

MORYA FEDERATION
ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION



Welcome to the Great Quest Student Webinar Series

Webinar 9 - Esoteric Astrology

The Labours of Hercules (Leo to Scorpio)

BASED ON ARTICLES BY ALICE A. BAILEY

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(*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 Next 4 Signs are a Struggle for Achievement

- The tremendous battle through the medium of which the Self-conscious individual, emerging out of the mass in Cancer:
 - ✓ knows himself to be the individual in Leo,
 - ✓ The potential Christ in Virgo,
 - ✓ the aspirant endeavoring to balance the pairs of opposites in Libra,
 - ✓ and the one who overcomes illusion in Scorpio.
- These are the four signs of crisis and of stupendous endeavor, where all the illumination, intuition & soul power capabilities are needed
- These were also reflected on the involutionary arc when:
 - ✓ the soul achieved individuality in Leo,
 - ✓ became the nurturer of ideas and of potential capacities in Virgo
 - ✓ swung violently from one extreme to the other in Libra,
 - ✓ and was subjected to the disciplining effect of the world of illusion and form in Scorpio.



The First 5 Labors

- *“We might regard the first five labors (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer and Leo) as covering the entire period of the Path of Probation, and the killing of the Nemean Lion is the climax of that part of the struggle.*
- *Now he is ready to tread the Path of Discipleship, in which the indwelling Christ is gradually revealed, matter is steadily subordinated to the uses of the soul, and the form aspect comes to be regarded simply as the mother of the Christ Child.”*



The Myth



Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Fifth Labor

The great Presiding One said to the Teacher who stood close to his hand within the Council Chamber of the Lord: *"The time for a dread labour now draws near. This man, who is a son of man and yet a son of God, must be prepared. Let him look well unto the weapons that he owns and let him burnish bright his shield, and dip his arrows in a lethal brew, for dire and dread is the labour just ahead. Let him prepare."*

But Hercules, resting from his labours, wot not the trial which lay just ahead. He felt his courage strong. He rested from his labours, and time and time again, past the fourth Gate he chased the sacred doe clear to the temple of the Lord. Thus time and time again, he placed the doe upon his heart and sought the temple of the Lord. Thus rested he.

Before the fifth great Gate stood Hercules, armed to the teeth with all the gifts of war and warriors, and as he stood the watching gods marked his firm step, his eager eye, his ready hand. But deep within his heart was questioning.

"What do I here?" he said. *"What is the test and wherefore do I seek to pass this Gate?"* and speaking thus he waited, listening for a voice. *"What do I here, O Teacher of my life, armed, as you see, with the full panoply of war? What do I here?"*

"A call has sounded forth, O Hercules, a call of deep distress. Your outer ears have not responded to that call, and yet the inner ear knows well the need, for it hath heard a voice, aye, many voices, telling you of need and urging you to venture forth. The people of Nemea seek your aid. They are in deep distress. Word of your prowess has gone forth. They seek that you should kill the lion that devastates their land, taking its toll of men."



Labor V - The Slaying of the Nemean Lion

Ω Now it was time for a “dread” labor

- Hercules felt strong & courageous, armed with gifts of weapons
- And went to Nemea to slay the lion terrorizing the area
- Realizing they were weighing him down, he dropped all weapons
- Keeping only a club made by his own hands, and a bow & arrows

Ω He sought the lion for days and days before finding it

- And shot arrow after arrow at it, but they failed to pierce the lion

Ω Following the lion to a cave, they faced each other

- He grabbed the lion and choked it to death with his own hands
- Then skinned the lion to show to the Nemeans they were now safe



Labor V - Meaning of the Myth

- Ω Hercules the aspirant symbolized the lion
 - This is why he traditionally wore a lion's skin
 - The lion stands for his coordinated, dominant personality run wild
 - ✓ With the lower vehicles blended & potent beyond average man
 - ✓ A personality can become a difficult, aggressive person
- Ω The personality is self-confident and powerful
 - He can become a devastating force in a family group or society
 - ✓ As he becomes self-aggrandized & asserts himself too strongly
 - Until such time as the aspirant slays the lion of his personality
 - ✓ And rids himself of the sense of I-ness
 - Selfishness has to give way to selflessness
 - The individual self becomes subordinate to the group



Labor V - The Journey

- Ω Equipped from his previous lessons, Hercules
 - Tracks the lion & faces it in a cave
- Ω He demonstrates in this test that
 - He has refocused and coordinated his personality
 - It's characterized by courage, a gift of this sign
 - The lower can be subordinated to the higher
- Ω He becomes identified with the real, spiritual identity
 - Is no longer occupied with his own form
 - Or mental/emotional reactions
 - The personality is overcome
- Ω Through service rendered and sanity of his methods
 - He gives a guarantee of the strength of his purpose



Leo:	the Lion
Element:	Fire sign
Quality:	Sensitivity leading to individual awareness. Self assertion.
Traits:	Negative traits: too headstrong, egoistical, dominating, impatience, arrogance. Positive traits: kindness, a big-heart, optimism, truthfulness, loyalty.
Esoteric Concepts:	The mind and heart united in the will-to-illumine; learning to express spiritual will, purpose and intent.
Polar Opposite:	Aquarius, an air sign (group awareness, world service).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Sun; Esoteric, Sun
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let other forms exist, I am because I am.
soul angle:	I am That and That am I.

The Myth



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 6th 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 1st of the disciple signs
- depicting preparation for the 1st 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



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



The Myth



Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Seventh Labor

The great Presiding One pondered the nature of the son of man who is likewise a son of God. He thought on what was needed to make him still more like unto his Father.

"Another labour must be carried out. Balance he needs, and judgment sound, and preparation for a major test and future service to the race of men. For this, let him prepare with care."

And the Teacher, noting on his tablets the purpose of the coming test, went forth and spoke to Hercules.

"Go forth, my son, and capture the wild boar; salvage a ravaged country, yet take the time to eat."

And Hercules went forth.



Labor VII - Capture of the Erymanthian Boar

Ω The test of the 7th gate was dual

- A test of friendship and a test of courage

Ω So Hercules sought the wild boar

- But he was distracted by his friend Pholos
- And spent too much time drinking and carousing
 - ✓ But the cask of wine wasn't theirs alone to open

Ω The noise drew angry centaurs, all owners of the wine

- Battle ensued; Hercules killed his friends Pholos and Cherion
- He resumed his hunt for the boar
- Finally snaring it, taming it, and driving it down the mountain

Ω He finished the test, but his friends were killed

- He had to reflect on why he killed what he should have loved



Labor VII - Meaning of the Myth

- ♊ Libra is one of the most difficult signs to understand
 - It is Justice, a blind woman holding the scales
 - An interlude, a quiet listening & assessment of the past
 - Are the scales tipping wildly up & down; or balanced?
 - The teacher told Hercules to take his time, to eat
 - ✓ Instead he overdid that and had a drunken orgy
- ♊ It caused a battle where Hercules killed his 2 friends
 - Pholos (bodily strength) and Cherion (good thought)
 - He needed to demonstrate control of the desire nature
 - And that can't be done by sheer strength alone
- ♊ Back at his task, he found the boar in the mountains
 - It is on the mountain top that all great revelations occur
 - Where mists of the valley disappear and illumination comes



Labor VII - The Journey

- ♎ The disciple in Libra envisions ideas and ideals
 - But there ends up being a gap between achievement and ideal
 - So he must stand and work from the midway point
- ♎ As he views all the good & bad, glamor is weakened
 - He wants to help others relate better; a sense of service is born
- ♎ The labor ended with joy and laughter
 - Joyfulness must take the place of criticism for all servers
- ♎ He had to prove that poise & equilibrium are achieved
 - Indicating he's fit for the tremendous battle ahead in Scorpio
 - This demonstrates his fitness to take the 2nd initiation
 - Concerning the emotional body
 - By balancing the pairs of opposites



Libra:	the Balance
Element:	Air sign
Quality:	Equilibrium. An interlude where duality is known and the life of the soul and form is balanced (law, sex, money).
Traits:	Negative traits: superficiality, detachment, unreliability, too laid-back, indecisive. Positive traits: tact, charm, diplomacy, harmony, balance.
Esoteric Concepts:	Right use of the mind to discriminate between the pairs of opposites & find balance on the narrow razor-edged path between; expressing right values and right human relations.
Polar Opposite:	Aries, a fire sign (subjective, latent consciousness, will to incarnate).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Venus; Esoteric, Uranus; Hierarchical, Saturn
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let choice be made.
soul angle:	I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force.



The Myth



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, separateness, 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



Scorpio:	the Scorpion
Element:	Water sign
Quality:	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.
Traits:	Negative traits: jealousy, secretiveness, resentfulness, controlling or manipulating, moodiness. Positive traits: determination, fearlessness, loyalty, ambition, intuition.
Esoteric Concepts:	The mind takes control and the battle waged is mental; test, trial, then triumph; the conflict of duality overcomes desire and illusion.
Polar Opposite:	Taurus, an earth sign (desire, and growth of the soul light).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Pluto/Mars; Esoteric, Mars
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let Maya flourish and let deception rule.
soul angle:	Warrior am I and from the battle I emerge triumphant.



Recap of Progress through the Signs

- The 4 preparatory signs:
 - he is equipped with the faculty of mind in **Aries**
 - with desire in **Taurus**
 - arrives at his essential duality in **Gemini**
 - enters the Human Kingdom in **Cancer**
- The 4 signs of physical plane struggle:
 - self-consciousness & individualism emerge in **Leo**
 - nurturing of the Christ within in **Virgo**
 - trying to balance the pairs of opposites in **Libra**
 - overcoming illusion in **Scorpio**
- The 4 signs of achievement:
 - going straight for the goal in **Sagittarius**
 - scaling the mount of initiation in **Capricorn**
 - becoming the world server in **Aquarius**
 - and the world savior in **Pisces**

