MODERN MYTH: A 12 LABORS PROJECT

As we discussed at the beginning of the Heracles presentation, the ancient Greeks used mythology for everything from explaining weather patterns to examining psychological truths, and even associating towns with the completion of heroic exploits for the sake of generating tourist buzz. The twelve labors of Heracles are, of course, connected to the natural world familiar to the Greeks, to the geography of the known world as they understood it, and to the theology and interests in the supernatural that predominated spiritual thought at the time.

But... What would the Twelve Labors of Heracles look like if some evil entity, say... Donald Trump or some other powerful political or corporate individual were serving in the role of Eurystheus?

Your task is update the Twelve Labors to reflect modern attitudes and realities – all while keeping the original concepts of the labors in mind. Here are some questions to consider as you start this:

(1) What crime might Heracles have committed to “earn” these labors?
(2) How does our understanding of psychology add to or detract from the idea of Hera serving as an agent of revenge?
(3) Would your hero possess great strength or would a modernization of the myth require some other kind of special ability or knowledge?
(4) What perils and/or impossible tasks would apply to our society?
(5) What locations and geography would be appropriate?
(5) What type of task might correspond to the facing of death as represented by the theft of Cerberus?


RUBRIC
Evidence of thought/effort in connecting the myth to the modern world
- familiarity with the original myth
- creative use of modern concepts
Level of detail in support of your “myth”
Artistic/creative merit
Neatness, accuracy, proofreading