

Alexander's Emulation of Heracles

Fill in the passage using the words below;

In Greek Mythology, the hero Heracles is said to have lived around 1250B.C., approximately two generations prior to the Trojan _____. Therefore, by the time of Alexander the Great in the _____, some nine-hundred years later, the figure of Heracles had already been deified and devoutly worshipped across the Greek World alongside other heroes such as Theseus, Perseus and _____.

As a member of Macedon's _____ dynasty, Alexander traced his lineage back to Heracles' alleged great-great grandson Temenus, the King of _____. He had three sons, one of which was Karanus, who travelled north and founded his own city, which later developed into the _____ of Macedon.

Throughout his life and campaigns, there is ample evidence of Alexander's desire to live up to the deeds of these legendary heroes. The ancient historian Arrian reports his visit to the Temple of Ammon in the _____ desert as he was;

"...urged partly by a desire to emulate Perseus and Heracles, from both of whom he traced his decent."
- Arrian, *Anabasis of Alexander*, Book III, Chapter III.

Moreover, Arrian reports that Heracles was one of the Greek deities that Alexander repeatedly made sacrifices to (*Anabasis of Alexander*, Book II, Chapter XVI). One of the most notable examples of Alexander's dedication to and admiration for Heracles can be seen in the _____ of Tyre;

Upon arriving at the coastal city of Tyre, Alexander wished to sacrifice at their _____ of Heracles, and so sent word of his request into the city. When he was denied, Arrian reports that he "*sent the ambassadors back in a rage,*" and delivered a speech by which he explained the strategic _____ of the city and therefore persuaded his men to lay siege. The following evening in sleep, Arrian recounts that Heracles "*seemed to take him [Alexander] by the right hand and lead him up into the city,*" (Book II, Chapter XVIII).

At the successful capture of the city following a _____-month siege, approximately eight-thousand Tyrians had been killed, however Alexander "*gave an amnesty to all those who fled for refuge into the Temple of Heracles.*" He then sacrificed to the hero at last and held an army and naval procession in his honour, along with a gymnastic contest in the temple.

It is thus clear that Alexander the Great was devoutly dedicated to Heracles and his deeds, and sought to appeal to and emulate the legendary deeds of the Hero across his campaigns and over the course of his life. His association with Heracles was therefore a pivotal element of his personal _____, of which through the Greek hero's likeness, he desired to associate himself with the _____ qualities of _____ and _____.



Black-Figure Amphora Depicting Heracles' First Labour; Killing the Nemean Lion, circa 540B.C.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, *Terracotta Amphora (Jar)*.
Accession Number: 56.171.11
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/254869>]

4 th century B.C.	War	Achilles
Argead	Argos	Heroism
Libyan	Imagery	Temple
Strength	Siege	Kingdom
Seven	Importance	Ideal