



Welcome to the Esoteric Astrology Series

The Labours of Hercules

An Astrological Interpretation

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 a disciple is illustrated in the heavens
 - by the Labours of Hercules through the zodiacal signs.
- But the progress isn't limited to just disciples
 - We all can better understand the lessons of each sign
 - By reading about Hercules' journey through the signs
 - We all have each sign in our chart
 - Some signs are better represented than others, but all are there
 - We start off learning about the lower expressions of each sign
 - And eventually begin to face the lessons Hercules recapitulates for us in his symbolic journeys

LoH p 205

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
 - And it's implications for all of us in our journey



The Myth



Labor I – The Capture of the Man-Eating Mares

- ♈ The mares of war were ravaging the land
- Hercules' task was to rescue the people from these wild mares
 - He brought his beloved friend Abderis with him
 - They carefully planned & executed the capture of the mares



- ♈ Cocky & arrogant, Hercules had Abderis drive them in
- Abderis lost control, was killed, & the mares were freed
 - Humbled, grief stricken & discouraged, Hercules redid the task
 - He was successful this time, and proclaimed a hero
 - But Abderis was dead because of Hercules' arrogance
 - The task was badly done
 - But the gifts of failure guarantee success, if rightly understood

Aries Labor
LoH p 27-38

Labor I – Meaning of the Myth

- ♈ The 1st labor marks the 1st step upon the path
- The life of inner unfoldment of the Soul & life of service begin
 - Brings about reorganization, reorientation, regeneration
- ♈ It is a sign of learning mental control
- Right direction, right orientation, right thought
 - The horse stands for intellectual activity
 - ✓ White horses symbolize the illumined mind
 - ✓ Black horses represent the lower mind, false ideas, wrong concepts
- ♈ The task was to destroy wrong mental attitudes & ideas
- Capture the female aspect of mind so no more mares are bred
 - Stifle selfishness, unkindness, gossip, criticism



Aries Labor
LoH p 27-38

Labor I – Journey

- ♈ Through the capture of the Man-Eating Mares
 - We see Hercules make his start and react to thought impulse
 - ✓ But he's dealing with it from the angle of his personality (represented by Abderis in the Myth)
 - Until he begins to learn something of mind control
 - ✓ How to corral evil thought forms
 - ✓ And use the mind positively under Soul influence
- ♈ As the intelligent disciple, he started his journey
 - Beginning with an undefined spiritual urge to righteousness
 - And eventually he'll end as the world savior



Aries Journey
LoH p 225

Aries:	the Ram
Element:	Fire sign
Quality:	Initiating. Beginnings. Will or Power expresses itself through the great creative processes. In the early stages, activities are directed toward the material side of life; later toward the spiritual.
Traits:	Negative traits: arrogance, stubbornness, impulsiveness, confrontational attitude, a tendency to leave projects mid-way. Positive traits: courageousness, liveliness, a positive outlook, mental acumen, adventurous spirit.
Esoteric Concepts:	Learning the right use of the mind and life force with unselfish intent, and gaining control over wrong thought, wrong speech, and wrong action.
Polar Opposite:	Libra, an Air sign (balance).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Mars; Esoteric, Mercury.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let form again be sought.
soul angle:	I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule.

Summary of Aries LoH p 211

The Myth



Labor II - The Capture of the Cretan Bull

- ♈ Still sad, Hercules embarked on his 2nd 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



Taurus Labor
LoH p 39-53

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, 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



Taurus Labor
LoH p 39-53

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)



Taurus Journey
LoH p 225

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

Summary of Taurus LoH p 211

The Myth



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



Gemini Labor
LoH p 54-76

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 the 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



Gemini Labor
LoH p 54-76

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 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



Gemini Journey
LoH p 225

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

Summary of Gemini LoH p 211

The Myth



Labor IV – The Capture of the Doe or Hind

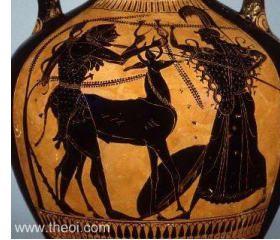
- ⑥ Hercules starts his journey in deep silence
 - He watched and listened
 - Heard quarreling voices of Artemis & Diana, both claiming the doe
 - He also heard a 3rd voice, asking him to rescue & save the doe
- ⑥ He chased the doe, hindered by both Artemis & Diana
 - For a year this went on, until he 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
- ⑥ Done, he looked & saw a fawn where the doe once stood
 - Again & again the fawn must be brought to the holy place



Cancer Labor
LoH p 77-94

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



Cancer Labor
LoH p 77-94

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



Cancer Journey
LoH p 225

Cancer:	the Crab
Element:	Water sign
Quality:	Mass sensitivity; for the average man, mass identification with form. For the disciple, service for the masses.
Traits:	Negative traits: moodiness, being too clingy, over emotionalism, suspicion, tendency to nag. Positive traits: imagination, intuition, loving compassion, protectiveness.
Esoteric Concepts:	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.
Polar Opposite:	Capricorn, an earth sign (spiritual awareness after struggle; birthplace of the Christ).
Rulers:	Exoteric, the Moon; Esoteric, Neptune.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let isolation be the rule, and yet the crowd exists.
soul angle:	I build a lighted house and therein dwell.

Summary of Cancer LoH p 211

The Myth



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



Leo Labor
LoH p 95-111

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 personality run wild
 - ✓ 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
 - ✓ And 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



Leo Labor
LoH p 95-111

Labor V – The Journey

- ∞ Equipped from his previous lessons, Hercules
 - Tracks the lion & faces it in a cave
- ∞ 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
- ∞ He becomes identified with the real, spiritual identity
 - Is no longer occupied with his own form
 - Or mental/emotional reactions
 - The personality is overcome
- ∞ Through service rendered and sanity of his methods
 - He gives a guarantee of the strength of his purpose



Leo Journey
LoH p 226

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.

Summary of Leo LoH p 212

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,
 - ✓ Worshipping 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



Virgo Labor
LoH p 112-124

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



Virgo Labor
LoH p 112-124

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 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



Virgo Journey
LoH p 227

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.

Summary of Virgo LoH p 212

The Myth



Labor VII – Capture of the Erymanthian Boar

- ⌚ The test of the 7th 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



Libra Labor
LoH p 125-139

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



Libra Labor
LoH p 125-139

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 Journey
LoH p 227

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.

Summary of Libra LoH p 213

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



Scorpio Labor
LoH p 140-154

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)



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
- ♏ 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 Journey
LoH p 227

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.

Summary of Scorpio LoH p 213

The Myth



Labor IX – Killing the Stymphalian Birds

- ✘ At Stymphalus the marsh was fetid and the birds cawing
 - They were huge, fierce, hideous, with iron beaks and sharp talons
 - Three birds swooped down on Hercules, but he warded them off
- ✘ He failed several times to remove the birds
 - Until he recalled the teacher's words
 - "The flame that gleams beyond the mind reveals direction sure."
 - And a method came to his mind
- ✘ At twilight he clashed cymbals to disturb the huge flock
 - The dissonance was awful, but it confused and scared the birds
 - They rose in a vast cloud and fled in frantic haste, never to return
 - Silence spread across the marsh
- ✘ The labor was successful



Sagittarius Labor
LoH p 155-168

Labor IX – Meaning of the Myth

- ✘ Marshes are a symbol of the mind, amplified by emotion
- ✘ Hercules discovers that he still has an emotional nature
 - Even though he triumphed in Scorpio, he still must control emotions
 - The birds that did the most damage were cruel gossip, selfish talk
 - Even talking about occult troubles when listeners aren't ready
- ✘ The more spirituality you achieve, the more potent you are
 - Thus the more harm you can do
 - The cymbals in the myth represent the mind & power of the Soul
 - The "monkey-mind" thoughts die down when focus is on the Soul
- ✘ Sagittarius is dual, half human/animal or human/Divine
 - Gemini on the same axis is duality; Sagittarius becomes unity
 - Becoming one-pointed, unified, a soul-infused personality



Sagittarius Labor
LoH p 155-168

Labor IX – The Journey

- ✠ One-pointedness is demonstrated
 - This is the consummation of the mental task begun in Aries
 - He demonstrates right use and control of thought and speech
- ✠ By slaying the man-eating birds of Stymphalos
 - He puts an end to all tendency to use thought destructively
 - No more gossip, criticism, or thoughts/words that harm
- ✠ Aspirants must weigh their thoughts carefully
 - Learn to speak kindly to minimize hurting others with words
 - Right use of thought, speech & harmlessness result in liberation
- ✠ We must also learn what not to say
 - Sagittarius is the spirit of Truth
 - Also the spirit of Right



Sagittarius Journey
LoH p 228

Sagittarius:	the Archer
Element:	Fire sign
Quality:	Focused direction. One-pointed activity. In the early stages, satisfaction of desire; in later stages aspiration for the goal of initiation.
Traits:	Negative traits: carelessness, tactless, superficiality, inconsistency, overconfidence. Positive traits: optimism, intelligence, philosophical outlook, generosity, adventurous spirit.
Esoteric Concepts:	Illumination of the spirit of truths (truth of the whole, rather than just a small part); refocusing and reorienting the personality to a higher goal.
Polar Opposite:	Gemini, an air sign (eventual control of fluidity and pairs of opposites; fusion, synthesis, at-one-ment).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Jupiter; Esoteric, Earth.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let food be sought.
soul angle:	I reach that goal and then I see another.

Summary of Sagittarius LoH p 213

The Myth



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 Cereberus
 - When that battle was won, he was able to free Prometheus
 - The labor was complete, now light shines in the world of dark



Capricorn Labor
LoH p 169-179

Labor X – Meaning of the Myth

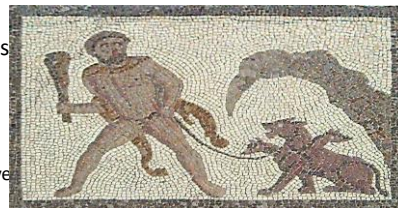
- ♋ There are 2 gates of importance
 - Cancer, the gate into life, incarnation
 - Capricorn, the gate into the Spiritual Kingdom
 - ✓ Where consciousness is centered in the Soul, not form
- ♋ This myth has 2 areas of emphasis
 - The descent into hell to free humanity
 - Slaying Cerberus, the 3-headed 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



Capricorn Labor
LoH p 169-179

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 3rd 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



Capricorn Journey
LoH p 228

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

Summary of Capricorn LoH p 214

The Myth



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 Augeus eyed Hercules suspiciously
 - But he welcomed Hercules to try and fulfill his boast
 - Promising Hercules a reward of 1/10th 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 Augeus claimed it was a trick, a plot against the king
 - So he gave Hercules no reward and banished him from the realm



Aquarius Labor
LoH p 180-194

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
- ⚡ 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



Aquarius Labor
LoH p 180-194

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



Aquarius Journey
LoH p 228

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 with 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)



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

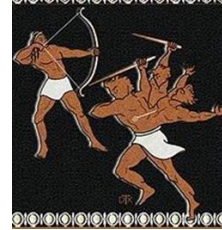
Summary of Aquarius LoH p 214

The Myth



Labor XII – Capture of the Red Cattle of Geryon

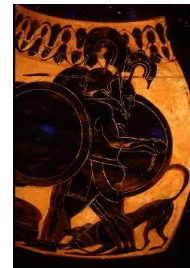
- ✠ Hercules sets off to rescue the Red Cattle, held unlawfully
 - He heeds his Teacher's advice, and first stops at a Temple
 - Making offerings to Helius, the god of fire in the sun.
 - A golden chalice falls before his feet; he uses it to cross the seas
- ✠ He finds the grazing cattle, guarded by 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



Pisces Labor
LoH p 195-204

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



Pisces Labor
LoH p 195-204

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



LOH p198-199

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



LoH p 202 & 229
RI p 768

Pisces:	the Fish
Element:	Water sign
Quality:	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.
Traits:	Negative traits: escapism, idealism, over-sensitivity, pessimism, laziness. Positive traits: imagination, kindness, compassion, intuition, a sensitive nature.
Esoteric Concepts:	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.
Polar Opposite:	Virgo, an earth sign (matter; Christ in the cave of the heart).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Neptune/Jupiter; Esoteric, Pluto.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Go forth into matter.
soul angle:	I leave my Father's home and turning back, I save.

Summary of Pisces LoH p 214