

The Bull-Horned King

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Excerpt

“Bull horns, Great King?” Aeneas, son of Jacob, considered Antiochus’ orders in puzzlement. He had once the honour of viewing his patron’s father as he marched an endless cavalcade of beasts and men, brazen and battle-born, to victory against his former employer at Lysimachia (281 BCE). Still half a *stadion* away, Seleucus was plainly of Heraclean strength and stature – especially so for a man of seventy years. He was, in truth, not dissimilar to the huge trumpeting war machines which accompanied him – massive, mighty, and majestic. But Aeneas could not recall ever spying bull horns erupting from his head.

About the Author

Angus Llewellyn Jacobson is an Australian Aboriginal PhD candidate and Graduate Teaching Fellow in Classics at the University of Tasmania. While his thesis focuses specifically on the Seleucid-Antigonid kinship as a mechanism of dynastic preservation and control from the Battle of Ipsus to Antigonos Gonatas’ death, he also possesses a profound interest in numismatics, Greek and Latin literature, royal/imperial ideologies, and Late Antiquity, particularly the reign of Julian. Angus has previously presented his research on Libanius’ Antiochicus and early Antigonid-Seleucid relations in the inaugural lecture of the Seleukid Lecture Series’ 8th edition. In 2025, he was also awarded the Near Eastern Archaeological Foundation’s Catherine Southwell-Keeley Travel Grant, which enabled him to undertake research on key artefacts and archaeological sites related to the Seleucid-Antigonid kinship in Türkiye. When not undertaking research, Angus enjoys digital drawing/painting scenes and portraits from the ancient world and intends to (eventually) compose an English epic poem on a key battle from Seleucid history.

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