

# The Myth



# 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 can drop back on the path

♍ His failure is only temporary

- consequences are delay as he fails to understand 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.

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# Labor VII – Capture of the Erymanthian Boar

☞ The test of the 7<sup>th</sup> gate was dual

- A test of friendship and a test of courage

☞ 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

☞ 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

☞ 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

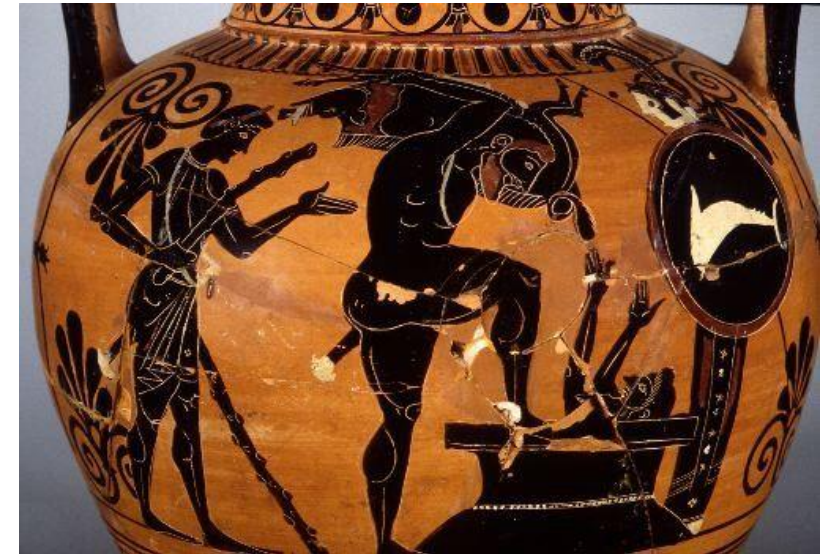
- It is Justice, a blind woman holding the scales
- An interlude, a quiet listening & assessment of the past
- Are the scales tipping wildly up & down; or balanced?
- The teacher told Hercules to take his time, to eat
  - ✓ Instead he overdid that and had a drunken orgy

♎ 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.

# The Myth



# 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)



Scorpio Labor  
LoH p 140-154

# 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, resentment, 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.