

# QUARTERLY

Spiritual Astrology Series: Gemini



WINTER 2022  
VOLUME 98, ISSUE 1

## Gemini-Aquarius in the Quest of Spirit: Ursa Major—“Being Unreasonable”

MaryMeg Dissinger

As a timely reminder for contributors to the Quarterly, Vicki Brewer recently sent the following in an email. It is a stellar introduction for our look into the deeper spiritual meanings of the last decanate of the sign of the twins, Gemini-Aquarius. It is reasonable that one might choose to review this decanate of Gemini in Cs. VII, *Spiritual Astrology*.

“Zain’s take on Ursa Major is a fascinating one. On the one hand *The Big Bear* reminds us of how powerful the restless mind can, and



(Continued on page 4)

### Spiritual Astrology:

#### Ursa Major—Reason

Scenza

Each of the twelve primary signs of the Zodiac is further subdivided into three ten-degree sections called decanates. The decanates enjoy a primary influence from their mother sign, and a

secondary influence from each of the signs that shares the same element as that sign. Hence, the third decanate of the third sign, *Ursa Major*, is termed *Gemini-Aquarius*, as it is found within the primary sign Gemini, and enjoys a secondary influ-

ence of the third Air sign, Aquarius. The Keyword for this decanate is “Reason,” and it extends from June 12 to June 22 of each year.

As explained above, the decanates are subordinate

(Continued on page 7)

#### Inside this issue:

Being Unreasonable	1
Ursa Major—Reason	1
Stellarian Honor Guard	2
Editorial	3
Our Purpose and Focus for Learning	12
Membership Room	14
Our Mission	20

#### Consider that ...

- Reason should be used wherever possible to check the reports of the psychic senses and intuition. The two stars in the outer bowl of the dipper which mark the shoulder of the Giant Bear point directly to the pole star, Truth.

— Spiritual Astrology

- “The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.”

— Albert Einstein

- The law is reason, free from passion.

— Aristotle



# The Stellarian Honor Guard

For the period between July 1, and September 30, 2022.

Regular Contributors form the solid foundation from which The Church of Light can grow. This column honors those who financially support the work of spreading the Religion of the Stars. Guardian Angels contribute more than \$500 in a quarter. The Stellarian Honor Guard includes those who contribute between \$100 and \$500 per quarter. We are grateful for your generous contributions to The Church of Light.



*"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."*  
— Maya Angelou

## Guardian Angels

- Anonymous
- Patricia Beard
- Paul & Vicki Brewer
- William D. Buchan
- Steve & Bessie Carrothers
- Adriana Donofrio
- Margaret Joscher
- Errick & Linnea Miron
- Barbara Sibley

## Stellarian Honor Guard

- Anonymous
- Glenda Ayach
- Jeffrey Daugherty
- Dave DeFino
- Alan Gatlin
- Janet Johnson
- Stephan LaFreniere
- Alicemarie O'Neill

- Rebecca Penrose
- Alexander Pohorily
- Delbert Rich
- Dudley Slade
- Rena Stiney
- George Uy

## Regular Contributors

- Anonymous
- Victor Battaglia
- Nathan Burd
- Claudia Clark
- Jeffrey Coleman
- Mark Doubleday
- Amara East
- Christopher Gibson
- Michael Herron
- Thomas Higgins
- Ivory Hughes
- Barbara Kniffen
- Shelly Lessard
- Erin MacLean

- Matthew McColm
- Monte Moss
- Naim Najieb
- Ryan Nasworthy
- Dorothy Ochieng
- Michelle Berry Robbins
- Theodore W. Robinson
- Rhiannon Rollins
- Ivan Sell
- Frederic Simon
- Joan Titsworth
- Marsteller
- Teodora Tshering
- Zane Williams
- Ebri Willie
- Frederick Wilson
- Jean Wright



WINTER ISSUE 2022

ISSN: 009-6520  
Vol. 98, No. 1

**PUBLISHED BY**

*The Church of Light*

**EDITORS**

*Peg Joscher  
Vicki Brewer*

**COPY EDITOR**

*Radine Ramsey*

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

*Veiga O'Sickey*

The Church of Light Quarterly is the official publication of the Church of Light. It includes educational and inspirational supplements to The Brotherhood of Light Lessons.

**DIRECTORS**

Margaret Joscher, President CA  
Veiga O'Sickey, Vice Pres., NM  
Patrick Ramsey, Secretary, NM  
Dave Carrothers, Treasurer, NV  
Neil Cantwell, MO  
Barbara Sibley, FL  
Alan Gatlin, San Antonio, TX

**HONORARY DIRECTORS**

Paul Brewer, NM  
Christopher Gibson, NM

Please address all communications to:

The Church of Light  
2119 Gold Ave SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106-4072  
tel: 505 247-1338  
fax: 505 814-7318

Email: [churchoflight@light.org](mailto:churchoflight@light.org)

## Editorial

Margaret Joscher, President

*"I am satisfied with the mystery of the eternity of life and with the awareness and a glimpse of the marvelous structure of the existing world, together with the devoted striving to comprehend a portion, be it ever so tiny, of the Reason that manifests itself in nature."*

— Albert Einstein, *The World as I See It*

When reading this chapter on the Aquarius decanate of Gemini, represented by Ursa Major, I have always been intrigued by Zain starting with the story of the Titans. These gods, who overthrew their progenitors, were subsequently overthrown by the Olympians, the pantheon of Greek gods we are most familiar with. Many early civilizations worshipped a pantheon of gods although there were pockets of monotheism rising. These ancient gods were more human superheroes than divine in that they often exhibited the worst human traits.

Over the centuries, we have replaced the old gods with one god or, in some cases, with no god. Akhenaton in ancient Egypt attempted a run at monotheism but it did not last long. The ancient Israelites are known for their belief in one god but that god, Jehovah, was often an angry and vengeful god. Although many of us now believe in a more beneficent deity, Christianity also depicted god as a being who would punish or reward his followers. Some Christian religious art portrayed god as an old white man with a beard sitting on a cloud or throne. Certainly an old man would be the pinnacle of wisdom and authority but many cultures, who viewed women as life givers, and therefore, creators, found it lacking. It is no wonder that in the Catholic religion, Mary, the Mother, is greatly revered. She balances the masculine with the feminine.

Historically, it seems that we have always made god or gods in our own image and not the reverse as recorded in the Bible. In Einstein's writings he indicated that he could not conceive of a personal god who punished his creations nor of an after-life, an interesting disclosure from someone who worked in the realm of matter and energy transformation. Instead, he thought that religious teachers should "avail themselves of those forces which are capable of cultivating the Good, the True, and the Beautiful in humanity itself." I suspect this great scientist intuited many of his ideas and then applied reason to proving them, a balance we strive to attain.

When we look with wonder and awe at the images captured from the James Webb telescope, we can't help but feel, or intuit, that there is something greater than ourselves. As humans, we reason that because we can create things, although on a small scale, there must then be a being who created this vast universe. It has been stated before that the finite cannot comprehend the infinite. A Divine Intelligence is beyond our ken but we choose to believe there is a supreme intelligence and that we transcend physical death. Our hope, faith and optimism is part of what is good, true and beautiful in ourselves.





should be, when it sets upon an idea or action guided by Reason...but the tale of the Titans reminds us there is risk in isolated thinking. As powerful as Reason can be, relying on a narrow set of facts may falsely lead a person into arrogantly and unsuccessfully storming the gates of heaven. Without dedication to complete understanding of the whole picture, the Rational Mind discerns half the picture. The Brute Power of Reason is only half of the potency of the mind. To be truly powerful and rise to the apex, the process of mind must soften and be receptive to a desire for complete knowledge guided by the Pole Star of Truth - Intuition. It is so easy to become attached to one's own thinking ... fortunately we Stellarians have Zain in Spiritual Astrology to remind us to let go and find the power of connection."

"The Truth That Sets You Free" is the touchstone of alchemy. But as an intellectual process only, it has no freeing power. The truth of any object, experience or force embraces a full comprehension of its various relations. Truth is correct knowledge. This correct knowledge embraces a comprehension of the relation of the thing to all other entities and forces."

— Spiritual Alchemy

**Veritas vos liberabit.**

"The truth shall set you free" is commonly attributed to Jesus of Nazareth as he addressed a group of Jews who believed in him and is from verse 8:32 of the Gospel of John in the Saint James version of The Bible. Forms of this statement prevalent in our western culture are also attributed to Martin Luther King and Gloria Steinem's, "The Truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." My current favorite which is more in line with this article is "Before the truth can set you free,

you need to recognize which lie is holding you hostage." (Google).

Ursa Minor (♊•♋) represents Intuition, Canis Major (♏•♐) represents Fidelity, and Ursa Major (♏•♑) represents Reason. In the 1930's when the 21 Courses of the Brotherhood of Light books were published, Elbert Benjamine was far ahead of his time in understanding how



The Battle Between the Gods and the Giants, c.1608 by Joachim Wtewael

Reason and Intuition must work together in order to find the Truth of any question.

The Reason of Gemini-Gemini is not ever sufficient enough to find Truth as represented in the heavens by The Pole Star residing in the tail of Ursa Minor. To discover the Truth at any time, we must combine the forces of Reason and Intuition to discover the truth of any question. Is truth constant? Never. Look at the history of the world to know that truth is fallible because truth is ever

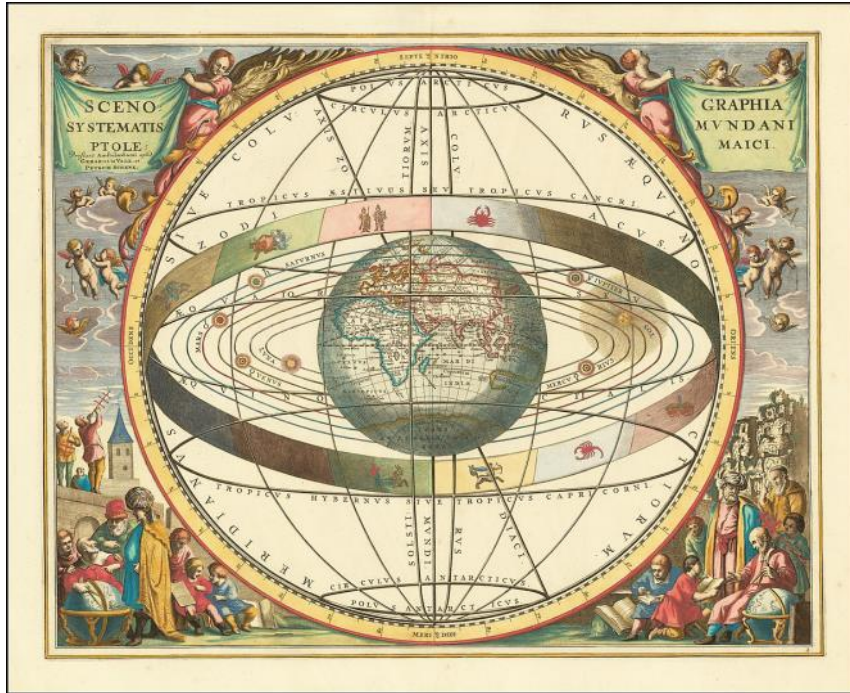
(Continued on page 5)



changing based on the knowledge and experience of the time, and all knowledge comes from experience.

Ancient societies based their explanations of how the world works on a cosmological system which places the Earth

As we have entered the Aquarian Age, the age of science and knowledge, the paradigm is shifting away from the blind faith of the Piscean Age. The scientist, Zain describes in his writing, is a man who is stuck in the belief that “...no information of importance of a different nature can lie beyond their ken” (CS VII). At this time, almost a hundred years since Zain wrote these words, the tide is



Scenographia Systematis Mundani Ptolemaici

Ptolemy's geocentric model of the earth as the center of the universe  
[wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scenographia_Systematis_Mundani_Ptolemaici.jpg)

at the center of the Universe. Ancient cultures and religions are based on stories and myths of deities and their families which have been created to make human lives more manageable and explainable. Most deities are humanoid in feature, because we humans need to be able to relate to our gods. The ancients had to imagine ways to accept life as it is and find ways to make their lives better. Throughout the ages up to now we have created religions first around the plethora of gods and now our monotheistic representation of the same.

shifting with constant scientific discoveries that are blowing old ideas and beliefs completely out of the stagnant water of antiquated science.

Today even the least of us can imagine that nothing is impossible. Much of the science fiction of the late 19th Century is scientific fact in the 21st Century. Zoom has made astral projection a reality of sorts. We have proof positive that if it can be imagined, and existing science has

(Continued on page 6)

*“We now see that Truth is the conformity of cognition to reality...a wider range of experience enables me to revise my early conclusions and approach more nearly the truth. Thus is growth in consciousness the continued approximation of cognition to reality, casting away that which proves erroneous, and confirming that which proves consistent.”*

— *Laws of Occultism*



*“The four astrological signs symbolize the four universal principles or pillars of the Cosmos –*



*One Principle:  
(Will-Leo),*



*One Law  
(Sex-Scorpio),*



*One Agent  
(Form-Taurus),*



*One Truth  
(Reality-Aquarius).*

*– through which this Super-Intelligence, instead of being moved by whim or prejudice, always operates.”*

*— Laws of Occultism*

*Gemini-Aquarius: Being Unreasonable...(Continued from page 5)*

caught up, it can be created. Laboratories of the world are filled with scientists who are applying intuition and reason in order to find new and exciting truths. If we can imagine ways to make our lives better, and we add the knowledge of current science and technology we have today, then an incomprehensible variety of improvements and inventions are at our command. At its core, this is the truth of the marriage between reason and intuition which may be used to change the world. The problems only occur when we accept the empirical as truth, because science/technology are constantly stretching the truths of today. We can NEVER stop challenging today’s truth. Truth-seeking in science, the Reason of today, coupled with intuitive imagination, brings about great leaps of discovery as long as we do not get stuck in the stodginess of today’s existing truths. The Universe is always expanding, just like our knowledge and our truths.

All our theories must be factualized. We cannot rest on yesterday’s definitions for our spiritual growth and development. In his teachings, Zain’s rhetoric is often misunderstood because it is stuck in the vocabulary of the past. Reading in between the lines and following his instructions to always look for the deeper meanings, always search for the truth as it relates to today’s science and wisdom, and forever striving to find new and better ways to improve the lives of all of humanity is our path to the truth that sets us free. Science is really based on our passion for the truth. Nothing is more destructive than contempt prior to investigation. Thus the evolution of science becomes an integral part of our spiritual journey. Blind acceptance is no longer acceptable; relying on reason alone is unreasonable.

The union of science, reason, and intuition are the superhighways toward the knowledge we need to advance as individuals, as cultures, and as citizens of planet Earth.

This Earth was once very small. Viewing it as the center of the universe led to limited and biased thinking. We have created boundaries and lines to define our counties and provinces, our cities, our states, our nations, our continents, and all the oceans of the planet. This view of the earth as the center is egotistical at its core and is out of date and time. The Earth is one planet, and our spiritual journeys demand that we begin to think and act globally if we are to save Her. The upper octave planets are key to this transition. The fact that this last decanate in Gemini has for its rulers Mercury, Saturn, and Uranus may show us the way forward in our quest, combining Thought, System, and Technology. Meditate on this, write about it, share what comes to you with others. Apply what is discovered for self-growth, for spiritual knowledge, and for continued investigation.

Neptune, the upper octave of Venus, gives us the ability to desire the possibilities of a harmonious and beautifully brave new world, and Pluto, as the upper octave of our Intuitive Moon, shows us how to actively envision and engage one another in cooperation in order to make positive changes. It is obvious what destruction follows for those using the dark sides of the upper octave planets may bring about. The reality of the science of spirituality is that we humbly serve the forces of our universe, personally or cosmically, thus our devotion as Stellarians to the concept of Universal Welfare.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Gemini-Aquarius: Being Unreasonable...(Continued from page 6)*

We are divine specks in this giant and ever-expanding universe, and as such we must constantly embrace our capacity for awe. Nothing is impossible, and there is no final truth. We must stay open always to living within this expanding life of truth as we know it today, supported by the intuition and reason of our experiences so far, always staying open to expansion and whatever new discoveries are waiting around every corner. In my

opinion, this is a spiritual journey worth taking.

So Shall It Be

References:

C.C. Zain. Cs. VII, *Spiritual Astrology*. Los Angeles: Church of Light Press.

Google

Copyright: Mountain Crone, Edcouch TX, November 2022.



*Ursa Major-Reason (Continued from page 1)*

in their influence to the signs themselves. Similarly, in interpreting and explaining the symbolism of each decanate, they nearly always relate back to their mother sign in terms of their overarching value and meaning. If you will recall, as the third sign of the Zodiac and as the first Air sign, Gemini is archetypically the sign of the mind. It communicates the ancient conception of the mind as dual in nature (i.e., rational, conscious mind and intuitive, unconscious mind), and details the essential relationship between our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

Accordingly, all three of the decanates found within Gemini elucidate particular aspects of the mind. The third decanate of Gemini is called *Ursa Major*, which translates from Latin as “The Great Bear.” This constellation is very well known to even casual observers of the night sky, for The Big Dipper is an asterism found within it. Taken together, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor instruct us on complementary, interwoven capac-

ities of the human mind: reason and intuition, respectively. Importantly, the very tip of the tail of Ursa Minor comprises Polaris, also known as the North Star or the Pole Star. The Pole Star is famous for appearing to stand nearly still in the night sky while all other stars turn about it, since it is located very close to the north celestial pole. People have relied on the constancy and predictability of *Polaris* to guide them to safety for millennia, whether to steer them on the seas or across vast deserts (McClure, 2019). Interestingly, two stars in Ursa Major, Merak and Dubhe, are often used to locate and identify Polaris (see Figure 1, next page). For this reason, these stars are known as “The Pointers”. Metaphorically, we can take this to signify that reason (represented by Ursa Major) can indicate the direction of Truth, but it is only through intuition (represented by Ursa Minor) that we can directly experience It.

In order to fully appreciate the ancient fascination with constancy and immuta-

*(Continued on page 8)*

*“I believe in intuitions and inspirations...I sometimes FEEL that I am right. I do not KNOW that I am.”*

— Albert Einstein



Figure 1: Two stars in Ursa Major, Merak and Dubhe, indicate the location of Polaris in Ursa Minor; hence their nickname, “The Pointers” Image from [earthsky.org](http://earthsky.org).

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

— Albert Einstein

bility, it is worthwhile to explore their concept of reality itself. Interestingly, the ancient Greek notion of reality was diametrically opposed to our own. In our modern, technologically based, highly materialistic culture, reality is largely defined as that which can be empirically observed or experienced by the physical senses. We define something as real when we can see, touch, or feel it; we often entertain skepticism regarding its reality if it is intangible, incorporeal, or otherwise unable to be directly observed. However, as Nichomachus of Gerasa (n.d., p. 1) explains in *Introduction to Arithmetic*, Pythagoras defined an object as real “when it continues to exist uniformly without change.” According to this definition of reality, no material object can be considered fully real, as our physical world is constantly undergoing change and reorganization. Hence, in order to discover something of greater

reality, Pythagoras and other, like-minded philosophers advised that we look to the nonphysical world of thoughts and their idealized notions, a concept which Plato described as The Realm of Forms (Wilkerson & Cummings, 2015). To these ancient Greek philosophers, Forms were perfect, unchanging, abstract concepts untouched by the erosive forces of space and time. In this sense, then, they comprised a greater, more complete, and perfectly intact reality than anything which can be achieved in our material universe.

Beginning from this notion of reality as that which exists uniformly without change, we can appreciate the importance of Polaris in the minds of the ancients. It is constant, steady, reliable, and predictable, and represents in that sense the *Rock of Ages*, even unto Deity,

(Continued on page 9)



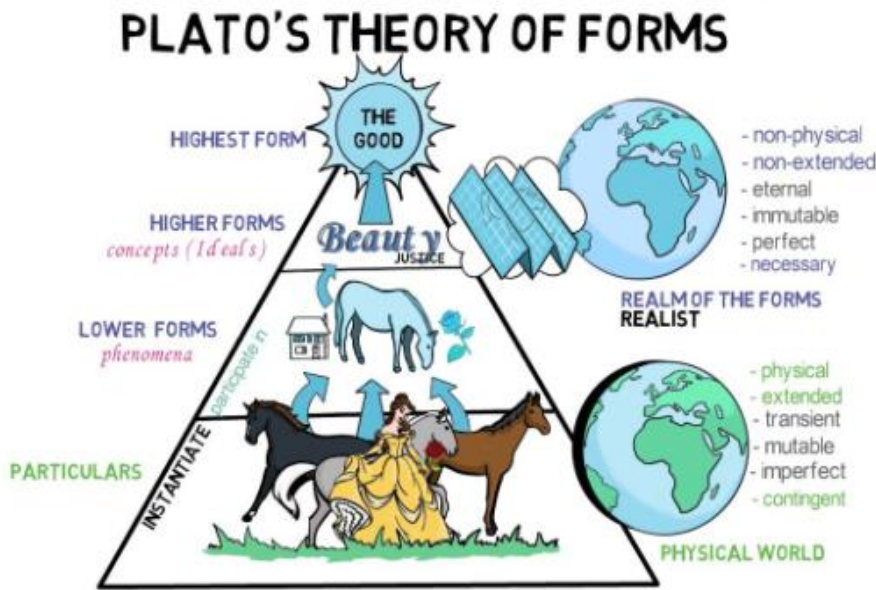


Image from Jest Education YouTube channel.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TissHzEG\\_JY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TissHzEG_JY)

which is also characterized by its constancy, perfection, and imperviousness to the wasting forces of the material universe. Hence, in the minds of the ancients, the constancy of the spiritual realm was associated with absolute reality, while the changeable, mutable world of the material realm represented at best a relative reality which could approach but never achieve the perfection of the World beyond the world.

In the myths associated with The Little and Great Bears, we are admonished to rightly regard the nature of reality as our ancient brothers and sisters understood it. The Little Bear represents intuition, a form of intelligence based on the (often unconscious) exercise of our inner senses. The Great Bear symbolizes the complementary mental faculty of reason, which relies upon our external senses to interpret, understand, and make sense of the physical world. Hence, overall human

beings are endowed with two counterbalanced forms of intelligence, intuition and reason, the first of which allows us to apprehend the spiritual world, and the latter of which allows us to make sense of the physical world. However, several admonitions are provided in these tales to help us rightly regard the nature of their relationship to each other.

Intuition is associated with Ursa Minor, The Little Bear, which is the constellation associated with the first decanate of Gemini. As this constellation takes precedence chronologically in the year, it also takes precedence as a form of intelligence in the human being. That is, as intuition allows us to directly experience Truth while reason only points the way to It, we are informed that intuition is a higher form of intelligence than reason. Once again, this is in direct conflict with the

(Continued on page 10)

*“I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their*

*use.”*

— Galileo Galilei



*The Big Bear—Reason (Continued from page 9)*

modern manner of thinking, where intuition is considered an untrustworthy, wishy-washy way of apprehending the universe. However, consistent with the ancient worldview that the constant, immutable world of spirit supersedes the inconstant, mutable world of matter, the form of intelligence associated with the inner world (i.e., intuition) must necessarily take precedence over the form of intelligence associated with the material world (i.e., reason).

Hence, the essence of the teaching of The Little and Great Bears is firstly the nature of the human mind, and secondly the right relationship between the two primary forms of intelligence with which a human being is endowed. To recap, our ancient spiritual brothers and sisters saw the human mind as dual in nature, comprising an intuitive, unconscious mind and a rational, conscious mind. Each aspect of the mind of a human being is associated with a different form of intelligence, intuition in the former case and reason in the latter case. The myths associated with The Little and Great Bears admonish us to recognize this dual nature of the mind, as well as to regard these two complementary forms of intelligence in their right relationship. While it might be experienced as paradoxical by the modern mind, we are informed that intuition should take precedence over reason, as the former is the type of intelligence associated with the inner, spiritual world, while the latter is the type of intelligence associated with the outer, material world. As the spiritual world alone is composed of elements “that exist uniformly without change” (Nichomachus of Gerasa, n.d., p. 1), they must be considered more real and vital than their material counterparts, which are always sub-

ject to the wasting, winding conditions of space and time. In this manner, then, may we live most fully: by exercising both the intelligence of the unconscious mind (i.e., intuition) as well as the conscious mind (i.e., reason) completely and in their right relationship.

The Leading Text for The Great Bear is, “Reason Points the Way to Truth, and Offers a Valuable Means by Which the Accuracy of the Reports of the Psychic Senses Can Be Tested.” (Zain, 1997, p. 84). As a final example of how these two intelligences can be blended, but how intuition must ultimately come to supersede reason, let us consider what happens when a person learns to play a piece of music. While the student is learning the piece, they will necessarily rely upon reason to guide them through the process of figuring out pitches, rhythms, tempos, dynamics, and all the other details and flourishes that the music entails. However, once the piece is memorized, it is only through the dynamic, adaptable element of intuition that the piece can truly be brought to life. That is, while a program such as is installed in a player piano can place notes of a certain duration at a certain point in time, such robotic forms can never learn to interpret, express, or truly bring the music to life. For that, we rely upon the form of human intelligence known as intuition. Accordingly, every time that a maestro sits down to play a piece, it will be a little different—this time a little faster, that time a little slower; this time a little louder, that time a little softer; in essence, they will express the music differently each time they play it, not because they are exercising the mental faculty of reason, but because they are rising above reason to embrace their intuitive understanding of the piece.

*(Continued on page 11)*

*“The pendulum of the mind oscillates between sense and nonsense, not between right and wrong.”*

— Carl Gustav Jung

Likewise, when a person learns to play a sport- whether it be baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse- or any other procedural skill, at first, they will necessarily be focused on applying their reasonable faculties to memorize and inculcate the various skills required to excel at that activity. However, once the basic skills have been mastered, it is only through the subtle art of intuition that any game can be played at its peak. Since conditions change on a moment-to-moment basis, there is no way to predict which skill will be needed at any given point. Additionally, these games move so fast that sometimes the difference between success and failure will resolve down to split seconds. Hence, while reason can help us to learn the basic elements of a game, it is not until we are able to rise above reason to a level of intuitive play that we will experience any real success. Athletes and performers alternatively refer to this transcendental state as being “in the zone” or being “in flow.” Regardless of what we call it, in those moments when we can sustain this delicate balance of science and art, we have moved beyond the state of reason into an almost instinctive form of intuitive play. We react in split seconds, faster than even we thought possible. We are prone to achieve things in such an elevated state that win games, take home championships, and set new standards for the

event. And all of this is due not only to the mundane form of intelligence associated with the physical world which we call reason, but because we rise above reason into a higher form of intelligence associated with the spiritual world known as intuition. It carries us higher and takes us to places even we cannot imagine, as perhaps it is taking me right now.

#### References:

- McClure, B. (2019, May 21). Polaris is the North Star. Earthsky. <https://earthsky.org/brightest-stars/polaris-the-present-day-north-star/>
- Nichomachus of Gerasa. (n.d.). Introduction to Arithmetic. (J. Muscat, Trans.). University of Malta. <http://staff.um.edu.mt/jmus1/Nicomachus.pdf>
- Wilkerson, G. & Cummings, E. (2015, May 13). The theory of forms by plato: Definition & examples. Study. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-theory-of-forms-by-plato-definition-lesson-quiz.html>.
- Zain, C.C., (1997). *Spiritual astrology: The origins of astro-mythology and stellar religion*. The Church of Light.



“Intuition  
is seeing  
with the soul.”  
— Dean Koontz

---

Unless specified otherwise by a member, The Church of Light Quarterly is mailed to all domestic members who donate a minimum of \$50 annually and \$75 annually for international mailings.

Current Quarterlies are found for FREE at: <https://www.light.org/quarterly.cfm>  
Archived versions are found for FREE at: <https://www.light.org/archives.cfm>



## Stellarian Perspectives...

# Our Purpose and Focus for Learning

Alan Gatlin, M.S.

Taking the time to consider the basic foundation and tenants of our belief system can be a new sense of renewal and answer why we began and continue on this sacred journey. The core belief we operate from is that of promoting Universal Welfare to ourselves and others with the skills and understanding we gain (Zain, 1939, Chapter 13 SL# 18). Without this focus on the universal good, we risk slipping into the realm of self-satisfaction and greed that will only end in our spiritual destruction and unhappiness. This is also one of the reasons that the courses taught by the Church of Light (CofL) are presented without charge. Our teachings are directed to provide for achieving the higher realms and pursuits to benefit all peoples without regard to their circumstances.

Accomplishing this task of moving ourselves to these higher realms for the service of others is achieved with the recognition and exercise of the two worlds that we operate within, the outer and inner planes of existence (Zain, 1936, Chapter 8 SL#28). The outer plane of our existence is constructed of the everyday interactions and occurrences that we often

take for granted, not realizing the significance of how we interact and are impacted by the people, places, and things around us through their energy interactions. These interactions cause us to consider redefining the nature and characteristics of what is alive and a living entity.

As a part of our Hermetic perspective, these same electromagnetic influences, but from aeternal bodies and their interactions, call for us to consider how they influence and set in motion a variety of occurrences in our lives and world. However, an even more robust set of factors at work in the inner plane that is driven by our thoughts and actions, which can guide and override external influences.

Both the inner and outer plane can be classified into three categories:

- “1. Character-vibrations, which are the radiations of intelligence due to its organization.
- “2. Thought-vibrations: which are the radiations of intelligence due to the thought process.

(Continued on page 13)

### As Above, So Below



*“If understanding followed no rule at all, there would be no good in the understanding nor in the matter understood, and to remain in ignorance would be the greatest good.”*

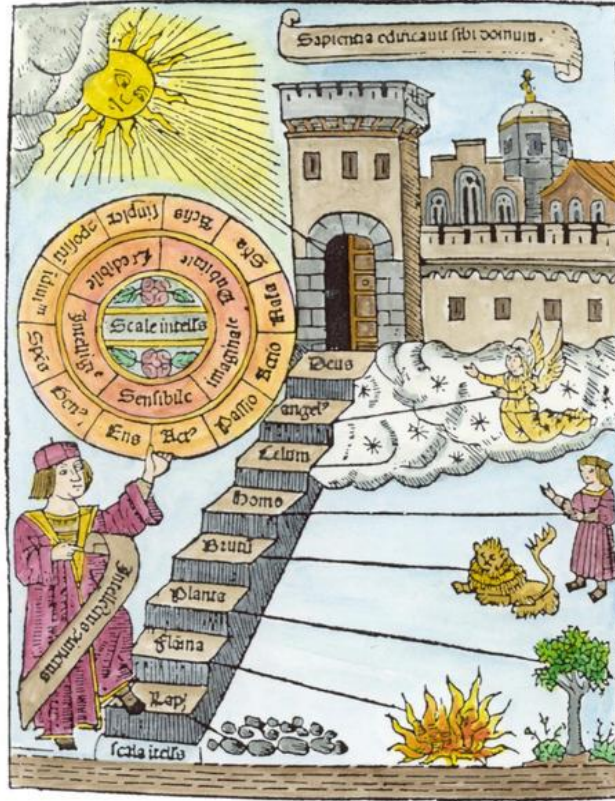
— Ramon Llull



“3. Astrological-vibrations, which are the radiations from the heavenly bodies and the zodiacal signs” (Zain, 1936, Chapter 5 SL# 25).

Learning the forms and processes to make the best use and understand how each of these areas function is one of the essential purposes of this work and the root of how we become a service to others as we improve ourselves in our practice of this critical knowledge. As we serve, we grow and have the basis for keeping the focus on why we learn, our resistance to self-serving actions, and activities all being driven by our intention and not on our promotion.

As we gain in each of our endeavors to assimilate the knowledge of these courses, take a moment to reflect on the reasoning for your studies and how you can best apply these teaching for the Universal Welfare. There are many service opportunities with the CoL, and we encourage you to reach out and discuss how your strengths and skills can be used. We grow by sharing and putting into practice the lessons we have learned. There will be challenges along with this path but with the tenacity and strength gained from applying what is learned, each person can move to that place of peace and assurance that the time spent in this existence was well used and preparing us for the next.



**“Wisdom built a house there.”**

*Sapientia edificavit tibi domum.*  
Ramon Llull 1232—1315

“It's not what you look at  
that matters,  
it's what you see.”

— Henry David Thoreau

**References**

Zain, C. C. (1936). *The Sacred Tarot - The art of card reading and the underlying spiritual science.* COFL Press.  
Zain, C. C. (1939). *Ancient Masonry - The spiritual meaning of masonic degrees, ritual, and symbols.* COFL Press.





# Membership Room...

Questions we receive at HQ are always very interesting and thought-provoking. Chances are, they are same questions others may have. 2025 will mark one hundred years of *Church of Light Quarterly*s and/or *Annuals* and during this past century, from time to time the questions received at HQ have been shared with others in a Q&A column format. In the spirit of sharing these inquiries, from time-to-time, we will feature a Q&A section in the Membership Room...please feel free to send questions you'd like to see answered.

*Vernal Equinox: The point where the sun crosses the celestial equator in a northerly direction, marking the prime meridian of right ascension.*

*Prime Meridian: The line of 0° longitude, which by convention passes through Greenwich, England, the starting point for measuring distance both east and west around Earth.*

*Right Ascension: The distance of a point east of the First Point of Aries, measured along the celestial equator and expressed in hours, minutes, and seconds.*

— various sources

## Member Q&A...

### Question: Dave D

... in my studies I noticed that when C. C. Zain teaches how to draw up a horoscope he uses the sidereal zodiac but Horoscope 2020 is based off the tropical system. Why is this? I've been reading the books on Hermetic Astrology by Robert Powell and he also says that the sidereal zodiac is the one to use. Digging a little deeper and Demetra George in *Ancient Astrology* says that while the tropical zodiac shows how we relate to our sun. The sidereal shows how we relate to the stars. If this is correct wouldn't the religion of the stars follow the sidereal zodiac? Your input on this subject would be very much appreciated.

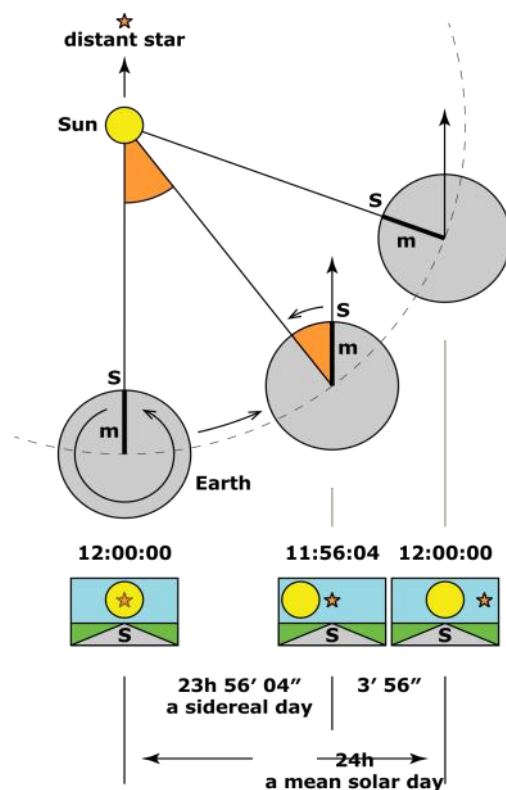
### Answer: HQ

Although from your question, it seems you grasp the differences, it's possible you may be getting a little confused by the idea that there is sidereal time and a sidereal zodiac. Sidereal time and the tropical zodiac are two different things.

For Sidereal time, there are a couple of good links at the end of this column that might help you understand it better:

Basically, as a civil convenience, we measure our hours, days, months, and years based on "Solar" or "sun time" whereas the ephemeris, from which the positions

of the planets come, are measured in "sidereal" time or "star time." It is the difference between the sidereal time cited by an ephemeris and the solar time we measure time on earth by, that we make the Sidereal Time Correction when erecting a horoscope. The Horoscope Program



### Comparison of sidereal and solar time.

Illustration from Wikimedia, the free encyclopedia.

(Continued on page 15)

uses Sidereal Time, just as the lessons do (Course 8 and 10). The software uses the tropical zodiac.

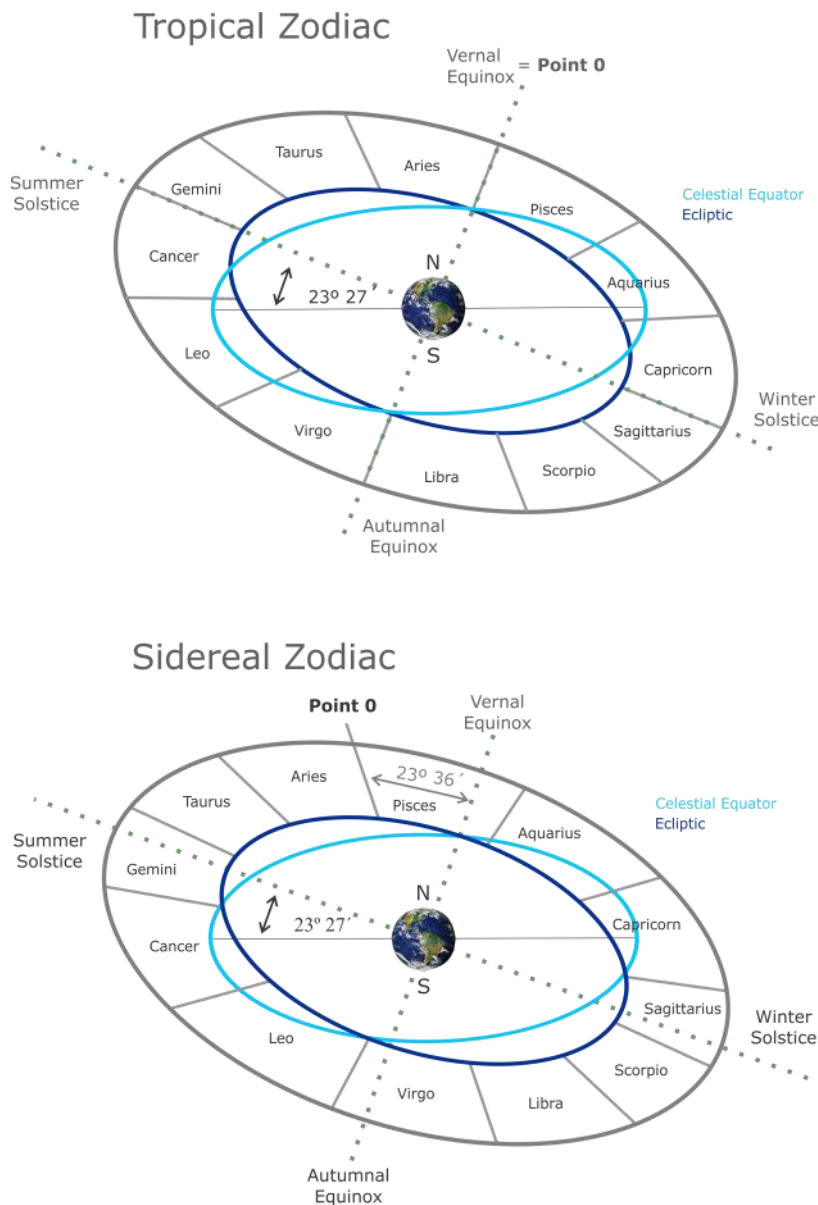
The zodiac is the belt along celestial equator where the planets wander through the sky. As Zain states in the lessons, Hermetic Astrology uses the Tropical Zodiac whose starting point is defined by the Sun moving from southern celestial hemisphere (winter season to those of us in the northern hemisphere) to the northern celestial hemisphere (summer season), the point we define as the Vernal Equinox or 0 degrees Aries. This point has not changed over time. As you suggest, in sidereal astrology, the commencement of Aries as a constellation and the sidereal zodiac have moved the commencement of the sign Aries backward and now begins on April 14th rather than around March 20th.

Which one is correct?

Well, as Zain says, "the proof is in the pudding." Years of studying astrology suggests that the Tropical zodiac works well for measuring

character and predicting the timing of events when the rules are applied. Sidereal Astrologers will likely claim the same. Guess that would be a good argument for a robust, scientific study of astrological methods, something C. C. Zain advocated.

Another way to view the question is to observe Nature and see if there is any insight there. Perhaps this is a bias, but in the northern hemisphere, Nature's seasons and cycles seem to have a strong correlation to the description of the astrological calendar.



**“PROVERB:**

*"the proof of the pudding is in the eating"*

*Translation: the real value of something can be judged only from practical experience or results and not from appearance or theory."*

**— Oxford Languages**

(Continued on page 16)

The vernal equinox, commencement of Aries (March 20th) in the tropical zodiac always marks the beginning of a shift from the cold, dark days of winter to the increased light of longer days and restless new energy...seeds are planted, buds begin to wake up, animals dormant in winter reappear, new projects are undertaken with excitement etc. – this type of activity seems to correspond to the sign Aries today as it did in Ptolemy’s time. It may also be an argument for measuring the commencement of Aries as the time the Sun moves from the celestial south to north.

Probably the best place to grasp the logic of why Hermetic Astrology uses the Tropical Zodiac is Course 2, *Astrological Signatures*, Chapter 2, The Zodiac.



As for your philosophical/religious question, Zain defines astrology’s relationship to the Religion of the Stars as based upon his conclusion that birth chart is a “roadmap of the soul” and as such is the golden key for understanding who you are and why you are here. I’m sure he would be an advocate of Sidereal Astrology, as a system, if he thought it was better at helping each of us gain insight into how we can best contribute our utmost to universal welfare. His research did not bear that out, but if anyone can produce a reasoned argument that is substantiated by facts, it would be welcome and an interesting study!

**In the same vein, here’s another answer , similar question, from a few years back...**

In standard western astrology we use what is called the tropical zodiac. The

tropical zodiac is the band along the ecliptic that starts and ends at the Vernal Equinox. The Sun crosses that point on the zodiac (or ecliptic) called the Vernal Equinox and enters the sign Aries on March 21st every year. This is the first day of spring and is well depicted by the attributes of the sign Aries. Aries, Taurus and Gemini are the three Spring signs of the zodiac, Cancer, Leo and Virgo the three summer signs, Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius the three Fall signs, and Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces the three winter signs. In other words, the 12 zodiacal signs do correspond to the seasons, and this never changes. The important point to grasp here is that we are talking about 12 bands along the ecliptic, not the stars. The stars that make up the constellations are related to the zodiacal signs (the twelve 30 degree bands along the ecliptic that we have been talking about), but are not the same as. Due to a phenomenon called Precession, caused by the “wobbling” of the Earth’s axis, the band in space that we call the tropical zodiac (or, again, what astronomers call the ecliptic) slowly rotates against the background of the “fixed” stars. Thus, there are two zodiacs: (1) the tropical zodiac or ecliptic, along which the Sun, Moon and Planets “apparently” travel; and (2) the sidereal zodiac which is the circle of zodiacal constellations made up of the stars that we see at night encircling the sky. Two thousand years ago, these two circles more or less coincided. This is because ancient astrologers, recognizing that the Sun, Moon and Planets behaved differently when in different “zones” on the ecliptic or tropical zodiac, depicted this influence by delineating arbitrary groups of stars into constellations, in the same area of the heavens as the tropical zodiacal sign) and assigning

(Continued on page 17)

*“What causes apparent motion in the stars? These apparent star tracks are in fact not due to the stars moving, but to the rotational motion of the Earth. As the Earth rotates with an axis that is pointed in the direction of the North Star, stars appear to move from east to west in the sky.”*

— [public.nrao.edu](http://public.nrao.edu)



stories and attributes to these constellations that corresponded to, or “told the story of”, each of the twelve signs of the zodiac. Over time they added many more “ultra-zodiacal” constellations to depict sub-influences of the tropical zodiacal signs (that we now refer to as decanates or three ten degree sections within each 30 degree zodiacal sign along the ecliptic.)

While some of the constellations and signs go back at least 5000 years or more, this all came to a head during the Greek period between 300 BC and 200 AD. The original 12 zodiacal and 36 ultra-zodiacal constellations were finally codified by the Greek astronomer/astrologer Ptolemy in Alexandria around 150 AD. Thus it was that during the time after 500 BC and up to 150 AD, that almost all of modern genethliacal or natal astrology was being developed and the constellations “placed” in the starry heavens to correspond to zodiacal influences. So far as we know, the Greeks, who, culminating with Ptolemy, were technically astute enough to perfect the study of astrology, used the tropical zodiac. They were also aware of the phenomenon (mentioned above) called Precession of the Equinoxes that, again due to the wobble of the Earth’s axis, caused the ecliptic or tropical zodiac to slowly rotate against the background of the constellations (the constellated zodiac). The discovery of Precession is attributed to the Greek Hipparchus between 147 BC and 127 BC, so Ptolemy, an astronomical and mathematical genius of gigantic proportions, was very much aware of precession in 150 AD. (Note: While Ptolemy believed that the Sun and planets revolved around the Earth, a theory that was not put to rest until Copernicus came around in the 16th century,

modern astronomers, while dismissing Ptolemy’s interest in astrology, nevertheless hold him in the same esteem as a mathematician and astronomer as the likes of Kepler, Newton, etc.)

To sum this all up, 2500 - 2000 or so years ago the constellated zodiac (or sidereal zodiac) more or less lined up with the tropical zodiac, but due to precession they are no longer aligned. This is not a problem for most astrologers because they use the tropical zodiac and not the sidereal zodiac. The constellations that make up the sidereal zodiac are really just pictographs to tell a story. They (being stars that are hundreds of light years away - a light-year is 6 trillion miles) are not likely to have any influence on us. It is the various zones along the ecliptic, through which the planets travel, that is the source of the influence that we try to measure with astrology. This has been an on-going argument for several hundred years. Obviously, both systems (tropical and sidereal) cannot both be right. You will have to make your own choice. The Church of Light teaches the use of the “standard” tropical zodiac.

Here are some good sources if you would like to do further research on the subject:

Sidereal Time: <http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/about-us/122-observational-astronomy/timekeeping/general-questions/760-what-is-sidereal-time-beginner>

<https://lco.global/spacebook/sky/sidereal-time/>

2020 Fall Quarterly: <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2020-fall-web.pdf>



(Continued on page 18)



*“Confirmation bias is the tendency to seek out and prefer information that supports our preexisting beliefs. As a result, we tend to ignore any information that contradicts those beliefs...This type of research bias is more likely to occur while processing information related to emotionally charged topics, values, or deeply held beliefs.”*

— scribber.com

## Letter from Michael Herron about The Church of Light Forum...

**H**ello there, this is Michael. I am the social media manager, and also one of the online community coordinators here for The Church of Light. We're excited here at the organization to discuss with you the launch of our



community forum for our members! It has been a long time in the works, a lot of preparation has gone into the development of it and finally the day has arrived! The goal of this article is to explain to you why the forum was made and

what are the goals I envision it will accomplish for our community.

When it comes to esotericism, there are many different communities out there and each has their own way of sharing information and ideas. I wanted to create a private dedicated online community space just for our members where we can further expound upon our teachings we share here at The Church of Light. I wanted it to be done in a way that gives us more of a community feel for our new upcoming, and current members around the globe. I want to reiterate the key goal here is to build more of a sense of community and interconnectedness amongst our members worldwide.

Having this private forum can offer us a safe space for the members of our Her-

metic esoteric community to connect, discuss, and share ideas without having to worry about being shunned upon for our thoughts, philosophy, questions, and practices that we could otherwise face publicly due to misunderstandings. The forum will be moderated to ensure that only official members of the community can see and contribute to the discussions and ensure that privacy is held to the utmost respect.

Another goal of the forum is that it can also be used as a teaching tool. We have many members of varying backgrounds, expertise, knowledge and experiences. And I would love for our members to share their experiences, techniques, and ideas as this can help to create a strong sense of belonging among members of our community. This can be a great way for members to learn from each other and to improve their skills of this craft we call the Hermetic Arts.

Finally, I envision this forum to be one of the main hubs to foster community endeavors outside of just teaching. We needed a platform to also host space for helping with coordinating volunteer efforts around the globe and The Church of Light to continue our philosophy of contributing to the upmost to Universal Welfare.

Overall, a private forum can offer many benefits to an esoteric community. It can offer a safe space for members to share information and ideas, it can help to build a sense of community, and it can be used as a teaching tool. Here are other key benefit bullets below that were not mentioned above are:

- Group Studies
- Step By Step Guidance

(Continued on page 19)

*"We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak."*

— *Epictetus*

(Membership Room: CofL Forum...  
Continued from page 18)

- Member Recommendations
- Community Blogs
- Community Articles
- Community Chat
- Community Networking
- Community Support
- Community Polls
- Spiritual Clubs Informative

- Videos
- Forum Functions
- Book Discussions

If you are looking for a way to connect with other members of our esoteric community, then the private forum could be the perfect solution for you. It is automatically given to all members who have officially joined The Church of Light. Hope to see you there!



---

## Congratulations to Our Newest ...



### MINISTER

Mark Doubleday

### HERMETICIAN

Michael Herron

### CERTIFIED TEACHER

Erin MacLean  
Laurie Dixon



---

## The Church Of Light

### YouTube & AHA Facebook Pages

The Church Of Light YouTube channel is primarily devoted to interactive learning of hermetic astrology and the tarot. We are a non-profit organization, since 1932, dedicated to religious education...

<https://www.youtube.com/c/thechurchoflight/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/academyofhermeticarts/>

---

## The Academy of Hermetic Arts is Open!

The Brotherhood of Light Lessons  
in an interactive, online environment.

Courses 1 through 12 are available now. One new course will be released in consecutive order every two months.

<https://academyofhermeticarts.org/>



THE CHURCH OF LIGHT

2119 Gold Avenue SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

*Where Science and  
Religion Are One*

## The Church of Light Vision For the 21st Century

### **OUR MISSION:**

To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of humankind through the teaching and practices of the Religion of the Stars as outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

A loving Cosmic Intelligence, of which we are all a part, whose infinite goodness guides us through undeviating natural law.

A Divine Plan manifests through progressive evolution in which each soul has a unique and important role.

A soul is completely moral when to the maximum extent of its abilities it adheres to the universal moral code: Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.

The realization of the soul's Mission and the attainment of Self-Conscious Immortality is the goal toward which each soul moves.

Love is the way to life. Unselfish Love alone makes immortality possible.

Through the proper exercise of one's mentality using Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion, it is possible to control one's own life and destiny, both here and hereafter.

Astrology is the Golden Key that unlocks the door to understanding the Soul's true character and potential.

The safe development of extrasensory perception (Extension of Consciousness) is the best tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

Religion is the sister of Science, and it evolves by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.

### **OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:**

We are a powerful force for good and for spiritual enlightenment and expand the reach and experience of our members because:

We provide reliable and verifiable information regarding the nature of the soul and its relationship to Deity and other life forms;

We seek out reliable and verifiable information regarding life on higher planes of existence, especially in regard to the transition we call death and the nature of the next life;

We develop increasingly advanced tools and training in astrology, extrasensory perception, directed thinking and induced emotion toward the end of maximizing each person's happiness, usefulness and spirituality;

We promote the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;

We build a sense of community and spiritual purpose which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.