

MORYA FEDERATION  
ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION



**Welcome to the**  
**Great Quest Student**  
**webinar series on**

**The Labours of Hercules**

**An Astrological Interpretation**

BASED ON ARTICLES BY ALICE A. BAILEY

FIRST PRINTED IN *THE BEACON* 1957-1958

(*THE LABOURS OF HERCULES* BOOK WAS PUBLISHED IN 1974)

# Why Study the Hercules Myth?

*The progress of Hercules from the mental plane, through the emotional plane, and out into physical plane manifestation shows us a synthetic picture of the work done by every disciple who is a son of man and a son of God. It is a work that can be arduous, slow, and carried forward under great difficulties. Often it is done in blind ignorance of the forces released and of the results to be achieved. But step by step the aspirant is led along the path of self-knowledge and development. His character and nature are tested and tried until the qualities which characterize the form can be transmuted into those which reveal the soul.*



# The Link between the Myth & Sign

- By combining the astrological and symbolic story
  - ✓ the tests of everyday life of a disciple are shown
  - ✓ via the sign in which the myth takes place
- Each sign subjects the disciple to
  - ✓ influences of certain distinctive forces
  - ✓ and provides him with certain tendencies
- When understood, the meaning of the test emerges
  - ✓ How the Moon sign labor describes the lessons of our past patterns that encompass the prison of our soul
  - ✓ How the Sun sign labor describes the challenges our personality is meant to work on this lifetime
  - ✓ How the Ascendant sign labor points to the soul qualities we are to cultivate
- And it's implications for all of us in our journey



# The Four Elements

- The elements outline the temperament of a sign
  - ✓ Fire and Air signs are compatible, both are masculine
    - ✓ Yang energy, outgoing, expressive, giving
  - ✓ Earth and Water signs are compatible, both are feminine
    - ✓ Yin energy, passive, receptive, containing
  - ✓ Compatible signs work out relationships through favorable aspects
    - ✓ Trines and Sextiles
- Earth or Water signs don't relate well with Fire or Air signs
  - ✓ They usually have nothing in common
  - ✓ Work out their issues via hard aspects (squares and inconjuncts)



# A Little about the Water Signs

- Exoterically, water is emotional, nurturing, conforming
  - ✓ But may be too sensitive
- Esoterically, keys are purification & identification
  - ✓ Cancer is purified waters of experience, identifying with masses
  - ✓ Scorpio is purified waters of test, identifying with Hierarchy
  - ✓ Pisces is purified daily life, identification with Spirit
- They are feminine, like the Earth signs
  - ✓ They represent the night
  - ✓ Are related to the 2-4-6 ray line



# The Myth



# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Fourth Labor

The great Presiding One, who sits within the Council Chamber of the Lord, spoke to the Teacher, standing by his side: *"Where is the son of man who is the son of God? How fares he? How is he tested and with what service is he now engaged?"*

The Teacher said, casting his eye upon the son of man who is a son of God: *"Naught at this time, O great Presiding One. The third great test provided much of teaching sustenance to a learner such as he. He ponders and reflects."*

*"Provide a test which will evoke his wisest choice. Send him to labor in a field wherein he must decide which voice, of all the many voices, will arouse the obedience of his heart. Provide likewise a test of great simplicity upon the outer plane, and yet a test which will awaken, on the inner side of life, the fullness of his wisdom and the rightness of his power to choose. Let him proceed with the fourth test."*



# Labor IV - The Capture of the Doe or Hind

- ☉ Hercules starts his journey in deep silence
  - He watched and listened
  - Heard quarreling voices of Artemis & Diana, both claiming the doe
  - He also heard a 3<sup>rd</sup> voice, asking him to rescue & save the doe
- ☉ He chased the doe, hindered by both Artemis & Diana
  - For a year this went on, until he glimpsed the doe sleeping
  - He captured the doe, claiming the sacred doe as his
  - But the Presiding One told him the doe belonged in the shrine
    - ✓ It belonged to no man, even a son of God
    - ✓ It should be shared with all who dwell within the shrine
- ☉ Done, he looked & saw a fawn where the doe once stood
  - Again & again, he was told, the fawn must be brought to the holy place





# Labor IV - Meaning of the Myth

♋ Cancer is the last of the 4 preparatory signs

- Here he enters, through birth in Cancer, the Human Kingdom
- A mass sign, he gets a more universal sense of mass consciousness
- This readies him for the work of the next 4 signs

♋ Objective is the evolution of the consciousness aspect

- Cancer is primarily one of instinct that is lifted up by intellect

♋ He must now become familiar with intuition

- That instantaneous recognition of truth and reality



# Labor IV - The Journey

☿ The higher faculty of intuition is brought into play

- Symbolized by the capture of an elusive doe
- Sensitive and hard to find

☿ In his previous cycles of life experience

- Hercules transmuted intellect into intuition
- He has to become aware of the world of human ideas
- And develop its use
  - ✓ as all lower powers have to be developed and used

☿ The battle for possession of the doe continues

- Apollo knows the doe is intuition
- Diana knows the doe is intellect
- Artemis thinks the doe is just instinct



<b>Cancer:</b>	<b>the Crab</b>
<b>Element:</b>	Water sign
<b>Quality:</b>	Mass sensitivity; for the average man, mass identification with form. For the disciple, service for the masses.
<b>Traits:</b>	<b>Negative traits:</b> moodiness, being too clingy, over emotionalism, suspicion, tendency to nag. <b>Positive traits:</b> imagination, intuition, loving compassion, protectiveness.
<b>Esoteric Concepts:</b>	Developing intuition and a sensitive response to the environing conditions and circumstances; psychic development of both the lower and higher senses; transmuting instinct to intuition and emotional reactions to inclusive love.
<b>Polar Opposite:</b>	Capricorn, an earth sign (spiritual awareness after struggle; birthplace of the Christ).
<b>Rulers:</b>	Exoteric, the Moon; Esoteric, Neptune.
<b>Keywords:</b>	
<b>form angle:</b>	Let isolation be the rule, and yet the crowd exists.
<b>soul angle:</b>	I build a lighted house and therein dwell.

# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Eighth Labor

"The light now shines on Gate the eighth," the Teacher said. "Beside the River Amymone, the festering swamp of Lerna stands. Within this noisome bog the monstrous hydra lies, a plague upon the countryside. Nine heads this creature has, and one of them is immortal. Prepare to battle with this loathsome beast. Think not that common means will serve; destroy one head, two grow apace."

Expectantly Hercules waited.

"One word of counsel only I may give," the Teacher said. "We rise by kneeling; we conquer by surrendering; we gain by giving up. Go forth, O son of God and son of man, and conquer."

Through Gate the eighth, then, Hercules passed.



# Labor VIII - Destroying the Lernaean Hydra

- ♃ The stagnant swamp was polluting the air of Lerna
- Hercules had to face oozing quicksands to find the Hydra
  - The lair was a dark cavern and the monster remained hidden
  - Hercules resorted to strategy of flaming arrows; the beast emerged

- ♃ Battle between the two began
- Hercules cut off one head, but immediately two more replaced it
  - He attacked over and over, but the Hydra only grew stronger
    - ✓ Each time a low desire/thought was overcome, another emerged

- ♃ Then Hercules remembers what his Teacher told him
- He knelt, grasped the monster and held it high above him
  - Suspended in mid-air, the Hydra's strength was diminished
    - ✓ The struggles grew faint and the nine heads withered and died
    - ✓ Finally the inner beast, the true mystic head could be seen
    - ✓ Hercules severed this last head and buried it beneath a rock



# Labor VIII - Meaning of the Myth

- ♏ Scorpio is a triple sign, and Hercules does 3 things
  - He recognizes the existence of the Hydra, searches for it, destroys it
- ♏ The lair represents the subconscious shadows of our nature
  - Patience is needed to discover the hidden caverns of the mind
    - ✓ All the accumulated evil, mistakes, failures of our past lives
  - Discrimination is needed to bring the slimy fragments to the surface
    - ✓ And expose them to the light of wisdom - the soul
    - ✓ Only soul light will destroy the hydra. One by one, the Scorpio warrior has to destroy each head.
- ♏ The 9 heads represented the 9 tests of the disciple
  - Establishing right relations with the soul and the environment
    - ✓ 3 physical tests (sex, physical comfort, money)
    - ✓ 3 astral tests (fear, hate, ambition)
    - ✓ 3 mental tests (pride, separativeness, cruelty)



# Labor VIII - The Journey

♏ This is his supreme test (as it is for all humanity)

♏ He's controlled desire and balanced his point of view

- and he's ready for the battlefield of Scorpio
- to tackle the mists and miasmas that veil reality
  - ✓ The 9 heads of the monster veiling the one real one

♏ He has to demonstrate he has overcome illusion

- to no longer be taken in by that which appears to be
- so he can walk one-pointedly in the Light
- and become a world worker

♏ The personality is not to be killed or stamped out

- it is to be recognized as a triple channel of expression for the three divine aspects



<b>Scorpio:</b>	<b>the Scorpion</b>
<b>Element:</b>	Water sign
<b>Quality:</b>	Conflict. Test. Trial. Triumph. Points of crisis. Moments of reorientation. Turning point in the life of humanity and of the individual. Hercules became the triumph disciple in Scorpio.
<b>Traits:</b>	<b>Negative traits:</b> jealousy, secretiveness, resentfulness, controlling or manipulating, moodiness. <b>Positive traits:</b> determination, fearlessness, loyalty, ambition, intuition.
<b>Esoteric Concepts:</b>	The mind takes control and the battle waged is mental; test, trial, then triumph; the conflict of duality overcomes desire and illusion.
<b>Polar Opposite:</b>	Taurus, an earth sign (desire, and growth of the soul light).
<b>Rulers:</b>	Exoteric, Pluto/Mars; Esoteric, Mars
<b>Keywords:</b>	
<b>form angle:</b>	Let Maya flourish and let deception rule.
<b>soul angle:</b>	Warrior am I and from the battle I emerge triumphant.



# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Twelfth Labor

Within the sacred Council Chamber, the great Presiding One revealed unto the Teacher the Will of What Must Be.

*"Lost he is, and found; dead, yet vibrant with Life. The server becomes the saviour, and homeward turns."*

The Teacher pondered; then he called for Hercules.

*"Before the last gate now you stand," the Teacher said, "One labor yet remains before the circle is complete, and liberation is attained. Proceed to that dark place called Erytheia where Great Illusion is enthroned where Geryon, the monster of three heads, three bodies and six hands, is lord and king. Unlawfully he holds a herd of dark red cattle. From Erytheia to our Sacred City must you drive this herd. Beware of Eurytion, the shepherd, and his two-headed dog, Orthrus." He paused. "One caution I can give," he added slowly. "Invoke the aid of Helius."*

Through Gate the Twelfth the son of man who was also the Son of God departed, in search of Geryon he went.



# Labor XII - Capture of the Red Cattle of Geryon

⌘ Hercules sets off to rescue the Red Cattle, held unlawfully

- He heeds his Teacher's advice, and first stops at a Temple
- Making offerings to Helios, the god of fire in the sun.
- A golden chalice falls before his feet; he uses it to cross the seas

⌘ He finds the grazing cattle, guarded by the shepherd & dog

- He kills the 2-headed dog Orthrus, but spares the shepherd's life
- And then the monster Geryon appears, breathing fire from his 3 heads
- Hercules attacks with an arrow to the side, piercing all 3 bodies

⌘ Then he finds himself a shepherd, driving the cattle

- They stray over and over again, and he rounds them up
- He defends them against raiders and monsters before he succeeds

⌘ Finally returning home, he faces his Teacher again

- He's told by facing these 12 labors the "jewel of immortality" is his
- The human labors ended, his cosmic tasks begin



# Labor XII - Meaning of the Myth

- ⌘ The 2-headed dog represents lower instincts & psychic nature
  - These are the matter aspect that must be slain
  - When deprived of power they no longer influence us
- ⌘ The red cattle represent the lower desires
  - Aspirants rise above them by driving them to the Sacred place
- ⌘ The monster Geryon represents the 3 personality aspects
  - They need to be rendered pure for the soul
  - This purified form is the golden cup or Holy Grail
  - Enables the Initiate to ascend into spiritual realms
- ⌘ The shepherd is the mind
  - The mind is spared and retrained to do right
  - This is what Christ did, shepherding his unruly flock
  - The World Savior, lifting up Humanity



# What Does it Mean to be a Savior?

- ⌘ From the angle of the soul, the keywords for Pisces:
  - I leave my Father's home and turning back, I save
- ⌘ Hercules sees humanity owned by a “monster”
  - The personality (mental, emotional, physical bodies united)
  - But not yet under the influence of the soul
- ⌘ Jesus, a human who is en rapport with his soul
  - Like Hercules, becomes that beacon of light to humanity
  - Both men holding their minds “steady in the light”
- ⌘ Even as aspirants, we redeem the lives of Elementals
  - Appropriation of our vehicles from certain elemental matter
  - As we flood our own consciousness with light, it transforms them too



# Labor XII - The Journey

- ⌘ Pisces rules the feet, a symbol of the Path
  - Also death or transformation of various aspects
    - ✓ Like the personality and the illusions that veil the soul
- ⌘ Three signs are those of salvation
  - Leo - work out your own salvation
  - Sagittarius - losing self by silently serving
  - Pisces - the World Savior
- ⌘ We find the most exalted symbol in this last labor
  - He placed the cattle in the cup, the Holy Grail, in offering
  - Showing that all of his animal nature had been transcended
- ⌘ The character and nature of the disciple
  - Has been tested and tried until qualities have been redeemed
  - His personality has been transformed to reveal the Soul
  - He becomes a member of the New Group of World Servers



<b>Pisces:</b>	<b>the Fish</b>
<b>Element:</b>	Water sign
<b>Quality:</b>	Duality. Fluidity endowed with instinctual consciousness. Mediumistic. Polarized mind unawakened. Intuition dormant. Death of the personality. Release of the soul from captivity. Christ, the World Savior.
<b>Traits:</b>	<b>Negative traits:</b> escapism, idealism, over-sensitivity, pessimism, laziness. <b>Positive traits:</b> imagination, kindness, compassion, intuition, a sensitive nature.
<b>Esoteric Concepts:</b>	Lower psychic powers transmuted into higher spiritual faculties (mediumship into mediatorship, clairvoyance into spiritual perception, clairaudience into mental telepathy); death of all attachments and liberation of the soul for service.
<b>Polar Opposite:</b>	Virgo, an earth sign (matter; Christ in the cave of the heart).
<b>Rulers:</b>	Exoteric, Neptune/Jupiter; Esoteric, Pluto.
<b>Keywords:</b>	
<b>form angle:</b>	Go forth into matter.
<b>soul angle:</b>	I leave my Father's home and turning back, I save.

# From the Faculty

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- Thank you for participating, & hope you enjoyed it
- We welcome any feedback you might have
- The next Labors of Hercules webinar will be on **7 August**