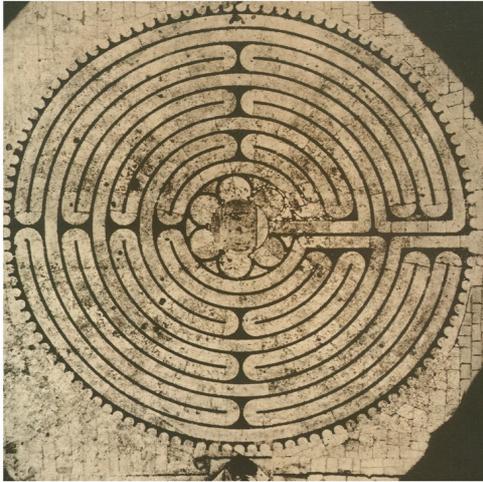


# Labyrinthine problems



**Many people have heard of the labyrinth of Crete where the Minotaur, who was armed with a labyris(double bladed axe), lived until slain by Theseus and of Ariadne's tread which led him out. Others may have heard or may even have visited the labyrinth in the Cathedral of Chartres. Mankind is regained an interest in the labyrinth as a spiritual development tool. As far as I know there are several separate methods of labyrinth use.**

The best known is the inner labyrinth tradition in which the neophyte was placed in an underground labyrinth representing their own sub-consciousness. The goal of

such an initiatory experience was gaining control over one's primal instincts and power (the Minotaur or Dragon) and learning to follow the guidance of their spirit or higher-self (Ariadne's tread or Maiden).

An almost forgotten tradition is the outer labyrinth tradition, which is now becoming increasingly popular again. In this tradition the neophyte passes in and out of various energetic atmospheres to learn to adjust and eventually communicate with beings native to that level of vibration. These labyrinths are often connected to various stars, deities or spirit choirs since the labyrinthine 'ladder' has to lead somewhere.

Last but not least there are not just European labyrinths, but also Asian labyrinths. These labyrinths help us to explore the manifold relations which can exist between two powers. This type of labyrinth can be used both to connect or to sever ties. It is similar to a test which helps us to redefine the relationship.

Just before we left for our holidays a friend of ours constructed an outer type labyrinth close to our house. He has several years of experience in doing this and we discussed the options and decided on a design which we felt would be appropriate. We tried it out and it worked quite well so we were very pleased to have it available to us so close to our home.

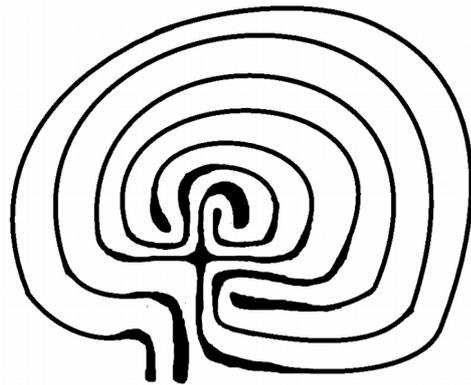
After we got home from our holidays our veranda was covered in bird excrement, which has never happened before, and we experienced a lot of little accidents and even though we slept a lot we all experienced fatigue and lack of focus. At first we put it down to having to re-adjust and being tired from travelling, but after a week the symptoms did not improve at all. We started an exploration of our home environment and found that our resident guardian spirit wasn't doing anything at all and there was an abundance of saturnine beings leading to many little challenges. Also our home was energetically squeezed dry like lemon by a nature spirit of the giant type causing our fatigue. While this behaviour was not very harmonious with us, we did not feel any harmful intent either. Looking further afield we noticed that the area around the stream, which always used to be full of life force, now felt more like a garbage dump full of stale energy.

It was obvious that the natural spirits were no longer performing their usual supportive duties and soon we discovered why that was. Two elven spirits, presumably the elves which managed the part

of the natural realm in which we lived, had gotten trapped in the labyrinth! Nature spirits, being ethereal in nature, cannot easily cross astral boundaries and were therefore unable to progress through a labyrinth of this type, which was, to make matters worse, a unidirectional labyrinth so going backwards was also not an option.

We entered the labyrinth and made contact with the elves, which told us they had come to investigate the sudden 'disappearance' from their perspective of a part of their realm. We invited the elves to hitch along in our aura so we could liberate them from this trap. After their release our energetic environment started to normalize again as they reasserted their control. Afterwards we adjusted the labyrinth so that nature spirits could escape it through ethereal pathways.

We discussed what happened with our friend who build the labyrinth and decided that in the future it would be better to first invite the local nature spirits and consult with them before labyrinth construction. I tend to do this before I create a ritual space, but neglected to do so in this case. This way they can either put up their own 'no trespassing' signs for other nature spirits or work together with us in constructing the labyrinth in such as way as to make is accessible to their kind. They may also decide upon a different location for such a structure. Possibly such cooperative forms of labyrinth could be constructed at the site of a pre-existing earth chakra devoted to either inspiration, transformation or purification like many pagan sites were.



Neglecting nature spirits is not only inconsiderate, but even slightly dangerous. The day after the release of the elves our friend who build the labyrinth stepped on a nail which went through the sole of his shoe into his foot, my wife got a splinter in her foot and another friend living with us cut his hand. So far I am unhurt, but elves as well a trolls can be not only protective, but even vindictive if wronged.

To normalize relationships we took a bottle of wine, representing our refinement of nature's gifts, to the location of the labyrinth. We could also have sung, danced, played a flute or drum or sculpted clay to reaffirm our place in the natural cycle, taking what nature has to offer and imbuing with a higher vibration and then giving it back to it's source enriched. There we called upon both the elves and nature spirits as well as upon higher powers offering the wine, asking for forgiveness, accepting the elven Lordship over their domain and sharing our desire for cooperation with them.

We hope that this little anecdote helps to illustrate the hazards involved in ritual work without cooperation with the resident spirits both to yourself and to the environment. An inner labyrinth is a a lot safer to use because it is accessible to all beings so when in doubt use that option. If weird stuff is happening around you it may be coincidence, but it may also be a cry for help from another level of existence or even an indication that the local spiritual ecosystem has become disrupted. Do not dismiss such events, but chose to investigate.

May nature's blessing find you,

Star Hawk Dreamer  
23rd of July 2016.