

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2021

It's All Bull...

...All year long, that is. So, let's take a look at a unique relationship that humans have had, and are still having, with these most impressive beasts.

The sport is called "bull leaping" and it first appears in recorded history as far back as 1,400 BCE. Probably the most famous image depicting this sport is the bull leaping fresco from the Minoan Palace at Knossos, Crete dating from that time.

Modern bullfighting, as practiced today in Spain, can trace its origins back to 711 AD, but it probably has even more ancient roots in the much older sport of bull leaping.

Today these two sports are quite different at least in one respect. The purpose in both is to test human courage, but in bull leaping the animal is not harmed. The goal is to, well, leap over a charging bull (and, presumably, not get killed in the process!). In this form, it is mostly practiced in Southwestern France, where the leapers are called "Sauteurs," as well as in parts of Spain. It is even starting to surface as a spectacle at some rodeos in the U.S., along with



The famous Minoan Bull Leaping fresco at Knossos

Happy New Year



Although bull leaping today is practiced as a sport/a test of human courage, it is thought that it was connected with much deeper religious beliefs in its distance past. Even today, in some societies around the globe, there are still many examples where bulls, cows and calves are associated with religious beliefs. The "sacred cows" of India are just one example of this

animal's continued influence on human societies. Even the New York Stock Exchange considers a growing, expanding market, a "Bull Market."

Have we humans associated the bull with deep spiritual significance for millennia? And has this changed, in Western society at least, to merely a modern symbol for "good luck"?

And yet, it might be that the bull has been with us in both roles – spiritual or fortune – for even longer than the Minoans. Many cave paintings from antiquity depict bulls or cows (along with other

animals). One possible reason for this could be that the tribe's Shaman/artist wanted to capture the spirit of the animal before the hunt started in order to aid the tribe's huntsmen in bringing home dinner. Have we been chasing these ancient shadows of our past ever since?

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Some more on the Minoans:

<https://www.ancientworldmagazine.com/articles/jumping-bull-leaping-fresco-knossos/>

the more "conventional" sports of lassoing and wrestling bulls, riding bucking broncos or wild steers.

Here are some Bull, Cow and Milk Idioms to use you through 2021
Match the idiom on the left with its definition on the right:

1. Until the cows come home (D)



2. A cash cow ()



3. Take the bull by the horns ()



4. Like a bull in a china shop ()



5. As awkward as a cow on roller skates ()



6. Don't cry over spilled milk ()



7. Hit the bull's eye ()



8. Holy cow ()



9. A sacred cow ()



10. A cock and bull story ()



A. an expression of great surprise

B. very clumsy

C. to get the right answer or understand the main point

D. for a very long time

E. a story that is absolutely untrue, especially if given as an excuse for

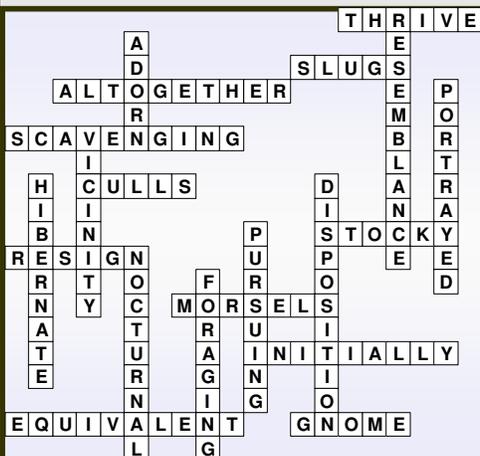
F. careless causing much damage physically or emotionally to others

G. a person or thing that is never criticized even if they/it should be

H. confront the situation directly rather than look for the easy way out

I. a product or service that makes a lot of money

J. you can't change what has happened, so move on



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 grow with great success
- 4 similar to snails but with no shell
- 5 complete, entirely all
- 7 feeding on discarded refuse
- 10 remove things that are not necessary
- 13 having a short and solid appearance
- 14 give up, accept as inevitable
- 17 small quantities of anything
- 18 at the beginning
- 19 equal to
- 20 a mythological creature resembling a tiny man

DOWN

- 2 similar in appearance
- 3 make more attractive by adding ornaments
- 6 described in words or represented visually
- 8 nearby
- 9 sleep during winter
- 11 an acquired habit or characteristic
- 12 following in order to overtake or catch
- 15 active at night
- 16 searching for food



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.