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If $a, b, c > 0$, then:

$$\frac{a^5}{a^4 + b^4} + \frac{b^5}{b^4 + c^4} + \frac{c^5}{c^4 + a^4} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a^2}{c} + \frac{b^2}{a} + \frac{c^2}{b} \right) \geq a + b + c$$

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By AM – GM inequality, we have

$$\frac{a^5}{a^4 + b^4} + \frac{b^2}{2a} = a - \frac{ab^4}{a^4 + b^4} + \frac{b^2}{2a} \geq a - \frac{ab^4}{2a^2b^2} + \frac{b^2}{2a} = a.$$

Similarly, we get

$$\frac{b^5}{b^4 + c^4} + \frac{c^2}{2b} \geq b \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{c^5}{c^4 + a^4} + \frac{a^2}{2c} \geq c.$$

Adding these inequalities yields the desired inequality.

Equality holds iff $a = b = c$.