

Taming Desire

The 3rd Labor of Hercules



Hercules task in Taurus is to capture the Cretan Bull and bring it to the place of the one-eyed men.

He sets out on this journey this time with a very different energy. He is still suffering from the loss of his friend in the previous labor of Aries; the capturing of the wild horses (the monkey mind), but carries forward to complete the task he has been given.

Hercules finds the bull, chases it down, and overcomes it. He mounts the Cretan Bull and rides it across the sea to the place of the one-eyed men. Upon his arrival he is met by the three Cyclops who take the bull and deliver it to the Holy Place where it is to be set free.

The spiritual task of Taurus is about learning to control the lower nature of our animal desires. Taurus is challenged with the managing of life comforts, desire, sensuality, sex and self-indulgence. The bull itself in this labor represents the lower nature of desire.

The symbolic meaning of Hercules mounting the bull is his ability to tame the animal desire within himself. The Cyclops is a metaphysical one-eyed giant, who in myth, were able to transform matter (the physical) into something useful. In other words, something useful would equal , spiritual purpose.

The one-eye in the center of the Cyclops denotes spiritual insight; the ability to see beyond the material world of form. It also represents the third eye; wisdom, symbolic sight, metaphor and intuition.

The spiritual meaning in this task teaches us to tame the lower nature of desire within; transforming to a higher nature to be used for spiritual purpose.

Contemplative Questions:

- Are your daily actions driven and ruled by desire, or do they arise from the voice of your inner spiritual self?
- Do you find that it is possible to have enough? Or, is the desire to acquire a ceaseless drive?
- Do the comforts of your life make you lazy?
- How do the things that you have in your environment support your spiritual being?
- Does desire create feelings of restlessness, dissatisfaction, or unhappiness for you?
- Do you honor the intuition that presents to you?
- Are you willing to go into the darkness to awaken your wisdom and inner vision?

Teresa