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MEDITATION: AID TO LONGEVITY
NEW LIGHT ON THE ATLANTIS QUESTION

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THE ROSICRUCIAN COSMO-CONCEPTION

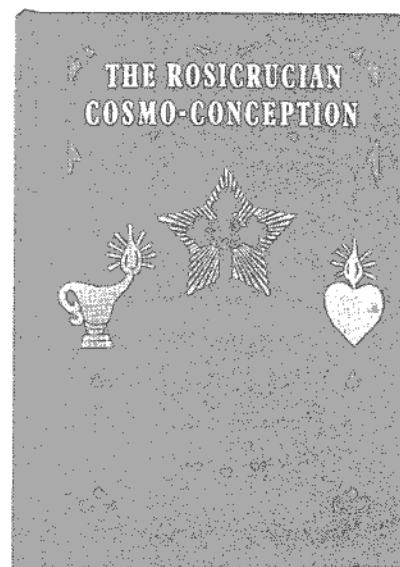
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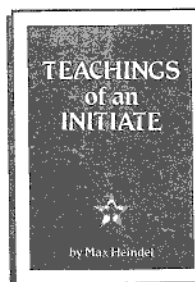
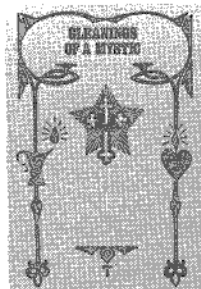
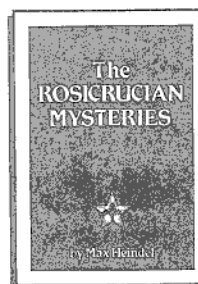
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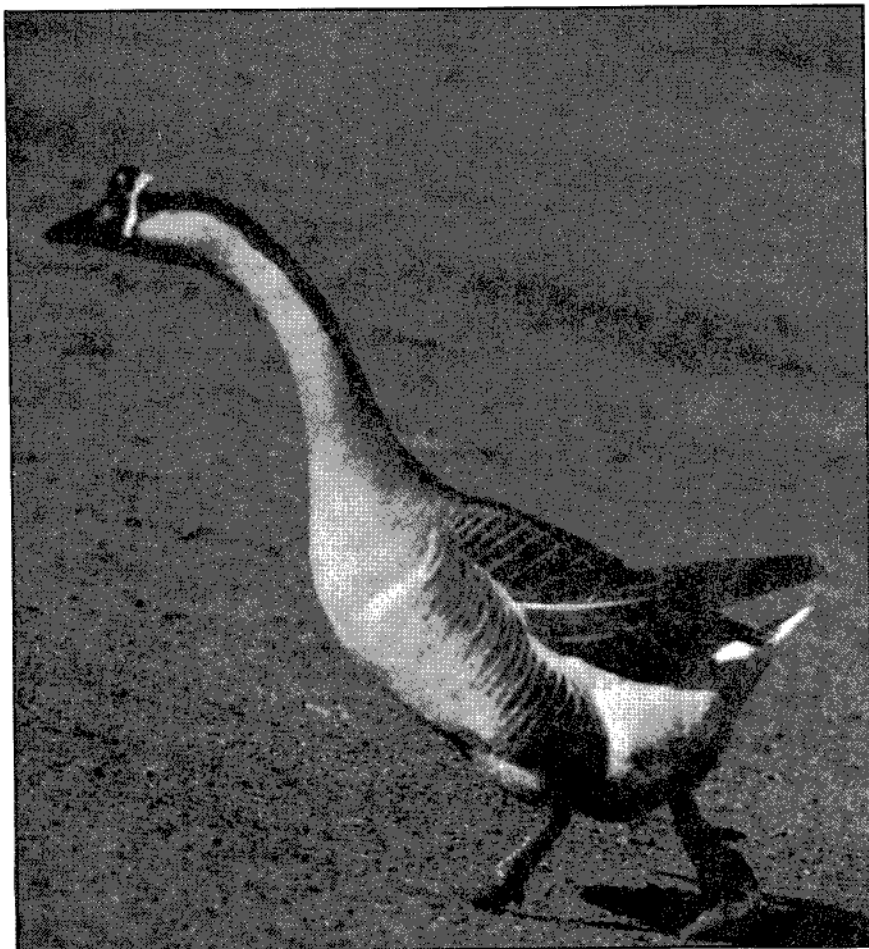
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*"A Sane Mind,
A Soft Heart,
A Sound Body"*



Feature



The Call to Compassion

I Have mercy on your beast. You cannot own a living creature. God owns him; God made him.

II The highest Divine Law tells you not to kill. "Thou shalt not kill." You should not take that which you cannot give. But if you insist on killing animals for food, for profit, for pleasure, then slaughter mercifully and always use an instrument which instantaneously deprives your victim of consciousness.

III You value your own liberty, your own freedom of movement. What right have you to catch a wild creature, born to roam the hills and plains in freedom, and imprison it in a cage for the amusement of the idle and the thoughtless? The animals you call domestic need freedom too. You chain them up, day and night; you put them in narrow stalls, in dark and dirty stables. You kill their intelligence and soul-life by

making them stare all their life at a wall, or a manger—and then, filled with contempt, you call them stupid! Give air, give space, give freedom of movement and thought to furred and feathered fellow-creatures, whom you have enslaved, and whom you bend and break for your usage.

IV Do not torture the wild creatures of the wood and the field by catching them in steel-toothed traps, which maim their limbs and crush their bodies. Let shame overtake the greed and the heartlessness which led you to devise such inhumane methods of deceit.

V Under the stars God speaks to you, as He speaks to all the creatures of His hand. You, yourself, are but a link in the chain. You are not final perfection of creation, nor exempt from the judgement which will overcome all who transgress against the Law of Love.

You may count your intellect as superior to that of the animals; but in the light of the myriad Intelligences, that move on a thousand planets, it is feeble and limited by your physical senses.

Remember, the animals you despise have insight, senses and knowledge which you lack. You can never achieve salvation, or liberation from sorrow, save through that Love which fathoms all Creation.

In service for all that suffers and in labour for all that needs your help alone you will find the "Peace of God that passeth understanding." □

—Author Unknown

Living the Truth We Know

How many times do you find yourself doing things you know are not good for you and yet you can't seem to avoid the same problem time after time? It seems as though there is a built-in program that drives you toward these same actions over and over again. It may be a fact that there is a "pattern" within that draws us toward specific situations whether they be good or bad for us.

The overall result of these actions may work to our detriment if we cannot overcome them and eliminate them from our lives. They may be so ingrained in our soul pattern that it could take years to recognize and remove them from our sub-conscious memory. Learning to deal with personality weaknesses and abnormalities is an important part in the life of the spiritual aspirant and will always provide us with a better knowledge of "who and what" we are.

What is the Truth we know? How can we live this "Truth" if we are constantly being driven by hidden desires and emotions that seem to be far beyond our control and seek to knock us off the path to Purity and Holiness? This subject of "Living the Truth We Know" can be approached from two different directions. The first is to learn to "cope" with our apparent personality disorders and the other is to "eliminate" them completely from our lives. Both of these approaches will first require an acceptance that there is definitely "something wrong" or in need of "correction" in our daily lives.

Coping with problems and abnormal personality traits is a temporary, quick-fix solution at best. It is only "Living a half-truth," not giving us the full benefit of what is actually taking place within us. Restraint is often used in this method to allow the person to curb the desire to act a certain way. Either drugs or psychological techniques of mind control are often used to accomplish the goal. The real cause of the unwanted behavior may never be known since only the outer effects are being treated.

We may have strong feelings coming from inside and instead of directing them in healing, positive directions, they may be stifled or repressed causing even more difficulties at a later time. Or, they may be expressed fully under the "false assumption" that this will allow them to get out into the open and be dissipated. This last solution may or may not be the correct choice depending on what the unwanted action or thought is!

The spiritual aspirant should approach personal difficulties and/or character weaknesses from the viewpoint that these "effects" are only the result of a deeper, more hidden cause. This cause could be karmic from past lifetimes or something developed during a present incarnation. Meditation and Retrospection on the subject may provide some clues and additional light as to the real cause or causes coming from within. This is not an easy thing to discover, especially if it is a very strong pattern that comes forth only during the interaction of certain stimuli.

However, once we can see the things that are causing our difficulties we can begin to "Live the Truth We Know" even if it is only a partial one! If we find certain situations providing the catalyst to unwanted behavior, we can avoid them or try to change them to a more positive, harmonious state. If it is certain people or personalities, we can do the same, although it may be more difficult if they happen to be family or co-workers who seem to be placed in our lives to show us certain "truths" we must learn.

The opportunities for "self-discovery" are many, but we must be of that state of mind that we are going to be willing to make the necessary changes in our lives in order to grow. That may be a very difficult task if we happen to be very strong or self-willed egos who are on the spiritual path for the purpose of learning that "humility and kindness" toward others is the quickest way to the Kingdom of Heaven for it fulfills the first command of the Christ to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Being able to do this on a day-to-day basis is not often easy and for some, may be "almost impossible." However, if we are so inclined, we can find the solution if we ask to be shown the way and then have the understanding and willingness to follow this guidance!

□

—Editor

Do Animals Have Rights?

An interview with the International Society for Animal Rights, Inc. (ISAR) April 1987.

RAYS: How would you approach the issue of Animals Rights in 1987?

ISAR: Animal Rights is an issue whose time has come. For those not yet involved, it is time to become aware of the issue and the needs of animals. For those already involved, it is the time to reach out ever more widely to enlist the concern and help of people who deplore the oppression of the weak and helpless.

RAYS: Do you believe civilization, especially the Western World, has become more acutely aware of the harm that is being done to our "younger brothers," the animals?

ISAR: Yes, there is growing awareness of the harm that is done to our "younger brothers," the animals but much remains to be done to widen the awareness.

RAYS: Where do you feel the greatest abuses to animals are occurring now?

ISAR: In laboratories; in the raising, transporting and killing of animals for human food; in the overpopulation and attendant misery of dogs and cats; in the raising of and trapping and killing of animals for fur; in sport and entertainment (hunting, rodeos, performing animals, dog racing, horse racing, etc.)

RAYS: What prompted the founding of the ISAR and how many worldwide members and branches do you have at this time?

ISAR: The exploitation and suffering of animals prompted the founding of ISAR. ISAR has 28,000 members and contributors. The Society does not have branches.

RAYS: Does the ISAR believe that "political" methods are of any value in reducing the degree of abuses to animals?

ISAR: ISAR is actively engaged in legislative work on the federal and state levels and often polls candidates for elective office on specific issues.

It does not, however, endorse candidates. Nor does it take positions on political party lines.

RAYS: What are some of the avenues that are open to our readers who want to help in the Animal Rights Movement?

ISAR: Become informed of issues, first of all. Help to advance vegetarianism among others because the decision not to eat animals is a major step toward greater sensitivity to the plight of all exploited animals. It is a personal commitment that has good influence on others.

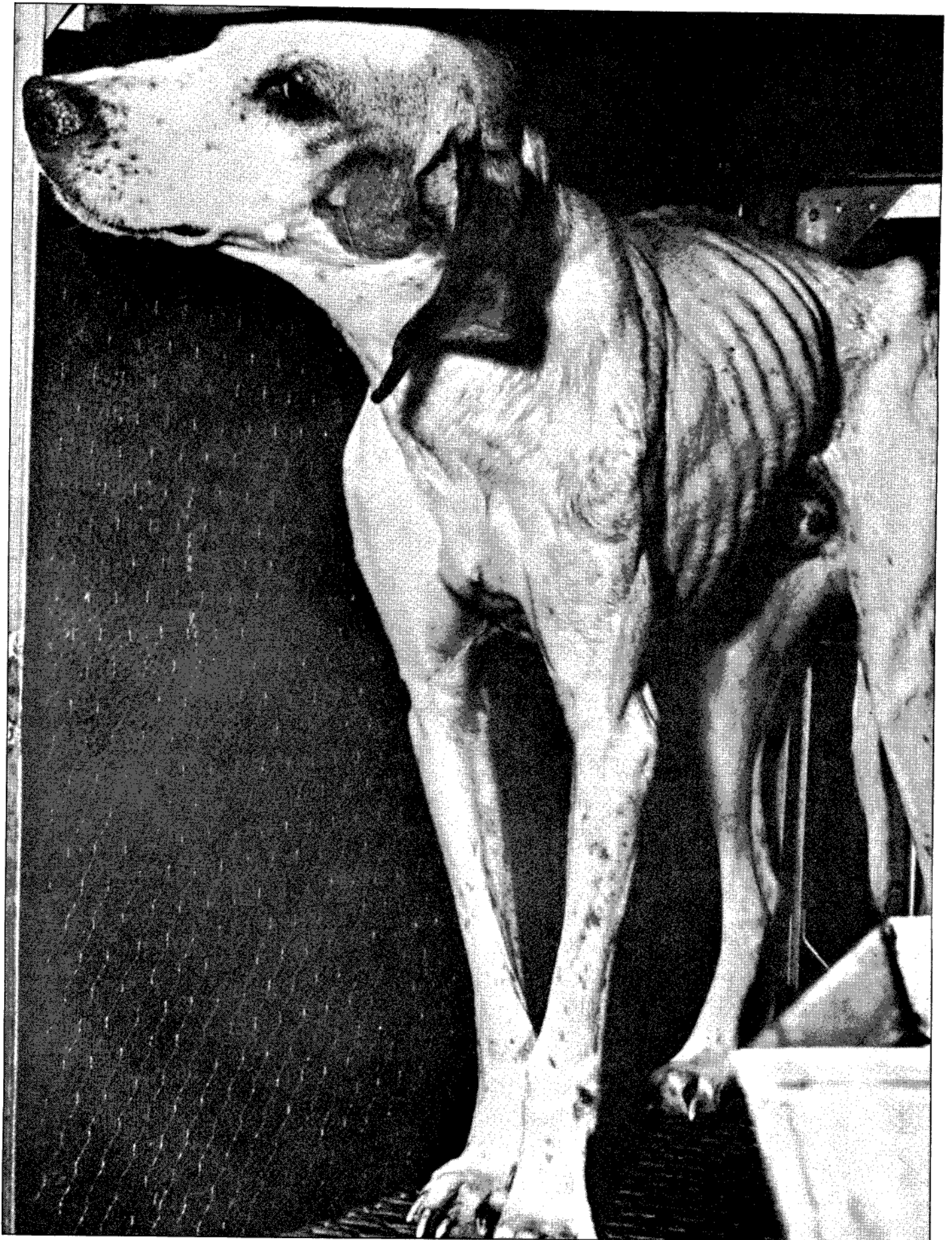
RAYS: Does ISAR advocate a vegetarian diet in an effort to stop the killing of animals for food?

ISAR: Yes.

RAYS: There is much talk about laboratories in the United States committing "Atrocities" to animals in the name of science and research." Does ISAR believe that these activities are justified in the light of our current levels of technology.

ISAR: ISAR believes that the use of animals in scientific laboratories has never been morally justified and never will be. Good ends cannot truly be served by means that are unjust and impose fear and suffering on the defenseless.

RAYS: Without mentioning any specific names or organizations, how widespread is animal abuse among United States manufacturing companies that use animals for testing their products.





ISAR members at demonstration about cosmetic tests in front of corporate headquarters of a major company in New York City.

ISAR: Very widespread. Animals are considered mere "tools," not sentient beings, by industry.

RAYS: Are there any "Pro-Animal Rights Groups" that have formulated alternatives to using "live animals" for the testing of various cosmetic products?

ISAR: Yes, ISAR has a list of a number of companies that sell cosmetics and other products, such as household cleaning products, that have not been tested on animals and which in

many cases do not include animal ingredients. The list of the companies from which catalogs can be obtained is available without charge from ISAR.

RAYS: Do you feel that adequate progress is being made in this area? Have you had any contact with cosmetic manufacturers or laboratories in regard to this subject?

ISAR: Adequate progress has not yet been made in substituting nonanimal methods for the testing of cosmetics and other products although consumer awareness is very

widespread and is very encouraging to ISAR and the animal rights movement. The companies need to hear increasingly from the public so that such uses of animals can be ended. Our main contact with the companies is through enlisting consumer protests to them and by demonstrations in which we call for the end of the use of animals.

RAYS: The Rosicrucian Fellowship advocates a vegetarian diet for both health and spiritual reasons. Do you feel that this information, if available to the public on a large

scale, would be of help to those people who are still seeking answers and advice on the "killing for food" question?

ISAR: Yes, The Rosicrucian Fellowship advocacy of information on a vegetarian diet would be of help to the public on a large scale. There is increasing interest in sound nutrition and also on the rights of animals not to be killed for food. The public therefore will increasingly be receptive to such information.

RAYS: What are the long-range goals and plans of the ISAR? How can interested people assist you in the work you are doing in the United States and around the world?

ISAR: To continue and increase advancing public awareness of the exploitation and suffering of animals and to appeal to all people to help end that exploitation and suffering. Interested people can obtain literature on the issues and make their personal decisions to help make our world more just in its treatment of animals. For example, in addition to vegetarianism, one can prevent suffering by having one's dogs or cats spayed or neutered to prevent overbreeding; by urging industry to substitute non-animal testing and production methods; by avoiding "entertainment" that involves "performances" or competition by animals; by not wearing or buying fur, and by

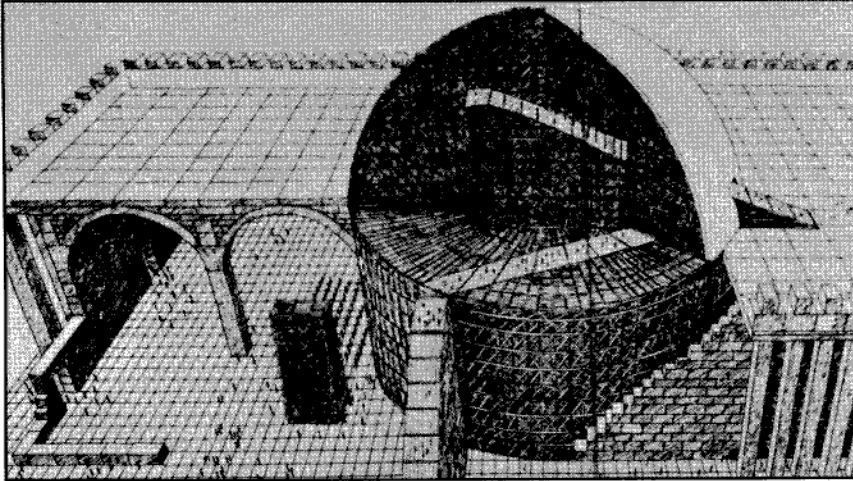
encouraging others by example and otherwise to recognize that animals are sentient beings dependent on our fair and respectful treatment or guardianship.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This "by mail" interview was conducted with the kind assistance of ISAR President, Helen Jones. Readers may contact the International Society for Animal Rights, Inc., by writing to their headquarters at 421 South State Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411, U.S.A. Free pamphlets, "Understanding the Animals" and "The Wisdom of a Vegetarian Diet" are also available from the The Rosicrucian Fellowship, P.O. Box 713, Oceanside, CA 92054. □



Rabbits restrained in stocks for cosmetic and other product testing.

Mystic Light



Close-up of the Temple of Poseidon in Atlantis (H. R. Stahl).

New Light on the Atlantis Question

The legendary founder of astrology was Atlas, envisioned in Greek myth as a titan supporting on his shoulders the sphere of the heavens. His name in fact means "the Upholder," from *atl*, the Sanskrit root for "support." His father, in the non-Platonic version of his lineage, was Uranos, personification of the sky. Plato said in his famous Dialogue, the "Critias," that Atlas was the son of Poseidon, the sea-god who fathered him on a mortal woman dwelling on an island "beyond the Pillars of Heracles," today's Straits of Gibraltar. Here Poseidon founded a great city, Atlantis, literally, "Daughter of Atlas," laid out in an unusual circular design of alternating, concentric rings of land and water divided into even sections by interconnecting ship canals, and embodying throughout its configuration the Sacred Numbers of 5 and 6, later defined by Pythagoras as the "Numerals of Life."

Although Atlantis flourished and rose to command an oceanic empire stretching from the Mediterranean World to the Atlantic shores of Mexico, the island on which she perched too precariously suffered a sudden, massive geologic upheaval common among islands located along the unstable Mid-Atlantic Ridge. "In a single day and night," the "Critias" reports, "the island of Atlantis disappeared beneath the sea."

"Volcanic cataclysms destroyed the greater part of the Lemurian continent and in its stead rose the Atlantean continent, where the Atlantic Ocean now is. Material scientists, impelled by the story of Plato to undertake researches regarding Atlantis, have demonstrated that there is ample foundation for the story that such a continent

did exist. Occult scientists know that it existed and they also know that the conditions there were such as shall now be described.

"Ancient Atlantis differed from our present world in many ways, but the greatest difference was in the constitution of the atmosphere and the water of that Epoch. From the southern part of the planet came the hot, fiery breath of the volcanoes which were still abundantly active. From the north swept down the icy blasts of the Polar region. The continent of Atlantis was the meeting-place of those two currents, consequently its atmosphere was always filled with a thick and murky fog. The water was not so dense as now, but contained a greater proportion of air. Much water was also held in suspension in the heavy, foggy Atlantean atmosphere.

"Through this atmosphere the Sun never clearly shone. It appeared to be surrounded by an aura of light-mist, as do street-lamps when seen through a dense fog. It was then possible to see only a few feet in any direction and the outlines of all objects not close at hand appeared dim, hazy and uncertain. Man was guided more by internal perception than by external vision." (*Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, Max Heindel, pages 291-294 describes the entire Atlantean Epoch)

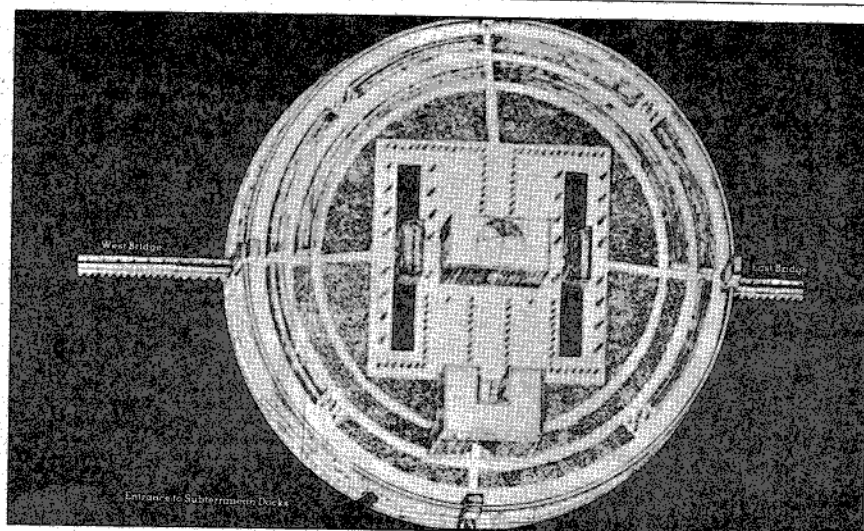
From Plato's day to our own, debate has raged over the credibility of his account. But with the Soviet Union's latest discoveries in the North Atlantic, Atlantis may no longer be regarded as entirely mythical. A Tass News Agency release for August 28th, 1986 read, "Soviet scientists, upon studying

the sand and silt from the floor of the northern Atlantic, have obtained arguments in favor of the hypothesis about the sunken continent or gigantic island, Atlantis. The analysis of the sediments surfaced by deep-water dredgers up to expeditionary vessels has shown that they had desposited only five millennia ago. Oceanologists and geologists are inclined to consider them the eroded remains of the legendary land which had been overwhelmed by the ocean shortly before that."

Astrology and Atlantis

While the academic community continues to puzzle over the Atlantis Question, many adepts in the spiritual disciplines have long believed that the lost civilization was something far more than a dubious curiosity in the historical record. Madame Blavatsky wrote at length of previous incarnations in Atlantis. Later, Edgar Cayce's "life readings" often described his clients as former Atlanteans, while many of today's leading psychics claim to have envisioned scenes from the last days of the doomed city. Astrologers have believed for centuries that their arts originated in the high temples of Atlantis. When the capital perished, survivors carried the Zodiac from their mid-ocean homeland to both East and West, an explanation that makes clearer the so-called "independent rise" of astrology in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica and Pre-Classical Western Civilization.

There are, after all, some leading features of Mesoamerican astrology which do more than



An overview reconstruction of the Temple of Poseidon

reflect a European connection. The Aztec Zodiac at the Museo Nacional de Mexico uses "atl" as its water symbol. A, t and l are the first three letters of "Atlantis," a water-bourne civilization. The Aztec Nahui-atl means "Four-Water," representing an age which saw the arrival in Middle America of Quetzalcoatl, the "Feathered Serpent," the yellow-bearded, light-eyed, fair-skinned culture-bearer, who appeared after the drowning death of his homeland, known to the Aztecs as Aztlan!, "across the sunrise sea" (i.e., the east.) Quetzalcoatl's Old World counterpart would appear to have been the Egyptian Thoth, the founding-father of civilization and inventor of astrology symbolized by a human male figure with the feathered head of the sacred ibis.

Ma-atl was the second day-sign for "deer," signifying the Mixtecs' deer-god and goddess, who "raised a great mountain" called a "Place-where-the-Heavens-stood" from the midst of the eastern ocean. Their offspring were pairs of twin sons, builders of glittering palaces and shrines, until they were destroyed by a devastating flood

that drowned Place-where-the-Heavens-stood. Comparison with Plato's story of Atlantis is remarkable. He described the city's princes as five sets of royal twins, who built neighboring kingdoms of the Atlantean empire, while Atlas, the central figure of the Atlantis story, was associated with the island's chief mountain which "up-held the heavens." Even the Mixtec "deer" symbolism finds its Old World correspondence in Atlantis. Jakob Ben Chaim, a 16th Century rabbi of Fez, Morocco, quoted a fragment from the ancient Sibyl of Erythraea on a descendant people who "had their original dwelling in Atlantis, and are half-deer...."

The Mesoamerican Zodiac

As though to confirm a cross cultural connection between the Old and New Worlds through Atlantean astrology, the Mesoamerican Zodiac functioned essentially the same as the European version. For man writes (pages 102-103), "the Stars (in the Mesoamerican Zodiac) were divided up into constellations, and those which

we know about appear to have been roughly the same as the constellations adopted in the European astrological tradition. Aquarius was a sign associated with the water god, Tlaloc, and Scorpio was also the sign of the scorpion to the Mexicans. A few years ago, the author worked with two friends on an imaginary horoscope, one using the standard European procedure, the other an Indian method, both of which were then compared with the Aztec version. Each worked separately with the same theoretical date, and, for no obvious reason at all, the answers were remarkably similar."

"The astrological year (of the Aztecs) was divided into months of thirteen days. It is a curious fact that the number of lunar months of thirteen days, with the intercalulation, should correspond precisely to the number of years in the Great Sothic Period of the Egyptians, viz, 1491, a period in which the seasons and festivals come round to the same place in the year again."¹ None of this is to suggest that Dynastic Egyptians brought the Zodiac to Mesoamerica, but rather Aztec and Nile Civilizations both received their gift of astrology independently from the same, mid-Atlantic source. Flavius Josephus, the 1st Century Jewish historian, reported that the Zodiac reached Europe via the Atlantic shores of North Africa, "thence to Egypt, through to Babylon," the same western origins described by the 2nd Century Greek rhetorician, Lucian.

The Aztec priests preserved their astrological information in the Tonalpouhalli, or "Book of Fate," which was consulted by

the Emperor himself and apparently dealt with the most serious state matters. Astrology dominated the behavior and thinking of the Aztecs to a degree matched only by the Etruscans. If the comparison begins to suggest a common denominator in Atlantis, we should return again to Plato, who wrote that the Atlantean Empire stretched to include Etruria. That Zodiacs developed in both Mesoamerican and Pre-Classical European societies is remarkable enough of a cultural correspondence. But that both Zodiacs should be so alike as to feature the same astrological signs and to compute very similar results logically invalidates the possibility of a mere cultural coincidence.

One of the most revealing (and Atlantean) comparisons demonstrating an Old World presence in Middle America occurs in the Aztec god of the winds, Ehecatl. In the Vienna Codex, he is depicted bearing the heavens on his shoulders. The Egyptian Shu and the Sumerian Enlil, both associated with the Great Flood, were likewise portrayed supporting the sky, and they too, were wind-gods. Forman writes of Ehecatl, "he was an astrological deity," so his identification with Atlas would appear to be correct.

Atlas, The Father of Astrology

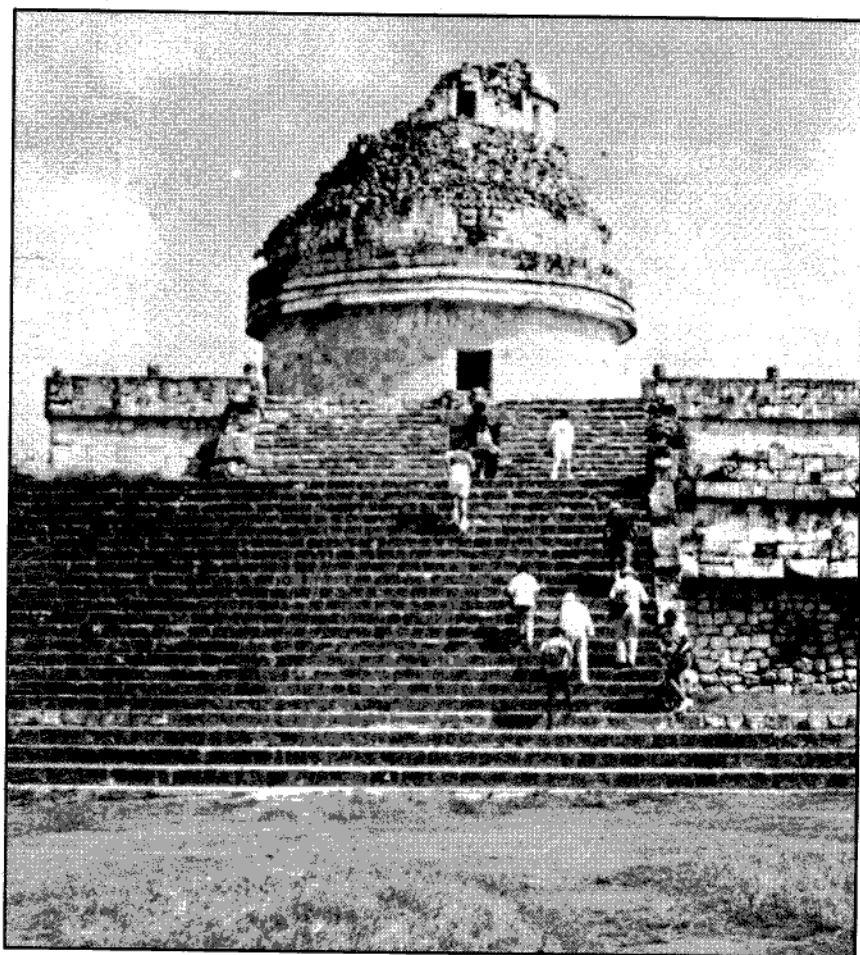
But what of Atlantis itself? What was responsible for its unusual design? The answer may lie with Atlas himself. The Greeks (Hesiod, etc.) said he was the father of astrology, as illustrated in his support of the heavens. The oldest known

zodiacs, circa 3000 B.C., were not found in the Near East. They were discovered instead at Cueva de Arce, Laguna de la Janada, in Cadiz, and in Alvao, Portugal. Cadiz, Plato said, was Gades, named after the second king of Atlantis, Gadeiros. Both sites are within the immediate, near-ocean sphere of Atlantean influence. The Portuguese zodiac is particularly interesting because

The zodiac is a "wheel of Life" (Five was the "Number of Life" in Atlantis) composed of twelve "Houses" divided by six, the Sacred Numeral of perfection.

it is arranged in a cromlech, a circle of megalithic stones surrounding a dolmen, or ceremonial mound, the basic configuration of both Stonehenge (which, incidentally, dates its First Phase from this same period) and Atlantis. The locations, lay-out and great antiquity of these Iberian sites define their Atlantean origins, and they prompt us to wonder: Was Atlantis itself a colossal zodiac? Or, at any rate, was it laid out according to astrological principles, like the Portuguese cromlech? The zodiac is a "wheel of Life" (Five was the "Number of Life" in Atlantis) composed of twelve "Houses" divided by six, the Sacred Numeral of perfection.

A cogent parallel may be found in western Italy, where "the twelve autonomous cities of the Old Etruscan Confederation, symbolically centered around the sacred lake Bolsena"² may have been arranged into zodiacal form. The Etruscans' link with Atlantis was pointed out by Plato, and their



El Caracol, the "Observatory" of the Mayas, Chichen Itza.

reputation as the leading astrologers of Classical times is undeniable. The astrological configuration of Etruria impressed Professor von Vacano, who "pointed out that the number twelve of the cities of their confederation was a holy symbolic sum, determined by religious, not practical considerations. 'Like constellations around the Pole Star, these hallowed places grouped themselves around the grove of the god Voltumna.' " So too, the twelve gates of Jerusalem, sometimes known as the "Celestial City," suggest its astrological basis in city-planning. Could Atlantis herself have encompassed a similar zodiacal significance in her very

design? As the home of astrology, the suggestion seems appropriate. Cuzco, the Inca capital, implies the same astral orientation. The Etruscan Voltumna celebrated his feast days at the seasonal equinoxes, periods computed by Stonehenge. Hoyle writes, "I would suppose the forerunners of the builders of Stonehenge, following the motion of the nodes along the Zodiac, observed how their position was related to the sun and to the monthly swing of the moon."³

The Magic Number Twelve

The Etruscans' example was echoed in the Trojan sphere

(from which their 13th Century B.C. ancestors came), and may after all have originated in western Asia Minor's "League of Twelve Cities." A dozen principles assembled at their yearly Fanum Voltumnae, just as twelve high priests convened annually at Mayapan and Chichen Itza. Known as Ah Kin, they were, in fact, astrologers ("kinyah," from which Ah Kin derives, means "to divine"), who ceremoniously dyed their bodies blue, recalling the royal blue of Plato's Atlantean kings. The Mayas claimed God parted "twelve paths through the sea" for the arrival in America of their ancestors. A dozen Guanche high priests, guayres, met at an assembly-place, the Tagoror, and divided Tenerife into twelve provinces. Scheria, Homer's thinly veiled description of Atlantis in the *Odyssey*, was likewise partitioned into twelve districts, and there too, a dozen princes met under the reign of King Alcinous, who sacrificed twelve oxen to Poseidon.

Cooper describes the circle as "the basis of the astrological scheme." The circle is "celestial unity, solar cycles, all cyclic movement; time enclosing space, signifying past, present and future." These definitions suggest the astrological character implicit in the circular layout of Atlantis as described by Plato, and they point to the recurring theme of the Sacred Numerals in Atlantean architecture and religion: "In Buddhism, the Sacred Mountain surrounded by his four islands; the quinconx being the meeting-point of heaven and earth and the four cardinal points plus the center." The circle's identity number is Five; with its point in



The author on the steps of the Acropolis, in Athens, where Plato composed his account of Atlantis.

the center (i.e., the Temple of Poseidon, the Navel of the World), the circle stands for "cyclic perfection; the resolution of all possibilities in the center."⁴

Mayan Temples

Cooper's is no mere speculation. The so-called El Castillo pyramid of Kukulcan, in Chichen Itza, contains a circular temple to the Feathered Serpent. The pyramid was known to the Mayas as Ichapa, "Divide the Circles," a name referring to the Atlantean configuration of a concentric enclosure surrounding a circular temple oriented to the four cardinal directions, thereby establishing the pyramid as a center for worship of the Atlantean "Navel of the World" religion. The Caracol, a Mayan observatory-temple, contains numerous repetitions of the Atlantean numerals throughout

its concentric construction. Interestingly, this interpretation of the circle's symbolism appears in the Egyptian hieroglyph for time; the word is "rek" (from which our "reckon" derives?). The association becomes still more apparent when we realize that Stonehenge, essentially a circle ringing a central point was a megalithic timepiece.

If Chichen Itza, as probably the most important and overtly Atlantean city in Mesoamerica, was configured according to astronomical-astrological principles, then it seems to follow that Cuzco, the most important and discernably Atlantean city in Precolumbian South America, should have been similarly oriented. And indeed it was. The Inca capital was conceived in a scheme of forty one imaginary lines (ceques) radiating outward from its center, the Coricancha ("Navel"), or Tem-

ple of the Sun, delineated by three hundred twenty eight sacred places (huacas).

Atlas, the inventor of astrology, was king, Plato wrote, of an island-empire in the Atlantic Ocean. In the *Critias*, he frequently describes Atlantis as divided into "zones." The divisions of the Zodiac are known as "zoniai kosmos," or "zones." Does Plato then suggest in his repeated choice of this particular term that the city itself was conceived and configured as a gargantuan Zodiac? As the homeland and first capital of astrology, the suggestion does not seem inappropriate. □

—Francis Joseph

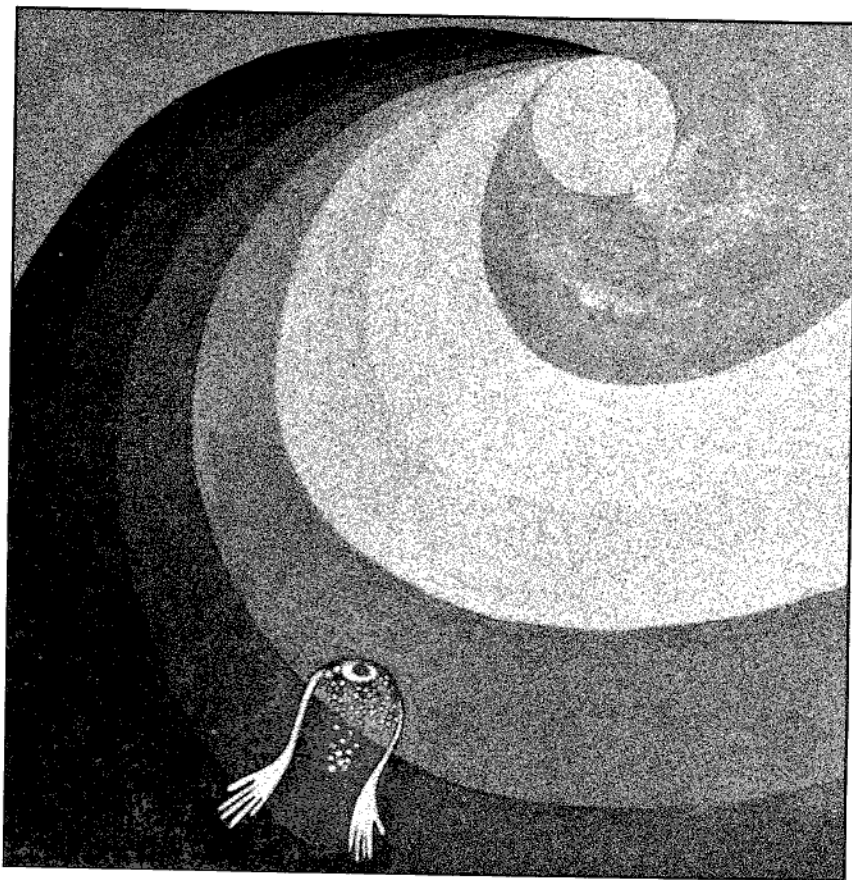
¹ *The Conquest of Mexico*, William Prescott, p. 106

² *The Mythic Image*, Joseph Campbell, p. 254, 307-308

³ *On Stonehenge*, Fred Hoyle, p. 120

⁴ *An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Traditional Symbols*. J. C. Cooper, p. 36, 116

Mystic Light



"Mystics on Main Street"

One's first reaction on seeing this headline in a leading national news journal might be joy the Ageless Wisdom is finally making a major impact on¹ our times. But the subheading, "While skeptics cast doubts, psychics count dollars," alerts one that the rejoicing could be premature. And as one reads on and learns that some of these "psychics are collecting up to \$250 an hour," one knows beyond doubt that this report is not dealing with the genuine, for *"No genuinely developed seer will ever exercise this faculty for money or its equivalent; nor will he use it to gratify curiosity; but only to help humanity."*²

Too, it is regrettable that in this article the words "mystics" and "psychics" are used interchangeably, for they are not one and the same. Some of the most renowned mystics of all time were not psychics—for instance, Francis of Assisi and Brother Lawrence, author of the devotional classic, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Since there are numerous definitions of "mystic," it is apparently easy to classify just about all "psychics" under this category, but that is not correct. A basic requirement of the true mystic should be that his life reflect total dedication to the service of God and man—a far cry indeed from the self-service of "collecting up to \$250 an hour."

It logically follows that if certain arcane information should not be dispensed for selfish gain, neither should it be sought for the same. As a case in point, there is the Biblical account of Simon of Samaria,³ which clearly proves that money-motivated Main Street is missing the mark.

Then why delve into mysticism—to be specific, the Western Wisdom Teachings? For a reason that cannot be sufficiently stressed: The discerning student of the Christian religion realizes sooner or later that the literal interpretation of the Bible as offered by Fundamentalists is untenable; on the other hand, when the Modernists get through with it, not much is left; it may be little more than some soporific bedtime stories plus advice on how to be a goody-goody! The Rosicrucian Teachings fill the void by demonstrating that the sublime message of the Biblical Canon, interpreted spiritually as it should be,⁴ is in full harmony with both science and reason.

We can indeed know that there is a God of love; that life has purpose and meaning. Thus all doubt disappears. One is free to love and serve God with utter abandon; one's heart is flooded by Divine Love; one experiences God; one has found the Pearl of Great Price! This is mysticism at its best, true mysticism—not that which is being merchandized on Main Street! □

—A Probationer

¹ U.S. News & World Report, February 9, 1987, pp. 67-69.

² *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, Max Heindel, p. 68.

³ Acts 8: 9-24.

⁴ I Corinthians 2:14.

Max Heindel's Message

The Coming Age

When We speak of the Coming Age, of the "New Heaven and the New Earth" mentioned in the Bible, and also of the Aquarian Age, the differences may not be quite clear in the minds of our students. Confusion of terms is one of the most fertile seed grounds of fallacy, and the Rosicrucian Teachings aim to avoid it by a particularly definite nomenclature. Sometimes an extra effort seems necessary to disperse the haze engendered by current cloudy conceptions of others as sincere as the present writer, but not so fortunate in having access to the incomparable Western Wisdom Teachings.

It has been taught in our literature that four great epochs of unfoldment preceded the present order of things; that the density of the Earth, its atmospheric conditions, and the laws of nature prevailing in one epoch were as different from those of the other epochs as was the corresponding physiological constitution of mankind of one epoch different from those in the others.

The bodies of ADM (the name means red earth), the humanity of fiery Lemuria, were formed of the "dust of the ground," the red, hot, volcanic mud, and were just suited to their environment. Flesh and blood would have shriveled up in the terrible heat of that day, and though suited to present conditions, Paul tells us that they cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. It is therefore manifest that before a new order of things can be inaugurated, the physiological constitution of mankind must be radically changed, to say nothing of the spiritual attitude. Aeons will be required to regenerate the whole human race and fit them to live in ethereal bodies.

On the other hand, neither does a new environment come into existence in a moment, but land and people are evolved together from the smallest and most primitive beginnings. When the mists of Atlantis commenced to settle, some of our forbears had grown embryonic lungs and were forced to the highlands ages before their compeers. They wandered in "the wilderness" while "the promised land" was emerging from the lighter fogs, and at the same time their growing lungs were fitting them to live under present atmospheric conditions.

Two more races were born in the basins of the Earth before a succession of floods drove them to the highlands; the last flood took place at the time when the Sun entered the watery sign Cancer, about ten thousand years ago as told Plato by the Egyptian priests. Thus we see there is no sudden change of constitution or environment for the whole human race when a new epoch is ushered in, but an overlapping of conditions which makes it possible for most of the race by gradual adjustment to enter the new condition, though the change may seem

to the individual when the preparatory change has been accomplished unconsciously. The metamorphosis of a tadpole from a denizen of the watery element to one of the airy gives an analogy of the past, and the transformation of the caterpillar to a butterfly soaring in the air is an apt simile of the coming age. When the heavenly time marker came into Aries by precession, a new cycle commenced, and the "glad tidings" were preached by Christ. He said by implication that the new heaven and earth were not ready then when He told His disciples: Whither I go you cannot now follow, but you shall follow afterwards. I go to prepare a place for you and will come again and receive you.

Later John saw in a vision the new Jerusalem descending from heaven, and Paul taught the Thessalonians "by the word of the Lord" that those who are Christ's at His coming shall be caught up in the air to meet Him and be with Him for the age.

But during this change there are pioneers who enter the kingdom of God before their brethren. Christ, in Matt. 11:12, said that "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." This is not a correct translation. It ought to be: The kingdom of the heavens has been invaded (biaketai), and invaders seize on her. Men and women have already learned through holy, helpful lives to lay aside the body of flesh and blood, either intermittently or permanently, and to walk the skies with winged feet, intent upon the business of their Lord, clad in the ethereal "wedding garment" of the new dispensation. This

change may be accomplished through a life of simple helpfulness and prayer as practiced by devoted Christians, no matter with what church they affiliate, as well as by the specific exercises given in The Rosicrucian Fellowship. The latter will prove barren of results, unless accompanied by constant acts of love for love which will be the keynote of the coming age as Law is of the present order. The intense expression of the former quality increases the phosphorescent luminosity and density of the ethers in our vital bodies, the fiery streams sever the tie to the mortal coil, and the man, once born of water upon his emergence from Atlantis, is now born of the spirit into the kingdom of God. The dynamic force of his love has opened a way to the land of love, and indescribable is the rejoicing among those already there when new invaders arrive, for each new arrival hastens the coming of the Lord and the definite establishment of the Kingdom.

Among the religiously inclined there is a definite unceasing cry: How long, O Lord; how long? And despite the emphatic statement of Christ that the day and hour are unknown, even to Himself, prophets continue to gain credence when they predict His coming on a certain day, though each is discomfited when the day passes without development. The question has also been debated among our students, and the present article is an attempt to show the fallacy of looking for the Second Advent in a year or fifty or five hundred. The Elder Brothers decline to commit themselves further than to point out what must first be accomplished.

At the time of Christ the Sun was in about seven degrees of Aries. Five hundred years were required to bring the precession to the thirtieth degree of Pisces. During that time the new church lived through a stage of offensive and defensive violence well justifying the words of Christ: "I came not to bring peace but a sword." Fourteen hundred years more have elapsed under the negative influence of Pisces, which has fostered the power of the church and bound the people by creed and dogma.

In the middle of the last century the Sun came within orb of influence of the scientific sign *Aquarius*, and although it will take about seven hundred years before the Aquarian Age commences, it is highly instructive to note what changes the mere touch has wrought in the world. Our limited space precludes enumeration of the wonderful advances made since then; but it is not too much to say that science, invention, and resultant industry have completely changed the world, its social life, and economic conditions. The great strides made in means of communication have done much to break down barriers of race prejudice and prepare us for conditions of Universal Brotherhood. Weapons of destruction have been made so fearfully efficient that the militant nations will be forced ere long to "beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." The sword has had its reign during the Piscean Age, but science will rule in the Aquarian Age.

In the land of the setting Sun we may expect to first see the ideal conditions of the Aquarian

Age: A blending of religion and science, forming a religious science and a scientific religion, which will promote the health, happiness and the enjoyment of life in abundant measure.

Sugar for Alcohol

In the chapter elucidating the Law of Assimilation in the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, we stated that minerals cannot be assimilated because they lack a vital body, which lack makes it impossible for man to raise their vibratory rate to his own pitch. Plants have a vital body and no self-consciousness, hence are most easily assimilated and remain with man longer than cells of animal flesh, which is permeated by a desire body. The vibratory rate of the latter is high, and much energy is required in assimilation; its cells also quickly escape and make it necessary for the flesh eater to forage often.

We are aware that alcohol is a "foreign spirit" and a "spirit of decay," because it is generated by fermentation OUTSIDE the consumer's system. Being "spirit," it vibrates with such intense rapidity that the human spirit is incapable of tuning it down and controlling it as food must be, hence metabolism is out of the question. Nay, more, as we cannot reduce its vibratory rate to that of our bodies, this foreign spirit may accelerate their vibratory pitch and control us as happens in the state of intoxication. Thus alcohol is a great danger to mankind and one from which we must be emancipated ere we can realize our divine nature. □

**—Gleanings of a Mystic,
Max Heindel**

Studies in the Cosmo-Conception

The Central Region of the Desire World

Question: Where is Purgatory located in the Desire World?

Answer: Purgatory occupies the three lower Regions of the Desire World.

Question: What do we find in the fourth Region?

Answer: The central, or fourth Region is a sort of borderland—neither heaven nor hell.

Question: What kind of people are here?

Answer: In this Region we find people who are honest and upright; who wronged no one but were deeply immersed in business and thought nothing of the higher life.

Question: What do they do there?

Answer: For them the Desire World is a state of the most indescribable monotony. There is no “business” in that world, nor is there, for a man of that kind, anything that will take its place. He has a very hard time until he learns to think of higher things than ledgers and drafts.

Question: What other types are in that Region?

Answer: The people who thought of the problem of life and came to the conclusion that “death ends it all”; who denied the existence of things outside the material sense world—these people also feel this dreadful monotony.

Question: What had they expected?

Answer: They had expected annihilation of consciousness, but instead of that they find themselves with an augmented perception of persons and things about them.

Question: What is often their reaction to this state?

Answer: They had been accustomed to denying these things so vehemently that they often fancy

the Desire World an hallucination, and may frequently be heard exclaiming in the deepest despair, “When will it end? When will it end?”

Question: Is such a state really bad?

Answer: Such people are really in a pitiable state. They are generally beyond the reach of any help whatever and suffer much longer than almost anyone else.

Question: Do they suffer other losses?

Answer: Yes. In addition they have scarcely any life in the Heaven World, where the building of bodies for future use is taught, and so they put all their crystallizing thoughts into whatsoever body they build for a future life; thus a body is built that has the hardening tendencies we see, for instance, in consumption.

Question: Does this result in good?

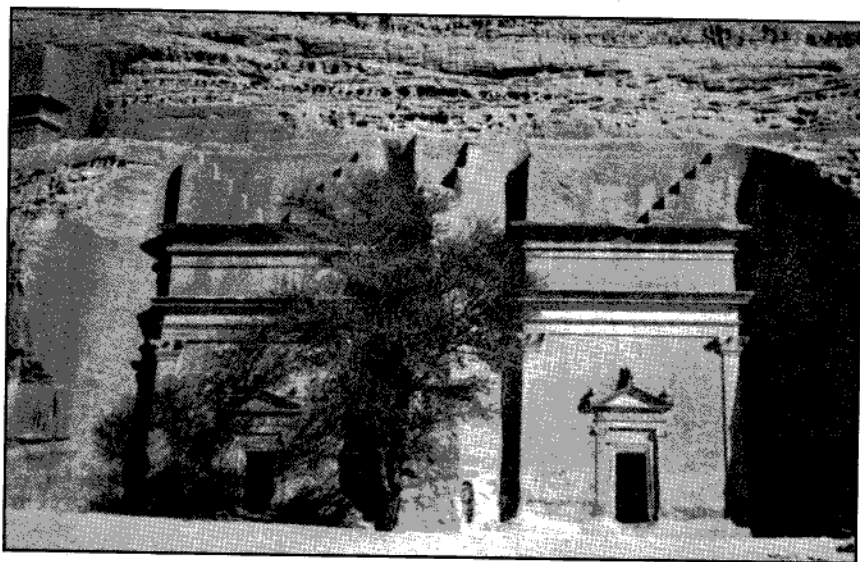
Answer: Sometimes the suffering incident to such decrepit bodies will turn the thoughts of the entities ensouling them to God and their evolution can proceed.

Question: In which type lies the greatest danger?

Answer: In the materialistic mind lies the greatest danger of losing touch with the Spirit and becoming an outcast. Therefore, the Elder Brothers have been very seriously concerned for the last century regarding the fate of the Western World, and were it not for their special beneficent action in its behalf we would have had a social cataclysm compared with which the French Revolution would have been child's play. □

—Reference: *Cosmo-Conception*, pp. 112-113

Western Wisdom Bible Study



The Hidden Wisdom

But we speak the Wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

—1 Cor. 2:7-10

That the "Wisdom of God" became hidden and a "mystery" to man was due to the fact that during his long septenary journey from all-consciousness to self-consciousness he deviated from the original divine plan for him and became so crystallized that he lost conscious touch with the invisible worlds and the invisible (to us now) beings inhabiting them, as well as with the spiritual truths concerning his origin and pilgrimage into matter.

Prior to a certain time in the Lemurian Epoch man's consciousness was focused in the spiritual realms: he was unconscious of the physical process of propagation, birth, and death. When his "eyes were opened," his consciousness was directed outward toward the facts of the Physical World and conditions were altered. Thenceforth he grew less and less conscious of the spiritual worlds and beings about him.

However, the nadir of materiality was finally passed, and the Christ, the mightiest of the Archangels, came, was crucified and became the indwelling Spirit of our planet. From the center of the Earth He sends forth his powerful love-radiation, making it possible for man to etherealize his bodies, unfold his spiritual faculties, and thus regain his

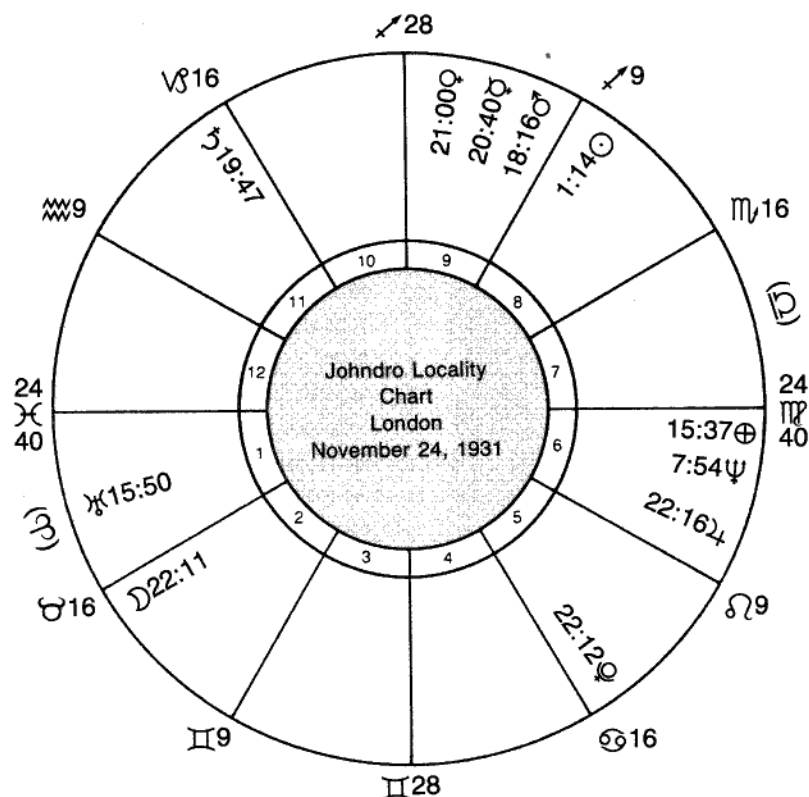
lost heritage. Thus the "hidden wisdom" will become revealed and man will *know* from *within*, intuitively, of "the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

The Rosicrucian Philosophy describes the intuitive process thus: "As the blood passes through the heart, cycle after cycle, hour after hour all through life it engraves the pictures it carries upon the seed atoms while they are still fresh, thus making a faithful record of the life which is always in closest touch with the Life Spirit, the Spirit of Love and Unity, therefore the heart is the home of altruistic love.

"As these pictures pass inward to the World of Life Spirit, in which is the true Memory of Nature, they do not come through the slow physical senses, but directly through the fourth ether contained in the air we breathe. In the World of Life Spirit, the Life Spirit sees much more clearly than it can in the denser Worlds. In its high home it is in touch with the Cosmic Wisdom and in any situation it knows at once what to do and flashes the message of guidance and proper action back to the heart, which as instantaneously flashes it on to the brain through the medium of the pneumogastric nerve, resulting in "first impressions"—the intuitional impulse, which is always good, because it is drawn directly from the fountain of Cosmic Wisdom and Love.

"This is all done so quickly that the heart has control before the slower reason has had time to 'take in the situation,' as it were. It is the thought that a man 'thinketh in his heart,' and it is true that 'so is he.' " □

Astrology



From London With Love

Some fifty five years ago, during the dark and dismal depths of the Depression, on November 24, 1931, London was the scene of one of modern man's most magnificent moments—the Birth of the British Commonwealth of Nations. A review of the events, plus a view of the celestial script for the occasion, will demonstrate why this was truly a shining hour for an illustrious island.¹

The British had for long perceived that this was the 20th century; 19th century colonial procedures were long passé. So—aeons ahead of other imperial powers—they decided to replace a colonial edifice built on servile submission with an entity based instead on voluntary allegiance. Under this new setup, the old mother country would virtually be no more than a sot of *primus inter pares*.² Not crude force, but cordial fealty to the Crown would be the new tie that binds. Admittedly, things have not always gone smoothly, as was most recently attested by the mid-summer '86 Summit of its 49 members, but the desirable has vastly outweighed the deplorable. For instance, there's little doubt that had it not been for the support of the Commonwealth, Britain could not have held against Hitler's hordes a decade later until the U.S. was drawn into the conflict by Pearl Harbor.

By stark contrast, after World War II, nations like France, Holland, Portugal etc. vainly sought to keep their empires by force. It was a strain and a drain without a gain. But enlightened England, by voluntarily

dismantling her *ancien régime* herself, had gained in power, poise, peace, prestige. If, as has been said, a good statesman is one who can foresee the trends of the next century, then the architects of the Commonwealth surely built better than they knew!

As we peruse the Commonwealth's celestial certificate of birth, the very first item to grab our attention is the total absence of planets in air signs! That imbalance is generally taken to mean a lack or absence of reason, logic. Can that really be said of this great 49-member family? Yes, and in a most marvelous way!

The birth of the Commonwealth can indeed be described as devoid of reason—human reason, that is. It simply isn't logical for a nation voluntarily to give away on such unprecedented scale. This act involved territories comprising something like one-fourth of the world's population! For centuries, stalwarts like Raleigh (the Americas), Raffles (Southeast Asia), and Rhodes (Africa) had laboriously and lovingly built the empire—and now this? At the stroke of a pen, their labors were renounced! Surely from a human standpoint this contravenes reason! But then, whenever (idealistic) light has shone, the darkness (human reason) comprehended it not!

And truly this is a most idealistic chart! We find three planets in the ninth house of higher mind; the Sun³ is on the cusp, and Jupiter is also admitted by mutual reception! Of the "basic" seven planets, five can thus be said to be in Sagittarius and the ninth house, and the other two aren't badly off

either. The Moon is exalted in Taurus and in Taurus' house; Saturn is in its dignity in Capricorn; both are trine Fortuna!

This leads us to notice that this chart has two Grand Trines: an earthly (Moon, Saturn, Fortuna) and a fiery (Uranus, Jupiter and the Sun, Venus, Mercury, Mars). We know that Grand Trines can be great blessings;⁴ Britain on November 24, 1931 gave much; Heaven blessed it in like measure.

There is also a "Yod" or "Finger of God" configuration here, and what a strong one: The Moon, Pluto, and Venus, Mercury, Mars; Jupiter may be included by mutual reception. The Finger of God can also be a great boon; in this case, if the people (Moon) regenerate (Pluto) their values (Venus), mental focus (Mercury), actions and desires (Mars) and response to life's opportunities (Jupiter).

What would then result? For this we look to the "Point of Release," located in the degree halfway between the two planets in sextile. The Sabian symbol for the 23rd degree of Gemini is, "Three fledglings in a nest high in a tree"; surely this is a picture of security. The keyword for this degree is "Elevation."⁵ Surely giving brings security on an elevated plane!

The Finger of God in this chart ties the two Grand Trines together, which of course strengthens them. Do we fully realize what we have here before us? One Grand Trine in a chart is fortuitous; two would be tremendous;⁶ but also having them joined by the Finger of God is extraordinary and stupendous!

We truly believe we are standing here on hallowed ground, as it were! Who would dispute that both the idea behind the event and the timing might have been inspired from Realms higher than human? Might not the Lords of Destiny have had a hand—and a purpose in this?

Most definitely! Action minus purpose is irrational; that the Lords of Destiny are not. They are ever motivated by purpose, and to find the purpose in a chart like this, we look to the closest aspect of Fortuna. In this case, it is a quincunx to Uranus. We further find that the solstice point of Fortuna is conjunct Uranus; very rarely indeed do we find this double emphasis in a chart. It is as though the Heavens sought to underscore something, to remind us that Uranus is *the* planet of the Aquarian Age! The creation of the British Commonwealth of Nations was an Aquarian event! For surely a genuine commonwealth is an Aquarian idea. Thus not only the United States, but also the *transformed* British Empire is a foreshadowing of New Age government and life.

After all, giving is what the coming Age of Aquarius is all about. Giving is what living—true living—has always been all about!

It is noteworthy that when Uranus transited Aries, the sign of the pioneer, in the 20th century, it produced the Aquarian British Commonwealth of Nations; during the same transit in the 19th century, it produced the Aquarian 1848 revolutions in behalf of political freedom that

rocked most of Western Europe. And during its 18th century Arian transit, the American colonists first rose up against Britain in the 1760's. *That* was the real start of the American Revolution; the Declaration of Independence 11 years later—by which time Uranus had moved into Gemini, the sign of *Communication*—merely *informed* the world that the goal was no longer autonomy, but full freedom!

The Capricornian British Empire was transformed into the Aquarian Commonwealth by a grand act of giving—freedom to peoples of all races and climes—even as America became great by offering the same precious commodity to multitudes. It was giving that raised both to greatness; giving is the bond between them. And that is as it should be. After all, giving is what the coming Age of Aquarius is all about. Giving is what living—true living—has *always* been all about! □

—A Probationer

¹ *New Age Bible Interpretation*, by Corinne Heline, Vol. 2, p. 342; Vol. 3 p. 273.

² Latin for first among equals. This expression was first bandied about during the third century in reference to the struggle of the bishop of Rome to gain the ascendancy over his peers.

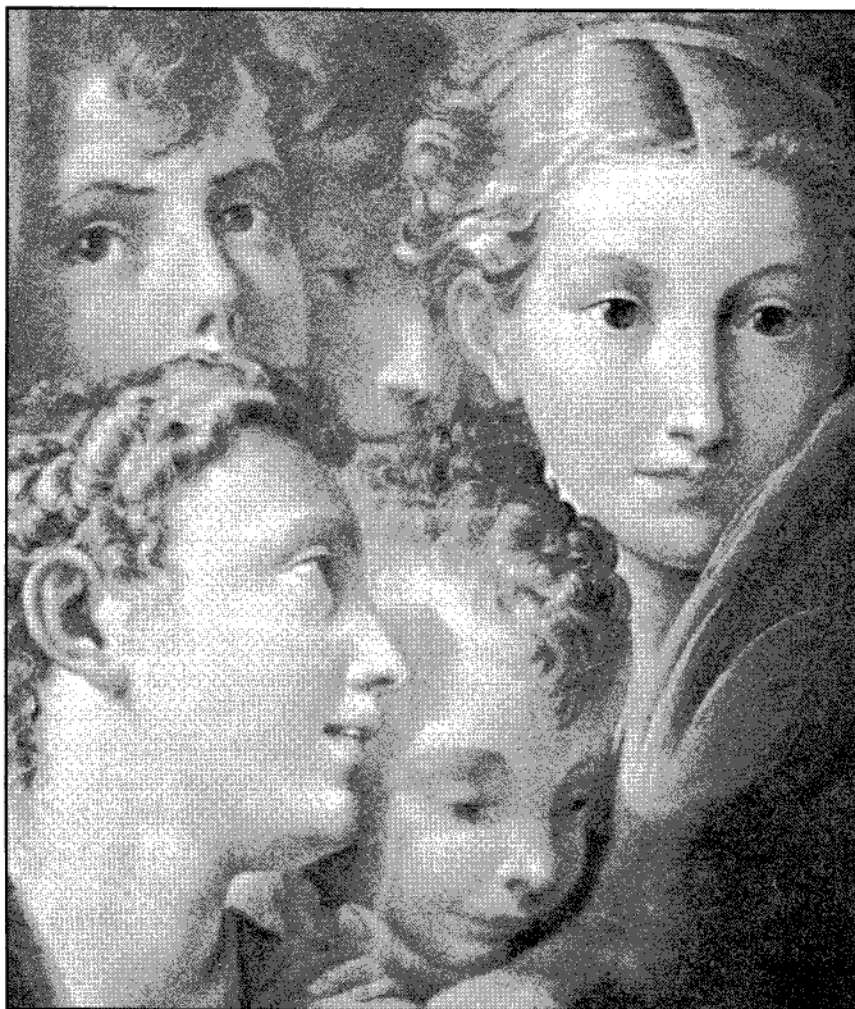
³ Because there was no New Moon in Sagittarius prior to November 24, 1931. The Sun also projects Scorpio vibrations. The eighth sign is the strongest of them all; hence, the vitality of the chart—and the Commonwealth—is further enhanced!

⁴ It helps if Grand Trines are balanced by squares; here, Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto constitute a T-Square.

⁵ See *The Sabian Symbols*, by Marc Edmund Jones, p. 232.

⁶ One Grand Trine is in the positive signs, the other in negative ones; added strength through balance!

Astrology



The Wedding Chart

PART I

This discourse on wedding charts is offered as an attempt to clarify to astrological students the processes and meanings of the togetherness of two persons who are united for mutual experience in marriage. It has been felt by the author for some time that to do a chart for the time that the wedding is scheduled to start is not really valid. Herein is present a little food for thought as to the valid timing of a wedding chart.

From what occult philosophy has to say about human evolution through the processes of re-incarnation, to "be born" really means to "re-appear in the flesh." Since we have all been involved in the re-incarnative process for quite some time now, "to be married" really means "to be married again." It is extremely unlikely that any person now incarnate has never before been committed to the marital estate.

We have all done the equivalent of saying "I do" in various languages, countries, and epochs—and in voices either loud or soft. Since "husband-wife" is a specialized identity of "man-woman," the twofold "I do" and the final pronouncements of the officiant (or their equivalents) is really a variation of "I AM"; in other words, as far as this incarnation is concerned, the birth of a new identity. There is a remarkable parallel between the "birth of husband-wife" and that of the individual as a physical expression. Let us consult the Great Mandala:

A circle with the vertical and horizontal diameters; the symbols of the cardinal signs (Aries, Capricorn, Libra, Cancer) at the left point, upper point, right point, and lower point, respectively (the cusps of the Ascendant, tenth, seventh, and fourth houses); from the midpoint of the Cancer-line through the midpoints of Libra-Capricorn and down to the midpoint of Aries, draw a curved line, resulting in three-quarters of a circle; connect, by drawing a straight line, the cusp-points of Aries-Cancer (the points where the cusp-lines strike the circle.)

To digress for just a moment to explain the symbolism of the straight Aries-Cancer line: until you arrive at the half-way point when you walk or drive through a tunnel you are entering the interior of the mountain or hill; the half-way point marks the change of your relationship with the interior and as you continue on from the interior toward the exit; as you pass through the exit you leave the interior. On the inner planes, between incarnated

states, there is a "turning point" which is determined by your fitness to reincarnate. The vibratory gravitational pull of your unfulfilled ideals then goes into effect and your preparations for reincarnation begin to be activated. In other words, from that point you are leaving the interior of subjectivity—the "exit" of which is your first contact with your vehicle-to-be at conception.

While you are still in the subjective state but are preparing for reincarnation, things are happening on the objective plane. For example: those who are to be your parents may have recently met each other, recognized the mutual love-attention and desire for union, prepared for their wedding-ceremony, established their home, effected the intimacy of their union, etc. Or, if another child or other children preceded you into the family, this outer preparation may simply be the mutual decision of your parents-to-be to fulfill their urge for further parental experience and, in response to that urge, they effect the emotional and physical synchronization which results in the conception of your vehicle. Whatever it may be, preparation is synchronized in both the inner and outer states. At the timing that is exactly right for your requirements, the seed of your body is ignited into expression and your vehicle commences its individualization. At the end of the prenatal period you are "born"—which simply means "physically individualized." Your body is, at one and the same time, the chemicalized expression of a desire-object upon which your parents are to exercise their individual and mutual

Love-Wisdom resources and your desire to evolve through new expressions of your potentials.

The quadrant in the mandala represented by "Aries-to-Cancer" is the subjective preparation of your incarnation; Cancer is conception; Libra is the objectification of physical sex-to-be and subjectification of complementation-to-be; Capricorn is the solidification of the organism; Pisces, if it were to be shown at the twelfth cusp, is the condensed symbol of the unfulfilled residues of the three crosses; Aries, at the end of the three crosses; Aries at the end of the three pre-natal quadrants, is the symbol of your re-appearance, at birth, in physical individuality—the re-objectification of your "I AM" on this plane. From then on, until transition back to subjectivity,

The first meeting of the two persons ends the "subjective" phase and this "point in time" is analogous to the conception-point of the mandala.

your "I AM" unfolds its potentials through your various relationship-exchanges with other human beings. Give this much thought and reflection—it is the "human picturing" of a cosmic pattern.

With this analogy in mind and keeping the mandala at hand, we will now translate this pattern into terms of the subject at hand—the significance of the wedding ceremony as the establishment of a new identity of two human beings.

The "subjective turning-point" is the time when each person acts on a thought, a feeling, or an opportunity in such a way that their meeting is the inevitable outcome. Examples: they each accept an invitation (1) to dinner at the home of a mutual friend tomorrow evening; (2) to enjoy a camping trip with mutual friends next month; (3) to attend an exhibition of Chinese art on a certain day next January, or if they are both astrologers—bless their hearts; (4) to speak at a convention of "Star-lit Stargazers, Inc." at West Blubber, Greenland, in 1988.

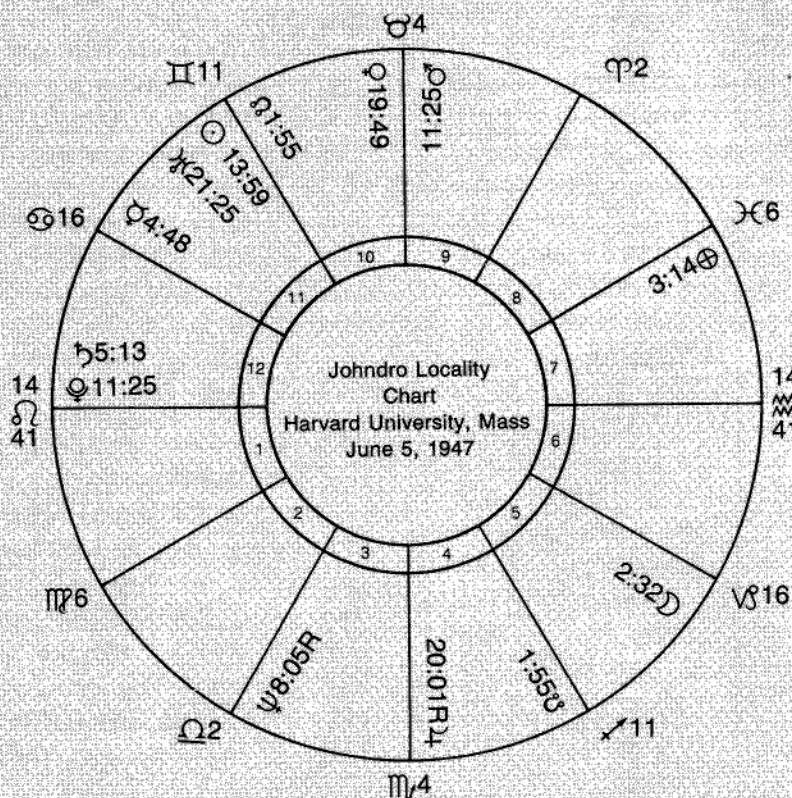
The receipt of the invitation marks the turning point; the acceptance is the action which draws them, day by day, from "subjectivity of bachelorhood-spinsterhood" toward the "objectivity of new identity as husband-wife." The time element is, of course, an individual variable; some couples must wait a long time before they meet while others meet and enjoy attraction to each other in sudden and (most delightfully) unexpected ways. The "mutual friends"—or the Board of Directors of "Star-lit Stargazers, Inc."—are chemicalized agencies of the one magnetic Love-power that is instrumental in effecting the contact of the two persons with each other.

The first meeting of the two persons ends the "subjective" phase and this "point in time" is analogous to the "conception-point" of the mandala. Now their togetherness is physically established and the vibratory exchange is, consciously or unconsciously, inaugurated. □

—Elman Bacher

Studies in Astrology, Volume 8

Astrology



Stars Over Foreign Aid

On June 5, 1947, the late Secretary of State George C. Marshall travelled to Harvard and as part of his commencement address introduced and outlined what was later to become the Marshall Plan, the vast program of U.S. foreign aid. Perhaps never before or since have so many given so much to so many, yet results have been less than expected. The stellar script explains.

Because of the nature of the enterprise, let us look at the Part of Fortune first, here a Part of Misfortune,¹ located between the seventh house of partners and the eighth house of shared resources: that's what the activity is all about—sharing U.S. abundance with those less fortunate. Its closest aspect is to the M.C., which focuses on where the emphasis is. Also close by is Venus, conjunct Mars's North Node; Mars itself is in the midpoint between Venus and the M.C., square Pluto and the Ascendant, it is the dispositor of Lilith in the ninth house and in its South Node we find Jupiter near the I.C., of which Mars is co-ruler. We have here a very powerful Martian influence, basically

negative. Mars is the planet of war, and the undeniable fact is that the Marshall Plan was inspired by the beginning of the Cold War.

Altruism alone was not the motive; there was also an effort to add strength in an adversarial situation. Thus Uranus, planet of altruism, makes no harmonious aspects: a quincunx to Jupiter, a semisquare to Saturn, a nonagen (obligation) to Mars: the Cold War "obligated" the U.S. to carry out this endeavor. We also find Jupiter and Neptune both retrograde, closely flanking the I.C., thereby further beclouding motives.

The planetary distribution of this chart falls into two patterns: It is a Splash, which tends to scatter energy and resources; but it is also one rarely seen, a Cradle: Three sextiles, two trines, one opposition. This configuration denotes immaturity and/or dependency and truly, in too many instances, foreign aid has produced a negative state of affairs, with countries becoming dependent on this inflow of American largesse.

Revealing is the Sabian symbol for the Ascendant degree: "A pageant"; part of the description is, "Embarrassing self-assertion." The Sun, its ruler, is conjunct the North Node of Uranus, which is upsetting. Just above the Ascendant is Saturn, in Leo, where, negatively, it is inclined to be the autocrat. Even closer to the Rising Degree is Pluto, ever intense and augmenting the basic meaning of Leo Ascendant, Larger than Life. In other words, aid has gone to excess, been overdone!

The Cardinal T-Square (Mercury, Moon, Neptune) underscores this. The point opposite

its apex shows the remedy; the Sabian symbol is described as offering "higher faculties of human understanding"; what might these be?:

1) Altruism is the only valid reason for benevolence. Of a certain ruler in Europe it was said, He readily forgave his enemies, and never let them forget it! Forgiving is a kind of benevolence, as is also giving; what applies to one applies to the other; there must be no strings attached!

2) The kind of giving that creates dependence is less than helpful. Psychologists know that good parents strive to make themselves dispensable; good givers do the same. "Let all things be done unto edifying."² Perpetuating dependence is the opposite!

3) There is danger of giving too much, as this chart indicates. When one abstains from food for reasons of health, the fast must be broken gradually, or the result could be tragic. After World War II Europe found itself on a sort of involuntary economic fast; it was not ready for a rapid and inflated infusion of aid; it couldn't handle all that the United States poured in; giving must be calibrated according to the ability to receive. Our Lord recognized this principle: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."³ He also said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."⁴ But it must be done prudently! □

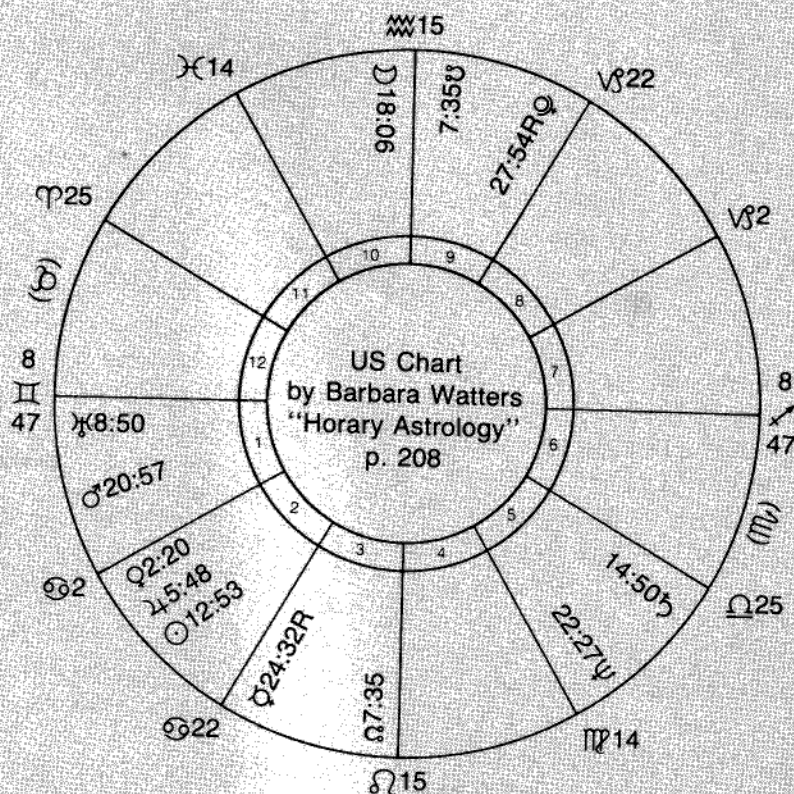
—A Probationer

¹ Because it is in Pisces and on the eighth house cusp.

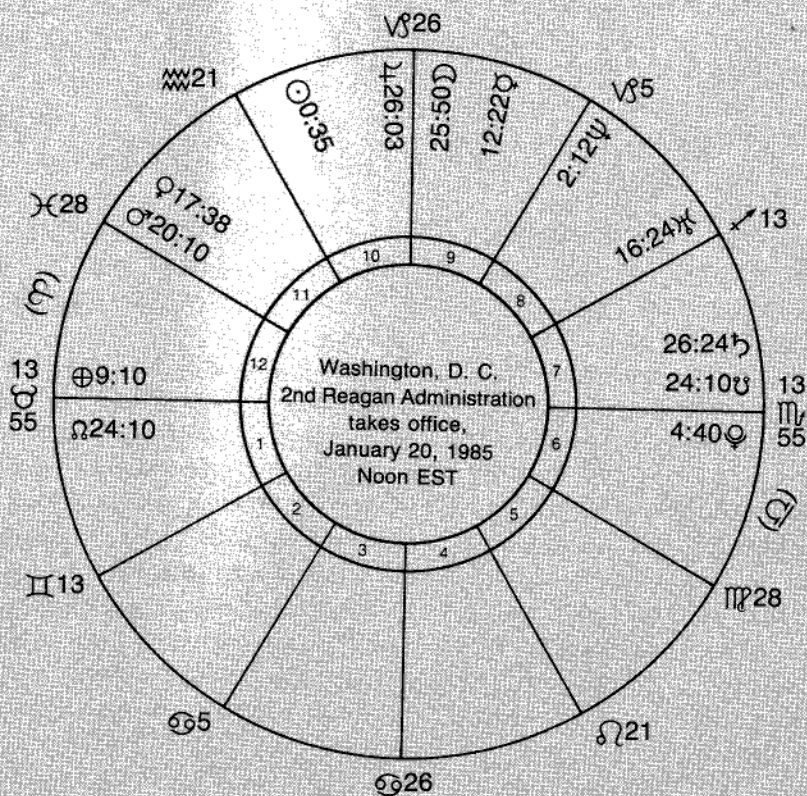
² I Corinthians 14:26.

³ John 16:12.

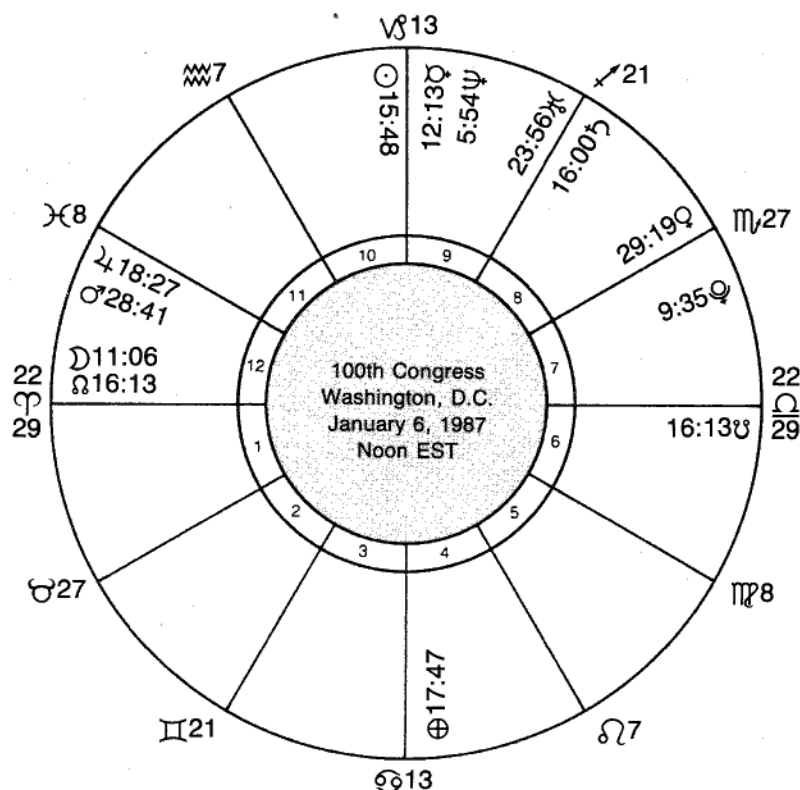
⁴ Acts 20:35.



The 100th Congress— Will it Score 100%?



Astrology



The 100th Congress— Will it Score 100%

As the 535 members of the 100th Congress started their labors at high noon, January 6, 1987, the nation anxiously wondered what lay ahead. A chart clearly shows. To *fully* understand it, one must consider the principle of subsumption. This states that charts can only be truly appreciated in light of certain other ones!

For instance, suppose Hitler, at the eve of World War I, had emigrated from Austria to America instead of to Germany, might he have become chief executive? Even had he mastered the language and adopted U.S. ideals—in light of his natus the latter highly unlikely—he would have been barred: U.S. presidents must be U.S. natives! His meteoric rise can only be appreciated against the backdrop of Germany's chart.

Similarly, the chart for the 100th Congress must be viewed in light of that of the administration that began January 20, 1985, and it in turn in light of the U.S. Chart. In comparing the January 20, 1985 chart with that of the U.S., we find the closest aspects are made by the 1985 chart's Neptune. She not only is 12 minutes from conjunct the U.S. eighth cusp, but also a mere 8 minutes from an exact opposition to Venus, ruler of the U.S. sixth house of the nation's servants and the twelfth house of secrets. So we know that during the administration begun January 20, 1985, Neptune would be exceedingly influential.

This in mind, we're ready to take on the 100th Congress' chart. In it we find Neptune conjunct Sun, Mercury, M.C., and its solstice point conjunct Uranus. Neptune is natural and actual ruler of the twelfth house, occupied by the chart's ruler, Mars, and the Moon, Jupiter, and the North Node. Too, the Part

of Misfortune (by dint of being in a Scorpio decanate) has its closest aspect to Jupiter, which is conjunct the Part of Peril,¹ and it all the more menacing since in the degree of the nodes. The Ascendant is tied in with the secretive twelfth house, for its Sabian symbol is about "a heavy and valuable but *veiled* load." In other words, the tendency of the 100th Congress would be to preoccupation with secret affairs, along the line of the Iran-Nicaragua-arms affairs. This is not to say that the "guilty" should be ignored, but that the legislative business of the nation not be neglected! This danger is stated in many ways.

For example, there are no planets in air signs, and this element is further weakened: Mercury ruler of Gemini is combust; Libra holds the Dragon's Tail; and as already noted, Aquarius' ruler Uranus is conjunct Neptune's solstice point; he is also square Jupiter. When "air" is weak in a chart, it tends to impair the mental focus on reality—which fact, of course, is exacerbated by Neptune's strength an extremely dangerous situation!

Speaking of extremes, the only planet in the last degree of "extremes" is Venus of values, in detriment in Scorpio and more so by being in the analogous house. The eighth sign and house, negatively, are easily capable of self-indulgence, and nothing of this nature holds more appeal to politicians than doing that which furthers their own ends, like investigating scandal, rather than facing the problems of the nation.

We note that Lilith of the January 6, 1987 chart is con-

junct the Sun (vital interests) of the U.S. natus, and the Sun of January 6, 1987 is opposite that of the U.S. Will national priorities prevail over personal ones?

The 100th Congress' chart has a Sun-Moon square. The solar orb in Capricorn conjunct the M.C. speaks of duty; the lunar orb in Aries and the twelfth house is motivated by feelings; the square implies conflict between the two. The Moon is in a Leo decanate; decanates reveal hidden urges; Leo is the sign of personal glory; politicians are human; they're facing a great temptation; they have been known to yield!

This chart falls into two patterns. It is a Bowl, which at best scoops deeply and creatively into life's realities. It is also a See-Saw. Seven of the planets can be said to be in "duty cluster," but the three in the twelfth house are under the aegis of feelings! The destiny of the 100th Congress depends on which way the see-saw tips.

This brings us to the planet of destiny, Saturn, located in the eighth house of fate, in the "fated" degree of the nodes, and its solstice point is conjunct the M.C. and opposite Lilith! Saturn here also denotes something else: the closest tie between the '85 and '87 charts is Saturn in the latter conjunct Uranus in the former! Obviously, the 100th Congress will strive to restrict the innovations of the administration. This is further indicated by the fact that this administration began its second term just before a new moon, which eventually weakens efforts of a public nature.²

The chart contains a T-square³ (Moon, Mercury, Part of Misfortune; the point opposite its apex explains what needs to be done. "Miners emerging from a mine." Politicians probing into a scandal may well be compared to miners; both dig for that which is of profit to them! In the symbol, the miners are seen *emerging*; that is precisely what the 100th Congress needs to do, to transcend the traditional, paying less heed to the past and more to the future!

This symbol has been interpreted by a leading authority: "Wholesouled giving of self to service."⁴ Not self, but society is to be served. If the lawmakers thus bring themselves in harmony with cosmic law, it will surely work with them, to solve the nation's problems—to score 100%! Anyone seriously interested in the important role of Neptune at this time is referred to *The Signs of the Times; the Neptune Factor and America's Destiny*. It begins thus: "On January 20, 1984. Neptune entered the Sign of Capricorn. It will stay in this sign through 1998. And during these fourteen years, it will determine America's destiny." However, this does not constitute a blanket endorsement of the entire book, but only points out a possibility. □

—A Probationer

¹ Ascendant plus ruler of the eighth cusp minus Saturn.

² *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*, Isabel Hickey, p. 205.

³ The chart of the 100th Congress superimposed on that of the U.S. produces a cardinal and a mutable cross—not a fortuitous indication.

⁴ *The Astrology of Personality*, Rudhyar, p. 362.

Rebuilding to Survive

Under this heading, *Time Magazine* (Feb. 16, 1987, p.44) devoted five pages to the morbid malaise of America's industry, succinctly summarized in the statement that "So far in the '80's, well over half of the names on the *Fortune* list of the 1,000 largest U.S. corporations have undergone some form of significant reorganization." The key words here are, "in the '80s." For it was earlier this decade that Pluto entered the sixth house of labor and industry in the U.S. chart, and where he transits, the need for transformation or regeneration is the unavoidable order of the day, if there has not been conformity to his message.

What is Pluto's theme? He rules Scorpio, and it has two symbols, the scorpion and the eagle. The former, moving on Earth, represents the material side. And the scorpion, we know, can and does kill itself by its own sting! That is an apt picture of what materialism leads to—its own self-undoing! The other symbol is the eagle, triumphantly soaring through the air—Spirit's supremacy. Pluto offers a choice: Follow the eagle, or suffer the fate of the scorpion!

Basically, materialism is selfishness; that is what has hurt the U.S. economy so badly. Proof: *Time's* cover story two weeks before: "That Hapless American Consumer: Why is Service So Bad?" (February 1987, pp. 49-57) One need not read very far into the nine page report ere one realizes

that selfishness is the real reason why "Among consumers, swapping horror stories about their confrontations with poor service has become a cathartic exercise." Result: "Economists have begun to warn that slipping standards could cost the U.S. its international competitive standing in services and thus worsen the country's trade problems."

Capitalism, history relates, began amid the spiritual fervor of the Reformation Era. Service was to be the aim; through giving, its participants expected to receive. Sadly, much of the U.S. economy, not all, has sought to receive by taking—a caricature of capitalism which is not viable.

Neither is Communism, also contrary to cosmic law, as recent reports from behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains indicate. It is not generally known, but the early American colonists also experimented with collectivism, but nearly starved. (*The American Covenant*, Foster and Swanson, Chapter 5)

How well will U.S. industry's "rebuilding" fare? Possibly the most promising indicator is the name being applied to this entire new chapter of the nation's industrial evolution—*Service Economy*. If all involved will embrace the primacy of service, success will be as sure as the immutability of cosmic law. Also sure is this: A Pluto transit always is epochal. So, when late the next decade this distant wanderer passes out of the U.S. chart's sixth

house, a new chapter of some sort in American productivity will have opened. As to its quality: with individuals as with nations, that always depends on the reaction to Pluto's call!

We've all witnessed a case in point: when Pluto moved out of the U.S. Chart's fifth house, AIDS came to America—because of a very negative response to Pluto's call concerning the affairs of that sector! The so-called "New Morality" was apparently out of harmony with the celestial messenger's sublime vibrations.

Cease-Fires Don't End Wars

They "internalize" them; the conflicts continue inside their surviving participants. According to a recent study, war veterans have a death rate 45% higher than the rest of the population.¹ This is not primarily due to physical wounds sustained in battle, but comes from alcoholism, drugs, accidents, suicide, etc. One would expect veterans to live with extra care. A cat, if burned by a hot stove, will henceforth avoid even cold ones; should not rational human beings, after facing danger in combat, become extra cautious?

Evidently they don't, and the reason, in part, could well be the *emotional* wounds of battle. Something from Astrology may further help explain this: Pisceans, more than those born under other signs, tend to be their own worst enemies, and it has been suggested this could be due to their having incarnated for the purpose of expiation, paying for ripe debts of destiny; something deep within them urges them to help hasten the process along; hence their many encounters with fate. Admittedly wars are "legal"; some are even "justified";² but the "intrinsic evil" of taking life, even for a "righteous" cause, seemingly sets up guilt complexes which, masochistically, cry out for atonement.

This just may be confirmed by a study earlier this decade of jurors who opted for the death penalty. They reported nightmares and emotional traumas not previously encountered. Capital punishment is "legal"; but not everything legal is necessarily moral; hence these results.

There is a positive side to all this! If purveyors of death tend to decrease the quantity and quality of their lives, shouldn't those who bring life—through loving, dedicated service—live longer and more enjoyably? Not long ago, an insurance company ran an eye-catching ad which boldly proclaimed that, based on statistics, ministers are 23% late reaching heaven! One need not wear a clerical collar to engage in ministry to mankind; opportunities are open everywhere to all. Max Heindel has told us that "loving, self-forgetful service to others is the shortest, safest, most joyful road to God." This just also might postpone one's final date with destiny, which would be very desirable!

¹ National Public Radio, Early Edition, February 11, 1987.

² *The Rosicrucian Philosophy in Questions and Answers*, Max Heindel, Vol. II, pp. 541-547. Defense against aggression is permissible.

Trial of the Decade

While Americans commemorated their first president's 255th birthday, Jerusalem witnessed the start of Israel's "Trial of the Decade." John Demjanjuk, Ukrainian-born retired Cleveland auto worker extradited from the U.S., stood accused of having been implicated in the murder of from 700,000 to 1,200,000 Jews at the Treblinka death camp during World War II. (*The Jerusalem Post International Edition*, Feb. 18, 1987, p.3.)

One can readily understand the feelings of a nation founded primarily to offer its people security from fear of another Holocaust. "Born" May 14, 1948, the State of Israel is a Taurus country; no sign is more security-conscious! Hundreds lined up to view the trial; even Prime Minister Shamir attended. If found guilty—the proceedings were expected to last six months—Demjanjuk will no doubt face death as did Adolf Eichmann on similar charges in 1962. But we hope that such a verdict will be followed by clemency!

Suppose the defendant is executed; what has Israel gained? The "satisfaction" of justice, revenge. This would not be analogous to the fate of ordinary criminals, punished in part to deter others, for the

perpetrators of the Holocaust have themselves been wiped out. His death would not resurrect the holocaust's victim nor compensate its survivors.

But suppose Israel, as a grand gesture of magnanimity, were to pardon the Ukrainian? It would immediately be recipient of much good will—a commodity a nation its size and isolated situation cannot have too much of. It might get the peace process moving; nothing else has been effective so far! Israel's defense budget, per capita, is one of the world's biggest, as is the national debt. Wouldn't it be prudent and profitable to use Demjanjuk to try to end the tensions of the region? Because it is now over four decades since World War II, Demjanjuk's trial may well be the last of its kind; most likely, there will never be another opportunity like this.

More is involved. It is not healthy to maintain a fixation on past woes. In what is perhaps the best exoteric treatment of this theme, *Christ and Human Suffering*, E. Stanley Jones has shown that the wisest attitude toward pain is to utilize it! He refers to a modern translation of Jeremiah 51:58, "The people shall labor in vain," which paraphrases it as "The pagans waste their pain"—the clear implication being that *Christians* should use it! When life hands you a lemon, add sweetener and make lemonade! Suffering is life's raw material—at times quite raw—but meant to be used! Stumbling blocks and stepping stones are identical; one's attitude determines which of the two they shall be! And the larger the "stumbling blocks," the more rewarding can be the "stepping stones" developed from them!

Meditation: Aid to Longevity?

Golden-age Meditators live longer....That was one of the surprising results of a study of the effects of meditation in a population of nursing home patients." (*Venture Inward*, Mar/Apr 1987, p. 9) The surprising fact is that these findings came as a surprise; they shouldn't have; for several reasons.

Science: Previous experiments have shown that plants exposed to rock and roll wither, while

those prayed over grew more rapidly; if spiritual exercises are of benefit to plant life, why not also—and more so—for humans? It has also been observed that meditation lowers blood pressure, produces inner joy, both helpful for longevity. Truly meditation is medication—free, effective, safe.

The Bible: It pronounces a blessing on those who meditate. Surely divine blessing is a plus factor for life—thus also for longevity. The late C. S. Lewis, England's erudite "Apostle to the Agnostics," in his autobiographical *Surprised by Joy*, told that on accepting the Christian faith, he gained much more than anticipated, hence the book's title. Surely all spiritual activity, not merely meditation, offers more than meets the uninitiated eye.

Life Itself: Every action has a reaction; we can know the qualitative result, but not the quantitative consequences. When one does evil, one may be sure that what follows will be of the same nature, but one cannot predict on what scale. Of course this also holds true for the good!

When a teen-age terrorist assassinated a royal couple on June 28, 1914, he might have reckoned with some negative effects, but not with the outbreak of World War I! A quarter century later, when Hitler decided to seize the city of Danzig and a small "corridor" of access, he knew there might be a small war with Poland; he did not expect it to trigger World War II! When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, they expected some casualties, but not to be on the receiving end of thousands of tons of bombs, including two atomic ones!

The total results of a good act cannot be predicted either. Take the founding of the various Bible societies, the Red Cross; incidentally, on the same page with the item on meditation referred to above, there appeared one that jogging, generally taken up for reasons of health, also improves one's mental creativity!

Many admit they don't know how to meditate. (Practical help on meditation and also related disciplines can be found in *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, Max Heindel, pp. 486-497.) Suggestion: Why not, for starters, spend a little time each day focusing mind and heart on the great truth that both is sowing good seed and evil, the exact extent of the harvest cannot be ascertained ahead of time. That "social drink" may cause a car wreck; those cigarettes may bring about lung cancer; that "white lie" may turn one red with embarrassment.

By completely saturating one's mind with that single idea, one's choices and decisions will be different. So will one's life, in quality and quantity, fulfillment and longevity!

Worldwide Death

Toll in the Tens of Millions

Not some sensation-sated tabloid, but Health Secretary Otis Bowen held out this "dreadful prospect" if no progress is made against AIDS; previous plagues, he added, would "pale by comparison." (*U.S. News and World Report*, Feb. 9, 1987)

The World Health Organization, about the same time, predicted "that by the turn of the century, AIDS in Africa will have claimed 5 million lives." (*Time Magazine*, Feb. 2, 1987)

As if to confirm the above, CBS told that 91 countries reported AIDS in 1986, double the number of 1985. And here in America, according to National Public Radio, 22 people a week are presently dying of this disease.

Persons who avoid the practices leading to AIDS may dismiss these and similar declarations of doom as not affecting them; that would be unwise. Corinne Heline, a student of Max Heindel for five years, a clairvoyant, and requested by him "to interpret the Bible in the light of the esoteric tradition," has written:

"Medical science is baffled by its inability to diagnose and cure strange ailments making their appearance for the first time in human history. More such diseases, which will increase the mortality rates, may be expected in the cycle of change now affecting the body of man and his environment. Only those...who have refined their bodies, kept their blood stream clean, quickened their mental activities, and accelerated generally the rhythm of their whole being, will be able to pass naturally and easily from conditions belonging to an era that is passing into those of the new age now dawning." (*New Age Bible Interpretation*, Vol I, pp. 325-326)

Some of these words may sound puzzling, until we turn to Astrology. There we learn that Pluto is the most powerful planet affecting our Earth this century! He was "discovered" in 1930; he is in his

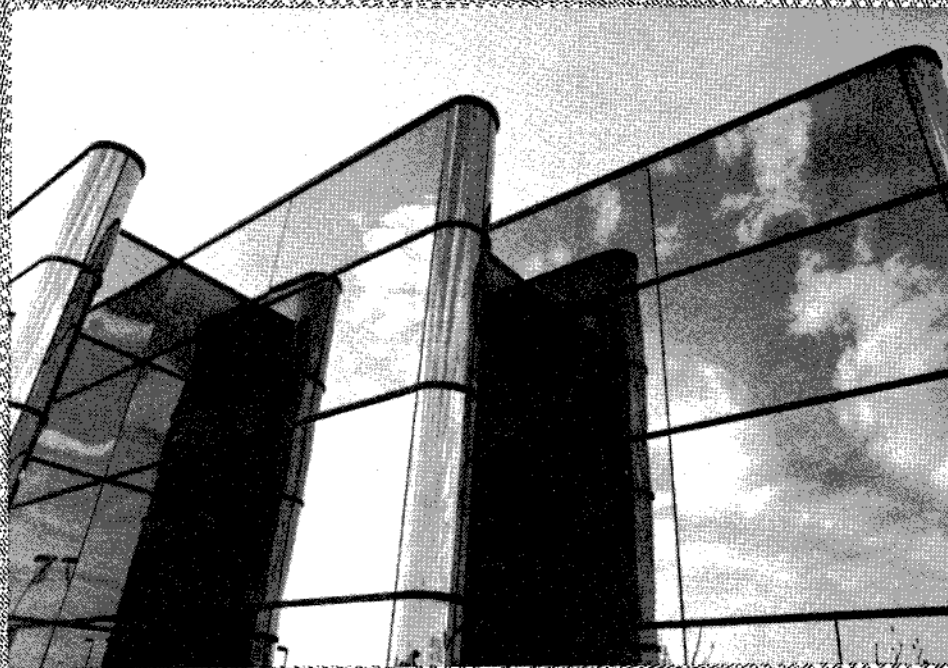
own sign, Scorpio, 1983-95; in perihelion 1978-99. Also this century, his sign, Scorpio, is the only one ruled by one of the "generation" planets (Uranus and Neptune are the others) being transited by them *all*. Most of our present-day problems, including AIDS, are Plutonic: the nuclear threat, abortion, famines, debts, etc. Sadly, mankind by and large is responding negatively to his high-octave vibrations; hence similar results. The way to avoid doing so is to make a determined, *intense* effort—Pluto is the planet of obsession, *intensity*—to respond positively. That, in essence, is what Mrs. Heline is telling us in the passage quoted.

Pluto is also the planet that takes one "to the end of the line," for better or for worse. The world has a tremendous illustration thereof in Japan, strongly influenced by that fiery orb. Before U.S. Commodore Perry opened up (1854) the island kingdom, it was a nonentity in world affairs. Within little more than half a century (1905), having defeated China and Russia in war, it was the leading power in Asia. Forty years later, after two atomic bombs (Pluto) were dropped, Japan was utterly prostrate: one of the first U.S. visitors to postwar Hiroshima stated that nothing higher than ones' ankles was left standing! Now, four-plus decades later, having more money than it knows what to do with, Japan is about to seize the world's economic lead! (*Newsweek*, Feb. 2, 1987, p. 43)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, martyred by the Nazis for his Christian faith, wrote: "The essence of chastity is not suppression of lust, but the total orientation of one's life towards a goal. Without such a goal, chastity is bound to become ridiculous." Spiritual aspirants strive for the chaste, the pure life; that is well and good; but for Pluto, just being passively "good" isn't good enough! Pluto of intensity demands that goodness be good for something, else it is good for nothing!

This traveler at the outskirts of the solar system is in his detriment in Taurus, quintessential sign of materialism; we begin by moving away from morbid Mammon. We also note that for 52 years, from 1942-94, Pluto is sextile Neptune, planet of divinity, of God, divine love. What other transiting configuration this century lasts anywhere this long? There must be a lesson here! Neptune is dignified in Pisces, sign of *selfless spiritual service*. That is the end of the line to which we must let Pluto take us, lest we drift to the other, that deadly one! □

Book Reviews



***Cosmic Patterns, Their Influence on Man and His Communication,*
J. H. Nelson, American Federation of Astrologers, Washington, D.C. pp. 76.**

If the saying is true that it's an ill wind that blows no good, magnetic storms don't fall in that category, for they have, directly or indirectly, contributed to the evidence that Astrology is a fact of life. Here's how:

When RCA, the world's largest shortwave communications organization, decided to create a reliable forecasting service to enable it to prepare for periodic distributions, the author was put in charge. Searching for clues, he first studied sunspots, but after two years' research concluded these were but a small part of the problem. He decided to investigate planetary positions, and thus arrived at that which has ever since been the reliable basis for predicting magnetic disturbances.

He first analyzed the greatest radio blackout ever, March 23, 1940, drew also on two decades' records of atmospheric upheavals, and thus discovered a prevailing pattern. When many "hard" aspects are operational—squares, oppositions, and certain conjunctions—disturbances may be expected; when the pattern is harmonious—sextiles and trines—communication proceeds uninterrupted. Astrology students will be interested that the distant extra-Saturnian planets' influence is no less potent than of the closer ones, and that certain minor items—perihelion, nodes, etc.—also register a distinct impact.

Nelson has included a sample of charts on the basis of which magnetic storms were correctly predicted. He is careful not to claim that celestial patterns directly cause terrestrial repercussions, but stoutly maintains that the one is always accompanied by the other, confirming a relationship. He also points out that he could not have maintained his position as world-wide forecaster for a quarter of a century if his principles were flawed.

Considering how much the media has scoffed at Astrology, it may seem strange that from inside its own turf, radio, has come so much supportive testimony. Yet perhaps it shouldn't. Years ago, the famous Reinhold Niebuhr wrote *The Irony of American History*; maybe Nelson merely added one more chapter!

The Signs of the Times: the Neptune Factor and America's Destiny, S. A. Barker, Llewellyn's Publications, St. Paul, Mn.

This book has a very simple thesis: Neptune rules the oceans; the oceans produce tides; therefore the tides, or trends, of human history are basically determined by the sign this planet is transiting at any given time. Thus, while Neptune is in Aries, the trends would be Arian, while in Taurus, Taurean, etc.

Barker starts his study in 1697, when Neptune entered Aries for the first time since North America was permanently settled by Europeans, and discusses the big war then raging, called the War of the Spanish Succession, or Queen Anne's War. In the same chapter, appropriately entitled "Time of the Sword," he scrutinizes world events when Neptune next transited the same sign, 1861-1874, calling it "The Second Wave." Of course this was the era of America's Civil War and Reconstruction.

Barker sees parallels between the struggles of 1701-1713 and 1861-1865, for in each there were unions, or confederacies, arrayed against each other. He finds significance in such details as that during Sherman's March through Georgia, many of his men had red (color of Aries' ruler Mars) beards, the fact that Sherman's name (shear-man) means "one who cuts down," typical of Mars, that his first name (William) derives from "will" (an Arian expression) and the old Teutonic world for helmet, which covers the head, ruled by Aries! And his middle name, Tecumseh, is Shawnee for "comet," a "loner" like Aries! He also notes that the president assassinated at that time, Lincoln, was shot in the head (Aries) and that he had at one time imposed martial (Mars) law.

Thus Barker treats Neptune's transit through all the signs, twice, and painstakingly shows that the basic pattern is similar, even if circumstances are not. For instance, both in the first and second wave of Taurus there was a preoccupation with finances; during the first Virgo wave the lower strata of society helped produce the American Revolution, while at the time of the second wave the government, during the Depression, produced the revolutionary New Deal to forestall a violent revolution. Neptune's first Libra wave produced the federal union of the hitherto autonomous thirteen states, the second Libra wave created the United Nations—also a union of sorts, on a broader plane.

Especially interesting are the comments of post-World-War-II events: the Bay of Pigs, Vietnam, Watergate, etc. He finds the Neptune factor at work in the election of Kennedy as well as his assassination, that of his brother, and of Martin Luther King. He sees in rock and roll a symptom of the Neptune-in-Scorpio influence. Even the name of one of the groups, The Beatles, has significance for him: the beetle is a logo for Scorpio, the sign then being transited by Neptune.

The book's strength—its vast extent—may also be its weakness; in some instances Barker may have strained to prove a point. For instance, the fact that Hemingway published his "first real novel," *The Sun Also Rises*, because Neptune transited the Sun's sign, Leo, in 1926, or that in 1927 Willa Cather came out with a tale set in the sunny Southwest for the same reason, seems highly far-fetched, as do some other similar items. Napoleon said, Get your principles right and the rest is a matter of detail. Barker has his principles right, he may have gone too far on some details. □

Readers' Questions

We welcome questions from our readers regarding the *Western Wisdom Teachings* and/or their application to our life and work in the world. Answers presented as space permits. Send questions to Editor, *Rays from the Rose Cross*, P. O. Box 713, CA 92054 USA.

ARRIVAL OF THE AQUARIAN AGE

Question: Many people realize these days that we are entering, or about to enter, a new age. Some understand that it is the Aquarian Age, and to a certain extent what it stands for. However, I have not as yet heard an intelligible explanation of just when our Earth or solar system would enter this age, and whether the Aquarian Age coincides with the passage of the Sun through the constellation Aquarius or through the zodiacal division by that name.

Answer: In this paragraph we take up a number of points, and on the principle that "the last shall be first," we shall first consider the last part of his interrogation, where a distinction is made between the constellation Aquarius and the zodiacal division by that name. This, in itself, presents a great difficulty to many people who do not know how to differentiate between the *zodiacal constellations* and the so-called *intellectual zodiac*. The explanation is as follows:

A certain group of stars in the heavens is called Aries; another group, located close to them, is called Taurus; a third group of fixed stars is called Gemini, and so on. These twelve constellations, or groups of stars, as seen in the heavens, always remain in the same relative position, and they are therefore unchangeable.

Through all the centuries of which we have record, these stars have remained in the same group and in about the same relative position, one to another. Through these constellations the Sun circles from year to year with unvarying precision, but owing to the fact that the axis of the Earth inclines toward the Sun and has a wobbling motion, similar to that of a spinning top which has almost spent its force, the motion of the Sun appears to be uneven. Each year, when it enters the constellation Aries, crossing the Earth's equator, it is a little earlier than the year before. It *precedes*. Thus the

point where the Sun crosses the equator at the vernal equinox moves backwards from year to year at the rate of one degree in seventy-two years, one constellation in two thousand one hundred years, and the whole twelve signs in twenty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty-six years. This latter period is called a Great Sidereal year.

It has been observed that no matter where in the zodiac the Sun crosses the equator, a certain physical effect takes place. The flowers begin to sprout out of the earth, the birds begin to mate, the mute earth awakens to new life, new hope, and new song. Also the spiritual effects following the Sun's entrance into the Northern Hemisphere at the vernal equinox have been observed to remain unchanged. Therefore the first thirty degrees from that point, where the Sun crosses the equator, are called Aries, the next thirty degrees are called Taurus, the third thirty degrees are called Gemini, and so on through the twelve signs.

This intellectual division of the circle of the zodiac coincides with the constellations in the heavens only once in twenty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty-six years. During all the rest of the time the intellectual zodiac moves backwards, as explained, on account of the precession of the equinox. The last time when the starting point in the intellectual zodiac agreed with the zodiacal constellation was about 500 A.D. A year after these points were in exact agreement, the Sun crossed the equator about fifty seconds of space in the constellation Pisces. The year following it was one minute and forty seconds into Pisces, and it has been creeping backwards ever since, until at the present time the Sun crosses the equator in about ten degrees of the constellation Pisces. It will thus be about 700 years before it actually crosses the celestial equator in the constellation Aquarius.

The Aquarian Age may be said to start at the time when the Sun enters, by precession, the 30th degree of the constellation Aquarius, and it lasts 2,100 years, while the Sun moves backwards

through the thirty degrees until it comes to the first degree of Aquarius. There is, however, no definite and sharp cut-off such as we make when we say we enter the year 1987, which begins at twelve o'clock on the night of the 31st of December, 1986, and lasts until the 31st of December 1987 at 12 o'clock midnight. That is a mathematical division of time. The various epochs of human existence depend upon vital influences in life, and are conditions of mind rather than divisions of time, though the two are linked.

Therefore, astrologers recognize what is called an "orb of influence." To understand this, we must realize that every human being is something more than that which we see; that he has surrounding him an aura, an invisible atmosphere, a something which radiates from him and which partakes of his distinct and personal nature. We very often feel the effect of this aura though we do not understand the reason why. Suppose that someone has his whole mind concentrated upon his work so that he neither hears nor sees what happens about him. Gradually he becomes aware that someone else has entered the room—is, in fact, standing behind him—and he turns around to find a friend there. He had not heard the friend enter on account of absorption in his work, but he *felt* him, because the aura of the friend intermingled with his own auric atmosphere. Thus, though there was no physical contact, he knew that someone was close by.

The constellations are groups of great Spirits who have immured themselves in these starry bodies, for the sake of less advanced intelligences to gain the experiences of evolution. Each of the fixed stars in a constellation also has its invisible bodies, which extend from one to the other, intermingle, and overlap. Therefore, when the Sun reached the tenth degree of Pisces, it touched the fringe of the influence of the constellation Aquarius, though we are still in the Piscean Age.

That this influence is making itself felt, a glance of retrospection will soon show. We readily recognize the Piscean influence during the last two thousand years. The dark ages, the superstition and intellectual bondage then prevalent, are not entirely routed, but since the middle of the last century, when the Aquarian influence first began to make itself felt, an irresistible intellectual impulse has been instilled into our everyday life. Science has made such strides as never before. Invention has electrified the world and is now conquering the air, etc.

This scientific intellectual influence will make itself felt more and more during the centuries which will pass before we definitely enter the constellation Aquarius by precession of the equinox. As the narrow, conservative Piscean influence diminishes, so will the broadening, inquiring Aquarian influence increase.

Regarding what the Aquarian Age stands for spiritually, we may realize that *Aquarius is the only figure in the zodiac representing the full stature of a man*. All the principle characters of the Old Testament were shepherds, having reference to "Aries," the sheep, ram, or lamb. In the New Testament they are fishermen, referring to Pisces, the sign of the fishes, but the Son of Man is the subject of prophecy: of something yet to come. He is to usher in a glorious age, and therefore we may look for developments of a startling nature to take place in the nearest centuries before us.

Moreover, each of the foregoing ages has had its teachers. Osiris and Mithras were worshiped in Egypt and Persia, while the Sun was going through



Taurus, the sign of the Bull. The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the Christian world, by Moses, while the Sun was going through the sign Aries. There was a great controversy concerning the symbol of Christ, on account whereof the Bishop's mitre is still made in the form of a fish, to symbolize the fact that the phase of the Christian religion then inaugurated was to hold sway during the Piscean or Fish Age, in which we now are. Later the ideal of the Son of Man, or Superman, will furnish inspiration for the Aquarian Age, which is now being ushered in.

The Aquarian Age is not to be confounded with the kingdom of Christ, who is to come again. Neither is the Aquarian Age to be confounded with the Sixth (Galilean) Epoch, for to quote the words of Christ, "Of that day and hour (when He comes), knows no man; neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." It is absolutely preposterous and a mark of ignorance for anyone to predict that the coming of Christ will take place at a certain, specified time. Perhaps it is even presumptuous to guess at the approximate time when the Second Advent will take place, but the writer has the idea that, as the precessional cycles, so far as they are connected with the evolution of man, seem to commence with the Sun's entrance into Capricorn, there may be development at that time. If that is correct, the Advent cannot take place for at least three thousand years.

I. N. R. I. MYSTIC SYMBOLS

Question: What is the meaning of the letters I. N. R. I. sometimes placed over the cross?

Answer: We are told in the gospel story that Pilate placed a sign reading, "Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judaeorum," and His Cross, and this is translated in the authorized version to mean "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." But the four initials, I. N. R. I., placed upon the Cross represent the names of the four elements in Hebrew: *Iam*, water; *Nour*, fire; *Ruach*, spirit or vital air; and *Iabeshah*, earth. This is the occult key to the mystery of crucifixion, for it symbolizes in the first place the Salt, Sulphur, Mercury, and Azoth which were used by the ancient alchemists to make the Philosopher's Stone, the universal solvent, the Elixir-vitae.

The two "I's" (*Iam* and *Iabeshah*) represent the salient luna element water, (a) in fluidic state

holding salt in solution, and (b) in the coagulated extract of this water, "the salt of the earth." In other words, the finer fluidic vehicles of man and his dense body. N, (Nour) in Hebrew stands for fire and the combustible elements, chief among which are sulphur and phosphorus, so necessary to oxidation and without which warm blood would be an impossibility. The Ego could not then function in the body, nor could thought find a material expression. R (Rauch) is the Hebrew equivalent for the Spirit, Azoth, functioning in the mercurial mind. Thus the four letters, I. N. R. I., placed over the Cross of Christ according to the gospel story represent composite man, the Thinker, at the point of his spiritual development when he is getting ready for liberation from the cross of his dense vehicle.

Proceeding further along the same line of elucidation we may note that I. N. R. I. is the symbol of the crucified candidate for the following additional reasons:

Iam is the Hebrew word signifying water, the fluidic lunar element, which forms the principal part of the human body (about 87 per cent), and this word is also the symbol of the finer fluidic vehicles of desire and emotion.

Nour, the Hebrew word signifying fire, is a symbolic representation of the heat-producing red blood laden with martial iron, fire, and energy, which the occultist sees coursing as gas through the veins and arteries of the human body, infusing it with energy and ambition, and without which there could be neither material nor spiritual progress. It also represents the sulphur and phosphorus necessary for the material manifestation of thought as already mentioned.

Ruach, the Hebrew word for Spirit, or vital air, is an excellent symbol of the Ego clothed in the mercurial mind which makes man *man*, and enables him to control and direct his bodily vehicles and activities in a rational manner.

Iabeshah is the Hebrew word for Earth, representing the solid fleshy part which makes up the cruciform earthy body, crystallized within the finer vehicles at birth and severed from them in the ordinary course of things at death, or in the extraordinary event that we learn to die the mystic death and ascend to the glories of higher spheres for a time.

This stage of the Christian Mystic's spiritual development therefore involves a reversal of the creative force from its ordinary downward course

through the tripartite spinal cord where the three segments are ruled by the Moon, Mars, and Mercury, respectively, and where the ray of Neptune then lights the *regenerative spinal spirit-fire* which, mounting upward, sets the pituitary body and the pineal gland into vibration. This, opening up the spiritual sight and striking the frontal sinus, starts the crown of thorns throbbing with pain as the bond with the physical body is burned by the sacred spirit-fire which wakes this center from its age long sleep to a throbbing, pulsating life, sweeping onward to the other centers in the five-pointed stigmatic star. They are also vitalized and the whole vehicle becomes aglow with a golden glory. Then with a final wrench the great vortex of the desire body located in the liver is liberated, and the martial energy contained in that vehicle propels upward the sidereal vehicle (so-called because the stigmata in the head, hands, and feet are located in the same relative position to one another as the points in the five-pointed star), which ascends through the skull (Golgotha), while the *crucified Christian* utters his triumphant cry, "Consummatum est" (it has been accomplished), and soars into the subtler spheres to seek Jesus whose life he has imitated with such success and from whom he is henceforth inseparable. Jesus is his Teacher and his guide to the Kingdom of Christ where all shall be united in one body to learn and to practice the *Religion of the Father* to whom the Kingdom will eventually revert that He may be All in All.

JESUS, THE SON OF MAN

Question: Why was Jesus called "the Son of Man?"

Answer: He was not really called that; he called himself that. "Who do people say that I the Son of Man am?" He was called the Son of Man in the respect that He had the human body, but there is a hidden reference there to the sign Aquarius which we are soon to enter. Then the Son of Man shall come again. There was a time when humanity worshiped the Bull, at the time when the Sun by precession went through the sign of the Bull—Taurus. Every year the Sun comes northward and about the 21st of March it reaches the equator. That is then called the first degree of Aries. Then it goes around the circle, at the next 21st of March coming again to the equator, *but it comes a little bit earlier*—it precedes. The vernal equinox, when the Sun passes the equator, will be a little previous

to the first of Aries of last year, and so by precession it goes all around the signs. When it went through the sign of the Bull as said, people worshiped the Bull. Then it went into the sign Aries and it became a deadly sin to worship the golden calf. God called to His people: "Come out of Egypt. Do not worship the Bull, *but by the blood of the Lamb* shall you pass over." Therefore, the door posts were sprinkled with the blood of the lamb and they passed over by the blood of the Lamb.

Then Christ was born, and He tells those that He wants to be His disciples, "Come away from that place where they worship the lamb. I am going to have you fishers of men." He thus prepared for this age when the Sun goes through the sign of the fishes, which it has been transiting the last 2,000 years. During these 2,000 years we have been eating fish on Fridays, during the season of Lent, etc. Just after the time of Christ there was a great controversy: Should His symbol be a lamb or should it be a fish? Hence we see the bishop wears a mitre on his head in the form of a fish's head. Thus the Savior is indicated by the sign the Sun goes through by precession. It is now coming close to the cusp of Aquarius, the great intellectual sign. It is soon leaving the devotional sign Pisces where people have lived by blind faith. We are nearing Aquarius and we are beginning to feel its influence, the great intellectual sign of the Son of Man. If we read our Bible right and without preconceived opinions, we shall find that the first miracle He did was to change water to wine at the marriage of Cana. However, when He had come to the end of His ministry He abrogated the old covenant, by sending His disciples to a place where He would eat the passover. He said to them:

"Go into that city and walk around until you find a man bearing a pitcher of water (that is the symbol of Aquarius); follow him wherever he goes; in that house (the house of Aquarius) will I eat the passover." They did as He told them, and He went there and broke the bread and gave thanks. He passed the cup and said, "Take, drink, this is the sacrament of the new covenant, I will no more drink of the fruit of the vine." There is the point. He told them to look for a man with a pitcher of water—the sign of Aquarius. There is only one sign in the whole zodiac that is a man, and Aquarius sits there with the urn pouring out the water. Christ Jesus called Himself the Son of Man because He brought the religion of the Aquarian Age.

ASTROLOGY AND CHILD TRAINING

Question: In training children it is advised that parents get an astrological reading of the child's potentialities so as to inhibit detrimental tendencies and strengthen the beneficent. Does this pay? Is it not necessary and ultimately beneficial for the child to pass through the so-called adverse moods and experiences? Will not the spiritual nature be stronger when they are overcome? Is not acquired virtue better than innocence or purity through evasion?

Answer: No, we do not advise parents to get an astrological reading for their children. We advise then to *study astrology for themselves* so as to be able to study and read their children's horoscopes. We do this because although astrologers, professional or otherwise, may be much more competent to read the children's horoscopes than the parents, they lack the keen vital interest and the sympathy which will intuitively guide the parent to a much better understanding of what is contained in that little figure than ever an outsider can.

The parent will have a much keener appreciation of what is shown in the child's horoscope when he has to dig it out for himself and sees it there in symbolic form, than when it is simply put down for him ready to read on a typewritten page, for he or she will then be much better fitted and qualified by a deeper insight to help the child foster the good tendencies and avoid the pitfalls shown by the bad.

So is the child not going to be much better off by just simply wading through the mire and blundering along than by avoiding the pitfalls that are shown? Surely not. What would we think of a captain of a ship who set out on a voyage without either chart or compass because he thought it would be far better to learn by experience than to avoid the rocks and shoals already charted by others? We should call him a foolhardy man, and be surprised if he did not put his ship on the rocks and smash it to pieces. If every one refused to take the experience of others as contained in books and the general knowledge now available in the world, how limited would be the experience of each! All the world would commit the same blunders over and over again.

We find the same thing in our colleges as compared with the manually trained mechanics. The

boy who goes into a shop and learns only by practice what work is done there may become fairly proficient in his trade during the time another spends in a technical school, but once the technological student has graduated and entered the shop, he not only quickly catches up with the man who has learned only by experience, but soon passes him and goes to the top. Such is the universal experience in all parts and departments of life, that by adding the practical experience of others contained in books and taught in schools to our experience we acquire a vast amount of knowledge that could not be obtained in any other way.

It is the same in the school of life with respect to ethics and morals. If someone who is interested in us knows just at what point we fall short, is able to supply the needed training or encourage us to train ourselves in that particular branch of morals and ethics, or is ready to help and restrain us when we would rush headlong into a pit, he may help us acquire the same faculties and qualities in a different way than would be the case if we were left to our own devices and forced to learn by experience. Thus we shall be able to advance upon the path of evolution much better than if we had to learn through our own sin and suffering.

If we see in the horoscope of a little child a tendency toward drunkenness, and we take it during its years of childhood when the nature is sympathetic and sensitive, to places where others are making beasts of themselves, to homes where children are being beaten by a drunken father, and to any other place where an object lesson that will appeal to the sympathies of the child may be had, the chances are that we may instill in such a little one a horror for drink that will last throughout life and keep it on the straight path so far as that vice is concerned. Then the child has learned the lesson equally as well by the sorrows of others as if it had to go through the mire itself, and the object has been attained.

Besides, the parent or guardian who has done the child such a wonderful service will have laid up for himself a treasure in heaven that is precious beyond all that words can express. Therefore we shall continue to urge parents and guardians to *study the science of astrology and apply it in the training of children*. The Booklets "Your Child's Horoscope (Vol. I & II)" are available from The Rosicrucian Fellowship if you would like additional information on this important tool for child training. □

Nutrition and Health



The Science of Nutrition

General Principles

If we begin with the dense vehicle and consider the physical means available to improve it and make it the best possible instrument for the Spirit and afterward consider the spiritual means to the same end, we shall be including all the other vehicles as well; therefore we shall follow that method.

The first visible state of a human embryo is a small, globulous, pulpy or jelly-like substance, similar to albumen, or the white of an egg. In this pulpy globule various particles of more solid matter appear. These gradually increase in bulk and density until they come in contact with one another. The different points of contact are slowly modified into joints or hinges and thus a distinct framework of solid matter, a skeleton, is gradually formed.

During the formation of this framework the surrounding pulpy matter accumulates and changes in form until at length that degree of organization develops that which is known as a foetus. This becomes larger, firmer, and more fully organized up to the time of birth, when the stage of infancy begins.

The same process of consolidation which commenced with the first visible stage of existence, still continues. The being passes through the different stages of infancy, childhood, youth, manhood or womanhood, old age, and at last comes to the change that is called death. Each of these stages is characterized by an *increasing degree of hardness and solidity*. There is a gradual increase in density and firmness of the bones, tendons, cartilages, ligaments, tissues, membranes, the coverings and even the very substance of the stomach, liver, lungs, and other organs. The joints become rigid and dry. They begin to crack and grate when they are moved, because the synovial fluid, which oils and softens them, is diminished in quantity and rendered too thick and glutinous to serve that purpose.

The heart, the brain, and the entire muscular system, spinal cord, nerves, eyes, etc., partake of the same consolidating process, growing more and more rigid. Millions upon millions of the minute capillary vessels which ramify and spread like the branches of a tree throughout the entire body, gradually choke up and change into solid fibre, no longer pervious to the blood.

The larger blood vessels, both arteries and veins, indurate, lose their elasticity, grow smaller, and become incapable of carrying the required amount of blood. The fluids of the body thicken and become putrid, loaded with earthy matter. The skin withers and grows wrinkled and dry. The hair falls out for lack of oil. The teeth decay and drop out for lack of gelatine. The motor nerves begin to dry up and the movements of the body become awkward and slow. The senses fail; the circulation of the blood is retarded; it stagnates and congeals in the vessels. More and more the body loses its former powers. Once elastic, healthy, alert, pliable, active, and sensitive, it becomes rigid, slow, and insensible. Finally, it dies of old age.

The question now arises, "What is the cause of this gradual ossification of the body, bringing rigidity, decrepitude and death?" From the purely physical standpoint, chemists seem to be unanimous in the opinion that it is principally an increase of phosphate of lime (bone matter), carbonate of lime (common chalk), and sulphate of lime (plaster of paris), with occasionally a little magnesia and an insignificant amount of other earthy matters.

The only difference between the body of old age and that of childhood is the greater density, toughness and rigidity, caused by the greater proportion of calcareous, earthy matter entering into the composition of the former. The bones of a child are composed of three parts of gelatine to one part of earthy matter. In old age this proportion is reversed. What is the source of this death-dealing accumulation of solid matter?

It seems to be axiomatic that the entire body is nourished by the blood and that everything contained in the body, of whatever nature, has first been in the blood. Analysis shows that the blood holds earthy substances of the same kind as the solidifying agents—and mark!—the *arterial* blood contains more earthy matter than the *venous* blood.

This is highly important. It shows that in every cycle the blood deposits earthy substances. It is therefore the common carrier that chokes up the system. But its supply of earthy matter must be replenished, otherwise it could not continue to do this. Where does it renew its deadly load? There can be but one answer to that question—from the food and drink; there is absolutely no other source.

The food and drink which nourish the body must be, at the same time, the primary source of the calcareous, earthy matter which is deposited by the blood all over the system, causing decrepitude and finally death. To sustain physical life it is necessary that we eat and drink, but as there are many kinds of food and drink, it behooves us,

in the light of the above facts, to ascertain, if possible, what kinds contain the smallest proportion of destructive matter. If we can find such food we can lengthen our lives and, from an occult standpoint, it is desirable to live as long as possible in each dense body, particularly after a start has been made toward the path. So many years are required to educate, through childhood and hot youth, each body inhabited, until the Spirit can at least obtain some control over it, that the longer we retain a body that has become amenable to the Spirit's promptings, the better. Therefore it is highly important that the pupil partake of such food and drink only as will deposit the least amount of hardening matter and at the same time keep the excretory organs active.

The skin and the urinary system are the saviors of man from an early grave. Were it not that by their means, most of the earthy matter taken from our food is eliminated, no one would live ten years. It has been estimated that ordinary, undistilled spring water contains carbonate and other compounds of lime to such an extent that the average quantity used each day by one person in the form of tea, coffee, soup, etc., would in forty years form a block of solid chalk or marble the size of a man. It is also a significant fact that although phosphate of lime is always found in the urine of adults, it is not found in the urine of children, because in them the rapid formation of bone requires that this salt be retained. During the period of gestation there is very little earthy matter in the urine of the mother, as it is used

in the building of the foetus. In ordinary circumstances, however, earthy matter is very much in evidence in the urine of adults and to this we owe the fact that physical life reaches even its present length.

Undistilled water, when taken internally, is man's worst enemy, but used externally, it becomes his best friend. It keeps the pores of the skin open, induces circulation of the blood and prevents the stagnation which affords the best opportunity for the depositing of the earthy, death-dealing phosphate of lime.

Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood, said that health denotes a free circulation and disease is the result of an obstructed circulation of the blood.

The bathtub is a great aid in keeping up the health of the body and should be freely used by the aspirant to the higher life. Perspiration, sensible and insensible, carries more earthy matter out of the body than any other agency.

As long as fuel is supplied and the fire kept free from ashes, it will burn. The kidneys are important in carrying away the ashes from the body, but despite the great amount of earthy matter carried away by urine, enough remains in many cases to form gravel and stone in the bladder, causing untold agony and often death.

Let no one be deceived into thinking that water contains less stone because it has been boiled. The stone that forms on the bottom of the teakettle has been left there by the evaporated water which escaped from the kettle as steam. If the

steam were condensed, we should have distilled water, which is an important adjunct in keeping the body young.

There is absolutely no earthy matter in distilled water, nor in rain water, snow or hail (except what may be gathered in contact with house-tops, etc.), but coffee, tea, or soup made with ordinary water, no matter how long boiled, is not purified of the earthy particles; on the contrary, the longer they are boiled, the more heavily charged with ash they become. Those suffering from urinary diseases should never drink any but distilled water.

It may be said generally of the solid foods we take into our systems, that fresh vegetables and ripe fruits contain the greatest proportion of nutritious matter and the least of earthy substances.

Proper food given at the right time and under the right conditions will not only cure but prevent disease. It is popularly supposed that sugar or any saccharine substance is injurious to the general health, and particularly to the teeth, causing their decay and the resulting toothache. Only under certain circumstances is this true. It is harmful in certain diseases, such as biliousness and dyspepsia, or if held long in the mouth as candy, but if sparingly used during good health and the amount gradually increased as the stomach becomes accustomed to its use, it will be found very nourishing. The health of negroes becomes greatly improved during the sugar-cane harvest time, notwithstanding their increased labor. This is attributed solely to their fondness for the sweet cane-juice. The

same may be said of horses, cows, and other animals in those localities, which are all fond of the refuse syrup fed to them. They grow fat in harvest time, their coats becoming sleek and shining. Horses fed on boiled carrots for a few weeks will get a coat like silk, owing to the saccharine juices of that vegetable. Sugar is a nutritious and beneficial article of diet and contains no ash whatever.

The only safe way is to experiment and study the matter out first, using due discrimination. No fixed rules can be given, the matter of diet being as individual as any other characteristic.

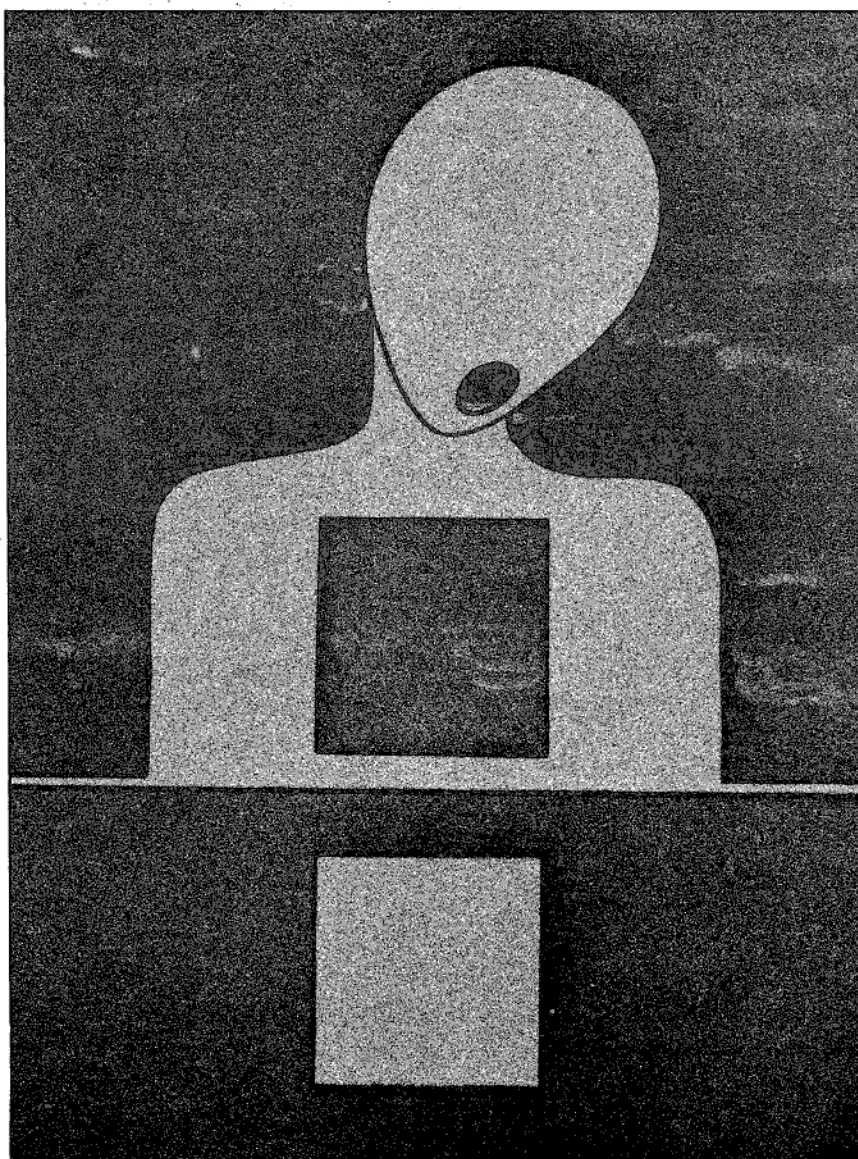
Fruits are an ideal diet. They are in fact evolved by the tree to induce animal and man to eat them, so that the seed may be disseminated, as flowers entice bees for a similar purpose. Fresh fruit contains water of the purest and best kind, capable of permeating the system in a marvelous manner. Grapejuice is a particularly wonderful solvent. It thins and stimulates the blood opening the way into capillaries already dried and choked up—if the process has not gone too far. By a course of unfermented grapejuice treatment, people with sunken eyes, wrinkled skins and poor complexions become plump, ruddy, and lively. The increased permeability enables the Spirit to manifest more freely and with renewed energy.

Considering the body from a purely physical standpoint, it is what we might call a chemical

furnace, the food being the fuel. The more the body is exercised, the more fuel it requires. It would be foolish for a man to change an ordinary diet which for years had adequately nourished him, and take up a new method without due thought as to which would be the best for serving his purpose. To simply eliminate meats from the ordinary diet of meat-eaters would unquestionably undermine the health of most persons. The only safe way is to experiment and study the matter out first, using due discrimination. No fixed rules can be given, the matter of diet being as individual as any other characteristic. All that can be done is to describe the general influence of each chemical element, allowing the aspirant to work out his own method.

Neither must we allow the appearance of a person to influence our judgment as to the condition of his health. Certain general ideas of how a healthy person should look are commonly accepted, but there is no valid reason for so judging. Ruddy cheeks might be an indication of health in one individual and of disease in another. There is no particular rule by which good health can be known except the feeling of comfort and well-being which is enjoyed by the individual himself, irrespective of appearances.

Water is the great solvent. Nitrogen or protein is the essential builder of flesh, but contains some earthy matter. Carbohydrates or sugars are the principle power-producers. Fats are the producers of heat and stores of reserve force. Ash is mineral, earthy, and chokes the system. We need have no fear



of not obtaining it in sufficient quantities to build the bones; on the contrary, we cannot be too careful to get as little as possible.

The calorie is the simple unit of heat. In a pound of Brazil nuts, for instance, when bought at the market, 49.6 per cent of the whole is waste (shells), but the remaining 50.4 per cent contains 1485 calories. That means that about one-half of what is bought is waste, but the remainder contains the number of calories named. That we may get the nearest amount of strength from our food we must pay attention to the number of

calories it contains, for from them we obtain the energy required to perform our daily work.

Chocolate is the most nutritious food we have; also cocoa, in its powdered state, is the most dangerous of all foods, containing three times as much ash as most of the others, and ten times as much as many. It is a powerful food and also a powerful poison, for it chokes the system more quickly than any other substance.

Of course, it will require some study at first to secure the best nourishment, but it pays in

health and longevity and secures the free use of the body, making study and application to higher things possible. After a while one will become so familiar with the subject that he will need to give it no particular attention.

It must be remembered that not all of the chemical substances contained in each article of food are available for use in the system, because there are certain portions which the body refuses to assimilate. Of vegetables we digest only about 83 per cent of the proteins, 90 per cent of the fat, and 95 per cent of the carbohydrates. Of fruits we assimilate about 85 per cent of the proteins, 90 per cent of the fat, and 90 per cent of the carbohydrates.

Phosphorus is the particular element by means of which the Ego is able to express thought and influence the dense physical body. It is also a fact that the proportion and variation of this substance is found to correspond to the state and stage of intelligence of the individual. Idiots have very little phosphorus; shrewd thinkers have much; and in the animal world, the degree of consciousness and intelligence is in proportion to the amount of phosphorus contained in the brain.

It is therefore of great importance that the aspirant who is to use his body for mental and spiritual work, should supply his brain with the substance necessary for that purpose. Most vegetables and fruits contain a certain amount of phosphorus, but it is a peculiar fact that the greater proportion is contained in the leaves, which are usually

thrown away. It is found in considerable quantities in grapes, onions, sage, beans, cloves, pineapples, in the leaves and stalks of many vegetables, and also in sugar-cane juice, but not in refined sugar.

In conclusion, let the aspirant choose such food as is most easily digested, for the more easily the energy in food is extracted, the longer time will the system have for recuperation before it becomes necessary to replenish the supply. Milk should never be drunk as one may drink a glass of water. Taken in that way, it forms in the stomach a large cheese ball, quite impervious to the action of the gastric juices. It should be sipped for it will then form many small globules in the stomach, which are easily assimilated. Citrus fruits are powerful antiseptics, and cereals, particularly rice, are antitoxins of great efficiency.

Having now explained, from the purely material point of view, what is necessary for the dense body, we will consider the subject from the occult side, taking into consideration the effect on the two invisible bodies which interpenetrate the dense body.

The particular stronghold of the desire body is in the muscles and the cerebrospinal nervous system, as already shown. The energy displayed by a person when laboring under great excitement or anger is an example of this. At such times the whole muscular system is tense and no hard labor is so exhausting as a "fit of temper." It sometimes leaves the body prostrated for weeks. There can be seen the necessity for improving the desire body by controlling the

temper, thus sparing the dense body the suffering resulting from the ungoverned action of the desire body.

Looking at the matter from an occult standpoint, all consciousness in the Physical World is the result of the constant war between the desire and vital bodies.

The tendency of the vital body is to soften and build. Its chief expression is the blood and the glands, also the sympathetic nervous system, having obtained ingress into the stronghold of the desire body (the muscular and voluntary nervous systems) when it began to develop the heart into a voluntary muscle.

Given the same amount and kind of food, the person of serene and jovial disposition will live longer, enjoy better health, and be more active than the person who worries, or loses his temper.

The tendency of the desire body is to harden, and it in turn has invaded the realm of the vital body, gaining possession of the spleen and making the white blood corpuscles, which are not "the policemen of the system" as science now thinks, but destroyers. It uses the blood to carry these tiny destroyers all over the body. They pass through the walls of arteries and veins whenever annoyance is felt, and especially in times of great anger. Then the rush of forces in the desire body makes the arteries and veins swell and opens the way for the passage of the white corpuscles into the tissues of the body, where they form bases for the earthy matter which kills the body.

Given the same amount and kind of food, the person of serene and jovial disposition will live longer, enjoy better health, and be more active than the person who worries, or loses his temper. The latter will make and distribute through his body more destructive white corpuscles than the former. Were a scientist to analyze the bodies of these two men, he would find that there was considerably less earthy matter in the body of the kindly disposed man than in that of the proverbial complainer.

This destruction is constantly going on and it is not possible to keep all the destroyers out, nor is such the intention. If the vital body had uninterrupted sway, it would build and build, using all the energy for that purpose. There would be no consciousness and thought. It is because the desire body checks and hardens the inner parts that consciousness develops.

There was a time in the far, far past when we set out the concretions, as do the mollusks, leaving the body soft, flexible, and boneless, but at that time we had only the dull, glimmering consciousness the mollusks now have. Before we could advance, it became necessary to retain the concretions and it will be found that the stage of consciousness of any species is in proportion to the development of the bony framework *within*. The Ego must have solid bones with the semifluid red marrow, in order to be able to build the red blood corpuscles for its expression. That is the highest development of the dense body. □

**—Max Heindel
Occult Principles of
Health and Healing**

Healing

Music and Its Influence on Health and Healing

PART I

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, With the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn. Make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! Let the sea roar and all that fills it; Let the floods clap their hands, let the hills sing for joy together Before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. (Psalm 98:4-9)

The universe is built and sustained by sound. In the book of Genesis, we read how our Earth was created as a result of God's verbal instructions, such as "Let there be light." The World of Thought is the world of tone. The ego awakens here in its true spiritual home to the symphonious "Music of the Spheres" referred to by Pythagoras. This tone, the "Creative Word" spoken of in the first verses of St. John's Gospel, produces all physical forms. The "Word" comes first. All things are made through it, and without it nothing can come into manifestation. Color and tone are present in the heavens together, but color is born of tone.

The twelve semitones or keynotes of our chromatic scale are correlated with the twelve signs of the zodiac. Corinne Heline tells us that "in our immediate cosmic environment, the twelve zodiacal constellations serve as the sounding board for the music played by the seven planets native to our solar system as they circle around their parent sun (*Healing and Regeneration Through Color and Music*, Corinne Heline, Part II, p. 1). These seven planets, or the "seven spirits before the Throne," transmit the seven notes of the diatonic scale into the universe. The master musicians could actually hear the vibrations that these planets sound forth as they move along their orbits.

Within our microcosmic bodies we also have seven spiritual centers, located along our midline, which are associated with these planetary

energies. These centers sound off a faint echoing of the greater symphony found in the heavens.

It is interesting to note that the first five hierarchies, which are no longer directly involved in our evolution, but work instead through their opposite signs to contribute to humanity's growth, are represented musically on the black keys of our modern keyboard. The seven hierarchies which are still directly active are represented on the white keys.

The sound patterns initiated in the heavens are continued throughout nature. The vibrations of everything on our planet combined blend together to form Earth's musical chord, which is in the key of F. Its associated tonal color is green.

Major tones and scales build objectively. Work in the outer world is done to the impulses of major keys and is productive, giving, and expanding. Inner work is done to the impulses of minor scales, and is subjective, sustaining, mysterious, and enfolding.

Through our seasonal changes, our planet changes from major to minor moods. During spring and summer, where outer world work is emphasized, major tones prevail. Come to fall equinox, a shift is made to the minor tones for autumn and winter, where work on the inner planes is emphasized.

Each of our vehicles (the physical body, vital body, desire body, and mind) has its own keynote. Corinne Heline observes: "Radiant and perfect health exists when there is complete harmony between the keynote of the etheric vehicle,

which is the vitalizing principle of the physical body, and the keynote of the archetype, the heavenly pattern in the likeness of which the physical body is molded.

All discordant emotions, negative thinking and destructive passions, such as anger, hatred, lust, and particularly fear, introduce discord into the vital physical bodies and gradually lower their tone and interfere with their normal functions. This introduces a dissonance between the keynotes of the two vehicles which in turn reacts upon the physical body as lack of ease, or dis-ease."

If we emphasize or overstress certain aspects of our makeup, placing too much value on them, we increase the vibrational rate of one or more of our bodies which somewhat sharpens (or raises) their keynotes. If, on the other hand, we neglect or ignore certain aspects of our being, we decrease the vibrational rate and flatten (depress or lower) the tones of the respective bodies. If the discrepancy between any two bodies is large enough, a break occurs between them leading to one of the forms of insanity.

Every organ in our bodies is also built and maintained through a specific zodiacal sign. The rhythms of our heartbeat and our breathing, the movement of fluids through our body, and the work of our muscles together create harmonies which are minute replicas of the Music of the Spheres (As Above, So Below).

According to the research done by Rudolf Steiner, the three aspects of music (melody, harmony, and rhythm) are

related to the thinking, feeling, and willing aspects of the human being. Walter Johannes Stein describes this relationship:

"In his whole being man responds to music: in mind, feelings and physiological rhythm. The mind responds to melody, for melody represents that part of music which is accessible to intellect. Harmony, as the resulting balance of variety, touches the feeling. Rhythm and its ceaseless forward movement stimulates the will and the movements of the limbs. That is why we can say the whole human being responds to music." (*Music, Its Occult Basis and*

Healing Values, Lionel Stebbing, 1961)

History

Music as a force in healing is by no means a new concept. In the ancient mystery schools of Egypt, Greece, and the Hebrews (to name but a few) the effects of tones and rhythms on the inner person and on physical health were studied and applied with great reverence. Pythagoras, an initiate in ancient Greece attributed with the doctrine of the "Music of the Spheres," calculated the steps between tones of the diatonic



scale based on the mathematical distances between the planets of our solar system. (The diatonic scale, is a scale composed of both whole-steps and half-steps). He also taught his pupils the effects that specific chords and melodies had on human behavior and health.

In the Old and New Testaments music is accepted and expected to be an integral part of life. In the first Book of Samuel (16:16) for instance, King Saul was being tormented by an evil spirit. His servants advised him, "Let our lord now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre; and when the evil spirit...is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." Further on, after David was called to serve Saul with the lyre, we read that whenever Saul was troubled by the evil spirit, "David took the lyre and played it with his hand, so Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him" (16:23).

In ancient times and in many Eastern religions today, chanting was used to open these centers. What are the mystical mantras of the Western World? Observe the effects that singing our great, divinely inspired hymns has on our thinking and feeling life, which is then often translated into our daily interactions with our creator and those around us.

Music has been instrumental through the ages in elevating courage during times of trial. The early Christian martyrs, when thrown in the midst of ravenous lions, sang through to their last moments (much to the dismay of their persecutors). Their singing was a testimony to their faith in eternal life.

The comeback of music as a tool for healing is in its infancy stage today. As I mentioned some of the practical applications of music in healing, I will speak mostly of the effects of what Hal Lingerman (*The Healing Energies of Music*, 1985), refers to as "Great Music." Great Music is an echo of the harmonious sounds found in the heavens. It is strengthening, inspiring, beautifying, mind-opening.

Students do much better in their studies when they cease playing rock tunes while doing homework. This does not include all rock music.

On the other hand, "noise" is what he calls "sound gone crazy." It is disconnected from the harmonies and rhythms found in the universe, and its effects weaken us physically, psychologically and spiritually. It depletes us to what he describes as "uncontrollable, confused, zombie-like-automatons, easily dominated by negative, destructive forces."

"Great Music resolves chaos dynamically, bringing peace, beauty, synthesis, and transformation; noise emphasizes separation, ugliness, and distortion." The composer Aaron Copland goes further to claim that "Great Music awakens in us reactions of a spiritual order that are already in us, only waiting to be aroused."

Dr. John Diamond, in his book *Your Body Doesn't Lie*, 1980, reports on his research on the effects of rock music on the

human organism: "Using hundreds of subjects, I found that listening to rock music frequently causes all the muscles in the body to go weak. The normal pressure required to overpower a strong deltoid muscle in an adult male is about 40 to 45 pounds. When rock music is played, only 10 to 15 pounds is needed...Every major muscle of the body relates to an organ. This means that all the organs of our body are being affected by a large proportion of the popular music to which we are exposed each day. If we add up the hours of the radio play throughout the world, we can see how enormous a problem this is." (pp. 160-161).

Mr. Diamond says that the whole body is jolted by the pulse found in rock music. This alarmed effect is often seen through behavioral changes such as diminished academic performance, hyperenergy and fidgetiness in children; and in adults, reduced job-performance, more mistakes, diminished ability to make decisions, extensive overall incompetence, and "a nagging feeling that things just aren't right—in short, the loss of energy for no apparent reason." Students do much better in their studies when they cease playing rock tunes while doing homework.

This does not necessarily include all rock music. There are many performing groups and specific songs which are based on uplifting themes and which have harmonious effects on the body, mind, and spirit. Any music, however, can become noise and therefore destructive when played at high volumes. □

—Vivien Alsberg

Healing

The Power of Imagination

In working with God's laws to create and establish a condition of health there is no more powerful means to be had than the faculty of *imagination*. By forming in our *mind's eye* a picture of what we wish to bring into reality, and holding to that picture sufficiently, we can be of unlimited aid to ourselves and others in matters of health.

Actually, everything that is created is first pictured by the imagination, and that fact alone provides a key to the formation of a more perfect organ or body. Furthermore, occult philosophy teaches that "the human mind is incapable of imagining anything that cannot be achieved," so we may feel perfectly confident of results in forming a picture of anyone we wish to assist as functioning in perfect health. The basic attitude upon which such imaginings are made should of course be, "Not my will, but Thine be done," for it would be a mistake to endeavor to *force* one's own will in this or any other matter.

First efforts at imagining a perfect organ or body may be imperfect and weak, but "persistence, *persistence* AND always persistence will win at last." To make our imagined pictures an actuality, it is necessary to practice uninterruptedly, day after day, exercising the will to keep the thought focused upon one subject or idea, exclusive of all else. Many successful healers of today use this method exclusively, and have amply demonstrated its efficiency. In the light of the above, it is easy to understand why it is so detrimental to allow the mind to dwell upon disease. The faculty of imagination may be used destructively as well as constructively, and we should therefore be careful to entertain no pictures or thoughts which we do not wish to see crystallized into reality.

The good, the true, the beautiful! Let us think on these things, and use the power of imagination to bring them into manifestation for ourselves and others.

HEALING DATES

Visible Helpers are just as necessary as Invisible Helpers, and our friends and patients may share in a high privilege, as well as add much to the power of liberated healing force, by joining us in prayer for the sick. Our Healing Service is held in the Pro-Ecclesia at 4:15 PM and every evening in the Temple at 6:30 PM when the Moon is in a cardinal sign on the following dates:

July.....	4-10-16-23-31
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September.....	3-9-16-23-30

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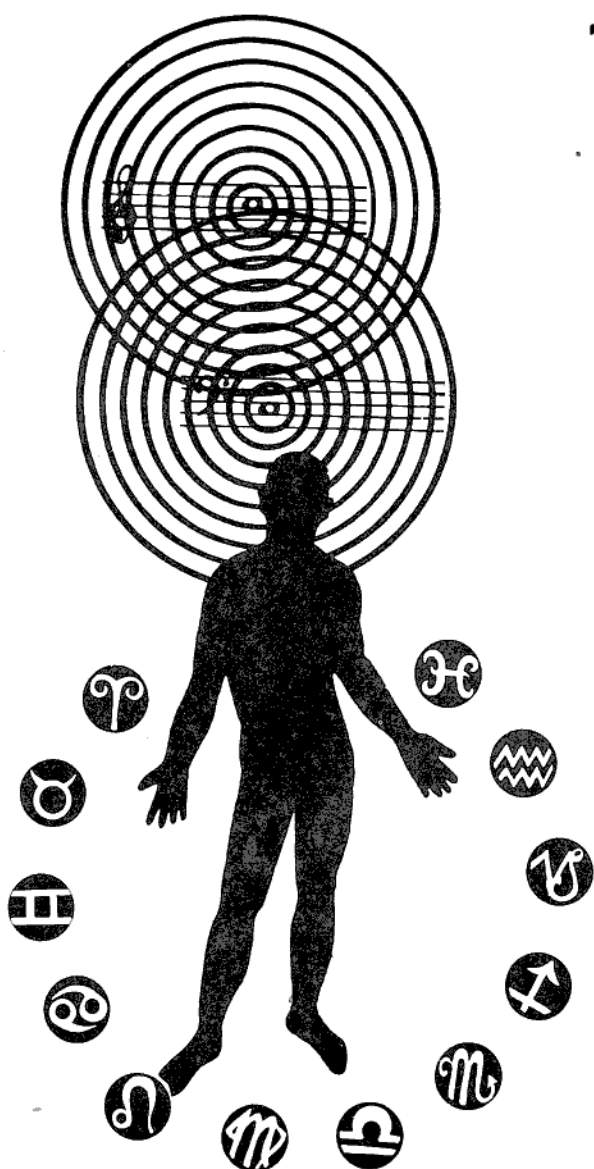
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1	00:50 ☽♂♂	08:35 ☽♂♂	16:51 ☽♂♂	05:06 ☽♂♂	19:36 ☽♂♂	11:25 ☽♂♂	02:59 ☽♂♂	00:34 ☽♂♂	06:21 ☽♂♂	00:00 ☽♂♂	03:18 ☽♂♂
	11:44 ☽♂♂	16:31 ☽♂♂	17:33 ☽♂♂	05:17 ☽♂♂	20:04 ☽♂♂	14:00 ☽♂♂	13:12 ☽♂♂	10:12 ☽♂♂	08:25 ☽♂♂	02:36 ☽♂♂	06:40 ☽♂♂
	13:04 ☽♂♂		18:06 ☽♂♂	09:06 ☽♂♂	21:00 ☽♂♂	18:13 ☽♂♂	20:38 ☽♂♂	11:05 ☽♂♂	15:43 ☽♂♂	08:50 ☽♂♂	20:36 ☽♂♂
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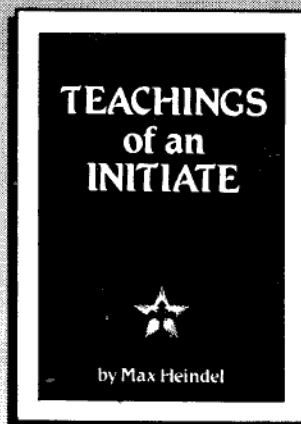
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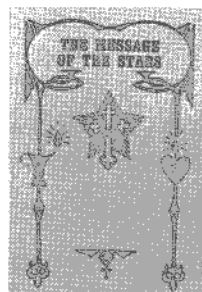
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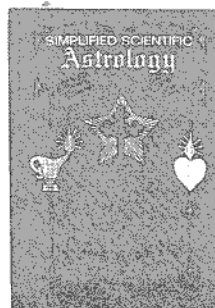
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