

THE HIPPOLYTUS INITIATIVE

BY EMILY SPEED AND
DUNCAN TARBOTON

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'OPPROBRIUM FUISSE ADULESCENTIBUS, SI AMATORES NON HABERENT'
'It was a matter of reproach for young men, if they
did not have lovers'

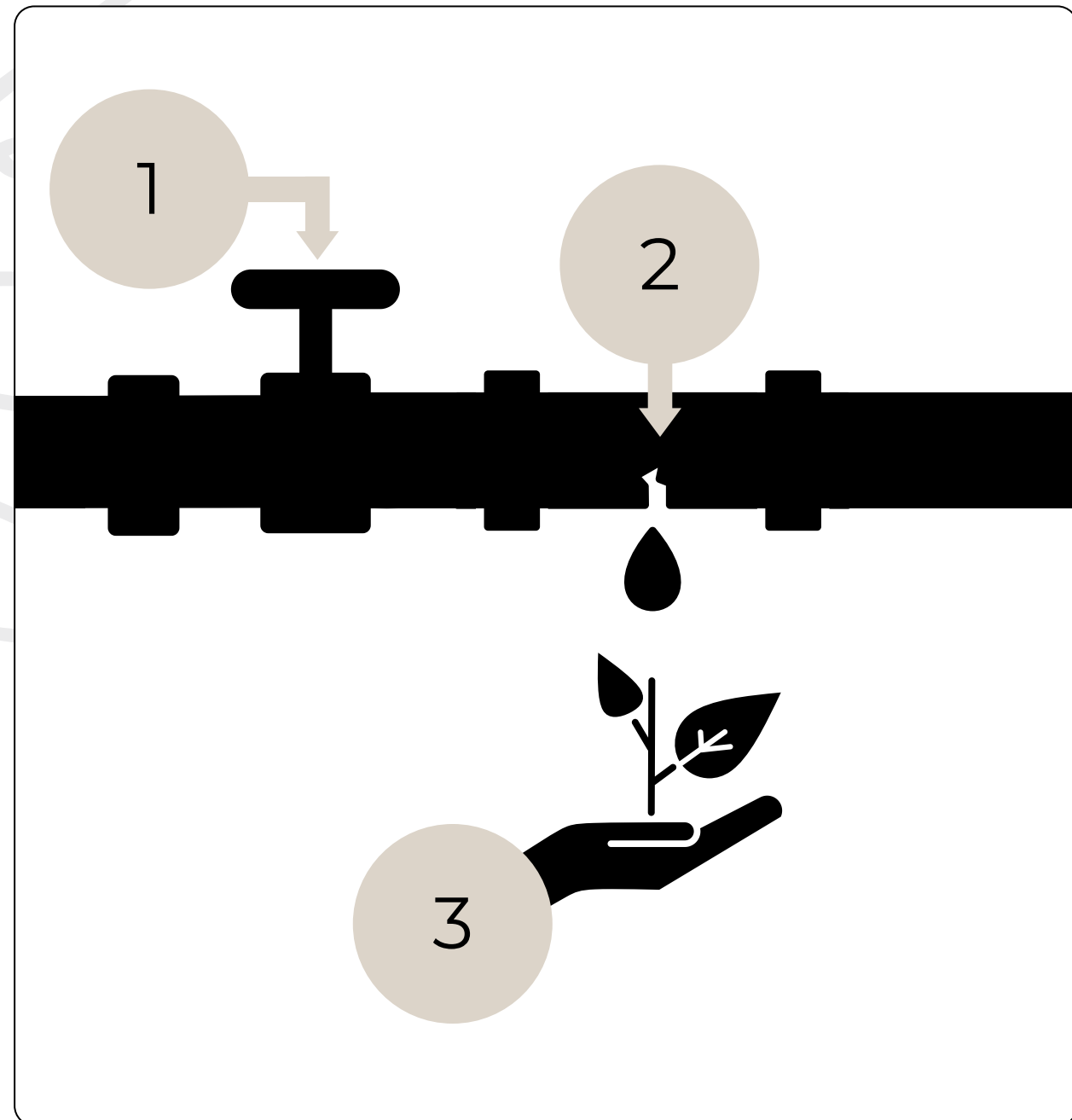
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WHAT IS THE HIPPOLYTUS INITIATIVE?

The Hippolytus Initiative is a project that aims to start conversations using ancient source material and texts to confront uncomfortable truths about society's relationship with sex and gender, especially regarding how the Classics are being appropriated by the alt-right to reinforce their ideological pipeline.

OUR AIMS



Sealing the Source



Puncturing the Pipeline

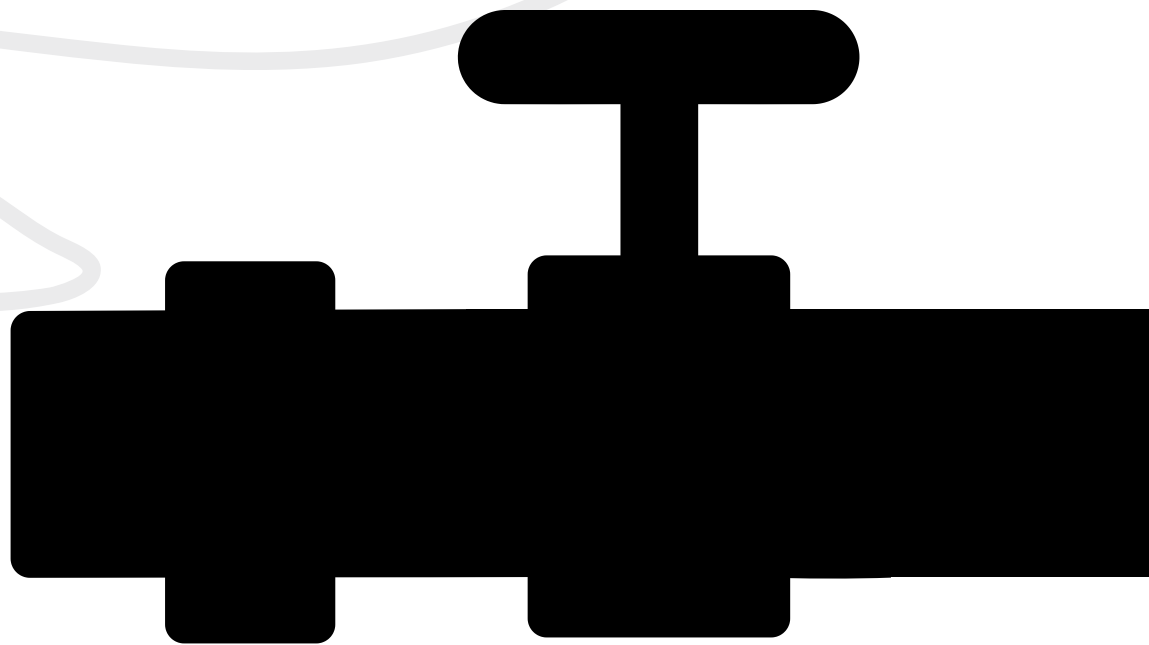


Inspiring New Growth

1

SEALING THE SOURCE

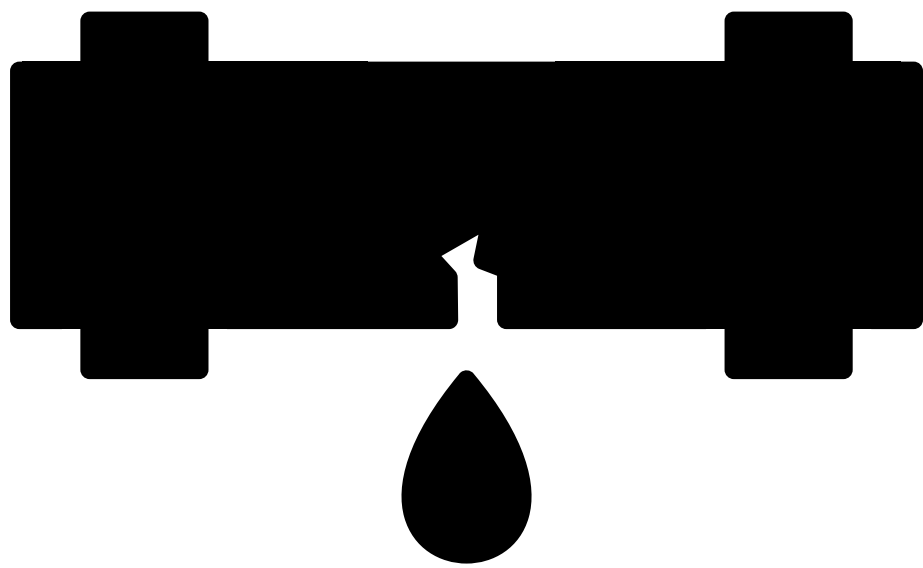
- Young people, particularly males. are most at risk of radicalisation.
- The narratives which these vulnerable people absorb will define their perception of society.
- Educating them on toxic masculinity and related issues, and honing their critical thinking skills, seals the 'Alt-Right' pipeline at the source.



2

PUNCTURING THE PIPELINE

- Classical material is used to fuel the 'Alt-Right' pipeline.
- Correcting its misuse and misinterpretation extinguishes the credibility of these arguments.
- Existing Examples:
 - *Not All Dead White Men* - Donna Zuckerberg
 - *Pandora's Jar* - Natalie Haynes



3

INSPIRING NEW GROWTH

- The critique of flawed Classical interpretations leaves room for the germination of fresh ideas.
- These informed narratives have the potential to reach millions and cause real societal growth.
- Existing Examples:
 - *Medea* - Liz Lohead
 - *Stone Blind* - Natalie Haynes





OUR METHOD

Our initiative focuses on education and raising awareness, so our content will primarily take the form of workshops and social media, specifically catered to our different target audiences.



OUR TARGET AUDIENCES

Classicists

Young People

Creatives

General Public



STRUCTURAL OVERVIEW

		A	B
	Stream		
	Audience	Young People	Creatives + Classicists
Aim	Division by	Target issue	Source material
1	Sealing the Source	<p>Primary Focus of Workshop: Direct education about Toxic Masculinity and related issues through engagement with Classical material.</p>	Indirect
2	Puncturing the Pipeline	Correction of common misconceptions and misuses of Classical Material throughout workshop.	Correction of common misconceptions and misuses of Classical Material throughout workshop.
3	Inspiring New Growth	Indirect	<p>Primary Focus of Workshop: Comparison of adaptations of Classical material to facilitate discussions on the challenges and rewards of narrative activism.</p>



EXAMPLE WORKSHOPS



Workshop A1:
**Pick-Up
Sophistry**

1

EXPLAIN THE ISSUE

Dangers and fallacies of PUA. Identify prominent figures and lay out logical critique of their arguments.

2

CRITIQUE CLASSICAL EXAMPLES

Identify ancient sources used by PUA and lay out logical critique of these. Primarily Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*.

3

FACILITATE INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Give participants a variety of exempla of modern/online material, and ancient material, and initiate discussions around the rhetorical techniques, fallacies, and toxic masculinity visible in each.



Workshop B1:
Hippolytus

1

INTRODUCTION TO THE ANCIENT MATERIAL

Lecture based informative section on the multiple versions of the narrative, chronologically, from Euripides to Seneca to Racine.

2

CRITIQUE CLASSICAL EXAMPLES

Identify misuses of the narrative to support Alt-Right arguments. and lay out logical critique of these.

3

FACILITATE INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Look at existing modern adaptations and discuss merits/flaws. Initiate brainstorming dialogue to generate new projects.

SOCIAL MEDIA



WHO IS HIPPOLYTUS?



AND WHY DO INCELS CONSIDER HIM TO BE A PROTOTYPE 'MGTOW' FIGURE?



WHO ARE 'MGTOW' AND WHY DO THEY IDENTIFY WITH HIPPOLYTUS?

'MGTOW' ('Men Going Their Own Way') is an incel subculture that advocates for men to separate themselves from women entirely, and considers feminism to be corrupting society. They identify with Hippolytus due to their shared voluntary celibacy, misogyny and choice to live entirely separate from women. Phaedra's attempt to ruin Hippolytus' life also plays into the incel narrative of evil women ruining mens' lives



WHO IS HIPPOLYTUS?

Hippolytus is a celibate figure from Greek mythology and the son of Theseus (the minotaur slayer). The tale of his downfall is best recorded in Euripidean tragedy; he is disgusted by sex and marriage, and so devotes himself to the goddess Artemis. He refuses to worship Aphrodite, so she causes Hippolytus' stepmother, Phaedra, to fall in love with him. He rejects her, so she accuses him of rape, setting in motion a series of events that culminate in his death



UNPICKING FAULTY LOGIC

There are many issues with this particular interpretation and misappropriation of Hippolytus:

- While Hippolytus' hatred of women drives his celibacy somewhat, it is equally from his devotion to Artemis, a female goddess
- Phaedra is not in control of her actions, she is manipulated and controlled by Aphrodite
- Although it is impossible to know what Euripides wanted the audience to feel towards each character, the character of Hippolytus is not an overly sympathetic one, and meets a grisly end by the conclusion of the play



PROBLEMATIC NARRATIVE

The story covers a range of problematic issues, including:

- Misogyny
- Toxic Masculinity
- False Rape accusations

Hippolytus is a misogynist, and frequently expresses his dislike of women, and the idea of a woman using a false rape accusation to get revenge is a dangerous and problematic narrative to tell.

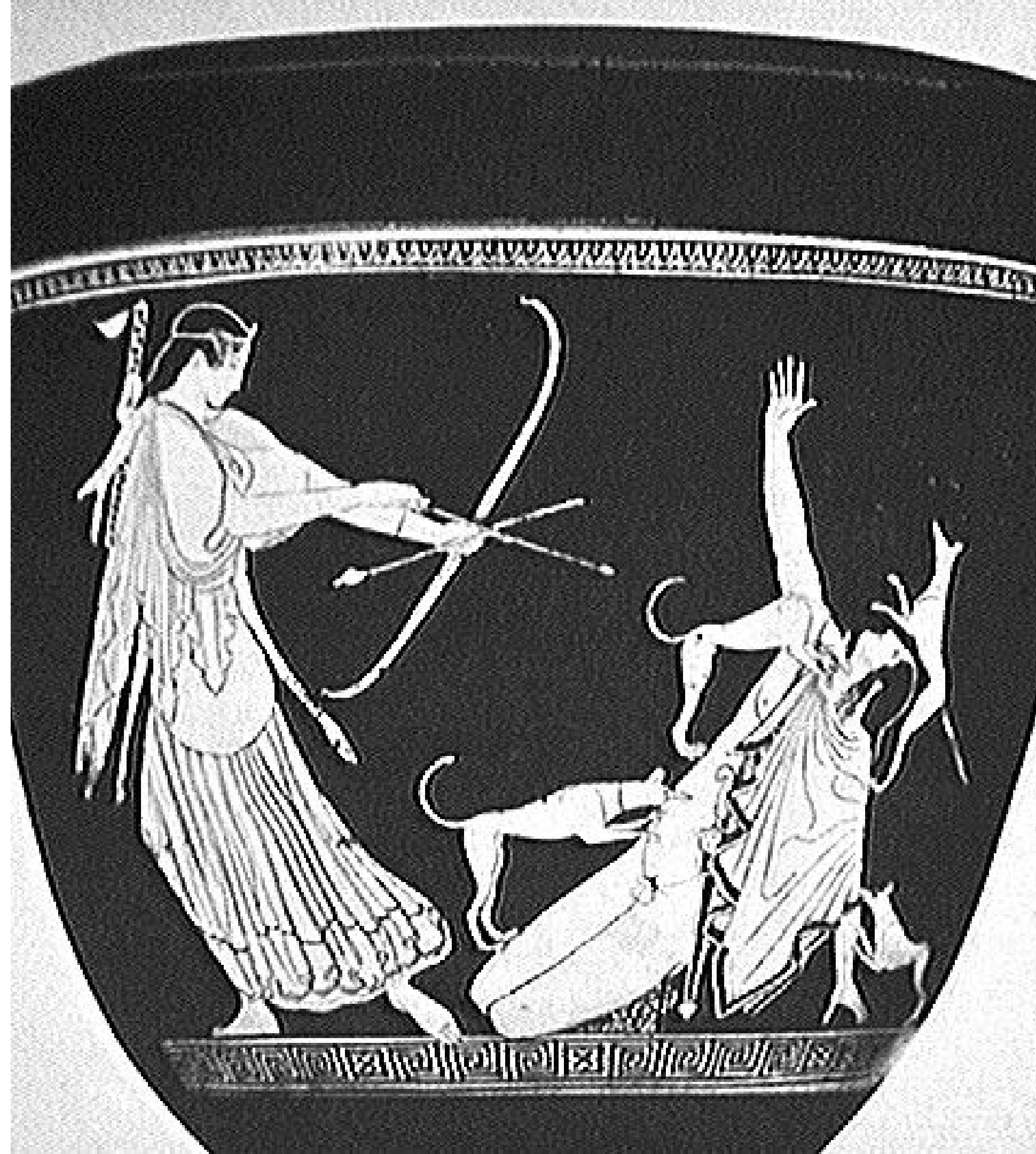


THANK YOU FOR READING!
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WHY HIPPOLYTUS?

The myth of Hippolytus encapsulates many of the issues we wish to focus on.

Hippolytus is also believed to be a 'prototype' 'MGTOW' figure by members of the community..





WHY IS OUR WORK SO IMPORTANT?

INCEL CULTURE IS DANGEROUS

The functioning of these groups, despite being primarily based online, have real and drastic impact on real life – many school shooters are self confessed ‘incels’

THE MOVEMENT IS GROWING

The movement has grown considerably in recent years, with misogynist figureheads such as Andrew Tate gaining traction on social media and as political polarisation grows, people can become more and more susceptible to such harmful ideology.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

By helping people see through the lies of incel culture, it makes them less susceptible to be persuaded by their ideology. We adopt a 'hate the sin, not the sinner' mentality in our work, condemning the ideology while taking care not to further isolate and ostracise individuals, which is likely to drive them further down the pipeline.