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MORYA FEDERATION
ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION, STUDY AND SERVICE



Student webinar series on The Labours of Hercules

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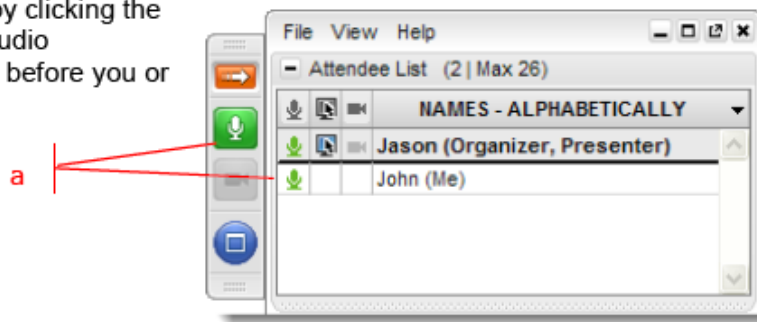


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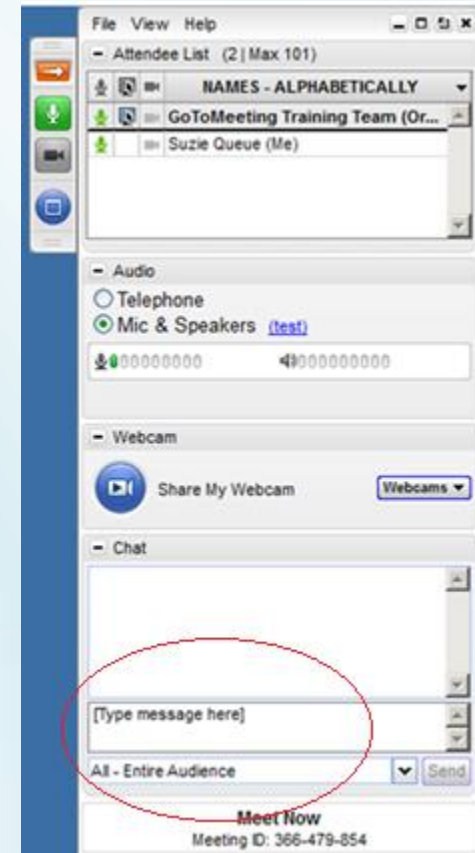


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Some Admin Notes:

- Please expect a brief pause after being addressed
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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)

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Why Study the Hercules Myth?

- The progress of a 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

- 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



Hercules faces the Presiding One

"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 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



What are Initiations?

☿ Initiations are gradual steps into the Spiritual Kingdom

- Form controls man in the *Hall of Ignorance*
- Knowledge is the product of the *Hall of Learning*
- Wisdom is the product of the *Hall of Wisdom*
- Understanding is using knowledge as the foundation for wisdom

☿ They're an expansion of consciousness; evolution of the soul

- First Initiation is the Birth (associated with Ray VII)
 - ✓ Mastery of the physical body/appetites; beginning of Spiritual Path
 - ✓ Awareness of the change, new outlook/interpretation of life events
- Second Initiation is the Baptism (associated with Ray VI)
 - ✓ Mastery of the emotional nature, selfish lower self; duality
- Third Initiation is the Transfiguration (associated with Ray V)
 - ✓ Mastery of the 3-fold lower vehicles, integrated personality
 - ✓ Considered the first real initiation



Capricorn:	the Goat
Element:	Earth sign (as are Taurus and Virgo).
Quality:	Extreme characteristics of the worst and best type. Ambition. Crystallization. Struggle overcome. Transfiguration. Initiate consciousness. The Unicorn of God.
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 I am in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.



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 Cardinal Signs

- Exoterically, they are forceful, initiating, important
 - ✓ But may lack follow-through
 - ✓ Work out their issues via oppositions and squares (hard aspects)
- 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



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



From the Faculty

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- Thank you for participating, & hope you enjoyed it
- We welcome any feedback you might have
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- The next Labors of Hercules webinar will be Feb 15th