

The Silver Key

The Astrological Significance of Each Egyptian Tarot Card - Part XVI The Black Magician

Elbert Benjamine

April 1938, *American Astrology Magazine*

Although the writings of medieval astrologers show little appreciation of the advantages conferred by the influence of Saturn, when prominent in a birth chart, it is probable that those of more ancient times were well aware of them. Yet because the principle he rules in human life, and the influence of his vibrations, always find their foundation in Self-Interest, and Self-Interest more than any other one principle is the source of human misery, when they sought to portray the relation of this Saturn power to life on earth, their symbolical pictographs represented the adverse side.

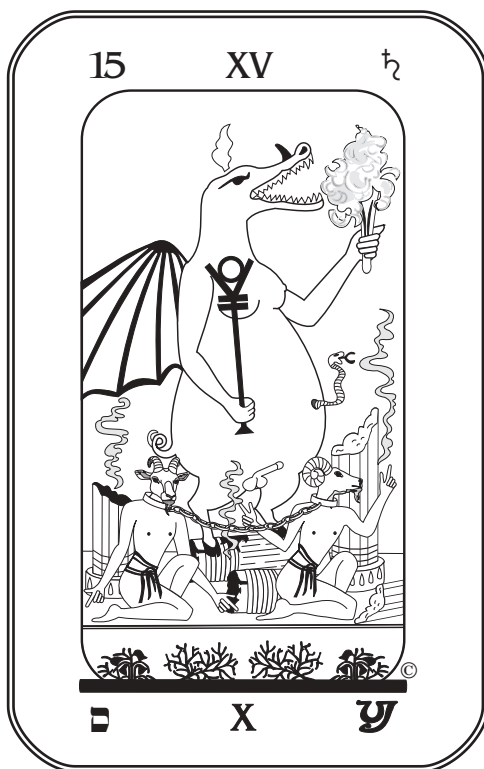
To indicate the more commonly observed motives of Saturn, they employed as the central figure, Typhon, the spirit of cruel Greed. This horrible monster, borrowed from the Egyptians, is a familiar character of Greek mythology, frightening Venus and her son Cupid so that they jumped into the River Euphrates to escape him, and transformed themselves into the two fishes of Pisces, which as constellations now can be seen in the sky. This legend, in the language of universal symbolism thus explains, that to the extent the Self-Interest of Saturn is present, must Love, represented by Venus and Cupid, depart. And it also reveals Pisces as the sign of exaltation of fair Venus.

Saturn, in the pursuit of its object, not only is motivated by Self-Interest; but unlike Mars, for instance, it works in dark-

ness and through cunning, rather than facing the full light of day. Most typical of all methods of thus acquiring an unfair advantage over others secretly is the use of mental powers. And when the power of thought thus is sent against another, to de-

stroy him, or to compel him to do things against his own interests, it is called Black Magic; and the one using such iniquitous methods is termed a Black Magician. Thus the ancients, in portraying their teachings relative to the influence of the planet Saturn, not only employed the picture of evil Typhon, but presented him in the role of the Black Magician.

Major Arcanum XV of the tarot, here illustrated, shows Typhon standing triumphantly over the ruins of a temple. That is what the world today is facing. Greed for power, the greed of the few within the nation to dominate and control its resources: the greed of military nations to gain for themselves, even at the cost of destroying civilization, control of world commerce and world resources. The ruins of the temple, as pictured on The Black Magician tarot card, now can be seen in actuality in both Spain and China; and if the greed is not curbed, later might well be witnessed even in these United States.



Why is it that the medieval authors were so stout in their affirmation that Saturn afflicted in the house of honor (tenth) brought a rise followed by certain downfall? Not because such a position created the inevitability of such precipitation from fame for some few with this position are able to curb its unbounded greed for more and more power. Lord Northcliffe,

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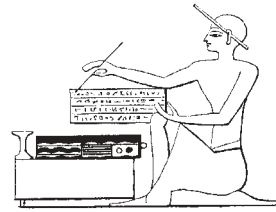
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Christopher Gibson



Every November and early December my ears are greeted by the sounds of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus Canadensis*) as they fly southward through the valley of the Rio Grande. They are heading to the Bosque del Apache, a wildlife habitat located in the riparian wetlands and cottonwood forest about a hundred miles south of Albuquerque. As I step out my door and look overhead I can see their V-formation break up as they hit an up-draft and chaotically disperse.

Sandhill Cranes are known for their sophisticated vocal and body-language vocabularies which are displayed as recognizable patterns of communicating and interacting with each other. The sounds that I initially hear that prompt me to go outside are their cries of confusion and regrouping as their flight formation is disturbed. Within a few minutes the flock regains its composure and with a new leader at the front of the V they continue their journey south in search of winter feeding grounds. The cranes' survival as a species depends upon making this journey and like clockwork this migration happens annually.

There must be something instinctual that motivates cranes as well as other species of birds to make this incredible journey. We cannot be certain what triggers their migration, be it changing temperatures, or more plausibly the changing angle of the sun on its annual journey south to the Tropic of Capricorn. Nevertheless, every life form wants to survive and some will travel great distances annually in order to do so. These migration patterns of large birds are not unique to North American species. The Magi of ancient times felt that

the migrations of large birds so adequately described the instinct for survival that all life forms express that they chose the symbol of the swan or Cygnus to be placed as a constellation in the heavens. It is fitting that Cygnus represents the Capricorn decanate of the sign Capricorn and is ruled by Saturn, the planet of survival. This is the decanate where the sun is found from December 21 – 31. The Roman holiday celebrated at this time of year was called Saturnalia. Saturn or Kronos represents Father Time and in many cultures the calendar New Year begins in the dark of winter.



In the cover article of this Quarterly by Elbert Benjamin reprinted from the April 1938 volume of *American Astrology Magazine* the author informs us that Saturn is the planet of self-interest, self-centeredness, and greed.

Writing on the eve of World War II he warns of what is in store for nations motivated by greed. It is the nature of Saturn to look at all situations from the perspective of "what's in this for me?" In traditional astrological interpretation Saturn is known as the *Major Malefic* and a prominent or afflicted Saturn is considered influential in attracting obstacles, hardships and depression.

It is interesting to note that millions who live in the Northern Hemisphere suffer at this time of year from what is often called the "Winter Blues." This depression which can in some cases be as extreme as to lead to suicide is known by its clinical acronym SAD or Seasonal Affective Disorder. It is caused by a biochemical imbalance in the hypothalamus due to the shortening of daylight hours and the lack of sunlight in winter months. For most sufferers the depression di-

minishes during the year as the daylight hours lengthen. Treatment for SAD can be with a variety of anti-depressant medications; however, light therapy has been proven effective in over 80% of diagnosed cases.

No doubt the ancients knew of the predisposition of many to depression at this time of year and celebrated the Winter Solstice with light. This became a symbolic gesture of dispelling the darkness of nature as well as the darkness of the mind and soul. Venus, the planet of mirth, joy, and sociability is the natural antidote to the greed and self-interest expressed by Saturn. The Romans celebrated at this time of year with merry-making, gift-giving, and decorating their homes with evergreens; as moderns we do the same.

The process of converting planetary energies from negative into positive states is known as Alchemy. We can do this on a personal level and we can do this on a societal level. For example, charitable giving increases around the Winter Solstice. During much of the year most persons will not extend themselves on behalf of others unless there is some kind of payback. Our own problems have a tendency to diminish when we contribute to those less fortunate than our-

selves. Giving to others without concern as to what you might receive in return can be a healthy psychological habit to cultivate. Self-interest can be replaced with an interest in the well-being of others. Society benefits from this attitude. Just imagine what the world would be like if the holiday spirit lasted the entire year!

There is an article in this issue of the Quarterly on the late actor Christopher Reeves that is a revealing example of someone whose life had been dramatically altered by hardship yet still continued to work selflessly on behalf of others. He is an incredible role model for us all. One of the profound lessons we can learn at this time of year is that our survival is not enhanced through greed and self-centeredness, but is dependant on each and every element of society not just surviving, but prospering. Like the cranes, we are on this migration or spiritual journey together. To evolve spiritually we must train ourselves to replace self-interest with a genuine interest in the well-being of others. If we don't instinctually know how to do this we can follow in the tailwinds of those great souls who have lived by example.

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for instance, most influential British publisher during his lifetime, is supposed to have had this position, yet he died without relinquishment of fame. There was some other factor which, even though he reached for the highest position in his profession, prevented him from the customary over-reaching.

Napoleon did not fall because he was a man lacking in great ability, but because he never could be content with that to which already he had attained; and if one keeps reaching for more and more, always there is a grasping for that which is beyond the reach, and then the customary fall. Woodrow Wilson, who also had an afflicted Saturn in the tenth, was a great man, and he rose to enormous power within his own country. Not content with this, he strove for a leadership in world affairs which proved to be beyond his reach. The League of Nations and the World Court were beyond his power.

Whether Hitler, who like the three men mentioned, has Saturn in the tenth, although not so badly afflicted; and Mussolini, who has it in the seventh, conjunction Moon and Mars; will stop short of the usual over reaching which with lesser people is termed Greediness, the history of the future is yet to record.

The ancient Masters were at some pains to explain its influence when not curbed thus: Typhon, the emblem of greed is pictured holding in his right hand a scepter surmounted by a circle resting between two divergent bars. These spreading

bars signify the inversive forces that hem and hamper the influence of the spirit, represented by the circle. It is the emblem of that hatred and division which has led in certain lands to the persecution of those of different race, or of different religious views.

In the other hand this creature of Arcanum XV is pictured as holding the torch of destruction, whose blaze has been applied to the ruins of the temple, even as today the homes of hundreds of thousands have been destroyed. He is crowned with flame to represent that he is influenced from the invisible world, and he has the wings of a bat, to indicate that because of such influence, he is a denizen of the realm of darkness. The horn on his nose signifies stubborn rebellion.

The breasts of a woman and the organs of a man indicate him to be hermaphrodite, which because devoid of love, is the emblem of Self-Centeredness.

The body is that of a hog, especially to denote greed. The feet are those of a goat, to indicate the sign Capricorn, the home sign of Saturn, or Satan; and the sign most devoted to material ambitions. And the beings chained at the feet of this monster of chaos also have goats' heads, indicating that their intelligence has been used exclusively to further material and selfish ambitions.

This malignant picture of an afflicted Saturn's influence has the head of a crocodile, symbol of cruelty. The snake emerging from his body, instead of from his brow, indicates

the use of creative energy, not for high mental purposes, but for the gratification of purely physical ambitions. It also, through its negative implications, represents medium-ship, rather than conscious control; for the chief center of power in disintegrative mediumship is the solar plexus.

The two men with goat heads chained by the neck at the monster's feet represent the certain fate that awaits all who use magical power to attain selfish or purely material ends. Sooner or later they become the slaves of the very forces that they have used, and are finally completely destroyed in body and mind; and even after passing to the next life, these black magicians are chained by their evil deeds in the underworld.

All such evil entities, of this plane and the next, survive by preying on the ignorance and credulity of others, as shown by the sign of sorcery they make with their hands. They are the racketeers and gangsters of both planes; and the picture as a whole indicates the bondage and the fate of those who follow the inversive path and become dominated by the spirit of selfishness.

Arcanum XV certainly explains the extreme influence of an afflicted Saturn; but when we consider that there are eleven million people in these United States who are able to work, and who want to work, yet are unable to find employment; and when still further we observe the chaotic despoliation in progress in other parts of the world, and recognize that these are expressions of an afflicted Saturn, we can not believe this portrait handed down to us by the ancients is much overdrawn.

Saturn also has a highly beneficial side, one without the due influence of which an individual will remain in obscurity, or may even perish from the earth. But before considering this more constructive side, let us take less extreme examples than those pictured in *THE BLACK MAGICIAN*, and show how and why it is that too much Saturn influence in a birth chart so often tends to defeat the individual in the aims he seeks.

Perhaps the best way to indicate this is through contrasting the Saturn attitude with the more luck-attracting influence of Jupiter. The influence of Jupiter on everything he contacts is in the direction of expansion. He is the salesman whose good will and joviality enable him to sell his wares or his services at the highest price. Large and generous by nature he spends no time in petty haggling over small differences in cost. His customers will buy from him, even if they must pay a little more than elsewhere, because he is such a good fellow.

This disregard of small imperfections in others, the tendency to forgive transgressions, and the spirit of give and take which is so essential in life if frictions and antagonisms are to be avoided, may well be symbolized by the belts of Jupiter which may be seen through a small glass; ever-shifting zones of various colors formed by changes in the

planet's atmosphere. Here there is no suggestion of restriction, of Self-Interest, or of coldness; but rather an impression of a benign and genial giant.

Now look at Saturn through a telescope. There comes a very different feeling. Its cold white is slightly tinged with yellow, but it lacks that glowing warmth which the steadfast yellow light of Jupiter seems to pour forth to cheer his neighbors in the sky. Instead of the somewhat careless disregard of Self which the larger planet seems to indicate, Saturn has built a ring completely around himself to protect his possessions. And this is just what a person with a too prominent Saturn in his birth chart is apt to do.

In his cautious and Self-Centered desire to insure that nothing from himself is given to others, and that even in the smallest way no one outdo him in bargaining, he has fenced himself and his possessions in.

That which the too prominent Saturn person constantly overlooks is that a wall which prevents anything from getting out acts quite as effectively to keep anything from getting in. Jupiter gives and spends and makes pleasure for others; and this generous attitude awakens a like response in them. They, in turn, feeling a sympathetic glow of generosity, give Jupiter more than he asks and go out of their way to see him prosper. But when they come in contact with the cold ring into which Saturn has withdrawn, they recoil from the barrier and think to themselves that such a one deserves no favors, and that the best thing is to shun him entirely.

Greed, however, is not the only outstanding characteristic of an afflicted Saturn pictographically explained by tarot Arcanum XV. It will be recalled that it was due to FEAR that Venus and Cupid jumped into the River Euphrates. The whole picture on the tarot card is so presented as to give the impression of something greatly to be feared. And many persons who are generous, and free even from the slightest tinge of greed, are veritable slaves to this other dominant trait of Saturn which we name Fear.

Back of fear, and the other thought-elements which Saturn rules, lies a biological heritage as long as that of life upon the earth; a heritage which at every step was influenced by the energies emitted from that cold and yellow orb. And not from idle curiosity, but because such research leads to a comprehension of the functions of those trends, impulses and thoughts which in the life of every person are energized by the Saturn vibrations, is time well spent in tracing the broad outlines of that heritage. When comprehended, it will afford information as to the methods of using the Saturn energies constructively, and thus form a guide to more successful conduct.

That is, when we know the source of hindrances within ourselves, know when and how at predetermined times these Saturn factors will be stimulated by planetary energies reaching them, and how to divert such energies as the ancients pictured in *THE BLACK MAGICIAN* into channels

that instead of destruction, are completely constructive, we possess a tool by which we can make life more spiritual, more successful and more happy.

These Saturn thought-energies which become more active within us when stimulated by planetary aspects to birth chart and progressed Saturn have their foundation in the struggle of the evolving organism to find Safety. They express painfully in human life as fear, greed, envy, grief, worry and forms of Self-Centeredness. Yet through developing the proper habit systems, the individual can divert them, and make them express through some of the pleasant Saturn channels, such as careful planning, system, order, perseverance, elimination of waste, and willingness to do hard work.

When, it is said that Self-Preservation is Nature's first law, this is an acknowledgment that the Saturn-ruled desire for Safety can not be prevented from finding some adequate expression. All life forms, from the first, have been beset with dangers. And the ability to escape from enemies, to avoid harmful conditions, and to provide for security is essential if the individual is long to survive.

If he does not survive the period of immaturity, because the Saturn thought-cells were not active enough, he leaves no offspring. Thus from the very first living cell upon the earth, down to present complex surviving species, plants and animals that have lived to propagate their kind have had within themselves a strong desire for safety. Or to state it astrologically, we can say that forms of life unable to respond sufficiently to Saturn's vibrations have become extinct; and that every plant or creature on the earth today has inherited from all its ancestors back to the very beginning, considerable ability to receive and express the energies picked up, radio fashion, from the planet Saturn.

Now the competition of catch or be caught, of kill or be killed, between the ability to use the planetary energies of Mars and the ability to use the planetary energies of Saturn, among mammals has developed two little glands, which because they each sit like a cocked hat astride one of the kidneys, are called the adrenal glands. It is their function when stimulated by an emergency, real or imaginary, in which the emotions relating to either the destructive thoughts of Mars or Saturn are present, to mobilize the forces of the body for instant and quick action.

The thought of fear or anger, worry or irritation, greed or lust, generates an electric discharge which follows a nerve from the brain directly to the adrenal glands. This squeezes adrenaline from them into the blood stream; which in turn is followed by highly complex reactions which put the body immediately on a footing of fight or run away. Which the creature or man does depends upon whether the images before his attention are those of combat or of fear. If they are of the Saturn type, the emergency is met by using the mobilized forces to seek safety.

Fuel must be present in abnormal quantities to support unusual activities; therefore sugar for that purpose which has been stored in the liver is released into the blood. That all the energies may be used in fleeing, digestion and other activities of the alimentary canal cease. That the predator, or feared opponent, may not get a good grip, the skin, becomes moist and greasy and the hair stands erect. To frighten him away, the pupils dilate; to prevent bleeding if he does receive an injury, the blood tends more quickly to clot; and to give the maximum speed and strength in the organs of flight, blood is squeezed from the blood lakes of the liver and spleen and diverted to use in the limbs.

Such instant mobilization of blood, fuel and electrical energy when a danger presented itself was a decided advantage to any creature not having the power to reason or plan. The instant and violent reaction to FEAR enabled it to live in an environment fluid with dangers, and its instant and violent reactions to the feeling of GREED enable it to maintain itself in a region of dearth other creatures starved.

Unlike civilized man, wild animals turn their attention promptly to other things as soon as a danger has passed. Even the caveman, once the dying embers of the fire grew dim and shadows no longer haunted him from his cavern walls, probably drew the bear skin which served as his only garment closer about him and forgot the weird shapes until he lit the fire another night. At least during the day, as he had no stored food supply and hunger drove him on, he was altogether too preoccupied with the chase to harbor fears except when danger actually was by his side.

But as man advanced in civilization and learned more and more to use his brain, his nervous system became more and more refined, more and more responsive to mental images. And the emotions arising from such mental images, in proportion to the increased delicacy and sensitiveness of the nervous system, more and more perfectly tuned it to pick up corresponding planetary energies in volume.

The physical body can stand the strain of mobilization occasionally to meet a real or imaginary emergency in response to fear. Anxiety and worry, however, present an almost endless train of fear images. They tune the nervous system to pick up discordant energies from the planet Saturn in volume, adding them to the energies of the unconscious mind. And they keep the body on an emergency basis.

Blood is taken from the liver and spleen, digestion and assimilation cease; the liver is caused to release its sugar into circulation. As a result of the type of foods attracted by the discordant Saturn thought-cells in the unconscious mind, food is partaken which lacks either in mineral salts, vitamins, or other essential elements. From this and from the inactivity of the organs responsible for assimilation, the body suffers from one or more of the chronic deficiency diseases.

It is doubtful if primitive man and wild animals suffer often from diabetes. Their imaginations are not lively enough.

But the civilized man who worries tunes his nervous system to pick up Saturn energies and to release adrenaline into his circulation. One function of adrenaline is to release sugar stored in the liver through counteracting the insulin which holds it there in the form of insoluble glycogen. When through worry or repeated fear images adrenaline is persistently released, sugar in the blood can not be converted by insulin into the insoluble glycogen; and instead of being stored is promptly washed out of the system. The individual then has diabetes.

Brotherhood of Light research work has determined that only people who have a prominent and afflicted Saturn in their birth charts ever develop cancer. And we who have analyzed many charts all know from observation that a prominent and afflicted Saturn indicates a predisposition to grief, worry, fear and the other typical Saturn thoughts. Research work also has brought out that at the time cancer develops there is always a progressed aspect to Saturn, within one degree of perfect; very frequently a progressed aspect from the Sun. And from observation we know when people come under a progressed aspect to Saturn, especially if Saturn is prominent and afflicted in the birth chart, that responsibilities or losses are attracted which, unless some other trend of thinking is deliberately cultivated, brings fear, worry or grief.

We are justified, therefore, especially in view of the effects of the abnormal adrenaline secretions upon the humors in which the body cells are bathed, in stating that fear, worry, self-pity, and the other discordant Saturn thoughts are the cause of cancer and the typical deficiency diseases.

Let us admit, therefore, realizing the effect of fear and greed upon the individual as well as upon society, that the ancients were justified in picturing the destructive influence of Saturn as THE BLACK MAGICIAN. At the same time let us recognize that the energies of any planet can express either destructively or constructively.

Whenever the individual, therefore, begins to feel fear, worry, anxiety, greed, envy, grief or self-pity, let him substitute for them, and with as much pleasure as possible, thoughts of order, system, careful planning, persistence, elimination of waste, and a willingness to progress through hard work. Thus the energies of Saturn, diverted from any avenue pictured in tarot Major Arcanum XV, will be utilized and assist him to a more bountiful life.



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Traditions

The Magi from the East: Ancient Astrologers in the Bible

Christopher Gibson

It is in the New Testament writings of Matthew that introduces the Magi, the astrologers from the east who are searching for the newborn king of the Jews. Here it says:

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. The prostrated themselves and did him homage. They then opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This Bible passage inspires the questions; who were the Magi? What is the star they were following? And what is the symbolism of their gifts?

Magoi or magician is the Greek plural for the Latin magus or English magi. In Persian they were known as majusians. It is generally accepted that they were adherents of Zoroastrian stellar religion practicing in the Near East regions of Persia and Babylon. They are noted by Herodotus around

430 B.C. as being a tribe of the Medes skilled as priests, astrologers and diviners. C. C. Zain refers to the magi on twenty-two different occasions in the Brotherhood of Light Lessons. He alludes to the ancient Magi as both Chaldean and Egyptian priests dedicated to starry lore and the development of the soul and possibly descended from the Mystery Schools of Atlantis. In CS V, Ancient Masonry C. C. Zain refers to the magi as the original Masons:

—The first problem that naturally confronts us in our present quest is: Who were the original Masons?

Here etymology comes to the rescue. The old Sumerians who lived in the valley of the Euphrates, and who were succeeded by the Semites, the fusion between the two producing the famed Chaldeans, used the word “imga” meaning wise, holy, and learned, to denote their wisest sages, priests and philosophers. The Semites, who succeeded the older race, transformed the work “imga” into “mag” to suit their articula-

tion. From this root-word, “mag” belonging to the Assyrian branch of the great Semitic race, has come to us through various transformations the words: Mason, Magic, and Imagination. Therefore, in whatever era of the dim prehistoric past the first Masons lived, it follows from the very meaning of the word that they were the wisest, holiest, most revered of men.

A mason now is considered to be a builder—one who constructs. Likewise were those Wise Men of the East; but in their work the sound of neither hammer nor saw was heard; for they were mental builders. Their labor was construction wrought by the imagery of thought, as the word imagination, coming from the same root as does the word mason, clearly implies. Magic is the skillful use of the imaginative faculty, and the original Masons undoubtedly were magicians. The Magi of Egypt, Chaldea, and even more ancient times unquestionably were Masons.

The Bible tells little of these magi and during the early centuries of the Church apocryphal stories developed which ultimately settled on three as the number of wise-men, each being assigned a gift. Since the seventh century, the Magi of Bethlehem have been identified in the west as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Over the centuries the ethnicity and attributions of these Magi have changed according to artistic license. Oftentimes they are shown as a youth, a middle-aged, and an elder representing the different ages of man. Legends, plays, and masterpieces in art all developed as part of the oral tradition of the Magi, each story expressing slightly different details. In some artistic traditions they have been depicted a European, Middle-Eastern, and African representing the three known continents at the time of the birth of Christ. This idea of the Magi coming from all three known continents is sometimes represented by the different mounts on which they ride: the elephant for Africa, camel for Asia, and the horse representing Europe.

In 325 AD the Empress Helena allegedly discovered the remains of the Three Kings in Persia and brought them to Constantinople, to the church of Hagia Sophia. Although the Magi were not considered saints until the twelfth century, it was Helena, the mother of Constantine, who established their cult within the early church. Over the years the relics of the Three Kings made their way to Milan and later in 1162 to Koln (Cologne), Germany.



Los Reyes Magos
by Arturo Olivas

The story of the Magi and the astronomical phenomena that led them to the infant Christ is mentioned only in the book of Matthew. It is not supported elsewhere in the New Testament. Some Biblical scholars hold the opinion that the story was inserted into scripture during the First Century as a means of legitimizing the birth of Christ and aiding in the evangelizing efforts among the gentiles. The idea of God coming to earth amidst heavenly portents would have made perfect sense to the pre-Christian cultures of the Mediterranean and Near East. However, since the Bible is a fascinating amalgam of myth and history one cannot completely discredit the stellar phenomena described by Matthew as merely being a means of introducing the cult of Christianity to a gentile public.

Over the years numerous astronomers have put forth theories concerning the origins of the star of Bethlehem, each fascinating and worthy of study. They have searched for comets, supernova, and major conjunctions to explain the mysterious origins of the star. Biblical clues inform us that the birth of Christ must have been prior to the death of King Herod in 1 BC, therefore we must look for celestial clues that would have transpired in proximity, yet prior to that date. The symbolism in the sky must also be relevant to the astrology practiced in the ancient Near East and symbolize those things that would represent both Judea and kingship.

Conjunctions were extremely important to Babylonian astrologers and seem the most likely explanation of what the Magi might have been observing in the night sky. Some astronomers show strong evidence for the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces which occurred in late July of 7 BC. The more plausible explanation is the conjunction of Venus, Jupiter, and the bright star Regulus (meaning regal or kingly) in the sign of Leo (symbol of the tribe of Judah) during late August of 2 BC. To help explain why the Magi may have had such a profound interest in the birth of a Jewish king or messiah, some writers have put forth the theory that they might have been Diaspora Jews whose ancestors remained in Babylon since the time of captivity. Humanity may never know for certain who the Magi were, or what the portents were in the heavens that led them to Bethlehem, however both scriptural clues and astronomical phenomena will no doubt fuel the debate for many years to come.

The Magi’s offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh catch the imagination and represent some of the most valued items of their day. According to author Carolyn Vaughn in her book *The Gifts of the Magi*:

At the time of Jesus' birth, frankincense and myrrh were as familiar as gold and just as rare and precious. Gold, of course, is still very valuable: One pound is worth about six thousand dollars. Frankincense and myrrh, on the other hand, can be purchased today for about fifteen dollars a pound. In Jesus' time, one pound of gold was worth about six hundred dollars and frankincense only slightly less. But myrrh was worth four thousand dollars a pound, about two hundred and fifty times its current value.

Beside their obvious value as treasure, each of the three gifts must have had a symbolic purpose as well. Zain states in The Sacred Tarot, Course VI, that the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are representative of the spiritual, astral, and physical worlds. Gold is familiar to all and has been highly prized since ancient times for its use in coins, statues, icons, and jewelry. Of the 2870 tons of gold produced in 2001 it is estimated that eighty percent was used to make jewelry. Gold is a bright, yellow, incorruptible metal resistant to acid and corrosion. It is soft, ductile, and so malleable that one ounce of gold can be beaten into gold leaf that can cover three hundred square feet. It is a good conductor of heat and electricity and is currently used in the production of computers and air bags. In ancient times gold was considered to be sacred to the sun and the metal of royalty. In alchemy gold represents the immortal and imperishable soul or spiritual nature.

Frankincense is the dried milky-white resin of the genus *Boswellia* which grows on either side of the Red Sea. It can be found in the east African countries of Ethiopia and Somalia and the Arabian Peninsula, where it is harvested from the yellow resin tears that form globules on the bark of the tree. Because frankincense is indigenous to the Red Sea environs many historians believe the Magi to have come from Arabia; however, in ancient times as in the present frankincense was traded widely throughout the known world where it was used in incense and perfume. There is evidence of its use in ancient Egypt more than 3,500 years ago. It was used as one of the four sweet scents burnt in the House of God at Jerusalem, and an important tribute paid to Darius by the Arabs. Frankincense is believed to have a calmative effect which aids in prayer and meditation and is still one of the major components of incense used in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox ceremonies. The smoke of burning frankincense is considered pleasing to God and carries prayers and offerings to heaven.

Myrrh comes from the Arabic word for "bitter." Although it has a sweet musky smell when burned, it has an acrid and astringent taste. It is harvested in the same areas of the world as frankincense and in much the same way. It is an aromatic yellow resin of a shrub that turns a reddish shade as it hardens and dries. Since ancient times it has been used in embalming by the Egyptians and funeral preparations by the Jews. Myrrh was also one of the ingredients of the incense

offered at the Temple of Jerusalem and an additive in the oil used in anointing priests and articles of worship. Because of its antiseptic qualities, it has been used by many cultures for healing purposes. Its use continues today in natural toothpaste and mouthwash preparations.

The gifts of the Magi are powerful symbols in the New Testament narrative of Matthew. For Christians gold becomes the symbol of Christ the King, frankincense confers his role as a God, and myrrh foretells his death and humanity. In the Hermetic tradition gold becomes the symbol of the spiritual plane and the immortality of the soul, frankincense the astral plane – the realm of our thoughts and prayers which separates us from the spiritual, and myrrh the physical plane where all life-forms gain experience and ultimately must die.

Was Jesus the Son of God as the Christian tradition purports? Was he an initiate of the mystery schools during his sojourn in Egypt who used his spiritual skills to feed the poor and heal the sick and commence a philosophical revolution as Hermetic tradition might suggest? Each must contemplate these questions and decide for his or herself. The astrologer priests of the Bible knew from the signs in the heavens that something significant was about to happen and went off in pilgrimage in search of that event.

The feast of the Three Kings or Epiphany is celebrated twelve days after Christmas on January 6th. This date is still celebrated as Christmas in Eastern Orthodox, Ethiopian and Armenian congregations. Epiphany is a word used to indicate a revelation or the appearance of a superhuman being. The portents in the sky became a revelation to the astrologer priests of important events yet to come, and on their pilgrimage the Magi encountered an infant fully human yet somehow superhuman. In Christian tradition this epiphany is the moment of Christ revealing himself to the gentile population. In the older Christian liturgical calendar January 6th was the feast of John the Baptist and the baptism of Christ, which is Christ's epiphany or revelation of the cosmic work which he must perform.

At this time of year the earth is in perihelion or its position closest to the sun. For millennia the sun has been a symbol of deific power being the source of all light and life. Being closest to the sun the earth readies itself to receive its God-King.

Suggested reading:

Vaughn, Carolyn. *The Gifts of the Magi*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art and Bullfinch Press, 1998.

Kidger, Mark. *The Star of Bethlehem; an Astronomer's View*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1960.

Gilbert, Adrian. *Magi; the Quest for a Secret Tradition*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 1996. ✎

Natal Astrology

Actor Christopher Reeve Dies at Age 52

Christopher Gibson

Biographical Information:

Christopher Reeve, the actor best known for his role as Superman died of cardiac arrest on October 10, 2004. Reeve slipped into a coma while being treated at Northern Westchester Hospital for a severely infected pressure wound that precipitated a systemic infection.

The older of two sons, Christopher was born to journalist Barbara Johnson and writer/professor Franklin Reeve at 3:12 A.M. EDT on September 25, 1952, in Manhattan, New York (data courtesy of Lois Rodden's Astro Data Bank*). When he was four, his parents divorced and he moved with his mother to Princeton, New Jersey. A few years later she married Tristram Johnson, an investment banker, who sent Reeve to Princeton Day School, an exclusive private school. At Princeton Day School, he participated in various school activities including being President of the Drama Club and the Student Director of The Glee Club. His father, a noted novelist, poet, and scholar of Russian literature exposed him to a stimulating intellectual environment that included the likes of Robert Frost, Robert Penn Warren, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Reeve had a love of acting that started at an early age. By the time he was eight, he had appeared in several school plays, developed an interest in music, and was taking piano lessons. At age nine, he was selected to be in a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta *Yeoman of the Guard* for the McCarter Theatre at Princeton. At age 15, Reeve acquired a summer apprenticeship at the Williamstown Theater Festival in Massachusetts and by age 16, he had secured an agent. After graduating high school, Reeve studied at Cornell University, where he majored in Music Theory and English, and also spent time studying theater in Britain and France. In 1976, he went to Los Angeles and got a small part in *Gray Lady Down*, a submarine adventure film. He auditioned and successfully screen tested for the 1978 movie *Superman*. During his motion picture and television career he appeared in a total of 17 feature films, a dozen TV-movies, and about 150 plays.

During the 18 months he spent in England while filming *Superman*, Reeve met and began a relationship with modeling executive Gae Exton. Their union produced two children, Matthew (1978) and Alexandra (1983). Reeve and Exton parted unmarried in 1987. In 1990, he met Dana Morosini.

Four months later they were living together, and in 1992 they were married and she gave birth to their son, Bill.

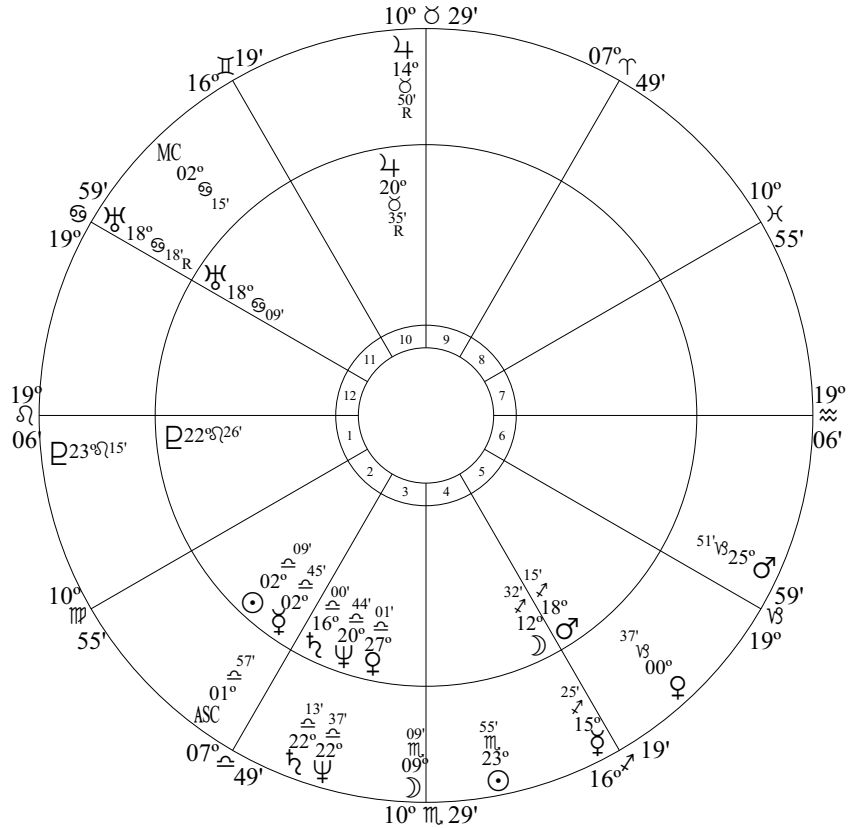
Reeve was a liberal-Democrat who used his celebrity status to advocate for such causes as the environment, education, gun control, the disabled, and stem-cell research. He supported numerous organizations such as Amnesty International, Save the Children, The National Resources Defense Council, The Lindbergh Foundation, The Environmental Air Force, and People for the American Way. In 1987, Reeve traveled to Chile to lead a demonstration in support of 77 artists targeted with death warrants by the Pinochet government. For his successful efforts to free the artists, he received an Obie Award in 1988 and an award from the Walter Briebl Human Rights Foundation.

Reeve was an avid outdoorsman and athlete who loved to ski, scuba dive, fly planes, play tennis, ice skate and ride horses. He was known for performing his own stunts in his movies. On May 27 1995, while riding in the cross-country portion at the Commonwealth Dressage event in Culpeper, Virginia, his horse balked at a rail jump, pitching him forward. Reeve landed head first, fracturing the uppermost vertebrae in his spine, becoming instantly paralyzed from the neck down. Ironically, at the time his accident he had been filming a documentary on equestrian safety.

This life-shattering event was to be a turning-point for Reeve. After 6 months at Kessler Rehabilitation Institute in New Jersey, he returned to his home in Bedford, New York, where his wife had begun major renovations to accommodate his life as a quadriplegic. Reeve has not only survived this horrible tragedy, but continued to fight for himself, and for the hundreds of thousands of people with spinal cord injuries around the world. Reeve used the international interest in his situation to increase public awareness about spinal cord injury and to raise money for research into a cure. He believed that nothing was impossible and he worked tirelessly to find a cure for paralysis. He founded the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation which continues in his honor to search for treatments and a cure for paralysis.

Astrological Indicators:

Christopher Reeve was a remarkable man who used his talents to assist others. His birth-chart indicates a dominant, harmonious Pluto (Universal Welfare Urges) in Leo conjunct his Ascendant. No doubt this contributed to his achievements in political advocacy as well as the incredible



PLANETS				HOUSES				SIGNS			
	Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony
☉	29.13	6.1	-6.84	1	150.43	22.1	19.60	♈	20.79	3.0	6.10
☽	40.98	8.6	8.37	2	75.03	11.0	-14.39	♉	84.14	12.3	7.93
♃	30.60	6.4	-5.03	3	91.02	13.3	20.65	♊	15.30	2.2	-2.52
♀	17.32	3.6	6.35	4	66.18	9.7	14.84	♋	62.45	9.2	-1.59
♂	41.57	8.7	12.20	5	63.97	9.4	14.80	♌	150.43	22.1	19.60
♄	44.81	9.4	5.20	6	14.88	2.2	1.51	♍	15.30	2.2	-2.52
♅	29.76	6.2	3.02	7	17.93	2.6	-0.69	♎	150.75	22.1	8.78
♆	41.96	8.8	-5.78	8	20.02	2.9	3.33	♏	25.20	3.7	6.47
♇	35.27	7.4	8.11	9	20.79	3.0	6.10	♐	104.96	15.4	23.17
♁	59.24	12.4	13.69	10	84.14	12.3	7.93	♑	14.88	2.2	1.51
MC	30.67	6.4	-0.44	11	57.26	8.4	-8.30	♒	17.93	2.6	-0.69
ASC	<u>76.63</u>	<u>16.0</u>	<u>9.34</u>	12	20.49	3.0	4.19	♓	20.02	2.9	3.33
	477.94	100.0	48.17								

will-power and drive necessary to continue living a productive life after becoming quadriplegic. In any chart the Ascendant is the grounding wire of the soul to the physical body and can oftentimes be the zone where stress or ill health manifests. Although Leo is strongly harmonious in Reeve's chart, Pluto in the first house can be an indicator of drastic changes to one's health. Leo is the sign that governs the back and spine. Reeve's progressions for 1995 show a great deal of stimulus to the first house. chart. At the time of his accident his major progressed Midheaven was at 22 degrees of Gemini forming a square to major progressed Ascendant. There were no minor reinforcements to this aspect, however transiting Saturn was opposing the progressed As-

pendant. Progressed Mars at 18 degrees of Capricorn was opposing natal Uranus. Although neither planet has a direct influence on the first house of Reeve's chart, Mars/Uranus aspects are often indicators of accident or injury. There were no Minors reinforcing this aspect, however transiting Mercury was opposing natal Mars.

Death of an individual is almost always accompanied by progressed aspects involving the planets ruling the First House or Ascendant (health and physical body) and the Eighth House (death, and the spirit world). Reeve had Pluto in the first house and Leo on the cusp making the Sun the co-ruler. His eighth house is unoccupied with Pisces on the cusp, therefore Neptune is the chief ruler and Jupiter his

co-ruler. At the time of Reeve's demise there were numerous progressed aspects impacting his vitality. His progressed Ascendant was in conjunction with his natal Sun and his minor progressed Sun was squaring his major progressed Sun. His major progressed Sun was squaring natal Pluto while his minor progressed Sun passed over natal and progressed Pluto in his first house. Eighth House activity was stimulated by progressed Neptune forming a sextile to both natal and progressed Pluto. This aspect was reinforced with the minor Sun conjuncting Pluto and transiting Mercury conjunction Neptune. Numerous other aspects impact-

ing First and Eighth House rulers were present which indicate sufficient astral pressure and bring about death. Only the most dynamic have been discussed in this article. Readers who have access to the Church of Light Horoscope® program can use it to conduct further research on this chart.

* Both Astro-Data II by Lois Rodden and Hollywood the Movie Makers and the Stars: an Astrological Assessment by Dennis Sutton list 3:30 A.M. as the birth time. 🐾

Stellarian Honor Guard

July 1, 2004 -June 30, 2004

To those who financially support the work of spreading the Religion of the Stars, we are truly grateful.

Guardian Angels contribute more than \$500 in a quarter.

The **Stellarian Honor Guard** is reserved for those who contribute between \$100 and \$500 per quarter.

If you donate on a regular basis, you form the solid foundation from which the church can work and grow. Thank you.

May we all grow and prosper together!

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Initiation:

The Hero's Journey, Part II

MaryMeg Dissinger

The path of the Soul through the four stages of initiation are described beautifully in *Ancient Masonry*, Course IV, and *Astrological Signatures*, Course II, of the Brotherhood of Light Lessons. These outline and describe in depth the symbols and the tasks of initiation which one must accomplish in order to attain the adeptship so coveted by all serious students of the soul's journey. The purpose herein will be to give a brief glimpse into the process of initiation as described in these books, to relate this initiation to the path of the hero/heroine, and to discuss ways in which as an initiate that one may recognize and avail oneself of help offered along the way.

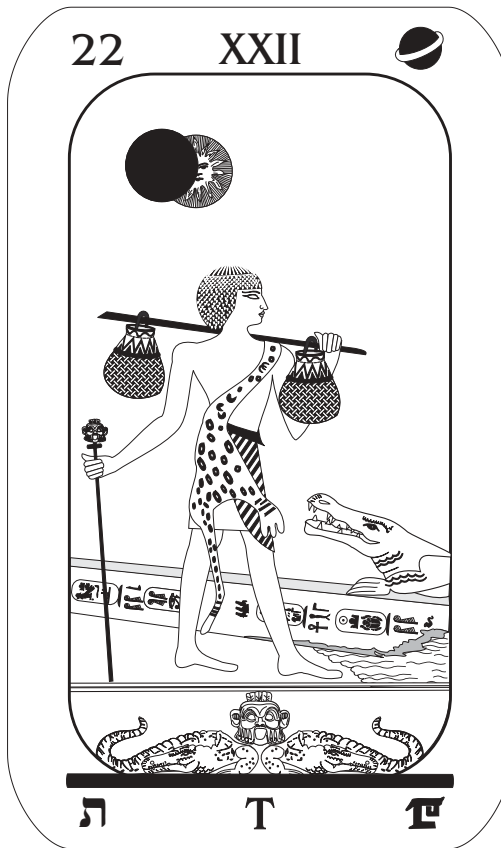
The initiate, the "entered apprentice" is selected by unanimous vote. Does it not seem likely that the decision to enter this work must be a unanimous agreement that one makes with self to begin this journey? The initiate must surrender completely and give the expression of self up entirely to a higher cause or purpose. One must be able to put all faith and trust in this higher cause in order to have the strength to take this first step of separation. One must be obedient without question. The soul may be called to the hero's journey countless times, but until a conscious decision is made to accept the trial of initiation, it just seems as though life is happening with little direction. The person suffers and does not know why. When one accepts with all conscious and unconscious being the path of initiation, then it is unanimous. Life and the trials of life then begin to have purpose.

This is the point at which the initiate gives self over to guides and is blindfolded. The self surrenders to deity, faith, and the wisdom of the ages, and guides blindfold the initiate. Although the decision to accept the trials which call the neophyte from ignorance into the light and prepares him/her for the cosmic work is a solitary decision; s/he does not have to walk this path alone. The guides are present. In the midst of the trials and tasks of initiation, the seeker is blindfolded and open to the possible pain and suffering but is not alone. Al-

lowing tempering experiences to completely envelope the body, the consciousness, the absolute core of self; applying the tools of alchemy to harmonize these experiences; surrendering to suffering that may cut through the self like a sword; these are all difficult tasks. Enduring with a sense of humble invincibility the trials that bring the initiate into the light is made easier by knowing that the hands of those who have gone before are guiding one

on the path. "During the earlier portion of their initiation into the mysteries of life, these souls do not know the why or the wherefore of the suffering they endure; but if they place implicit faith in the guidance of their spiritual tendencies, at last they will see the light shine through the darkness, and following this, will be led into the glorious sunshine of Self-Conscious Immortality." (267)

The twenty-one courses of the Brotherhood of Light are exoteric guides for the neophyte. Each course represents a course of study which gives the student clear instruction on how to best overcome and transmute obstacles presented during the trials of initiation. Once the hero begins the journey, there is no turning back. The hero/heroine may pause, but movement is always in a forward direction; even when as with a retrograde planet, s/he



appears to be traveling backward. The trials of initiation continue throughout life. At a given point, however, the astute initiate, who has learned to use the knowledge presented in the lessons, begins to realize that a shift is occurring. It is at this point in the hero's journey that the initiate makes the important discovery that s/he is no longer at the mercy of events which once seemed so debilitating. It is usually during this discovery phase of the hero's journey that the neophyte begins to be able to see beyond

actual events and conditions to the larger picture. It is here that one begins to reach out to others farther back on the path to help them along. It is here that the initiate recognizes calmly the supernatural forces that are at work and begins to use these forces for the good of all. It is here that the neophyte calls into practice the harmony that s/he has created through transmutation to allay personal fear and the fears of others. It is here that the apprentice begins to move into the realm of teacher and advocate for Universal Welfare, because "...knowledge, lacking goodness, leads to naught but self-undoing."

The Religion of the Stars offers the opportunity for seekers to make the hero's journey with divine guidance. Egyptian initiation, as described fully in Course II, the final chapter, discusses all the symbolism of formal initiation. This mimics the soul's progress from self to SELF and explains the trials one must confront to reach Self-Conscious Immortality. This is the transformation of the hero's journey. It is critical to re-

member that it is a journey. The destination is in the angelic realm when the twin souls are reunited. A major part of this transformation occurs when the balance of the feminine and masculine nature of each initiate is brought into harmonious accord. Through the twenty-one books offered, students are able to apply methods to create this harmonious alignment. For those considering embarking on this course of study, the welcoming hand of those who have come before is open. For those who find themselves stalled along the path, the motion is always forward, even when it feels reversed: the hand of others is also offered. For those who are in a position to extend that helping hand, opportunities are increasing for all to contribute to the great plan. Through study and application of the gold and silver keys, one may increase happiness, usefulness, and spirituality; one may discover the hero's journey that brings one home. ♀



*Patrick Ramsey,
Membership Minister*

The Tablets of Aeth

Tablet The Twelfth Pisces ♋

"A comet, beyond it infinite things, only dreamed of as yet, a world floating in an ocean in night, beneath are two hands clasped palm to palm."

The eyes are closed. It is dark and quiet, as though nothing exists at all. When all else seems gone and empty the self realizes that it is part of a greater whole. It is in that moment when you are not really expecting anything to happen at all that the whole responds and restores the self to positions in life greater than what would of been achieved alone. It is a selfless reality, and in that moment of selflessness, the enlightenment arrives to direct the self into its true and unique purpose of existence. This information arrives from the Higher Mind alone.

The Tree of Life requires unity between the enlightened, the individual and the matching soul. This is a sacred unity requiring respect nurturing, faith, hope and love. This attraction, like being lucid or having abundance comes as a result of living a life of Higher truth. As you live the truths that you learn applying these truths to your everyday life, the Cosmic Mind automatically attracts all your needs and many of your wants as well. Your goal is not therefore to be lucid, but to live your life on purpose, in truth and to do your unique part to contribute to the purpose of the whole of the universe. You may be lucid or have various wealth as it may exist, but only as a result of your necessary oneness with all of life.

So it all comes down to two words: truth and love in this your life of Light as the Cosmic Mind shines in, around, and through you. So shall it always be and so it is. ♀



From the Light of Egypt, Vol. II by T.H. Burgoyne "...The Tablets of AETH, ...constitute a spiritual astrology, a spiritual science of the stars, void of mathematics, yet possessing all the exactitude of figures, constructed on the principles of astronomy, yet expressed by the methods of the Kabbalah....."



✕

"A comet, beyond it infinite things, only dreamed of as yet, a world floating in an ocean in night, beneath are two hands clasped palm to palm."

XII

Pisces

REFLECTION

TABLET THE TWELFTH

"A revelation of the to be. The comet is the twelfth Avatar, the herald, coming forth from the starry abyss of the infinite, staying with us a little while, and then flashing on his shining way to other worlds than ours, bearing the Divine Word from sun to planet, as the fiery messenger of God. And here the soul may well ask: "Who? Where? Whence and Wither?" For behold, he has come, and gone, and

*"Earth could not answer; nor the seas that mourn
In flowing purple, of their Lord forlorn;
Nor rolling Heaven, with all his signs revealed
And hidden by the sleeve of night and morn."*

The world floating in the sea of the infinite and resting in night shows the present state of humanity. But "the blush of dawn" is ready to gladden the soul, and the expectant seer, from his lonely vigil on the hilltop, awaits the sunlight which will soon flood the world anew.

The two clasped hands point to many problems, chiefly soul-matehood, the message of the starry messenger, universal brotherhood, and the Father-Motherhood of God.

O child of Adam! Watch and pray, that a voice of the silence may speak unto you."



From the Archives: October 1947

Seventh and Broadway

Edward Doane

The Rising Star

Originally published by Mildred Schuler in cooperation with students of The Church of Light and the Hermetic system of astrology

During the past summer a religious sect (not the C. of L. in this case) was holding its convention in Los Angeles.

One of the devotees of this group a middle aged lady, was passing out pamphlets at the corner of Seventh and Broadway. There is nothing distinctive in seeing someone passing out tracts on the street as a general rule, but this lady was very fat and evidently crippled to some extent, since she was using crutches to help her turn from one person to another. Not once while I watched her, did her face show irritation, pain or fatigue. Her countenance was alight with a sort of fixed — I'm saving the world expression — and I am very happy while doing it.

While I question the validity of any of the convictions of this particular group, as is my right as an independent thinker, yet I do not in the least question the sincerity of such people as this lady, or the fact that her conviction coupled with her emotional desire to give what she thought she had to all the world, served quite adequately to take her mind off of her infirmity and to allow her to be happy in her chosen work

Nor do I question the fact that she, and others like her, who are so completely sold on their religion that they want to serve as active missionaries and pass their ideas on to others are having a very considerable degree of success in spreading that religion. During the relatively brief history of this particular group, they have met persecution and prosecution in almost every state of the Union and in most of the countries of the globe.

Yet, in spite of the tremendous obstacles they have had to overcome, the willingness to make any or all sacrifices in order to practice and spread their religion has been an outstanding attribute of the membership. As a result of that

sincerity and their desire, they hold some of the largest conventions of any religious body in the United States. Of course, we could pass this off as fanaticism, and forget it. But to take that attitude would be to learn nothing from the example.

We do not need a membership in The Church of Light who are intolerant or who refuse to think independently or who become fanatics enough to think we have a monopoly on Truth. What we do need is a membership who are sufficiently sold on the Religion of the Stars that they will desire strongly that it shall become readily available to all seekers for Truth as Reality. And we need a membership that can, at least for some of the time, completely forget self while directing all of the attention toward service in the interest of God's Great Plan of Progressive Evolution, getting real joy from the fact that they are trying their very best to pass on to others the Religion that means so much to self, as did the lady at Seventh and Broadway here in Los Angeles.



Václav Havel

"The starting point for the values to which our society clings and which are the common hope is respect for the uniqueness of the human being, for its dignity, freedoms and rights, and the conviction which arises from this that everyone must be equal before the law, because we all owe our life to the same miracle of creation, being or nature, according to the way in which we understand it and the name that we give it."

I do not think anyone will argue that concrete sidewalks are easy on the feet on a very hot day, particularly so to a very much overweight person. Or that a pair of crutches are easy on sweaty armpits. Yet, these usually uncomfortable factors were completely forgotten in the pre-occupation with the task in hand. A person must be entirely sold on what he is doing to get pleasure out of it under such circumstances.

In order successfully to spread the Religion of the Stars and thus assist in bringing peace on earth through contributing our utmost to universal welfare, we need more people who are as thoroughly sold on their religion as was the lady at Seventh and Broadway.



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Church of Light



The play begins...

Church of Light Convention 2005

Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Two Keys: Journey of Enlightenment

Join us in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 24 – 26, 2005 for one of the most exciting Church of Light Conventions to date! Brotherhood of Light mentor teachers from around the country will be presenting workshops on a variety of astrological and tarot themes.

Friday, June 24

9 A.M.-1 P.M. — **Pre-Conference Program**

A special added feature in 2005 will be a pre-conference intensive offering two in-depth tracks on astrology and tarot for students desiring comprehensive training in either subject.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Meg Dissinger | <i>Astrological Delineations:
The Competent Astrologer</i> |
| Christopher Gibson | <i>Tarot Academy:
Increase Your Interpretive Skills</i> |

2 - 6 P.M.— **Annual Business Meeting**

7 -10 P.M. — **Reception Party**

Saturday, June 25

9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. — **Lecture Schedule**

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Donald Baker | <i>Financial Perspectives 2005-2006</i> |
| Paul Bergner | <i>True Education and the Initiations
of the Tarot</i> |
| Paul Brewer | <i>Progressed Astrodynes Using the
Horoscope® Program</i> |

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Michael Foltz | <i>The Decanates of Astrology</i> |
| Christopher Gibson | <i>Astrodynes and Progressions:
Health and Disease</i> |

7 -10 P.M.— **Awards Banquet**

Sunday, June 26

9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. — **Lecture Schedule**

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Paul Brewer | <i>Decanates and the Tarot</i> |
| Gail Carswell | <i>Symbolism: The Universal
Language</i> |
| Meg Dissinger | <i>The Goddess Unveiled
and Astrology Intensive</i> |



Talented Speakers...

For those planning to make this conference their vacation destination; New Mexico is a region rich in history, art, architecture, and natural beauty. You'll want to add a day or two to either end of the conference to explore The Land of Enchantment.



Honoring one another...

Membership Room

We have another WINNER!

Darlene Converse, Seattle, Washington, was the first person to contact HQ about finding the Egyptian Tour symbol in the Fall Quarterly. Congrats to Darlene Thanks to all the other sleuths who sent a response to HQ.



school and go to the Recycled Book Store on the Square. The square, which housed the Court House, had been refurbished, but still had a very rustic look about it. One could almost visualize horses tied to the posts.

I remember walking into the book store for the very first time. The hardwood floors creaked with my every step and I instantly felt many entities looming all around. I soon began to realize that I was buying and gathering a most unique set of books of the Ascended Masters. They became a part of my everyday world.

The next chapter of my journey began with a flat tire.

I got up early one morning and opened a book to continue my reading when all of a sudden I heard “it is time to get the tire repaired.” So off I went, skipping along, thinking I was headed for the tire shop located only a few blocks from my house. I was driving along when suddenly I realized I had not seen the shop. I found myself a block past the tire store turning into an Albertson’s strip mall. I thought to myself, “Oh well, I need a few things I’ll just get them now.” I proceeded toward the grocery store when my car suddenly made an abrupt left turn into a parking space in front of the beauty supply store. I knew at this moment I was no longer in control. I sat startled for a few seconds just observing. Then all of a sudden I looked in front of my car and found, gazing steadfast at me, a 3 year old golden haired boy. When he saw me his eyes lit up. He smiled and walked over to the door of my car. I slowly opened the door as he was jabbering in childlike language. I was told to walk slowly to see if the child would follow me. I entered the nearest shop and called out to the people in the store to see if they knew who this child belonged to. No one seemed to know. I proceeded down the strip mall, with the child calmly following along side of me, just as happy as a lark. All of a sudden, my eyes locked in on a Hispanic lady that was standing in the roadway. I could feel her despair. We started walking towards her. When she saw us, I could feel her relief. As she got closer she began scolding the child for leaving her side. She said this child had walked out with another customer by accident when they were leaving the store. Anyway, I returned to my car and was told another child had been protected. The A.M.’s indicated this was done on my behalf as well to show me they are always around to intervene when we are listening to our intuitive guidance. I believe this incident solidified my knowing that the Brotherhood was as close as a whisper. They told me that I am their messenger. When a player in God’s Great Plan is wavering, I show up and have a pep talk with them. The brotherhood says we initially get our messages intuitively, and secondly, through “dreamtime.” If we choose to ignore both of these formats,

Member Profile: Shanti Gomez



*Shanti Gomez
2003 Annual Conference
Albuquerque, NM*

My Personal Journey

In the beginning, my journey seemed very long, the light very dim, and the road signs few and far between.

My birth certificate name is Cynthia Carol Stewart. I was born in Dallas, Texas on December 20, 1948, (4:52 pm) at Florence Nightingale Hospital. At the age of five, my father was in the military and he moved us to Germany. We toured on the weekends and this was my first recollection of having dejavue. I found the castles very familiar to me as well as many other places in Europe. I realized that my current life experience was the first in the U.S. I spent a great

number of the other past life times on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea between France and Spain in Andoria.

I know that life is indeed a personal journey for each of us. I would like to share a brief moment in time that helped me see with greater clarity my connection with the Brotherhood. My first remembrance of the “get-togethers” occurred in the early ‘90’s through what I call the dreamtime. I could see the Brotherhood gathered in a group. I could see myself there but could not hear with my physical ears just what they were saying.

My husband entered the doctoral program in Denton, Texas and he drove from Ft. Worth daily. I often accompanied him to limit the boredom of the trips. I would drop him off at

then we get a physical being that points us in the right direction.

Years later, I was flipping through a metaphysical magazine. I saw an advertisement for the Church of Light/Dallas. I immediately telephoned Roger Baldwin and he invited me to attend an up-and-coming seminar he was sponsoring. For the new few years I attended each seminar he held, and I kept saying to myself, "I don't know why I am here with this group, because very little we would discuss seemed to be furthering the work I had been doing with the Brotherhood on the inner plane." I had decided early on that I had little or no interest in the course work. My guides, however, decided otherwise.

Several years passed, and Roger decided to start teaching classes in Ft. Worth. I committed to these classes and in the beginning, I still could not find my purpose in the course work. I attended a class called, Course I, Laws of Occultism. I sat in on the discussion and thought- wow, this sounds interesting. At this point I decided to do the first lesson. When I got home that evening I sat in the stillness of my study deeply immersed in Course I. All of a sudden, I could feel the Brotherhood gathered round me and they were assisting me with the course work. It was like I had my own little study group going on in my head. Little did I know it was opening the book that was the answer to my question of "What is my connection with this group?"

The course work completely engulfed me. As I completed the very last few pages of the last course I realized I was beginning a new level. My guides directed me to one of the Church of Light Quarterly's that I had accumulated through the years. I flipped it opened and sat staring at a page that I resonated with immediately. It was entitled, "The Order of the Sphinx". I knew, instantly, my next step.

My hopes are that as Hermeticians we will join together in walking the talk of Zain's teachings through the Order of the Sphinx.

Life, Light and Love,
Shanti Gomez, Hermetician

Transitions

The following members recently passed from the earthly plane. They will be greatly missed by those who knew them:

Patty Masuoka-Feldhus
Delilah Cooper.

2005 Retreats and Conventions

Cimarron, New Mexico

January 15 & 16 - The Alchemical Laboratory: Life's experiences provide us with ample opportunities for transformation and change. In this weekend retreat in the mountains of northern New Mexico we'll discover the formulas of the alchemists which lead to the development of spiritual gold. Learn the use of antidotes and conversion, directed thinking and induced emotion. Using the astrological chart as a map of our thinking we'll use experiential techniques for turning discord into harmony.

Alameda, New Mexico

March 19 & 20 – Tarot Astrology & Numerology: In this weekend retreat we'll ponder the knowledge of the ancient Kabalists to discover the relationship between a name, the tarot arcanum and your astrological chart. Find a name that brings out the best in you.

Annual Membership Meeting

To be held at 2: P.M. on Friday June 24, 2005

**Sheraton Uptown Hotel
2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE., Albuquerque, NM
Call 505-792-2995 for directions**

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Albuquerque, New Mexico

June 23 - 26 —The Two Keys: Journey of Enlightenment

Discover how best to practice Hermetic science in the 21st Century. Gifted teachers from around the country will share their knowledge of Tarot, Astrology and Alchemy. This convention will include a preview party, two days of educational programming, with Church of Light experts, an awards banquet, and more. Participants who plan to come to town in advance of the conference can join us in sightseeing tours to archeological sites, Indian pueblos, and museums.

For registration contact: Rev. Christopher Gibson
The Church of Light, 111 S. Kraemer Blvd., Suite A, Brea, CA 92821; Phone: 505 792 2995;

E-mail: churchoflight@light.org

Some Members Need Sponsors

If you are considering sponsoring another person's study please let HQ know either in writing (111 S. Kraemer Blvd., Suite A, Brea, CA 92821) or by e-mail (churchoflight@light.org).

Sponsorship involves purchasing books and making exam donations. Some ½ price books are available. ☛



Building a Better World with a Better Vision!

The Church of Light Vision for the 21st Century

OUR MISSION

To teach, practice and disseminate the Religion of the Stars, a way of life for the Aquarian Age, outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

WHAT WE TEACH

- There is a loving Cosmic Intelligence, of which we are all a part, whose infinite goodness expresses through undeviating natural law.
- There is a Divine Plan in which each person has a unique and important role.
- The Divine Plan manifests through progressive evolution.
- There is a universal moral code - Contribute Your Utmost To Universal Welfare - which, to the extent adopted by each individual, will make the world a better place in which to live.
- The Religion of the Stars will evolve by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.
- 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

after-life and the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Our vision is to become a significant world religion in the 21st Century, and a powerful force for good and for spiritual enlightenment, by:

- Providing reliable and verifiable information regarding the nature of the soul and its relationship to Deity and other life forms;
- Seeking 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;
- Developing 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;
- Promoting the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;
- Building a sense of community and spiritual purpose which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.

