

BEFORE TRYING HARDER

A four-question problem-solving card inspired by the Twelve Labours of Heracles.

USE BEFORE
ADDING MORE EFFORT

THE PROBLEM I AM TRYING TO SOLVE

1

DO I NEED HELP?

Is my effort creating more problems, or am I missing a skill or viewpoint another person has?

TRY: Name one person whose different strength could break the loop.

ONE NEXT MOVE

2

DOES THIS NEED TIME?

Would forcing a fast result damage the person, relationship, or outcome I am trying to protect?

TRY: Choose a useful waiting or observation interval.

ONE NEXT MOVE

3

CAN I REDESIGN THE SYSTEM?

Can I change the path, tool, sequence, or constraint instead of adding more labour?

TRY: Remove one shovel. Find the river - the leverage point.

ONE NEXT MOVE

4

DO I NEED PERMISSION OR TRUST?

Is the technically possible move still wrong without consent, access, or a promise I can keep?

TRY: Ask first. State what you will protect, return, or do next.

ONE NEXT MOVE

FOUR LABOURS, FOUR DIFFERENT MOVES

Hydra: Iolaus helps stop the regrowth loop. **Golden hind:** patience replaces force. **Augean stables:** two rivers redesign the work. **Cerberus:** Heracles asks permission, uses no weapon, and returns the hound as promised.

MY NEXT MOVE: HELP / TIME / SYSTEM / TRUST

Important: This is a listener-created reflection, not ancient Greek doctrine or advice for dangerous situations. Greek myths have many conflicting versions. The Emma audiobook is a modern family retelling that softens some darker material.

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