

Apollo and the Chimera

Apollo stood by the entrance to the cave that led to the palace dungeon holding Athena his wife. Looking into the dark tunnel, he could smell the stench of charred bodies. From somewhere deep inside, he heard the sound of the Chimera; a blood-chilling roar as it paced around its lair. Holding up the shield and sword Zeus had given him, he crept determinedly through the tunnels towards his foe.

Moments later, Apollo was deep inside the cave, pacing through the darkness with only the glow from the monster's flames to guide the way. Shadows flickered. Laying down his weapons carefully for a moment, Apollo crouched down and quickly pulled on the shoes of swiftness. Deeper and deeper he made his way into the lair, expecting at any moment to be attacked. The sound of the Chimera pacing in his grim den grew louder. It growled out of defiance. It growled for all the years of desperation. Trapped by a cage made of other people's fear, the ferocious creature of many parts waited.

Now it could smell Apollo approaching. It could hear his footsteps; it could taste his fear. The long serpent tail hissed menacingly, it stamped its hooves on the rocky ground and shook its wild mane angrily.

Maddened by its desire to defend the dungeon, the beast let out a volley of scorching flames which surrounded the hero. But Apollo was too rapid; he darted around the cave with his shield braced in front of him to deflect the intense heat. Becoming confused and dizzy, the Chimera thrashed around furiously. Seizing his chance, Apollo charged at the brute, his sword poised in the air ready to strike ...

As the blade plunged into the Chimera's body, the shield fell and clattered upon the ground. Apollo stood exhausted but exhilarated, the great fiend dying at his feet. Which way to turn? Where was his beautiful wife? Would they escape this cursed place together?

Suddenly, he heard someone calling his name softly. Following the familiar sound, Apollo made his way towards it until at last he found Athena huddled at the back of the cave. He helped her up and together they made their way back to freedom!