The Maze

No-one was fooled by the clear sky and the bright sun. In Athens, the worst day of the decade was coming. The high king, Papo, saw from his castle a ship bearing the flag of Crete. He saw the seven children tributes lining up at the docks. They knew how short their lives were. Not one who entered The Creten Maze ever came back alive. Papo's son, Bellapapo (Pronounced Bell-a-pup-OH), was one of the tributes. He was probably the best child warrior that Greece had seen. He had straight, brown hair and fierce eyes that reflected the sun. His long, slim legs allowed him to run at speeds that no Greek had ever run before. His ADHD brain was hardwired for battle. Now the ships were coming. He was a goner. Papo would have no heir, and his kingdom would be ruled by Crete for forever.

Bellapapo stared at the ship as it glided towads him. All the other tributes accepted their fates, but he wouldn't. *"Play it cool,"* he muttered to himself, *"I can escape The Maze. If I kill the beast that awaits us there, I can live as I have always lived in Athens."* The boats arrived, took the tributes hostage, and sailed away to the worst island in the world.

Once Bellapapo and the other tributes landed in Crete, the king, Minos, took them in for a celebratory feast on his castle. He announced that if the tributes survived the beast, they would go home with 10 ass-loads of gold. (Ass being a donkey, what did you think it meant)? The castle sat on a big hill, which was surronded by water. Bellapapo had an idea. *"If this guy thinks I am the son of a god, he will be reluctant to send me in."* After the main course had been delivered, Bellapapo claimed *"I am the son of Posieden, god of the sea. If you dare put a demigod in The Maze, you shall feel the wrath of Posiedon!"*

*"Well, son of Posiedon,"* Drawled Minos, king of Crete," *I am glad to host you. But you are a son of the SECOND most powerful god and from the SECOND most powerful city. I am the son of Zeus, the most powerful god, and rule the most powerful CITY!"* He screamed the last word, and as he did so, his ring flew out the window. Bellapapo, being ADHD and looking for something to do, ran and jumped out the window. King Minos thought: "*Ah well. We can do the trials with six kids."* Meanwhile, Bellapapo was praying to Posiedon to save his neck. He noticed the waves were moving awkwardly. Suddenly, a wave lashed out of the water and coiled around Bellapapo like a snake, then tossed him to shore. He shrugged his shoulders, muttered a prayer to Posieden and truged up the hill back to the castle

*"Into the maze, the time is now.  You cannot live there's no way out.  Into the maze and to the beast. That will rip you with all his teeth. Into the maze, and to your death. For the trouble that you parents made."*

The locals were pumped that it was that time of year again. The weather was rainy, but they were taken aback when, unlike the usually cowards that they brought from Athens, one of the tributes seemed to be enjoying the attention. King Minos announced *"LET THE 3RD MAZE TRIALS, BEGIN!"* The tributes were thrown into the maze. Bellapapo told the tributes to hold onto a piece of string while he went searching for the beast. It didn't take long. He found the beast at an intersection between somewhere and something. From the waist down it was human. From the waist up, it was a bull.

"RAWR!" Roared the beast. "RAWR!" Roared Bellapapo. The beast charged, trying to catch Bellapapo off guard. Bellapapo sidestepped and hooked the beast in the snout. The beast didn't seem fazed by it. He was used to pain. Those whips they used on him hurt more than anything else. Bellapapo kept on counter-attacking the beast, but it didn't seem to get injured or tired. Bellapapo tried a different approach. He ran at the beast, jumped on its back and ripped off his right tusk. "RAWR!" Bellowed the beast. Bellapapo didn't stop there. The clouds parted and the sun shone, a rainbow appeared as Bellapapo brought the tusk down onto the beasts head, killing it instantly.

Crete, Athens, Greece and the world was shocked. It wasn't everyday you saw a mutant bull die to his own tusk. It probably would be put on 9news. Sadly, there were no TVs then. Bellapapo and the other tributes rejoiced of their freedom and hey, who doesn't want ten ass-loads of gold shipped to your kingdom. (Again, an ass is a donkey). Bellapapo was elected the general fo the Athenian army, and his first campain was against Crete. Seeing as most of Crete hated Minos, they didn't bother stopping him from taking over the country. And so, I'd like to say that they lived a long and happy life. Sadly, Minos faked his death. In reality, he was alive, and he sat with his most trusted advisors, plotting Bellapapo's demise.

TO BE CONTINUED