd
- He didn't just do the task because he was told to by King Eurystheus
- He wasn't given the reward even though he completed the task but King Eurystheus still said it was invalid

The Augean Stables metope on the temple of Zeus

- The metope design on the temple of Zeus has 2 diagonals in a chiasmus pattern
- This shows effort and strain on the part of Herakles, while Athena watches on
- This simple design is easily recognisable and is a very prominent in Ancient Greek art
- Athena features in many of the metopes as she was effectively the patent saint of Herakles

The metope of Herakles cleaning the Augean stables



The temple of Zeus at Olympia



Phidias

- Phidias was best known for his two gigantic chryselephantine (gold and ivory) statues, one of Athena at the Parthenon and the other of Zeus at the temple of Olympia which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world
- He lived from 480 BC to 430 BC
- Phidias had a friend called Pericles, who at the time was a prominent and influential statesman
- Because of this new friendship Phidias created a lot of new enemies who went on to accuse Phidias of stealing gold from the Athena Parthenos and carving himself and Pericles into the Parthenos' shield
- These accusations ended up getting Phidias in prison where he lived the rest of his life until he died.