

**Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones,
“The Baleful Head”, 1886,
Stuttgart, Staatsgalerie**

[Mastery Image](#)

Burne-Jones' Perseus Cycle, no. 8

<http://www.victorianweb.org/painting/bj/paintings/p8.html>

Burne-Jones painted a series of watercolors and oil paintings based on an epic Romantic poem called *The Doom of Acrisius* by the Pre-Raphaelite poet/artist William Morris. This painting, the final scene completed in the cycle, depicts a quiet moment shared by Perseus and Andromeda. ML p. 556 note “the bright, open eyes of Andromeda [which] provide a dramatic contrast to the reflection of Medusa’s closed eyes.” The tranquility of the well allows Perseus and Andromeda to contemplate a serene moment, as Andromeda considers the Gorgon’s visage in the only way possible. Andromeda has been rescued from the Cetus at this point in the story, but the battle in the hall against Phineus (Andromeda’s uncle, whom she is destined to marry) still lies in Perseus’ future. The four oils executed in the cycle include “The Rock of Doom” (Perseus w/ A’meda chained to rock), “The Doom Fulfilled” (P. slaying the sea monster), “The Baleful Head”; “The Court of Phineus” was never executed.



OGCMA0881PerseusAndromeda_Burne-Jones

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/69/Burne-Jones.jpg>