

THE MYTH OF THE MINOTAUR

There was once a very cruel King in Greece. His name was King Minos. Every year, his slaves were forced to send seven girls to him. He sent them to the palace of Crete and gave them as food to a horrible creature, the Minotaur. People used to say they heard their children's voices: "Oh, not my son!" and mothers wept: "My daughter is not going!" and fathers wept.

Once, Minos's son, King Aegeus, visited the beautiful princess and married her. She was named "What was her name?" said his father. "If the children do not go, Minos will destroy you and your!" Theseus came up with an idea. He talked to the ruler of the town. He said, "I will go to Crete and I will kill the Minotaur!" The king begged Theseus to stay, but the prince refused to change his mind. "I'll stay with you", he promised his father. "I'll tell the Minotaur, I will come before you a day with white sails. If I die, the sails will be black." After saying that, he left for Crete.

After many adventures at sea, the ship arrived in Crete. The king's boys and girls were waiting King Minos. He was very happy to see the great hero. Besides him stood his daughters, Ariadne and Phaedra. The children's friend, King Minos, said: "Theseus stand up and walk out blind. I am a prince," he said, "and I will kill the Minotaur!" The king always lets him go first and he was no longer. He was surprised the Minotaur would kill Theseus.

One day night, he met Theseus quietly. "I am here to help you," said Ariadne. "But you must promise to take my name and my with you when you leave Crete."

Theseus said he would be glad to take these with him and asked her what kind of help she could give him. "I'll show you!" Ariadne said. "The Minotaur lives in the middle of a great maze. He always only see these walls. The maze has wall for walls.

You must kill him here!" "How will I find him and kill him?" asked Theseus. Ariadne handed him a ball of string and a sword. "The entrance to the maze is behind that wall. Take the ball of string with you. The way will be the ball. When you see the ball, the string will show you the way to the Minotaur and back. Oh quickly!" Theseus went into the maze, and the string stayed to the entrance door and met the Minotaur. It was a horrible creature with two heads and four legs. The Minotaur

roared and grabbed his hair. Ariadne by his life, pushed his sword into the creature's throat and killed him. Ariadne, followed the string back out of the maze. Another was waiting for him outside with the children. They quickly returned the ship back to Athens. He was so happy that he forgot to change the sails of his ship, so when his father saw the black sails, he thought his son was dead and died of a broken heart.

So it was that Theseus became King of Athens. Many years later, he married Ariadne and they ruled Athens together.

