

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)

# The Three Modes

- These describe our modes of activity, physical qualities of the signs
  - ✓ They establish axes and crosses in the chart
    - ✓ Working out issues via oppositions and squares (hard aspects)
    - ✓ We all have all 12 signs, some are just emphasized more
- Mutable signs are adaptable, versatile, and serving
  - ✓ But may be too inconsistent
  - ✓ Esoterically they help develop the form life via experience
- Fixed signs are steadfast, stubborn, and determined
  - ✓ But may be too inflexible
  - ✓ Esoterically they develop the soul through crises and tests
- Cardinal signs are forceful, initiating, important
  - ✓ But may lack follow-through
  - ✓ Esoterically they express directed, soul-controlled activity



# The Mutable Signs

- Esoterically, the form life is developed thru incarnation
  - ✓ Gemini is developing control of the opposites
  - ✓ Virgo is nurturing the soul in the heart
  - ✓ Sagittarius is developing one-pointed aspiration
  - ✓ Pisces is developing soul consciousness
- The synthesized axes eventually work out as
  - ✓ Gemini-Sagittarius: establishing control of the opposites and resolving duality into at-one-ment for spiritual use
  - ✓ Virgo-Pisces: nurturing the soul within the heart and bringing it into conscious manifestation



# The Fixed Signs

- Esoterically, activity involves soul development/control
  - ✓ Taurus is developing the soul light
  - ✓ Leo is developing self mastery
  - ✓ Scorpio is resolving conflict/duality, overcoming desire/illusion
  - ✓ Aquarius is developing group awareness and world service
- The synthesized axes eventually work out as
  - ✓ Taurus-Scorpio: using the wisdom of the light of the soul to overcome desire through right thought/action
  - ✓ Leo-Aquarius: self-mastery leading to group awareness and selfless world service



# The Cardinal Signs

- Esoterically, develops directed, soul controlled activity
  - ✓ Aries is the will to do/create, establishing mental control
  - ✓ Cancer is developing intuition and soul sensitivity
  - ✓ Libra is developing balance through mental control
  - ✓ Capricorn is developing spiritual awareness, leading to initiation
- The synthesized axes eventually work out as
  - ✓ Aries-Libra: establishing balance, mental control, and then soul control over the personality
  - ✓ Cancer-Capricorn: honing and nurturing the sensitivity and intuition of the soul in preparation for initiation; where the head and heart meet and the soul controls



# A Little about the Air Signs

- Exoterically, air is intellectual, a good communicator
  - ✓ But may be too detached
- Esoterically, keys are the mind & duality
  - ✓ In Gemini the mind causes duality to be sensed
  - ✓ In Libra the super-mind, duality overcome by equilibrium
  - ✓ In Aquarius the universal mind, duality resolved by synthesis
- They are masculine, like the air signs
  - ✓ Yang energy; outgoing, expressive, and giving
  - ✓ They represent the day; related to the 1-3-5-7 ray line
- They are compatible with Fire signs
  - ✓ Work our the issues of their axes relationships
  - ✓ Through Trine & Sextile, favorable aspects



# The Myth



# Why Study the Hercules Myth?

*“The progress of a world disciple is illustrated in the heavens by the Labours of Hercules through the zodiacal signs. It is as though God had pictured in space his Plan for the working out of the evolution of the human spirit back to its source.”*





# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Third Labor

The great Presiding One, within the Council Chamber of the Lord, had watched the labours of the son of man who is a son of God. He and the Teacher saw the third great Gate, opening before the son of man, revealing a new chance to tread the *Way*.

"Send out the word to guard the sacred tree. Let Hercules unfold the power to search without discouragement, deception or too great a speed. Let perseverance now be called upon. He has done well so far."

And thus the word went forth.



# Hercules turns to his Teacher

"Tell me the way, O Teacher of my soul. I seek the apples and I need them quickly for my use. Show me the quickest way and I will go!"

"Not so, my son", replied the Teacher, "the way is long. Two things alone I will confide to you, and then it is for you to prove the truth of what I say. Remember that the sacred tree is guarded well. Three maidens fair cherish the tree, protecting well its fruit. A dragon with one hundred heads protects the maidens and the tree. Guard thyself well from strength too great for thee, from wiles too subtle for thy comprehension. Watch well. The second thing that I would say to thee is that thy search will carry thee where five great tests will meet thee on the Way. Each will afford thee scope for wisdom, understanding, skill and opportunity. Watch well. I fear, my son, that you will fail to recognize these points upon the Way. But time alone will show; God speed thee in thy search."



# Labor III - The Golden Apples of the Hesperides

## II Hercules was eager and confident as he started

- But he got nowhere for a long time as he searched
- A guide was sent to aid him, but he never realized it
- Then he had a small measure of success killing the serpent
  - ✓ These were smaller tests within the labor, one failed, one passed

## II He continues on, and faces more of the smaller tests

- He encounters and is delayed by following a false teacher
- He is delayed yet again as he stops to help Prometheus
  - ✓ But this is a valuable lesson he learned that service is never a delay
- He continues on and finds Atlas in distress, and aids him
  - ✓ And the Golden Apples are then offered to him, he passed the labor
  - ✓ “The Way to us is always marked by service,” he was told by the 3 sisters



# Labor III - Meaning of the Myth

## II The mystic must add occult knowledge and achievement

- He gains knowledge through his 5 senses
- Opens him up to new fields of awareness
- He becomes a man of action
- But he must also listen for than inner guide, the Soul
  - ✓ His guide Nereus

## II The knowledge must be transmuted to wisdom

- Knowledge is the quest of the senses
- Wisdom is understanding & applying it to problems of life
- Hercules had to integrate his lower self into his higher self
  - ✓ He had to conquer glamor and illusion
  - ✓ Presented as Busiris

## II Despite failures & long delays, Hercules obtains Wisdom

- But only after giving up his search in selfless service



# Labor III - The Journey

## II Hercules's progress

- At first subjective, characterized by thought & desire
- Worked out as expression on the physical plane
- Until he arrives at knowledge about himself as a personality

## II Then he begins gathering the apples of knowledge

- Realizes the duality of man, personality vs Soul
- He must subordinate the personality to the Soul
- By controlling his 3 lower vehicles
  - ✓ Body, desire nature, mind
- And developing his Soul nature
  - ✓ Clarity of perception unaffected by delusion
  - ✓ Love and wisdom
  - ✓ Service to humanity



<b>Gemini:</b>	<b>the Twins</b>
<b>Element:</b>	Air sign
<b>Quality:</b>	Duality. Love-Wisdom. Fluidity. Control of every pair of opposites. The underlying love of Deity reaches our solar system through Gemini.
<b>Traits:</b>	<b>Negative traits:</b> inconsistency, superficiality, indecisiveness, lack of focus, nervousness. <b>Positive traits:</b> versatility, enthusiasm, eloquence, wit, intellect.
<b>Esoteric Concepts:</b>	The intermediary between the soul and body (depicted as the mortal & immortal twin); Dual aspect of the mind as it mediates between the higher and the lower expressions.
<b>Polar Opposite:</b>	Sagittarius, a fire sign (one-pointedness; preparation for initiation).
<b>Rulers:</b>	Exoteric, Mercury; Esoteric, Venus; Hierarchical, Earth
<b>Keywords:</b>	
<b>form angle:</b>	Let instability do its work.
<b>soul angle:</b>	I recognize my other self, and in the waning of that self I grow and glow.

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> initiation
  - Concerning the emotional body
  - By balancing the pairs of opposites



<b>Libra:</b>	<b>the Balance</b>
<b>Element:</b>	Air sign
<b>Quality:</b>	Equilibrium. An interlude where duality is known and the life of the soul and form is balanced (law, sex, money).
<b>Traits:</b>	<b>Negative traits:</b> superficiality, detachment, unreliability, too laid-back, indecisive. <b>Positive traits:</b> tact, charm, diplomacy, harmony, balance.
<b>Esoteric Concepts:</b>	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.
<b>Polar Opposite:</b>	Aries, a fire sign (subjective, latent consciousness, will to incarnate).
<b>Rulers:</b>	Exoteric, Venus; Esoteric, Uranus; Hierarchical, Saturn
<b>Keywords:</b>	
<b>form angle:</b>	Let choice be made.
<b>soul angle:</b>	I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force.

# Hercules faces the Presiding One for His Eleventh Labor

Within the Place of Peace the Great Presiding One poured forth the radiance of his exalted thought. The Teacher drew nigh. "The single flame must light the other forty-nine," the Great Presiding One affirmed.

"So be it," the Teacher answered. "Having lit his own lamp Hercules now must bring the Light to others." Not long thereafter, the Teacher summoned Hercules.

"Eleven times the wheel has turned, and now you stand before another Gate. For long you have pursued the light which flickered first uncertainly, then waxed to a steady beacon, and now shines for you like a blazing sun. Turn now your back upon the brightness; reverse your steps; go back to those or whom the light is but a transient point, and help them make it grow. Direct your steps to Augeas whose kingdom must be cleansed of ancient evil. I have spoken."

Hercules went forth through the 11<sup>th</sup> Gate in search of Augeas the king.



# Labor XI - Cleansing the Augean Stables

⚡ The stables hadn't been cleaned in years

- Fields were fallow, as nothing could grow
- Noxious fumes were making the people ill

⚡ King Augeaus eyed Hercules suspiciously

- But he welcomed Hercules to try and fulfill his boast
- Promising Hercules a reward of 1/10<sup>th</sup> the king's cattle if he succeeded
- Or his life and fortune if he failed

⚡ Standing by 2 nearby rivers, an idea inspired Hercules

- He diverted the rivers, letting them clean out the muck
- And in one day, accomplished his task

⚡ King Augeaus claimed it was a trick, a plot against the king

- So he gave Hercules no reward and banished him from the realm



# Labor XI - Meaning of the Myth

⚡ As an initiate, endowed with a lot of common sense

- Hercules contemplated the problem at hand
  - ✓ The filth represents accumulated dross man had created
  - ✓ On the mind, emotional, and physical levels
  - ✓ This filth creates separateness
- He broke down barriers by using 2 rivers to clean the stables
  - ✓ The 2 rivers needed to be released to improve people's lives
  - ✓ They represent the water of life and the river of love

⚡ But there is no appreciation for the advanced worker

- People mistrust or fear things they don't understand
- Yet the advanced worker perseveres anyway

⚡ He can be a Master because he has learned to serve

- And can serve because he is a Master



# Labor XI - The Journey

## ⚡ Unselfish Service, Group Work, and Self- Sacrifice

- The hallmark of the Initiate
- Ready for universal tests, no longer personal or individual
- They demonstrate inclusiveness of the consciousness
- And vastness of the methods employed

## ⚡ By pouring out the cleansing waters

- He symbolically offered his service to humanity
- Via a menial labor
- Showing the importance of the service itself
  - ✓ Not the nature of that service

## ⚡ No reward was forthcoming - it was an act of Service



# What is Service?

- ⚡ TWM p204 tells us right motive leads to right service
  - An expression of love to the family, Master's group, and nature
  - Lead to service to Humanity and consciousness of the Plan
- ⚡ DINA II p24 defines it as a scientific process
  - Calling for full expression of soul powers on the physical plane
  - Drawing of all resources of spiritual strength and wisdom in service
  - Although some of world's greatest servers do so instinctively
    - ✓ Their brain consciousness is unaware of the Hierarchy/Plan
    - ✓ Just as some esoteric students study too much without serving
- ⚡ DINA II p514 suggests it's a matter of attitude -
  - Of personality to the soul (self-control)
  - Of integrated man to Humanity (service)
  - Of the Disciple to the Hierarchy (intuitional sensitivity)





<b>Aquarius:</b>	<b>the Water Carrier</b>
<b>Element:</b>	Air sign
<b>Quality:</b>	Will to serve, first the lower self, then the higher self. World service. Individual consciousness transmuted into group consciousness.
<b>Traits:</b>	<b>Negative traits:</b> unpredictable, inconsistent, detached, stubborn. <b>Positive traits:</b> friendliness, humanitarianism, intelligence, inventiveness, independence.
<b>Esoteric Concepts:</b>	Distributing the energies of life and love (group awareness, group responsibility, universal consciousness, universal relationships); unselfish service.
<b>Polar Opposite:</b>	Leo, a fire sign (individual awareness, urge toward self-knowledge, eventual self-mastery preparatory to selfless service).
<b>Rulers:</b>	Exoteric, Uranus, Esoteric, Jupiter.
<b>Keywords:</b>	
<b>form angle:</b>	Let desire in form be the rule.
<b>soul angle:</b>	Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.

# Recap of Why we 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.*



# 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**



# Recap of Hercules on the Path

- He sets out confident
  - ✓ little realizing the magnitude of his task
  - ✓ unprepared for failure
  
- He's not only impulsive, but is not always successful
  - ✓ he fails and has to redo some labors
  - ✓ or in some cases finishes, but badly
  
- He is still susceptible to glamor and illusion
  - ✓ but he is solidly on the Path of Discipleship
  - ✓ set on performing 12 acts of service for Humanity



# Recap of 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 its implications for all of us in our journey



# From the Faculty

**MORYA FEDERATION**  
ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION



- Thank you for participating in the Great Quest Year 1 webinar series
  - ✓ We hope you enjoyed the series,
  - ✓ And will revisit them via the recordings found at
    - <http://makara.us/04mdr/webinars/st.html>
- We hope these webinars have helped you understand the Great Quest study material better and also helped you establish some group cohesion and foster discussion among your fellow students
- The Great Quest Year 2 webinar series will begin in Jan 2016