

Fallen Star

by Bevan Thomas

Page 1

Panel 1

The Minotaur, who his mother named Asterion, dreams of his time above ground. This is from his point of view, so it is like we are looking out of his eyes.

As a child he is reaching towards his mother, Queen Pasiphae, much taller than him here. She is shining with the light of the sun, her facial features cannot be seen, only her silhouette. She is reaching back to him.

In his dreams, the water look more stylized, formed of the zigzags and “Ms” that mark Minoan water designs.

Pasiphae: Asterion, my son.

Minotaur: Mother.

Panel 2

Pasiphae is still reaching out to him, same position as before, but now she is far away, with darkness separated her, as if she was at the other end of a black tunnel. This is from the Minotaur waking-up.

Pasiphae: Asterion....

Minotaur: Mother!

Panel 3

The Minotaur awakes in the darkness of the Labyrinth. We can see his heavy hands, but not his face. We do not yet realize he is the Minotaur. His gaze is on a shattered statue, though we cannot get a good look at it here.

Caption: Mother....

Panel 4

Close-up of part of the statue, a shard of the face of some ancient Cretan queen, now lying on the ground.

Caption: Mother....

Page 2

Panel 1

The Minotaur wanders down a tunnel. From his silhouette, we can see that he is brutish, not quite human, but we do not yet know what his face looks like, what exactly kind of monster he is.

Caption: Once again, I am dragged down from a dream of radiant Heaven back into the darkness of this fallen world.

Panel 2

The Minotaur enters a larger room.

The room has various columns, “snake pillars,” with designs on them formed from crescents, helices, and spirals that together resemble snake skin. In fact, the spiral designs are found all over, on the walls, on pots, vases, statues, etc. In this room and the others, the spirals sometimes look like mini-labyrinths themselves, labyrinths within labyrinths, each one a reflection of the larger whole. On the walls are various stone carvings, including bull’s heads and friezes of Cretan bull-dancing.

The Minotaur sees Theseus' golden thread. It goes from out one tunnel and down another, and seems to go on forever and both directions, no beginning and no end. The Minotaur walks towards it.

The thread is beside a stone statue of the Cretan mother goddess Eileithyia (“Child-Bearing”), sometimes called Artemis Eileithyia. She is queen of mountains and mistress of animals. She has a long dress covered in spirals and with serpents entwined around it and she wears a cone-shaped headdress that has fruit and poppies entwined in it. Her face is like that of Parsiphae's, the Minotaur's mother.

She is standing in the sea, the sea carved in a stylized fashion using “M” symbols and zig-zags. Her arms are wrapped lovingly around the neck of a lammasu. A lammasu is like a minotaur in reverse, a bull with the head of a regal, sagacious man with a long plaited beard, as well as a large pair of eagle's wings rising from his shoulders.

This image is flanked by two large bronze double-axes, each six and a half feet long, one on each side of the two figures. The axes have the labyrinth symbols carved on their heads.

Caption: But what is this that shines so bright?

Panel 3

The Minotaur is now right beside the statue. He holds a bit of the thread in his heavy hands.

Caption: Has a piece of Heaven broken through into my realm?

Panel 4

Close-up of the statue of the lammasu as it speaks.

Lammasu: Asterion, King of Stars. Soon you will be free.

Panel 1

The Minotaur gazes out over the Labyrinth, holding the golden thread in his hands. He is on a balcony and gazes down to the lower level, and the place looks so intricate that it appears almost like some strange city.

Various of the serpent columns can be seen and various spiral designs as well.

Caption: Did the statue speak, or did I just imagine it? Oh, if only I could be free at last. Let the walls crumple, let the ceiling shatter, so that I may feel again the light of Heaven.

Panel 2

The Minotaur walks down the hall, still holding his string in his hand while illusionary subjects come towards him. Many of the maidens have poppies entwined in their hair and hold garlands of poppies in their hands.

Subjects: All hail Asterion, King of Stars!

Panel 3

The maidens kiss the Minotaur on the cheeks and place garlands on him.

Maidens: Asterion, beloved by all.

Panel 4

The Minotaur gently caresses the maidens' heads, almost like a person stroking his delicate pets.

Caption: Yes, not even the King of Heaven could deny my divinity. Was I not his wife's only son, though my father came from the sea?

Panel 5

One of the maidens whispers in his ear.

Maiden: Asterion, your day of reckoning is at hand! Soon you will be free.

Page 4

Panel 1

The Minotaur caresses the cheek of the young woman, and she gazes up at him in adoration.

Caption: Freedom. If only that were real....

Panel 2

The Minotaur is in exactly the same position, still caressing. But what he is now caressing is a statue of a woman carved into the wall. He is alone.

Caption: But it is as much a dream as those who give me worship. Sometimes I fear that nothing is real save I.

Panel 3

A group of sacrifices, seven youths and seven maiden brought from Athens and dressed in the white of sacrifice, scream as the Minotaur advances on them. This is a memory of the last time the sacrifices were brought to him.

Caption: Sometimes I see people who are afraid of me and they cry out in words I know not.

Panel 4

As the Minotaur reaches towards the sacrifices, they run away from him, and some vanish into the darkness.

Caption: They run and are consumed by the darkness. Are these illusions or are they real?

Panel 5

Back in the present. Close-up of the Minotaur's feet as he steps on the bones of the sacrifices he had devoured before. His heavy feet crush a skull and he does not notice, too focused on his thoughts.

Caption: Perhaps they do exist and it is I who am false, fear given flesh and form.

Panel 6

The Minotaur hears words echoing from down one of the tunnels. Something is calling his name. He looks hopefully.

Voice: Asterion.... Asterion.... Asterion....

Page 5

Panel 1

The Minotaur runs down the passage.

Caption: Is there someone calling my name?

Panel 2

The Minotaur remembers "Heaven," the palace of King Minos II. His mother, Queen Pasiphae, is reaching out to him.

Pasiphae: Asterion, my son....

Minotaur: Mother....

Panel 3

The Minotaur remembers cowering as King Minos II whips him. All we can see of the Minotaur are his child hands as he holds them up to try and fend off the blows from the king's whip.

Minos II: Disgusting little monster! How dare you stare at me with your hideous eyes!

Panel 4

Pasiphae tries to stop her husband from whipping her son.

Pasiphae: My king, my husband, stop!

Minos II: You slut! You *cow*! Do you understand the shame you have brought to this kingdom? To me? They call your bastard beast with my name now: Minos' Bull! Minos' Shame!

Panel 5

Minos II glowers at the Minotaur.

Minos II: Would that I could cleanse this world of that thing's foul taint!

Page 6

Panel 1

Pasiphae lies on the ground, beaten, but she reaches for Minos II's in a desperate attempt to try and stop him.

Pasiphae: You will not! You *cannot*! Asterion is the son of a god! The god from the sea! Heaven would strike you down if you murdered my baby!

Panel 2

Minos II grabs the child Minotaur, who stares at him in fear and confusion.

Minos II: Perhaps I cannot kill him, but I can make the universe forget him.

Panel 3

Minotaur remembers King Minos II dropping him down into the Labyrinth.

Minos II: You call him Asterion? Star King? He will never see the stars again, that I swear!

Panel 4

The Minotaur's face as he contemplates.

Minotaur: Mother, why did you let him throw me out of Heaven and into endless darkness?

Page 7

Panel 1

Back in the present, the Minotaur continues to hear the voice echoing down the hall. The Minotaur turns towards its direction in suspicion, the tears rolling down his cheeks from the sadness of his memories.

Voice: Asterion.... Asterion....

Panel 2

The Minotaur hurries down the hall with the golden string in his hand.

Minotaur: I am coming! I am coming! Oh, Master Builder, what were the words you spoke to me?

Panel 3

The Minotaur remembers a conversation he had with Daedalus, the master inventor, builder of the Labyrinth. This conversation happened just before the Minotaur was locked into it. As with all memories of “Heaven,” there is a bright light that makes it hard to see the people's faces.

Daedalus: Asterion, I must build this place for you. The king has willed it. But it will not be a cage unless you let it be so.

Panel 4

Daedalus continues to speak to him.

Daedalus: It will be constructed like your brain, full of twists and turns both conscious and unconscious. Through it you will be able to explore your mind and unlock its secrets. And some day, when you achieve understanding, you will achieve liberty.

Panel 5

The Minotaur follows the path through the Labyrinth.

Caption: Master Builder, let me make you proud. Let me unlock my city's secrets.

Pages 8 & 9

This is a double-page spread of the Minotaur moving through the Labyrinth. We see part of the labyrinth bisected and shown in a very abstract manner. The shape is similar to a human brain, shown as an oval with various passages all over it. The passages twist and turn in contradictory ways, doubling back on each other in ways that are logically impossible, in a manner similar to many of M.C. Escher's art. This image shows the Minotaur in numerous parts of the Labyrinth at the same time, representing his passage, but always holding on to the same golden thread. The thread twists and turns itself, following an impossible direction.

Maintain the spiral designs that were shown in the individual rooms previously.

Caption: Let this thread of gold guide me to salvation.

Page 10

Panel 1

The Minotaur continues to play out the golden thread with his hands.

Minotaur: I can almost feel the sun upon my face again! It was not a dream! It was real!

Panel 2

He follows the thread down a tunnel.

Minotaur: It will be real again!

Panel 3

The Minotaur follows the thread down the tunnel.

Minotaur: Mother! I am coming!

Panel 4

The Minotaur comes to a room where a figure holds the other end of the golden thread.

The figure is standing in a beam of sunlight coming through holes in the Labyrinth's ceiling, and because of that we can only see his silhouette.

It is Theseus, slayer of the Minotaur and we cannot see his face.

The Minotaur squints in the sunlight, shielding his eyes with one hand.

Minotaur: The light, it is real! So bright....

Page 11

Panel 1

Theseus turns and starts to step out of the shadows.

The Minotaur kneels in front of Theseus, mistaking him for a god.

Minotaur: Are you my liberator? Will you take me to Heaven?

Panel 2

Theseus reaches towards the Minotaur, about to strangle him.

The poor monster still kneels, not sure about what will happen. He thinks Theseus is his saviour.

Theseus is reaching in our general direction as well, as we are standing right beside the Minotaur.

Minotaur: Will you let me see the sun and stars again?

Panel 3

Theseus' hands fill almost the whole panel; they almost seem to come out of the panel towards us. They are stained with blood from previous conquests.

Minotaur: Will I be free at last?

Page 12

Splash page.

Theseus is outside, holding aloft the Minotaur's severed head. The sun is behind them and gleams off the Minotaur's horns.

The End