

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 labors are a synthetic picture of a disciple's work
  - ✓ From the mental plane, through the emotional plane
  - ✓ And out into physical plane manifestation
- It is a work that can be arduous, slow
  - ✓ And carried forward under great difficulties
  - ✓ Often done in blind ignorance of forces released, results achieved
- But step by step each aspirant is led along the path
  - ✓ Learning about 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.
- So progress isn't limited to just disciples
  - ✓ We all have each sign in our chart so work with all 12 to some degree
  - ✓ So we need to better understand the lessons each sign confers
  - ✓ And Hercules' journey through the signs shows us that



# A Little about the Earth Signs

- Exoterically, earth is practical, stable, dependable
  - ✓ But may be too cautious
- Esoterically, keys are desire & material expression
  - ✓ Taurus is desire for experience, satisfaction, knowledge
  - ✓ Virgo is desire for expression and spiritual desire
  - ✓ Capricorn is desire for liberation and service to others
- They are feminine, like the Water signs
  - ✓ Yin energy; passive, receptive, containing
  - ✓ They represent the night; related to the 2-4-6 ray line
- They are compatible with Water signs
  - ✓ Work out the issues of their axes relationships
  - ✓ Through Trine & Sextile, favorable aspects



# The Myth



# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Second Labor

*The presiding One spoke to the Teacher of the man whose light shone forth among the sons of men, who are the sons of God.*

*“Where is the man who stood with power before the Gods, received their gifts and entered through the first wide open Gate to labor at his task?”*

*“He rests, Oh, great presiding One, and ponders on his failure, and mourns for Abderis, and seeks for help within himself.”*

*“It is well. The gifts of failure guarantee success, when rightly understood. Let him proceed to labor once again, enter the second Gate, returning with dispatch.”*

*The second Gate stood open wide and, from the light which veiled the distant scene, a voice emerged and said: “Pass through the Gate. Proceed upon thy way. Perform thy labor and return to me, reporting on the deed.”*



# Labor II - The Capture of the Cretan Bull

## ♉ Still sad, Hercules embarked on his 2<sup>nd</sup> labor

- To find and lead the sacred bull to the Holy Place
- To navigate the maze & save the bull from sacrificial death
- He was guided by the gleaming star on the bull's forehead

## ♉ This task he did alone

- At times he rode the bull, at times he carried it on his back
- Taking it to the three Cyclops in the Holy Place
- Walking in the light
  - ✓ The star on the bull's forehead represented Aldebaran
  - ✓ The eye of the bull, illumination



# Labor II - Meaning of the Myth

- ♈ In working out the Plan, desire follows thought impulse
  - Mental consciousness is succeeded by sensitivity
  - The potency of desire is tested here, a lesson of proportion & restraint
    - ✓ For a long time the disciple fails and is ridden by the bull of desire
    - ✓ Before rising above desire into the guiding light of the Soul
  
- ♈ The key is right understanding of the Law of Attraction
  - The law of magnetic force & coherence of forms
  - It produces stability & the persistence of forms
    - ✓ Between positive & negative, Spirit & matter, the Self & not-self
  - Concerns the interrelation between the builder & the form
    - ✓ The bull represents the creative force



# Labor II - The Journey

- ♉ **The strong urge and potency of attraction**
  - Produces the great illusion
  - But can eventually become the cause of illumination
  
- ♉ **Hercules has to learn the nature of desire**
  - To transmute it into aspiration
  - To dominate sex
    - ✓ The lowest expression of the Law of Attraction
  - And use it rightly (capture the bull)





|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Taurus:</b>            | <b>the Bull</b>   |
| <b>Element:</b>           | Earth sign  |
| <b>Quality:</b>           | Desire, for the mass of men; will or directed purpose, for the disciple.  |
| <b>Traits:</b>            | Negative traits: stubbornness, self-indulgent behavior, laziness, materialistic, possessiveness. Positive traits: dependability, practicality, patience, independence, persistence. |
| <b>Esoteric Concepts:</b> | Illumination; applying knowledge & experience toward spiritual aspirations; the wish to overcome the baser desires by transmuting them into love for humanity.                      |
| <b>Polar Opposite:</b>    | Scorpio, a water sign (conflict of duality, desire overcome; triumphant discipleship).  |
| <b>Rulers:</b>            | Exoteric, Venus; Esoteric Vulcan.   |
| <b>Keywords:</b>          |   |
| <b>form angle:</b>        | Let struggle be undismayed.   |
| <b>soul angle:</b>        | I see and when the Eye is opened, all is illumined.   |

# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Sixth Labor

The great Presiding One called unto him the Teacher watching over Hercules. “The time is drawing near,” he said, “how fares the son of man who is a son of God? Is he prepared again to venture forth and try his mettle with a foe of a different sort? Can he now pass the 6<sup>th</sup> great Gate?”

And the Teacher answered: “Yes.” He was assured within himself that when the word went forth the disciple would arise to labours new, and this he told the great Presiding One within the Council Chamber of the Lord.

And then the word went forth. “Arise, O Hercules, and pass the sixth great Gate.”

Another word likewise went forth, though not to Hercules, but unto those who dwelt upon the shores of the great sea. They listened and they heard.



# Labor VI - Seizing the Girdle of Hippolyte

♊ Hippolyte was the queen of women

- She wore a girdle, a gift from Venus
  - ✓ A symbol of unity achieved through struggle
  - ✓ Also of motherhood and the sacred Child within
- All women were her vassals & warriors, worshiping the Moon & Mars
  - ✓ Annually they haunted and used men
- After much consideration, she freely offered the girdle to Hercules

♊ Hercules fought her, failing to see her outstretched hands

- He was aghast at what he'd done
- Admonished by his teacher for killing the mother of the sacred child

♊ Had to redeem himself & save a life for the one taken

- So he rescued Hesione and balanced his previous deed of death
- By doing so, he learned wisdom, balance & how to walk with God



# Labor VI - Meaning of the Myth

♍ This, like Leo, is a cave experience

- The womb of time; a warm, quiet, deep experience
- Realization that latent within us is the Christ child

♍ Involves war between sexes inherent in human duality

- Also involves recognizing the need for unity and love
- Annual sorties of the Amazons involved sex without love
  - ✓ Marrying for money, security, or position are the sins of women
  - ✓ The sin of man was killing or debasing women

♍ Virgo is a synthetic sign

- It concerns the whole goal of the evolutionary process
- To shield and nurture, then finally reveal, the hidden spiritual reality
- To honor the good and revere the spiritual life over material interests



# Labor VI - The Journey

- ♍ This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the disciple signs
- depicting preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> initiation
  - birth of the Christ in the heart
- ♍ He initially failed the labor, showing that
- a disciple must never be off guard, errors can be made
  - his virtues can become his problems
  - even a high initiate, son of God, can drop back on the path
- ♍ His failure is only temporary
- consequences are delay as he fails to get the spiritual mission
  - but fresh opportunities occur



|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Virgo:</b>             | <b>the Virgin</b>  |
| <b>Element:</b>           | Earth sign   |
| <b>Quality:</b>           | The unique service in Virgo is that both the form and the spirit are nurtured, shielding “Christ in you the hope and glory.”   |
| <b>Traits:</b>            | <b>Negative traits:</b> overcritical, fastidious, harsh, too conservative, judgmental. <b>Positive traits:</b> attention to detail, intelligence, practicality, analytical ability, reliability. |
| <b>Esoteric Concepts:</b> | Matter nurturing the soul, guardian of the hidden Christ within the depths, darkness, and quiet warmth; nurturing intelligence, wisdom, and pure reason.   |
| <b>Polar Opposite:</b>    | Pisces, a water sign (Christ consciousness revealed as a World Savior).  |
| <b>Rulers:</b>            | Exoteric, Mercury; Esoteric, the Moon.   |
| <b>Keywords:</b>          |  |
| <b>form angle:</b>        | Let matter reign.  |
| <b>soul angle:</b>        | I am the Mother and the Child; I, god, I, matter am.   |

# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Tenth Labor

"The light of life must now shine forth within a world of dark," the great Presiding One declared. "The son of man who is also the son of God must pass through Gate the tenth", he said. "Within this very hour Hercules shall venture forth."

When Hercules stood face to face with him who was his guide, the latter spoke: "A thousand dangers you have braved, O Hercules," the Teacher said, "and much has been achieved. Wisdom and strength are yours. Will you make use of them to rescue one in agony, a prey to vast and unremitting suffering?"

The Teacher gently touched the forehead of Hercules. Before the latter's inner eye a vision rose. A man lay prone upon a rock, and groaned. Massive chains bound him. A vulture pecked at his liver. The man uplifted his manacled hands and cried out for help; but his words echoed vainly in the desolation, swallowed by the wind. The vision faded. Hercules stood, as before, at the side of his guide.

"The shackled one whom you have seen is called Prometheus," the Teacher said. "For ages has he suffered thus, and yet he cannot die, being immortal. From heaven he stole the fire; for this he has been punished. The place of his abode is known as Hell, the domain of Hades. Unto Prometheus, O Hercules, you are asked to be a savior."

Having heard and understood, the son of man who was also a son of God, embarked upon this quest, and passed through Gate the tenth.



# Labor X - Slaying of Cerberus, Guardian of Hades

- ♎ Hercules had to do 3 things before descending to hell
  - He had to purify himself,
  - Be initiated into the mysteries
  - He then had to perform an act of service
- ♎ Hercules passed downward, into the underworld
  - This was the binding world of form, stifling, dark, intense
  - He was supported by Athena and Hermes as he crossed the Styx
  - He eventually found Hades, who allowed Hercules to proceed
    - ✓ Provided Hercules only used his bare hands
- ♎ Hercules then sought and confronted Cerberus
  - When that battle was won, he was able to free Prometheus
  - The labor was complete, now light shines in the world of dark





# Labor X - Meaning of the Myth

♊ There are 2 gates of importance

- Cancer, the gate into life, incarnation
- Capricorn, the gate into the Spiritual Kingdom
  - ✓ Where consciousness is centered in the Soul, not form

♊ This myth has 2 areas of emphasis

- The descent into hell to free humanity
- Slaying Cerberus, the 3-headed dog, the 3 lower vehicles
  - ✓ Some variations say he carried Cerberus up to Earth

♊ The 3 heads symbolize sensation, desire, & good intentions

- The dog's tail, made of serpents, symbolized illusion and materiality
- These are problems all humanity faces, but must conquer alone



# Labor X - The Journey

- ☿ Carrying the 3-headed Cerberus up from Hades
  - Portrayal of the elevation of the personality into Heaven
  - The triple-matter aspect, 3-fold lower vehicles
- ☿ Demonstrating mastery of the strengthening tests
  - That enable him to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> initiation
  - He appears before the world as a liberated son of God
    - ✓ Free from the wheel of Rebirth
  - A world savior, able to work in Hell, on Earth, or in Heaven
- ☿ 9 Previous labors were of personal liberation
  - Last three concern world service
  - Important elements of this test are:
    - ✓ Developing a responsible attitude toward Humanity
    - ✓ Learning to kneel in humility before the Divine



|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Capricorn:</b>         | <b>the Goat</b>   |
| <b>Element:</b>           | Earth sign  |
| <b>Quality:</b>           | Extreme characteristics of the worst and best type. Ambition. Crystallization. Struggle overcome. Transfiguration. Initiate consciousness. The Unicorn of God.          |
| <b>Traits:</b>            | <b>Negative traits:</b> too cautious, pessimism, stubbornness, self-centered, detached. <b>Positive traits:</b> practicality, ambition, prudence, discipline, patience. |
| <b>Esoteric Concepts:</b> | Spiritual attainment, spiraling up to a wider field of awareness; transfiguration, where the head and heart meet, and the soul finally controls the form.               |
| <b>Polar Opposite:</b>    | Cancer, a water sign (first door to incarnation).   |
| <b>Rulers:</b>            | Exoteric, Saturn; Esoteric, Saturn  |
| <b>Keywords:</b>          |   |
| <b>form angle:</b>        | Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide.  |
| <b>soul angle:</b>        | Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.  |

# From the Faculty

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- Thank you for participating, we hope you enjoyed the webinar
- This is a marvelous opportunity to establish group cohesion and foster discussion among your fellow students
- We appreciate your patience and persistence, and welcome any feedback you might have
- The next Labors of Hercules webinar will be on 19 Oct