

Spiritual Warrior

Aries

The spiritual warrior set forth in the sign of Aries. His task was to capture a herd of man-eating horses. With great confidence he raced forward. He knew that he was to stop their evil deeds and to rescue the land and the people that lived upon it. He took his friend upon his task. They laid their plans with care, they followed the horses into the marshes and finally they cornered them and tethered them. They thought they had succeeded. The spiritual warrior was overconfident and gave the horses to his friend and commanded him to drive them home, but the friend was weak and feared the task and could not hold the mares. They turned on him, they tore him, killed him, and escaped. The spiritual warrior faced failure in his task and his friend was dead. What is the lesson in this, the first task for the spiritual warrior? It is to know the power of the personality which the man eating horses represented. The friend represents the personality. The personality is not strong enough to control itself. It must be under the impress of the spiritual warrior, the warrior that knows he is the soul.

Taurus

In the sign of Taurus, the spiritual warrior faces the test to capture the bull on the island of Crete. He proceeds upon his way alone. He finds the sacred bull by going to the centre of a maze. He went to the place where one-eyed men dwelled. He chased the bull lead by a gleaming scar which shone upon the forehead of the bull. Eventually he captured the bull and mounted on his back. The seven sisters surrounded him as he rode the bull across the water to the island of Crete. God watched his return as the sisters sang around him. The meaning of this adventure for the spiritual warrior is to understand the law of attraction and the right use and control of matter. He is challenged to make matter subservient to the soul. he's tested in the calibre of his animal nature and his motives and he is tested as to how much attraction sex and the illusions of the material world have on him.

Gemini

The third adventure for the spiritual warrior. This adventure is the capture of the golden apples. The spiritual warrior went in search of a sacred tree of wisdom. On it grew the golden apples desired by all men. The spiritual warrior sought his teacher, but all his teacher would say is that the way was long. "Remember that the tree is guarded by 100 headed dragon, guard yourself from strengths too great for you, from wiles too subtle for your comprehension, the search will carry you through five great tests". Nevertheless the spiritual warrior was confident and went in search. He searched in the north and found another teacher, but he would only give him hints that were of no value. He searched in another direction and was overwhelmed by someone disguised as a serpent. He searched in another direction and found another deceiver who ensnared him in delusions. He searched further and came upon a man chained to a rock. He freed him and lifted his burdens on to his shoulders. Finally, he found the tree and before it stood three beautiful women with three apples.

The meaning of the test: He had to confront his own inadequacies. He had to free himself from emotional illusion. He had to free himself from temporary satisfactions of insight. He had to free himself from the vultures of desire, and finally he was faced by the three aspects of the soul.

Cancer

The fourth test, in the sign of Cancer, is the capture of a female deer. The spiritual warrior went forth with a vision of this doe. In the distance he heard the goddess Artemis claiming the deer as hers. She was arguing with Diana, the huntress of the heavens who claimed the deer as hers. The spiritual warrior went forth and sought the doe, chased the doe from point to point and always it eluded him. He searched for a year from hill to hill; from wood to wood. Finally he wounded it in the foot and captured the doe. He carried it to the temple.

The meaning of this test: The goddess Artemis represents the instinct. Diana represents the intellect. The spiritual warrior was not satisfied with either. Instead he pursued something much more elusive and this is spiritual intuition. He succeeded in this fourth challenge.

Leo

In the sign of Leo the spiritual warrior faced his fifth challenge. This is the slaying of a lion. He was told that a lion ravaged the people of a land and that he should kill the lion. He went forth carrying only a club and his sense of strength and strength of heart. He went from place to place and found all the people terrorised. Finally, he found the lion in a thicket of trees. He shot it with an arrow, but it would not pierce the skin. Then the lion charged him and he charged the lion. The lion ran into the thicket and the spiritual warrior ran after him. Eventually, they came to a cave. The lion ran in and the spiritual warrior ran after him. He found that there were two entrances to the cave and he blocked one of the entrances, then with his bare hands he choked the lion to death.

The meaning: The lion is both the spiritual warrior who knows himself to be the soul and also the powerful separative personality. The cave is the place within the head where the pituitary gland resides. This is also the place of the 3rd eye. The challenge is to choose to use this eye as the eye of the soul rather than the eye of the powerful and integrated personality.

Virgo

The spiritual warrior went forth and in the sign of Virgo had his sixth challenge. The challenge was to seize the girdle of a goddess. This girdle was held by a tribe of amazons with a queen at their midst. Daily they worshipped in the temple of the moon and sacrificed to the god of war. The spiritual warrior charged the group of amazons, saw the girdle given to the queen by Venus, the queen of love. The girdle was a symbol of unity achieved by struggle, conflict and strife, it was a symbol of motherhood and of the sacred child. The spiritual warrior did not understand that the queen was going to give him the girdle. He thought she was about to attack and he killed her. He failed in the task as a spiritual warrior.

The meaning of this test: The amazons represent the physical form. The spiritual warrior must not kill the physical form in order to be the true spiritual warrior. Instead he must honour the form and through honouring the form have a vehicle, a body, an integrated personality which can fight for the soul.

Libra

The spiritual warrior went forth for the seventh time and the task was to capture a wild boar. The spiritual warrior was told that a wild boar ravaged a country and that he was to capture the boar and yet take time to eat. He went simply with his club and on the way he met a group of friends. These were centaurs. One was Pholos and the other was Chiron. He

entered into drinking wine and eating with them, but this wine was sacred wine. When the wine and the party was discovered, a battle ensued and he mistakenly killed his two friends. He continued up the mountain, found the boar and drove it forth.

The lesson of this labour is the lesson of balance. He had to confront his mind symbolised by one of his centaur friends and his physical body symbolised by the other. Killing them was a mistake because the spiritual warrior could not kill out the good thoughts or the good body, but the desires must be taken up to the spiritual Will.

The boar being taken up the mountain symbolized this. He must live in the real world, but he must know that everything in the world is of God.

Scorpio

The spiritual warrior went forth for the 8th time. His challenge in the sign of Scorpio was to destroy a 9-headed hydra living in the swamp. He was given a word of counsel before leaving and it was “we rise by kneeling, we conquer by surrendering, we gain by giving up”. He entered the swamp and was overcome by the smell and by the quicksands, yet he found eventually the place where the beast lived. He dipped his arrows into burning pitch and rained them into the hiding place. All 9 heads emerged and were not killed. He fought the hydra by severing its heads, but they always grew back. Finally, he lifted it up into the air and then the hydra died. The lesson of this test; the 9-headed hydra are the three aspects of the physical plane addictions – sex, comfort and money; the three of the emotional plane addictions of fear, hatred and the desire for power; and the three mental plane addictions of pride, separativeness and cruelty. The spiritual warrior has to raise all of these aspects of addiction into the light of the soul and there they not only are destroyed in their power to control him, but the knowledge he gains also helps others who are similarly addicted.

Sagittarius

The spiritual warrior went forth to the ninth test in the sign of Sagittarius. The task was to kill the Stymphalian birds. These birds had wrecked havoc upon the land, partly through their toxic shit and partly through their sound and their metal beaks. He entered the marsh where the birds lived and was overcome by their horrible sound. Their metal beaks and in their metal talons were dangerous. First he tried to kill them with his arrows, but they seemed to multiply. He remembered what he had been counselled. “The flame that gleams beyond the mind reveals direction sure.” Then he realised his way of defeating them, and he grabbed two large cymbals and brought them together in resonant sound. It was so powerful that they fell dead. He did it twice and then there was silence.

The meaning of this test for the spiritual warrior is the test of cultivating silence; both in terms of what is spoken and also what is thought. The mind is ordinarily a place like a swamp of raucous birds. The mind must be poised and held so that it can hear the note of the soul.

Capricorn

The tenth test is in the sign of Capricorn. This is the challenge to slay the three-headed dog living in hell. The spiritual warrior is challenged to go forth and kill this dog and first he is touched on his forehead by his teacher. This awakens his inner eye. What he sees is a man chained to a rock and vultures are picking out his liver. He is in great pain. The spiritual warrior is told that this is Prometheus who has suffered for ages, since he is immortal. He has stolen the fire from heaven and is being punished. In addition to slaying the dog, the spiritual warrior is to save Prometheus. The spiritual warrior goes down into the intense gloom of the

underworld. He is strengthened by hearing the inner voices of the goddess of wisdom, Athena, and the strengthening words of the god Hermes. At last, he gets to the underworld, kills the dog with his bare hands and releases Prometheus.

The meaning of this test: The spiritual warrior in this test is preparing to aid others. First he has to gain freedom from irritability and selfishness. He has to purify himself and gain freedom from the limitations of matter. He has to go into his own personal hell where he is held in bondage before he can release others who are held in bondage. The three heads of the dog symbolise sensation, desire and good intention. These are what he has to slay within himself in order to be free.

Aquarius

The spiritual warrior then embarks on the 11th test. This is the test of the sign of Aquarius. He is to clean out the Aegean stables. He is told that he is to light his own lamp and bring the light to others and he is told that he is to go to a land called Aegeous and this is plagued by an ancient evil. A king has a herd of cattle which live in stables that have not been cleaned for 30 years, so there is a blight upon the land from the smell and from the diseases. He is told that there will be no reward for doing it. He succeeds in doing it by opening up two rivers to flow through the stables and the torrent sweeps the stables clean.

The meaning of this test: The spiritual warrior must break down all barriers between groups of people, whether they be spiritual groups or countries. He has to engage in teaching people that they are human beings with certain responsibilities. He must cultivate the Aquarian spirit of leaving people free and cultivating the capacity of trust. His purpose is to serve and the two rivers represent what he is channelling into the lives of those he reaches: the water of life and the river of love. We can say that one is the head and the other is the heart.

Pisces

The spiritual warrior went forth in the 12th test – Pisces. The test was to capture the red cattle of Geryon. The spiritual warrior was to go to a land where a three-headed, three-bodied, six-handed monster ruled. He was the king of a dark land where the cattle lived. The cattle were guarded by a shepherd and his two-headed dog. The spiritual warrior was to invoke the aid of the sun, so he began his journey by making offerings to the god of the sun. He meditated for seven days and he was gifted a golden chalice. He went to the kingdom, slayed the two-headed dog and spared the shepherd. He drove the cattle away while evading the wrath of the monster king and eventually killed him with an arrow that pierced all three of his bodies.

The meaning of the labour: He had to kill the dog which represented lower desires and lower mental abilities, but he spared the shepherd who represented the intelligent mind in control of the lower aspects of the self. He captured the cattle which represented the vitality of the personality and brought them under control. He killed the three-bodied king which meant that he gained complete control over all aspects of the personality. The final meaning is that here the spiritual will has complete control over his human nature. Even the soul ceases to be a factor in the life and it is a higher Will being done. This produces the world saviour.