This study analyzes the Greek mythic reference to archery and the bow as a metaphor for the human condition in two parts: drives and circumstances beyond our control, and the desire to build our own character. I take the analysis of human drive from Jacques Lacan and divide it into its three parts: need, desire, and demand. These parts are analyzed in the works of Sophocles, Homer, and Heraclitus. The second part of the book looks at the metaphor of the archer in Aristotle's virtue ethics and the bow with the greatest tension in Nietzsche as metaphors for "self"-control.