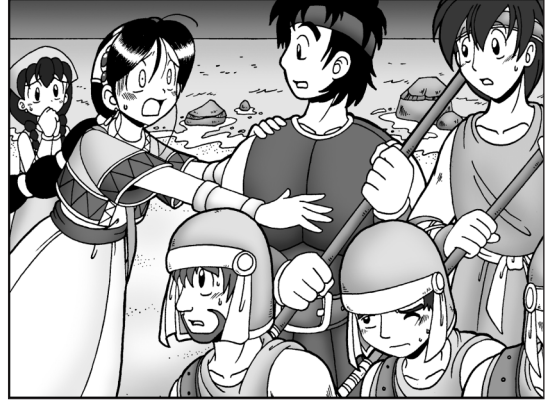


11

Chapter Eleven: *The Island of Naxos*



Vocabulary

binding
fetched
spared
limply
mast
stern
sparing

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Whom do the Greek sailors and hostages fight on the beach?
2. What does Theseus intend to do with the overpowered Minoan guards?
3. Who is the first person to oppose Theseus' plan?
4. Where is the Greek ship supposed to sail?
5. Where does the captain suggest the ship sail to and stay for the night?

What's Going On?: Reading Comprehension

1. How does Theseus justify his intention to kill the Minoan guards?
2. In what way are the Minoan guards like Theseus in their actions? In what way are they different?
3. Why does the Greek ship sail to Naxos rather than to Athens?
4. Why does Theseus feel that Ariadne had embarrassed him? How might the culture in which he lived contribute to his feelings of embarrassment?
5. How differently will Ariadne's life be in Athens compared to Crete? What does Theseus say to Ariadne to indicate this?

In your own words...

Ariadne disagreed with a decision expressed by Theseus. How do you persuade someone who disagrees with you to consider your perspective?

Have you ever been embarrassed by someone? Describe the incident and how you dealt with it.

Background and Additional Information

If you look at a map, Naxos is certainly not on a direct line from Knossos to Athens and the original myth doesn't explain how they ended up there. Fortunately, however, it makes perfect sense within our storyline, and it's entirely possible that the ancient texts once suggested that Theseus knew Minos would send his ships straight to Athens!

Skill Builder

Review the chapter and list ten verbs. Replace these verbs with ten others similar in meaning.

Multidisciplinary Connections

(Art & Technology)

Using the computer, create a travel brochure for the island of Naxos.

(Science)

Gather information about the formation of islands.

Newspaper Activity

Imagine that the island of Naxos is deserted and that you want to create a resort property there. Look in the paper to get ideas for writing a proposal to develop this island. Select local people to assist you, select services you will need, and business establishments you would want to relocate to your island.

Present your island to your classmates.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

When Ariadne begs Theseus to be merciful, it might just be a Minoan asking that Minoan blood be spared. But Korinna and the other Greeks speak up, and, for the first time, Theseus finds his plan being questioned. Taking prisoners poses practical problems, and Theseus is essentially on a special operation behind enemy lines. But once Ariadne questions his decision, the others talk him into a less extreme solution.

Chapter 11: Answer Key

Facts and Details

1. Minoan guards
2. Kill them
3. Ariadne
4. Athens
5. Naxos

Reading Comprehension

1. If they escape, they could sound the alarm and send swift Minoan ships after the Greeks.
2. The Minoan guards and Theseus both act to serve and protect their own people. The difference is that the Minoan guards are acting on Minos' orders and Theseus is acting on his own.
3. The Greek ship is much slower than the ships of the Minoans, who will easily catch them in a race to Athens. But the Mediterranean is full of islands. Since Athens is the only place the Minoans will know to look for him, Theseus just lets the ship's captain choose an island they couldn't guess he'd head for.
4. Theseus felt Ariadne had challenged him in front of his people. In his culture, Greek women are subservient to men and would not challenge a man, especially not a man in Theseus' position. This incident also forces Theseus to recognize that his behavior is no better than that of King Minos. Theseus' own people spoke against his desire to kill the guards.
5. Ariadne will no longer be a princess. Theseus makes this quite clear to her. She will also live within a society that does not treat women as they are treated in Crete.