**Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)**

**GREEK MYTHOLOGY**

**Chapter 4**

1. Who was Daedalus? What was his contribution to the society then?

Ans. Daedalus was a brilliant architect and inventor in the court of King Minos of Crete. His inventions changed the lives of the common people. He invented the first saw and the first potter’s wheel, made the first sails and taught people how to use the power of the wind to drive their ships, instead of the power of their own muscles.

1. Who accompanied him in his work? What did they make together?

Ans. Daedalus was helped by his young son, Icarus. Together, they designed and built many amazing buildings, but the most wonderful of them all was a labyrinth or maze, which had so many winding passages inside it that anyone who entered the building was unable to find the way out.

1. What had King Minos ordered Daedalus to make? Why?

Ans. King Minos had especially ordered Daedalus to build the maze as a prison for his son. Many years ago, King Minos and Queen Pasiphae had become the proud parents of a son. But, for some reason, the gods were angry with the King and had put a curse on him. When the child was born, it turned out to be a monster, with the head of a bull and the body of a man. The king called this unfortunate child the Minotaur. The Minotaur was a man-eater from the moment of birth, with a taste for human flesh. As the king wanted to protect his subjects from the monster, he kept the Minotaur imprisoned inside the maze built by Daedalus so that the people of Crete could live safely.

1. How was ‘food’ provided to Minotaur?

Ans. To provide food to Minotaur, the king waged war with the neighbouring kingdom of Athens. Minos won the war and Athens came under his rule. King Minos ordered that seven young men and women from Athens should be sent to Crete every year. They would then be put into the maze so that the Minotaur could satisfy his hunger.

1. Who was Theseus? What was his wish?

Ans. Theseus was the prince of Athens and had grown up into a brave and fearless young man. He decided that the human sacrifices to the Minotaur had to be stopped. He volunteered to go to Crete, hoping that he would be able to kill the monster and put an end to the sacrifice of young Athenian lives.

1. Who was Ariadne? What was her wish? Why?

Ans. Ariadne was Minos’ daughter who saw Theseus and fell in love with him. She made up her mind to save him from the Minotaur. She knew that once Theseus entered the labyrinth, he would not be able find his way out and would be devoured by the monster.

1. What did Ariadne do to accomplish her goal?

Ans. Ariadne met Daedalus who was the only one to know the secret of the amazing labyrinth as he had designed it.

1. What happened when Ariadne met Daedalus?

Ans. Daedalus asked Adriane why she wanted to know the secret of the amazing labyrinth. Ariadne answered that the prince of Athens was going to be sacrificed to the Minotaur that day and his life had to be saved at any cost.

1. What did Daedalus do?

Ans. Daedalus felt sorry for Adriane and gave her a reel of thread so that Theseus could tie one end of the thread to the entrance of the Labyrinth when he entered it and keep the reel in his hand. The thread would unwind and enable him to find his way back to the entrance after had killed the monster.

1. Was Theseus successful? What did he do next?

Ans. Yes, Theseus was successful. He not only succeeded in killing the Minotaur but also escaped from the labyrinth with the help of the thread. He immediately sought out Adriane to thank her for her help. She begged him to return to Athens before her father found out what had happened. Theseus firmly told Adriane that he wouldn’t leave Crete without her. He said so because he knew that Minos would not hesitate to kill his own daughter once he realized that it was her who had helped him to escape. Adriane happily agreed with him and both of them escaped to Athens before anyone could find out that they were missing.

1. What did Minos realise? How did he react?

Ans. Minos realized that his daughter had run away with Theseus, and his son, the monster, had been killed. He also guessed that Daedalus had helped her by telling her how to escape from the labyrinth. Minos was furious. He was angry with his daughter for running away, but most of all he was angry with Daedalus for giving out the secret of the labyrinth. He felt that his had been deceived by both.

1. What did Minos do next?

Ans. Minos shut Daedalus and his son Icarus inside the labyrinth and locked the doors so that they could never escape.

1. Give in brief the conversation between Icarus and his father after being locked inside the labyrinth.

Ans. Icarus was greatly upset at being made a prisoned inside the labyrinth which his father and he had built. Daedalus told him to not worry and that he would think of a way by which they could escape. Icarus asked his father how could they escape as all the doors were locked. Daedalus then told him that the labyrinth had an open entrance to the roof and they could escape from there. But the roof was so high that they would not be able to climb down the steep walls and escape. Daedalus had a plan.

1. What was the plan?

Ans. Many birds had built their nests inside the labyrinth and their feathers were scattered all over the place. Daedalus and Icarus spent the next few days collecting all the feathers they could find. Daedalus used these feathers to fashion two huge pairs of wings and stuck them together with wax. The wings could be fixed to their shoulders and made to beat up and down, like the wings of an eagle, when they moved their arms. Daedalus had invented the first flying machine.

1. How did Icarus escape?

Ans. In the morning, Daedalus and Icarus made their way to the roof. Icarus was told to go first by Daedalus. With his arms outstretched, so that the wings were extended, Icarus ran across the open terrace like an aircraft about to take off. He ran faster and faster, until he came to the end of the terrace. The open sea lay stretched out beneath him. He took a great leap and was thrilled to find that he was soaring up into the air. He moved his arms up and down and found himself gaining height. He lowered his left arm and raised his right arm, and swung around in a graceful curve, just like an eagle. He was flying. He could go wherever he wanted, do whatever he wished. He was the master of the wind; no one could stop him.

1. Who followed next? What advice was given by Daedalus to Icarus?

Ans. Daedalus followed Icarus into the air and was flying a few feet below Icarus. He advised his son to take care to not fly too low over the sea otherwise his wings would get wet. He also told Icarus to not fly high either.

1. Did Icarus listen? What was the result of it?

Ans. No, Icarus did not listen to his father’s advice. He was already out of hearing and was flying in the clouds. He was so excited with this new experience that he did not feel the heat of the sun. He flew higher and higher. But the sun’s light was too strong. It melted the wax that held his wings together. As a result of it, the wings came apart and fell right into the sea.

1. Where did Daedalus go after the death of his son?

Ans. After the death of his son, Daedalus flew to Greece where he spent the rest of his life inventing useful things that would help the people. But often, he would gaze at the sea sadly and think of his dear son, Icarus.

1. Mention the tribute that was given to Icarus.

Ans. The part of the Mediterranean Sea where Icarus drowned came to be known as the Icarian Sea, in the memory of the young boy who so tragically lost his life.