The Herakles Theme: The Adaptations Of The Hero In Literature From Homer To The Twentieth Century

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According to G. Karl Galinsky in *The Herakles Theme: Adaptations of the Hero in Literature from Homer to the Twentieth Century*, the brief and mostly unhappy life of Hercules symbolized "man choosing between good and bad, man struggling for a decent fate in a hostile universe." Such epic themes apply equally well to Victor's creature, whose short life span only about four years is a constant struggle to find his place in a cold and callous world. The Oxford Companion to Classical Literature attributes endurance, good nature, and compassion to the Herculean traits that have been celebrated down the centuries. However, this neglected son of Zeus was forced to endure the burden of great toil and danger and agonizing personal sorrow throughout his entire existence.