

# Theseus and the Minotour



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He could hear chains clattering. He couldn't bear to watch any longer. All of them boarding a boat to their death. Some people were sobbing others just stood in silence. He felt their pain. Their stuck, sorrowful, beaten, stomach turning, chest hurting pain. He had to do something. He hated this feeling. He wished that on that specific day that he didn't go out for his daily ride through Athens. He couldn't bear to watch any longer so he started on his way home.

He walked into his beautiful palace to his father sitting at his thrown wearing the most fine toga, debating whether he should have a new room made in his palace or not.

"Oh my son Theseus! Come in! Come in and help me decide if the new room in the palace should be..." His father paused, "Theseus? Why do you look so disturbed? Tell me son, why are your eyes not filled with gladness as they used to be?"

Theseus replied, "Father, there has been a trouble of mine that must be solved."

"Tell me son what is it? Whatever it is you shall have it! I am the one and only King Ageus and if my son wants anything he shall have it!"

"No father. There is a much bigger problem than my wishes and desires. This specific want is quite important not for me but for the people of Athens. I wish for the feeding of the Minotour to be over!" said Theseus declaring his wish.

King Ageus was surprised at the request from his son,

"Son, I am sorry but you know that the Minotour must get his feed whenever he bellows. There is nothing anyone can do about it. You should know that."

"Fine then I will just have to go and murder the Minotour myself!" Theseus declared.

"No my son! Don't! If you do, I shall grieve until the day you come back if you come back!" said King Ageus raising his voice.

"Father, I apologize but I just can't let anyone else die and I promise you, I will return." Theseus stormed out of the thrown room filled with determination leaving his father to grieve alone.

Theseus went back to the harbor to find the rows and rows of prisoners boarding the boat. He found a man trying to convince one of the guards to let him free,

"Please don't put me on this boat! I have a wife and children! I would miss them so much! I can't leave them like this! Please don't make me get on this boat!"

"And some people here have a dying relative or a sick child! I don't care! Orders are orders and unless you want to talk to King Minos about it, I suggest you be silent and get on the boat!" The soldier snapped.

"I will take his place!" Theseus stated.

"What? Oh Prince Theseus!" The soldier gasped, "I apologize for my shouting but this prisoner is being uncooperative and we don't tolerate that here do we?" The soldier said giving the prisoner a evil look.

"I would like to take his place." Theseus repeated.

"What?! I'm sorry, but Prince Theseus I don't think that that is allowed." Said the soldier.

"Are you disobeying me?" Said Theseus sounding annoyed.

"No Prince Theseus I would neve.." said the soldier being interrupted by bothered Theseus.

"Just let me pass and don't make me call my guards." Threatened Theseus.

"Yes Prince Theseus!" Obeyed the soldier.

On the boat Theseus felt that same pain and sadness for the people that he felt that morning on his ride through Athens. He hated watching them be so scared and despairing. This only filled him with more determination and purposefulness. He didn't know how he would do it but he knew that he could kill the Minotour. If only Theseus knew what he was up against.

The boat pulled into the harbor of the Island of Crete. When he got off of the boat Theseus and the prisoners were told to walk strait into the prison. The walk to the prison was quite long.

Theseus' sandals broke and he had to go on without shoes. On the way to the prison the Minotaur bellowed so loud that the ground shook. The prisoners shuddered with fear. For a second Theseus doubted himself but then he got full of spirit. He was unsure of how he could assassinate the Minotaur and he was running out of time.

"I'm free! I'm free! I made it! You will never catch me now!" Hooted one of the prisoners that got out of the line and was sprinting to the water. Just like that, one of the guards darted to the freed prisoner's direction and pinned him down on the sand. The prisoner didn't stand a chance against the tall, strong defenders. Theseus shivered with fear and continued his way to the prison.

Once they finally got to the prison, everyone was in one room with dirt floors and dirt walls. On one side of the prison there was a wall with bars and a door for a key. The people were everywhere. Some were sitting on the ground others were standing. Some were even grabbing the bars yelling for the soldiers to let them out. Whatever the people were doing they were all going mad but then, there was a silence and everyone could hear footsteps echoing towards them. Everyone stopped in their tracks with frozen hearts.

"Ariadne? Oh Ariadne there you are. Come and look over here at the new prison gates that we installed on the prison!" Said a deep voice. Theseus got excited. He had to see what was happening so he inched his way to the front of the prison bars. The other prisoners got so excited that they were all forcing themselves to the prison bars. This made it very strenuous for Theseus. He pushed and shoved but he just couldn't get to the front. So he pushed and he shoved harder and harder until he finally made it to the front with enough time to see the beings.

He saw some prisoners sticking their arms out of the bars to touch the beings or kill them maybe. There was too much space in between them. Theseus saw a girl, a man, and a soldier all looking at the prisoners.

"Calm down, you worthless animals!" The soldier shouted, "I apologize King Minos. This group is much more insane than last batch.

"Father, they are so strange and frightening." Said the girl,

"Well Ariadne, these are the people that are going to be fed to the Minotaur. A.... gift, from King Ageus." Said the king.

"Oh. Father I don't like it here. The prisoners can't remember who is in charge. Can we leave now?"

"If that is what you wish then we shall leave. And guard?"

"Yes, King Minos?"

"Make sure that the prisoners won't ever forget who is in charge again."

"Yes, sir."

"Father!" Yelled Ariadne, "I wish to leave now!"

Ariadne stormed in. She glanced down at Theseus. Theseus had been crouched down but then he stood up and Ariadne instantly fell in love. She saw his muscles and his brown curly hair and at that moment she knew that Theseus was her one and only true love.

"All right darling. I apologize. Good day prisoners."

"Oh father thank you for showing me this today I would have never realized that this could be so...." she said, looking at Theseus, "enchanting.". Theseus had heard of this man before. It was the one and only King Minos and his daughter Princess Ariadne.

That night in Ariadne's room she was thinking about the strong, handsome, young man who she saw in the prison. If she was to marry this man this would go against her father's wishes but she knew that this convict was her one and only love. She couldn't let her father kill this man. She had to do something. But what?

In those hours of darkness when everyone was asleep, Theseus couldn't. He was thinking about his mistake, coming to the labyrinth. He assumed that he would have a plan by now but he didn't. He has failed his father and all of the people. He couldn't let this happen. He was about plan an escape when he heard footsteps.

Theseus' heart stopped. The footsteps were creeping closer and closer. He could hear his heart beating out of his chest. He saw a figure dressed in a black cloak, come to the bars. Theseus was terrified. He almost jumped out of his skin. Was this truly the end for Theseus? Was there really no possible way for Theseus to save the people from the Minotour?

"Prisoner!" Whispered the figure in the black cloak, "Come here to the bars! I bare gifts for you!" "W-w-w-what?" Stuttered Theseus, "I am not a convict. I am a pure soul! I do not deserve to die yet!"

"No, I am not what you think I am. Come to the bars so that I can see your face and you can see mine." Continued the cloaked figure. Theseus was unsure of what to do. If this figure could help Theseus then this could be the only chance for Theseus to save the people and himself. If not then Theseus could be murdered on the spot. He knew that there was only one thing to do. He crept over to the bars, in front of where the figure was standing.

Theseus was very cautious of himself. He stood just out of the figure's reach.

"What is it that you want from me?" Theseus said standing back a bit. The figure took its hood off. Theseus was startled at the sight of who was underneath the hood.

"Princess Ariadne!" Theseus said, astounded as to why she was here.

"Shhhhh!" Hissed Ariadne, "I cannot let anyone know that I am here."

"What is it you want with me? As you said before, you bear gifts for me?"

"Oh yes, here is one of my guards best daggers. You can use it so kill the Minotour." She said uncovering the dagger from her cloak, holding it to Theseus and then snatching it back.

"Not so fast." Said Ariadne sounding suspicious, "I will only give you these items under one condition.... After you slay the Minotour you will run away with me on one of the prison boats and marry me on the island of Crete and spend the rest of your life with me." Said the daydreaming Ariadne.

"No! Never!" Shouted Theseus almost waking one of the prisoners.

"Shhhhhhhh!" Hissed Ariadne, "Alright then. Good luck killing the Minotour without my help," tormented Ariadne.

"No! Please. I will marry you only if you give me these items." Said Theseus feeling stuck and confused. All he knew was that he needed that dagger.

"Alright. I'll see you after you slay the Minotour and come out of the labyrinth and we shall run away together. Here is a ball of thread to guid yourself through the labyrinth." She instructed,

"And don't injure you self too badly or kill yourself, I want an attractive husband when you come out."

Theseus grunted and took the items from Ariadne then laid his head down on the straw on the ground in the prison. He knew that he was going to need a lot of strength in order to slay the Minotour. So he laid his head down and fell into a deep sleep.

"Everyone run!" Shouted one of the prisoner.

"We are all going to die!" Hollered another.

"No we should all stay together!" Loudly suggested yet another. Everyone was running in different directions and some tried to run out of the gates before they closed. It was complete chaos. Theseus didn't know where to go so he went forward with a few others. There was an utter silence. Then there was a strange grunting sound. Everyone stopped in their tracks.

"He's coming screamed one of the men in the front of group. Everyone saw a flash giant creature speed in front of them.

Then, all of a instantaneously we saw a flash of the creature again snatching the man standing in the front right out of his place. We heard a growl and a blood giving scream. Just then all of the noises stopped and we realized that the man was gone forever.

“What should we do!” Yelled a prisoner.

“I don’t know! Just stay together!” Bellowed the man who was now in the front. Then right behind Theseus there was the figure again standing on its back legs. This could only be one thing...The Minotour.

Theseus screamed. His hearts was beating so loudly everyone could hear it. He saw his life flash before his eyes. Then the Minotour grabbed Theseus and took him to a pile of straw. Then ripped him apart.

“Prince Theseus? Prince Theseus.” Heard Theseus.

“Wake up prince, for we are about to leave this life.” The sound was a the sound of a child. Theseus peeped his eyes open. He squinted. The morning light was quite bright. Even though there was only one window in the prison.

“Sir, I saw you struggling in your sleep. It was nothing but a nightmare.” Said the child’s voice again. Theseus opened his eyes fully and saw a small boy with a dirty face.

“My name is Alexander, Sir.” Said the should be mournful but instead was chatty boy, “The guards have come and said to prepare for our death. Its a funny thing to say, you can never prepare for something like that....death. The man said the word as if it meant nothing to him when to us, it is the most important thing in the world....” The boy gazed in thought, “Sorry, there I go again, babbling. My mother used to say that there is nothing you can do to shut me up. I miss her. That sounds selfish of me, missing my mother when some people here are dying or have a family to go back to but still. I can’t help but miss her...There I go again. Here I am talking to a prince that hasn’t said a word.” Apologized Alexander.

“Its alright child.” Forgave Theseus, “How old are you, boy?”

Alexander answered “13 and a half, sir.”

“Only 13?” Hearing this Theseus’s eyes filled with tears. The boy was but only 13 and he was on his way to his death. So young.

“And a half, sir.” Corrected Alexander.

“While you halfwits are sitting here having a nice chat, there is a starving Minotour in there.” Said the annoyed guard, pointing to the gates to the labyrinth . “Now get in there!”

Everyone knew that this was going to be the end of them but what they didn’t know, was that Theseus was there on a quest to save them all. Could he? Would he give up? Would Theseus betray the people? Or will he succeed and save the people from the killing Minotour? All of these questions were circling around in Theseus’s head. He didn’t know what to thing or what to expect. No one has ever came out of the labyrinth to tell the tale. He was terrified but he had the ball of thread and the dagger all he needed now was courage. The soldier opened the gates.

Everyone hesitated to leave the prison. Some tried to escape before entering the labyrinth but failed. All of the prisoners were lined up along the gate. Then the gates slowly creaked open. Theseus smelled a rush of dirt blowing in his face.

The guards behind them shoved them into the labyrinth and everyone was running in different directions trying to get out of there as fast a possible. Some prisoners stayed at the gate hollering at the guards to let him out. Theseus quickly unrolled the ball of thread and started on his way to fine the Minotour.

There was a dim light in the labyrinth from the torches on the walls. Theseus could see separated bones and flesh on the dirt floor. There were blood stains on the walls. The smell was

so strong that Theseus had to hold his nose for a while so that he wouldn't faint. The smell was of corpses and feces. Theseus inhaled the tasted dust and humidity. All of a sudden Theseus heard pounding footsteps coming from behind him.

Theseus felt the cold hands of death wrap around him. He tried to struggle out, but death's grip was too much for Theseus. He jerked around and finally broke free. He immediately turned around, expecting to see the evil Minotour but instead saw an old woman on the ground chanting something.

"We will all die!" Screeched the old woman.

"Old woman, you must stay calm, I will save you. I promise."

"Your promises mean nothing to me. We will all die." The old lady repeated, "And there is nothing you can do about it." She finished disappearing into the dark. Was the old lady right? Theseus couldn't give up now. If he did it would be too late. But then Theseus heard heavily pounding footsteps, grunting and a blood hurdling scream.

Thump! Thump! Thump! Grunt. Ahhhhh! Those sounds were repeating in Theseus's head. What should he do? Should he follow the sound and kill the Minotour then? Or should he let it be and wait for the Minotour to find him? Theseus panicked. Thump! Thump! Thump! Grunt. Ahhhhh! Over and over again. This couldn't possibly get any worse Theseus thought but he was wrong. He heard the same heavy pounding footsteps coming closer and closer. Theseus heard some grunting and sniffing.

He gathered his courage and stood flat against the end of the dirt wall. He slowly turned his head and look around the corner he saw a flash of the other end then quickly swung his head back. Where was the Minotour? For all he knew it could be watching him right then. He cautiously looked up. A giant, gooey drop of saliva dripped all over Theseus.

Theseus quickly drew his blade. He just realized that his weapon was nothing but a dagger. Something as small as this couldn't kill a giant Minotour. It was all he had. He made the most of it and plunged toward the beast.

"Hahaha! You can't kill me with that tiny weapon!" Laughed the Minotour.

The beast can talk?! Thought Theseus.

The voice was nothing. It was just a distraction. If Theseus just ignored it then it would be less of one. Theseus payed no attention to the Minotour and continued to attempt to stab the Minotour. Then the Minotour got one of it's giant hooves and deeply marked Theseus's leg and threw him to one of the dirt walls. Theseus let out a shriek of pain.

"Hahahahahaha! You are nothing to me human!" Cackled the Minotour turning his back to Theseus. Theseus limped over to the beast and dug the dagger into the Minotour's insides. The Minotour bellowed. Theseus hopped onto the creature and thrust the dagger into the Minotour's throat.

The Minotour couldn't bellow its last few words. Theseus felt a burst of completion and joyce. He did it. He has killed the Minotour. He couldn't believe it. Theseus let out a shriek of happiness and pain for he still had an injury from the battle with the Minotour.

Theseus forgot about the stench from the labyrinth until he saw the flies swarming around the distressed Minotour and all of a sudden Theseus could smell a rush of dead bodies, dirt and feces. Theseus ignored it and thought of some ways that he could escape the labyrinth. The dim light around Theseus could help him get out of the labyrinth if he couldn't remember how but he couldn't. What was he going to do?

Theseus felt a bulge in his pocket. Theseus snatched the round object out of his rags revealing it to be a small ball of thread. Theseus remembered his talk with Ariadne and his promise to her but he couldn't think about that now. The most important thing was getting out of the labyrinth so he began the long walk back to the entrance but then he fell to the ground. Theseus still had the wound from the Minotour.

It was going to be an exhausting trip. Just as he was about to start his journey he took one last glance of the suffering beast. Theseus felt a small amount of sorrow for the Minotour. Theseus thought about how the only reason that the Minotour was on this planet was for destruction and murder. Theseus couldn't think about this now he has almost fulfilled his task. He couldn't let his feelings get in the way of his task so he turned around and began limping his way back to the labyrinth entrance.

Normally it wouldn't take so long to get to the entrance gate but his injury forced him to take more time. When he finally got to the gate he was tired and dirty.

"You're alive!" Ariadne said relieved.

"I am." Said Theseus. Theseus did not wish to run away with Ariadne much less marry her.

"Hurry come with me. There is a boat waiting for us." Said Ariadne. "Hurry."

Theseus followed Ariadne through a door that lead to the entrance to the city. Ariadne covered her face with the same cloak that she wore when she first spoke to Theseus. She handed Theseus another cloak. He put it over his head and continued to follow Ariadne.

"I would like to leave the city please." Said Ariadne sounding like a old woman.

"Yes miss. One moment please." Replied the guard.

"Thank you." Then the gates opened and Theseus knew that if he followed her he would regret it for the rest of his life but there was nothing else to do.

Theseus froze. He didn't know what to do. If he didn't follow her then Ariadne would call the guards to kill him immediately but if he did then he would live the rest of his life in misery. So he made a plan to leave Ariadne on the island and take the boat back to his home and lead a happy life with his father in his kingdom.

"Come now darling." Said Ariadne continuing to sound like an old woman.

"Yes." Replied Theseus doing his best old man accent.

The minute they got out of the city gates Ariadne raced to the boat as Theseus followed. He got on the boat and instantly prepared the boat to leave. After Theseus did that the boat floated out of the dock. Everything was happening so fast that Theseus didn't know what to do. After everything was ready and Theseus and Ariadne were on their way to the island.

It would take 4 days to get to the island. Theseus knew that those 4 days weren't going to be very good. In those 4 days Theseus and Ariadne hardly talked. Ariadne knew that Theseus did not love her. She assumed that he just had to get to know her better but Theseus refused. Ariadne gave him space and time. By the 4th day Ariadne began to give up hope and Theseus was beginning to rethink his decision. He knew that what he was about to do was wrong but he couldn't go against his heart.

They got to the island and docked. Theseus began to set up shelter.

"Ariadne." Called Theseus.

"Yes?" Replied Ariadne.

"I apologize for not speaking to you on the boat." Apologized Theseus pretendedly.

"Oh Theseus. I accept your apology." Forgave Ariadne believing Theseus.

"Now go and collect some food for us." Ordered Theseus.

"Of corse. I will be right back." Obeyed Ariadne. The minute she left Theseus climbed upon the boat.

The gods look upon Theseus with shame.

“We cannot just let him get away with this.” Concluded Zeus, “He must pay for this.”

“I agree with you, brother.” Agreed Poseidon, “He must be punished. What shall his punishment be? Any ideas?”

“I say we kill him now before he gets out of our hands. Poseidon make a terrible storm come or send him to Hades.” Said Ares getting excited.

“Maybe we should try a bit less aggressive strategy.” Said Zeus.

“Perhaps we can take away what is most important to him.” Suggested Athena.

“Perfect idea.” Rewarding Zeus, “Hermes! What is it that is most important to this man? Money, Kingdom, some kind of weapon?”

“No, Zeus. This man’s father King Ageus is what he treasures the most.” Hermes replied.

“I have to honor this man for having such a admirable treasure but it must be done.” Sighed Zeus.

“I know just how to kill this man.” Said Athena.

Theseus prepared the boat and started on his way back to his home. It would only take 2 days to get there. Theseus imagined him coming home a winner. His father would be so proud of him. Theseus did think about Ariadne. I wasn’t like he left her. The island was very plentiful. There was food, water and before Theseus left her he made shelter. Theseus knew that Ariadne was a very strong and independent woman. He felt a bit poorly but he thought that she would understand and he couldn’t tell Ariadne that he didn’t love her and was going to leave her. It would hurt her too much. She already went through enough having to leave her father. From the moment he saw Ariadne with King Minos he could see the daughterly love filled in her eyes whenever she looked at him. He wiped the cold wronging feeling out of his heart and continued his journey to his home.

“There is one of King Minos’s boats in our dock, King Ageus.” Said one of King Ageus’s servants. King Ageus was sitting in his thrown looking the smallest bit hopeful. The King slowly walked to the window. He looked out to the most beautiful view of the ocean and sunset but there was just one thing wrong with the picture. The sails were black. Black sails meaning no survivors from the Minotour. The depressed king’s eyes filled with tears. He ran outside.

The King looked over the cliff looking the sea. He inched his way to the end and jumped off of the cliff. Poor Theseus didn’t know that any of this was happening. He docked at the dock closest to the kingdom and practically jumped out of the boat. He raced up to the kingdom and entered the thrown room with complete excitement. He looked at the thrown but his father wasn’t there. He glanced around the room his father was nowhere to be seen. A servant stormed into the room.

“King Theseus! I thought you were dead! I am so sorry!”

“King?! Where is my father?!” Shouted Theseus.

“Your father saw the sails and thought you had died. He loved you so much and couldn’t imagine life without you. He killed himself.” Said the sorry servant.

“No! This can’t be true!” Said Theseus denying the truth.

“I am so sorry.” Apologized the servant. It took a while for Theseus to believe that his own father was gone forever. He couldn’t only think about himself. He had to think about the people of Athens. They needed a ruler and now that the Minotour was gone the people were safe. So Theseus lived the rest of his life feeling guilty for his fathers death and ruling over Athens keeping them safe from the Minotour and any other danger that came to Athens.