

King Minos of Crete was a powerful man, feared by the rulers of the lands around him. People felt that they had to agree with him.

But his demands on Athens became too much for them to bear. He had a beautiful palace. Inside this palace, Minos had built a maze, a Labyrinth, at the centre of the maze, he kept a terrifying creature, - Minotaur. Now this was no animal; it was a monster, half man and half bull.

It was powerful, and it loved to eat the flesh of the humans who had been shut into the labyrinth by King Minos. They would wander through the maze, lost, until they came face to face with Minotaur. Not a great way to die.

As for Athens, Minos demanded that every year they send him seven men and seven women.

Theseus thought why people never came back from Crete.

Try as he might, his father could not persuade him to change his mind. Aegeus remembered that every year, men had sworn to slay this beast and had never been seen again.

Theseus insisted that he understood the dangers but would succeed. "I will return to you, father," cried Theseus, As the ship docked, Minos himself came to inspect the prisoners. He enjoyed the chance to taunt the Athenians and to humiliate them.

"Is this all your king has this year?" he jeered.

Theseus stepped forward.

"I will go. I am Theseus, Prince of Athens and I don't fear what is within the walls of maze."

"Theseus, take this," a girl whispered. "Even if you kill the Minotaur, you will never find your way out again."

She threw him a ball of string Turning a corner, he touched huge bony horn.

He was picked and tossed high into the air. As the Minotaur grabbed at him with its hairy arms, Theseus found strength.

He grabbed his horns and kept on twisting his head. Theseus gave one tug. The creature's neck snapped.

All he had to do was make his way out of...and then he realised. In the struggle, he had let go of the string. Theseus felt all over the floor in the darkness and kept thinking he had found it, only to realise that he all he had was a hair from Minotaur.

Then, his hand brushed a piece of string. As he neared the entrance, Ariadne was waiting for his return.

"You must take me back to Athens," she cried,

"I cannot believe how my life as changed," said Ariadne, "To think that I am free of my cruel father and that I will soon be married to a great prince."

"Married?" said Theseus, " yes, that will be wonderful." But in truth, Theseus did not really love her.

So, when their ship docked at an island on their way home, Theseus sent Ariadne off to find bread and fruit. The moment she was gone, he set sail and left her on the island.