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Metamorphoses, Book 9

• **Achelous**
  — the river-God with only one horn on his forehead
  — he lost a wrestling match to Hercules who tore the horn off
  — the horn becomes the **Cornucopia**
  — the god hides his disfigurement by wearing a wreath of reeds
Achelous describes to Theseus his wrestling match with Hercules:

But I was heavy,

Heavy and big, I stood there like a sea-wall

Which the waves beat in vain. . . .

SIMILE
OVID

Metamorphoses, Book 9

- **Hercules**
  - The great hero who performed twelve labors, e.g.
    - killing the Hydrea
    - capturing Cerberus
    - stealing the apples of the Hesperides
    - tricking the Giant (titan) Atlas
  - Eventually he was killed by his own wife Deian(e)ira
  - cf. Agamemnon
Hercules on his funeral pyre, pleading for death:

He raised his hands:

“Gloat on my suffering, gloat, O cruel Juno,
Sate that relentless heart, . . .

APOSTROPHE
Hercules on his funeral pyre, pleading for death:

I slew the Hydra
That gained by its own loss, . . .
Hercules on his funeral pyre, pleading for death:

... AND THE FIRE

devours my lungs, and feeds on all my members.

But Eurystheus keeps his health: who is there

to think that gods exist?”

**Irony**
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*Metamorphoses*, Book 9

- **Meleager**
  - Deianeira’s brother
  - Leads the *Calydonian Boar Hunt*

- Ovid’s account of Meleager’s death reminds Hercules’ mother Alcmena of her son’s very difficult birth
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Metamorphoses, Book 9

Alcmena narrating Hercules’ birth:

I pushed and struggled,
Cursed Jove’s ingratitude, wanted to die,
Screamed so that even stones were moved to pity, . . .

Hyperbole

— or perhaps personification
Alcmena recalls how Galanthis tricked Juno in relaxing and letting Hercules be born:

The goddess

Leaped up, at that, and loosed her hands, and I

was likewise loosed of my burden, and Galanthis

broke out in laughter, . . .

polysyndeton
Dryope

—by accident picks the wrong flower
—AND SLOWLY CHANGES INTO A TREE

I AM PUNISHED

WITHOUT A CRIME; MY LIFE IS INNOCENT,

HAS ALWAYS BEEN: . . .

ELLIPSIS
Dryope tells her family to warn her infant son when he grows up not to pick flowers:

But let him fear the ponds, and pick no flowers,

And let him think that all the bushes are

Bodies of goddesses.

**PERSONIFICATION**
Iolaus

—becomes young again to defend his family when they are being attacked

—but when the gods begin to clamor for their favorites to have the same favor, Jupiter forbids all such future rejuvenation

—even that of his own sons, like Minos and Rhadamanthys
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Metamorphoses, Book 9

THE GODS OBEY JUPITER AND STOP DEMANDING REJUVENATION:

So they were quiet

Seeing how Aeacus, Minos, Rhadamanthys
Were tired from the long years, . . .

ASYNDETON
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Metamorphoses, Book 9

• **Aurora**
  
  — Goddess of the dawn
  
  — She falls in love with a mortal named **Tithonus**
  
  — Asks that he be granted immortality but forgets to secure eternal youth as well
  
  — He grows old but never dies
  
  — Eventually he turns into a cicada
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Metamorphoses, Book 9

• **Byblis**
  — FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER OWN BROTHER **Caunus**
  — WRITES HIM A LOVE LETTER
  — BUT HE REJECTS HER VIOLENTLY AND MOVES AWAY
  — SHE FOLLOWS HIM BUT ENDS UP WEEPING ENDLESSLY
  — EVENTUALLY SHE TURNS INTO A SPRING
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Metamorphoses, Book 9

Byblis loves her own brother Caunus – but perhaps too much:

She loved her brother, and the way she loved him was not the way sisters should love their brothers.

Euphemism

(Ovid doesn’t say “incestuously”!)
Byblis sends Caunus a love-letter:

(she) summons a servant, tells him *Take this letter*  
*And give it to my—she could hardly say it,*  
*But after a struggle got the word out*  
—*brother,* . . .
Caunus rejects her advances sternly and Byblis regrets her aggressive approach:

I should have tried, before this, to test, with more ambiguous talk, his feeling.

Now I have spread my sail, and never noticed which way the wind was blowing, . . .

metaphor
Iphis

- Born a girl but raised as a boy
- She is betrothed to Ianthe
- The Egyptian goddess Isis transforms Iphis into a man
- So “he” marries Ianthe
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Metamorphoses, Book 9

Iphis and Ianthe grow up and go to school together:

They were of equal age, they both were lovely,

Had learned their ABC’s from the same teachers, . . .

SYNECDOCHE

(ABC’s = reading)