

Icarus and Daedalus

In ancient times, long, long ago, there lived a famous Athenian architect and artist named Daedalus. He was probably the best architect of his time.

Minos, the king of Crete, who heard of his talent, asked Daedalus to build him a palace with a labyrinth under it for his pet, the Minotaur. The Minotaur was a frightful monster, with the head of a bull and the body of a man.

Daedalus agreed and set out for Crete taking his young son, Icarus, with him.

When the palace and labyrinth were ready, king Minos was truly amazed and happy for this great work of architecture. The labyrinth was such a complicated construction that no one that entered the labyrinth could ever find their way out. He suddenly became fearful that Daedalus would reveal its secrets to others and he did not want this to happen. So, he decided to keep Daedalus and his son Icarus prisoners in the palace forever. He would never let this great architect leave his island.

Daedalus became homesick so he tried to think of a way to escape. One day, he saw some birds flying above him. He realized the only way to escape is to fly out of the palace. He made two sets of wings one for himself and one for Icarus and glued the feathers together with wax. When he was finished he warned his son not to fly too close to the sun because the heat from the sun's rays would melt the wax and the wings would fall apart and not to fly too close to the water either because the water would dampen his wings making them too heavy to fly.

Daedalus fastened the wings to their arms. They flapped their wings and soon enough they began to fly. Higher and higher Icarus flew; he was having so much fun that he forgot his father's warning and he flew too

close to the sun. His wings began to melt. He flapped his arms faster and faster but it did not help. Icarus fell into the dark, blue sea and was lost forever. Daedalus searched and searched for his son but could not find him. Sadly, he continued alone.

The sea where Icarus drowned was named the Icarian Sea and a nearby island was named Icaria in Icarus' honour.

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