

The Church of Light

QUARTERLY

Spiritual Astrology Series: Cancer-Pisces



WINTER 2023
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The Quest of Spirit: Argo—On the Seas of Research

Tim Prichard, Hermetician, Order of the Sphinx

Does the image of a ship always suggest a journey, and is water perpetually the sea of emotions? Do you question everything? I certainly do, to the best of my ability. Undoubtedly, the internet, with its flood of information, is a most valuable tool for engaging in the pursuit of knowledge from a multitude of viewpoints. There's an abundance of conflicting viewpoints on nearly any subject one might choose to investigate, making it an ideal resource for conducting *Research*, the



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Spiritual Astrology: Argo—RESEARCH

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 fourth sign, *Argo*, is termed *Cancer-Pisces*, as it is found within the primary sign *Cancer*, and enjoys a secondary

influence of the third water sign, *Pisces*. The Keyword for this decanate is "Research", and it extends from July 13 to July 23 of each year.

As explained above, the decanates are subordinate 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

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Consider that ...

Research is "the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions."

— Oxford Languages

"My brain is only a receiver. In the universe there is a core from which we obtain knowledge, strength and inspiration. I have not penetrated into the secrets of this core, but I know that it exists."

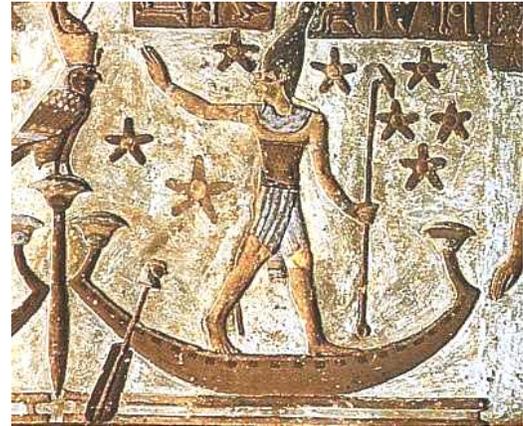
— Nikola Tesla



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“Does giving really make you happy?”

A series of studies found that neurons in the portion of the brain associated with a sense of satisfaction start firing when a person chooses to donate money. These results are a fascinating reminder of the intrinsic motivation that many people share to make the world a better place.”

— *Classy.org*

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Editorial

Margaret Joscher, President

*"The universe is full of magical things,
patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper."*

— Eden Phillpotts

When I was a teenager, I remember when the film, Jason and the Argonauts, was released. Although the word was not in use then, this movie had a lot of buzz. It was a tale of adventure and discovery which captured the imaginations of the kids in my neighborhood. Of course the story glossed over or left out the typical sordid elements of Greek mythology but instead highlighted the courage of the brave souls who embarked on a journey into the unknown. In medieval times, maps would indicate unexplored territories with the phrase "here be dragons." What daring and determination one must have to sail off into dragon territory to find out what is there.

The object of this quest was the Golden Fleece, a symbol of authority and kingship or mastery. It was the fleece of the golden winged ram, Chrysomallis, who, upon its sacrifice, ascended to the heavens to become the constellation Aries. Jason was ultimately successful in obtaining this prize due, in large part, to a sturdy vessel and the support and cooperation of his crewmates. Likewise, as we are impelled on our journey of discovery, our material forms are our vessels, our crew the intelligences within and our researches the push and pull of all we experience in the various forms we inhabit.

Sometimes when I feel discouragement or despair, I remind myself that "I made it," that I mastered my prior experiences on this long journey into the unknown to achieve self-consciousness. With the understanding, discernment and agency to choose, we can now actively steer our way towards home.

As we celebrate the return of light in the Northern Hemisphere, I'd like to express the appreciation of the Board and our staff for all you have contributed this year, wish you a joyous holiday season and good travels home, wherever or whatever that may be.



defining keyword for this decanate of the sign Cancer.

Emotions, either our own or stemming from others, can alter the way we conduct our research. Nevertheless, our endeavor must be to arrive at a truthful and honest conclusion by considering all factors from various vantage points.

In the first chapter of *Personal Alchemy*, Zain states:

“To surrender the life to the Divine Mind as taught by the Religion of the Stars, requires that the individuality should be built and strengthened, that the intelligence should constantly be used, that the abilities should be increased and that knowledge should be accumulated, instead of any or all of these being subdued.”

There has never been more opportunity to accomplish this task as we transition from the Age of Pisces, marked by the keywords ‘I Believe,’ into the Age of Aquarius, characterized by ‘I Know.’ It seems all ‘beliefs’ are being challenged. Is it possible that is what all the conflict and fighting is about?

If we view the internet as a gift bestowed by Hermes, the messenger of the Gods responsible for overseeing our objective mental faculties in this new age of communication, it can, like Hermes, assume the role of either a Soul's guide or a trickster. The critical factor revolves around conducting unbiased research. We sail both collectively and individually on the often-stormy seas of information in similar way allegorically to Jason in the Argo navigating through the 'clashing rocks.'

To explore this decanate, Zain brings in the subject of Noah's Ark and the catastrophic Flood from the Old Testament, as well as the actual or possible effects of other geological cataclysms and historical references throughout the ages. Like the ancient Greeks, one might look to Poseidon (Neptune), co-ruler of the Pisces influence for this decanate, as the mythological 'Earthshaker,' as those in Atlantis may have found out.

The essential annual spring rains upon which our agriculture depends, floods into the water table here, just like the flooding of the Nile, both real and allegorical.

“To surrender the life to the Divine Mind as taught by the Religion of the Stars, requires that the individuality should be built and strengthened, that the intelligence should constantly be used, that the abilities should be increased and that knowledge should be accumulated, instead of any or all of these being subdued.”

— C. C. Zain

CSXXI, *Personal Alchemy*



Image from erichuber.com: <https://www.erichuber.com/ruins/atlas-eye-of-sahara-richat-structure/>
See also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richat_Structure

(Continued on page 5)

There are allegorical stories of Noah, Deucalion, and other variations across different cultures. For example, consider Plato's description of Atlantis in *Timaeus* [1]. Is the account allegorical? Or does it refer to an actual sunken island – perhaps the recently rediscovered Richat structure known as the 'Eye of the Sahara'? Some current research found on the internet [2] indicates it may be the latter. Or, it could be someone's attempt to cash in on a new theory.

The account given in Plato's *Timaeus*:

"Many great deluges have taken place during the nine thousand years, for that is the number of years which have elapsed since the time of which I am speaking; and in all the ages and changes of things there has never been any sediment of the earth flowing down from the mountains, as in other places, which is worth speaking of."

–Plato, *Timaeus* and *Critias*

There is no doubt in my mind that actual physical catastrophes have occurred at different points in history, significantly influencing the state of our planet as it stands today. Likewise, major transformations in the availability of information, be it political, religious, or in any other sphere, continue to shape our world.

Differentiating between facts and fiction is a responsibility that falls upon each of us. But how do we do that? Perhaps the ancient literature has a solid suggestion for us to heed. In various versions of the tale of Jason and the Argonauts, it is Athena, the Goddess of Wisdom, who aids Jason in constructing his Argo – his ship of safety – and in choosing his crew.

As we may be poised to set sail in any one of our potential endeavors, collectively, or individually, our thoughts become our crew. We should look to Athena, who holds her balance aloft, and keep an even keel with poise that is best maintained based upon wisdom built on sound research to reach as Zain puts it; This Golden Fleece of eternal life, symbolized by the

(Continued on page 6)



"We should look to Athena, who holds her balance aloft, and keep an even keel with poise that is best maintained based upon wisdom built on sound research..."



Terracotta Campana relief: Athena supervises the building of the ship "Argo" for the expedition of Jason and the Argonauts.

ruler of gold, the Sun, in its exaltation, the sign of the Ram, is well worth sailing for, well worth all the Research that may be devoted to learning how it may be secured. But it is not to be obtained by loss of self-control, and not by a complete discard of caution.

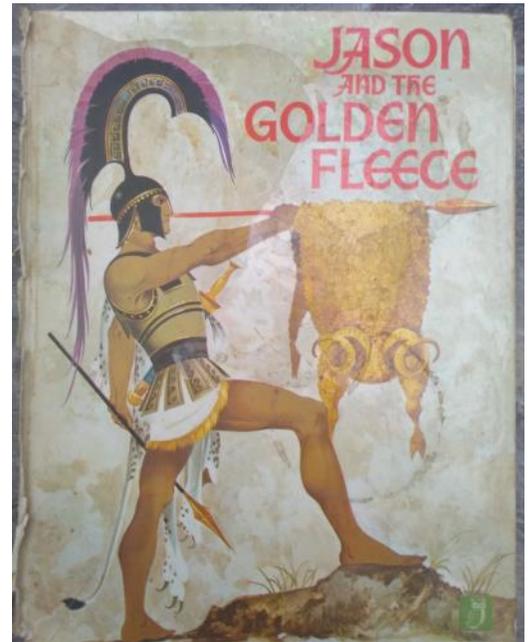
In ancient Egypt, the title "Prophet" belonged to high priests who were developed in spiritual knowledge of the inner plane. As the flood of the Nile irrigated the fields, and thus the harvest of grain for bread, giving food to Egypt, so did the living stream of the Gnosis from above, the symbolic Water Bearer, pour into the Hierophant or priest, and he became *Father Nile* to the priests, his disciples, who in their turn distributed the bread of knowledge to the people.

Clement of Alexandria's further emphasizes this:

"After all of these comes the 'Prophet' clasping to his breast the water-vase so that all can see it; and after him follow those who carry the bread that is to be distributed. The "Prophet" as chief of the temple, learns by heart the ten books which are called 'hieratic,' these contain the volumes treating of the Laws, and the Gods, and the whole Discipline of the Priests. For you must know that the 'Prophet' among the Egyptians is also the supervisor of the distribution of the [temple] revenues [3]."

C. C. Zain includes Psychic research in the text for this decanate:

"The right and wrong way to accomplish a given thing may seem closely allied...Yet to the individual using the correct method of approach is the difference experienced by those who en-



tered the ark, or departed on board ship from the land of Atlantis, and those who felt the full force of the deluge.

"Argo encourages rather than disparages the effort at research into the forces and regarding the entities of the invisible plane; a tendency outstanding among those born while the Sun is in the section of its annual cycle thus pictured. But it also offers wise council as to the method by which such voyages can be attempted in safety. Each mariner should keep his hand firmly on the helm."

The text, consequently, is: Poise is the One Safe Haven of the Soul, therefore, "Under All Circumstances Keep an Even Mind."



References:

[1] Description of Atlantis from the Timaeus; <https://>

(Continued on page 7)

"Argo encourages rather than disparages the effort at research into the forces and regarding the entities of the invisible plane...But it also offers wise council as to the method by which such voyages can be attempted in safety. Each mariner should keep his hand firmly on the helm."

ascendingpassage.com/plato-atlantis-timaeus.htm.

[2] Richat Structure: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richat_Structure.

Wikipedia - Location Hypotheses of Atlantis: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Location_hypotheses_of_Atlantis#:~:text=The%20Richat%20Structure%20in%20Mauritania,still%20buried%20alkaline%20igneous%20intrusion.)

NASA - Earth Observatory, "The Eye of the Sahara": (<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/150060/the-eye-of->

[sahara#:~:text=But%20geologic%20studies%20of%20the,circular%20ridges%20known%20as%20cuestas.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf5gk3Zw208)

Geology Hub description of Richat Structure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf5gk3Zw208>.

Perspective of Jimmy Coretti, whose interests include "lost ancient mysteries, conspiracies, and the cosmos": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo_fMcSLp7Q.

"Indie Archaeology" Richat Structure drone footage: https://youtu.be/OYabgbETL_4?feature=shared.

[3] Excerpt from Clement of Alexandria Protrepticus, ii. 29; Dindorf (G.), i. 29, (Oxford, 1869).



"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

— Carl Sagan

RESEARCH (continued from page 1)

value and meaning. If you will recall, as the fourth sign of the Zodiac and as the first water sign, Cancer is archetypically the sign of feelings or emotions, and relates clearly to motherhood and the expression of familial urges. While the story associated with Cancer proper (i.e., Jacob's Ladder) depicts the Cycle of Necessity through which all organisms must pass in order to increase their Life, Love, and Light, in the tales associated with Argo, the right manner of psychical research is revealed. Interestingly, contrary to mainstream messages regarding the exploration of nonphysical realms by way of mental faculties, this decanate encourages rather than discourages such efforts. However, it also provides very clear instructions on how to go about doing so. Deviating from these directions is akin to not tending to the care of a ship before embarking on a long sea voyage, a sure and ready recipe for disaster.

In Spiritual Astrology, Zain begins the explanation of this decanate's symbolic value by remarking upon the nearly ubiquitous occurrence of flood myths across the world's cultures. As examples, he cites such tales in Native American, Mayan, Grecian, and Judeo-Christian traditions. The penultimate tradition gives rise to the namesake of this decanate, recounting the legend of Jason and the Argonauts, whose faithful ship, Argo, carried them safely on their voyage to recover the Golden Fleece. However, it is the final Judeo-Christian flood myth that will likely be most familiar to Western readers, as it is the story of Noah and the Ark.

The sixth through ninth chapters of Genesis (*New Living Translation*, 2023, Gen. 6-9) recount the story of Noah and his ark, a large, soundly constructed ship, which carried Noah and his family to safety amid the Great Flood. As the story relates, seeing the

(Continued on page 8)



wickedness that was in the hearts and minds of men, God determined to erase humankind from the face of the Earth. However, being of high moral character, Noah found favor in His eyes. God therefore instructed Noah to build a large ship, or ark, in which he, his family, and two of every kind of animal would be housed while God purified the face of the Earth of every abomination which lived in the minds of men. Then God caused the rainwaters to fall upon the face of the Earth for forty days and forty nights. The deluge continued unabated until it submerged even the tallest mountains of the Earth, obliterating all forms of life, except for Noah, his family, and the living creatures onboard their craft.

As is typical of his approach, Zain (1997) applies an esoteric lens to this story, interpreting it in the light of expeditions conducted in the uncertain mystical waters of the astral plane. Just as Jason and his Argonauts or Noah and his family built strong, sturdy ships that could withstand the sometimes-harrowing conditions beyond their hulls, those who wish to explore the inner plane must first assiduously look after the health and welfare of their own “ships,” as it were, the body and mind. Perplexingly, while the vast majority of people cleanse their physical bodies daily without a second thought, few and far in between are those who apply the same level of care and cleanliness to their mental bodies, or minds. For example, we bathe, shower, brush our teeth, and undertake many other manners of effort to keep the physical body healthful and hygienic, but many would-be esoteric explorers think nothing of entering upon an astral journey without similar attention to the cleanliness and preparedness of their minds. That is, just as an expeditionist of a distant or difficult Earthly terrain would carefully and duly pack, prepare, and plan their outing, esoteric explorers must never enter upon any form of astral travel cava-

lierly, but must just as carefully consider their own journeys on the inner plane.

As an example, in my own meditation practice, I find that before I direct my attention to the spiritual plane, in order to promote a positive, uplifting experience, I must first cleanse and elevate my consciousness through activities such as prayer, chanting, mantra repetition, and breathing exercises. These spiritual practices not only prepare my physical body for the silence and stillness required to achieve inner focus, but also allow me to enter the spiritual space at higher, more harmonious frequencies where beings of life, love, and light duly reside. Hence, similar to keeping my physical body sane and sound in order to effectively transact business in the material world, when seeking to develop my capacities in the spiritual world, I must first look after the welfare and well-being of my mental body, or mind, by engaging in cleansing, elevating practices designed to shield, shelter, and safeguard the spiritual soldier on his mission. In the same way, mariners such as Jason or Noah must assiduously look after the care and correction of their craft — for a leaky hull, a faulty mast, or even a torn sail can quickly spell disaster on the open sea. Likewise, astral explorers will fare far better when they voyage inward if they first scrupulously attend to the welfare of their own vessels in the forms of the physical and mental bodies.

Finally, it is essential to note that just as expeditionists here on Earth make mistakes, get lost, and misunderstand their bearings, inner travelers can also quite easily lose their way in the great expanse of the astral realm. For this reason, it is crucial to never rely too closely or completely on information gleaned from the inner plane until it can be duly and sensibly corroborated by consideration in the cold, hard light of rational thought, or as confirmed by the physical senses. Astral explorers, then, can

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“A ship in harbor is safe, but
that’s not what ships are
built for.”

— John A. Shedd

engage in a reciprocal practice of checking the correctness of their physical senses and rational thinking processes against their psychic senses and intuition, and conversely carefully scrutinizing their esoteric experiences against their rational faculties and exoteric senses.

In this manner, the fully developed human being can explore both the physical and mental planes of the universe, relying upon reason and the physical senses in order to make sense of the material plane, and enlisting the aid of intuition and the psychic senses in order to grasp great truths deeply ensconced within the spiritual plane. In doing so, looking after the health and welfare of their “ships” – in other words, the physical and mental bodies – will allow such travelers to safely frequent lands both near and far, external and internal. Fur-

thermore, as Zain (1997, p. 106) advises through the Leading Text associated with Argo, “Poise is the One Safe Haven of the Soul, therefore, Under All Circumstances Keep an Even Mind.” Similarly, just as balance and equilibrium in the body lead to health and wellness, an evenness of temperament coupled to regular, repeated efforts to cleanse, purify, and elevate the mind contributes to the physical and psychical conditions necessary to live our most complete and holistic lives.

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“If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever.”

— Thomas Aquinas



Kenmut = Ancient Egyptian name for the 3rd Decan of Cancer

20° - 29° 59' 59"

Cancer/Pisces Decanate Keyword-Research

Laurie Dixon, Hermetician

Research is the investigation, examination or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts. A careful study of information about a particular subject. A key element in Research is scholarship, the academic study or achievement, a fund of knowledge and learning.

The ancient stargazers assigned the constellation Argo to this decanate. Argo is the foundation for the story of Jason and the Argonauts; Jason is the humble and

heroic adventurer, the leader of his band of men including Hercules, already a legendary Greek hero, and the strongest of the Argonauts.

The following mini bio’s fit this description, their diligent research in their fields has guided them to successful and passionate lives, heroes in their own right.

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Richard Anthony “Cheech” Marin

For many people, Cheech Marin is a household name, the comedian and actor is best known as part of the countercultural duo Cheech and Chong during the 1970s. What most of us don’t know is that Marin identifies himself as Chicano and is arguably the most important collector of Chicano art in the United States, if not the world.

Growing up, Cheech Marin was always a collector. It started with marbles. Later, it was bottle caps, baseball cards, and eventually art. He has been an avid collector of Chicano art for over 30 years and has now collected enough art to fill an entire museum. In June 2022 he opened the first major museum devoted exclusively to Chicano and Mexican American artists, The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture in the city of Riverside, CA, known to all as simply “The Cheech.”

“This is a new layer of cultural awareness of the people who actually live here, which hadn’t been done before,” says Marin, who grew up in South L.A. “This city was set up for this.”

It is considered the only permanent art space to showcase Chicano Mexican American art in the country and is what many consider to be the largest private collection of Chicano art in the world. “I saw a reflection of culture, Mexican culture, in an American setting, and that was Chicano. It’s the coolest art out there.”

American comedian, actor, author, activist and art collector.

From an early age, Cheech took an interest in art. “We were fairly bright kids, each of us had an expertise and I got assigned art. So every Saturday I would go to the library, learned about art and brought it back to the group. And everyone was impressed because we all wanted to be sophisticated, even though we were blue-collar Chicano kids.”

In the mid 80s, when he got enough money to buy art, he discovered the Chicano painters; “I knew what it was. I knew what it was based on. I knew the techniques. I said, ‘These guys and women are really good.’ How come they’re not getting shelf space?”

Cheech Marin knew great art when he saw it

A large portion of his 700 plus collection formed the core of his blockbuster exhibition, Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge, which broke attendance records during its 14-city tour to major art museums across the U.S. between 2001 and 2007.

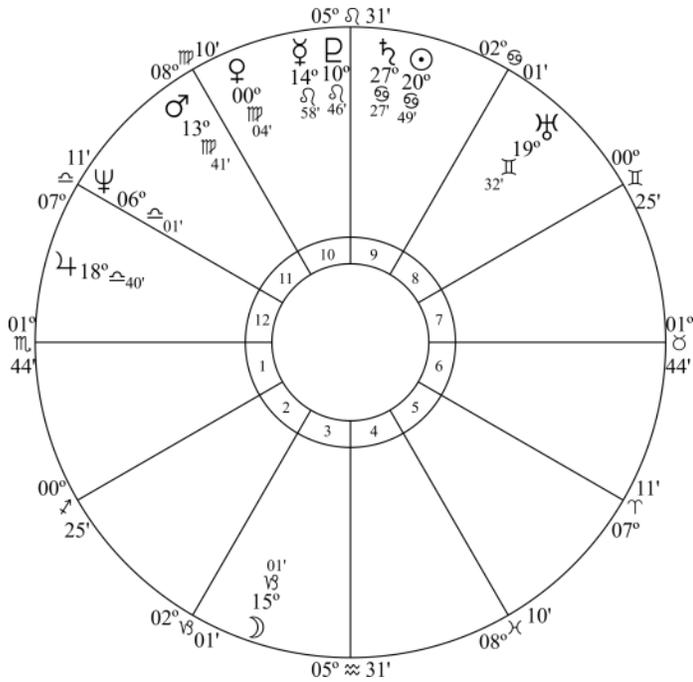
It would prove groundbreaking. “The Cheech” became the end result.

(Continued on page 11)

“Inspiration comes from everywhere. From life, observing people, etc. From movies and books you love. From research.”

— Holly Black

(Continued from page 10)



Richard Anthony "Cheech" Marin

July 13, 1946; 1 p.m. PST (AA rating); Los Angeles, CA

With his Pluto conjunct his MC and Mercury in Leo, when he puts his mind to something he accomplishes great things. He did this through his movie career. With his keen eye on creativity, he recognized a need in his community and used his wealth from acting to benefit others. Pluto rules his 1st house of Scorpio; he has a deep passionate nature and uses his resourceful magnetic personality to achieve what he most desires.

“What I look for when I see a piece of art for the first time is some kind of emotional, intellectual experience, that’s a combination of both of those things and is informed by my knowledge and something new that I see the artist doing.”

John Herschel Glenn

Glenn was an American Marine Corps aviator, engineer, astronaut, and politician. He was the first American to orbit the Earth, circling it three times in 1962, the third American and the fifth human in outer space. Following his retirement from NASA, he served for 25 years as a U.S. Senator. In 1998, at the age of 77 he flew into orbit again, the oldest person in space at that time.



John Glenn

(Continued on page 12)



“It is a good morning exercise for a research scientist to discard a pet hypothesis every day before breakfast. It keeps him young.”

— Konrad Lorenz

“You don’t get a straight-line narrative of Chicano art,” Marin said. “It represents the savor, the flavor, of the community. When you put all these parts together, the 360 gives you a whole picture of that community.”

Cheech Marin is the hero to these Chicano artists—their Jason. “We have reached, in effect, the beginnings of the novel”. I would say he has reached the beginnings of his quest to see this art culture succeed and be recognized worldwide. “If we could make it past 20 years, then we’re kind of in the club. That’s what they told me. In the big club in the art world.”

Because of his very early introduction into the research and study of the old masters, obviously a meticulous investigation with Venus in Virgo, leading to his discovery of a new art movement, his continued passion of Chicano talent, Cheech Marin found his true calling of what he was meant to do.



(Continued from page 11)

With distinguished combat experience as a fighter pilot, on July 16, 1957, he made the first supersonic flight breaking the trans-continental airspeed record.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was established on October 1, 1958. Glenn worked at the Bureau of Aeronautics which gave him access to new spaceflight news. He read everything he could find about space. Glenn had taken more classes than was required. His office was asked to send a test pilot to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia to test/run a spaceflight simulator. Glenn's request for the position was granted. He had become an expert about space through his intensive research and was therefore considered an outstanding candidate. He was one of seven that got the job out of 508 contenders.

These Astronauts had an additional role in the spaceflight program: to provide pilot input for the design and development of spacecraft. Glenn's specialization was cockpit layout design and control functioning for the Mercury and early Apollo programs.

Glenn named his capsule, *Friendship 7*, in honor of the seven original Mercury astronauts. Glenn completed his training for his mission in January 1962, but postponement of the launch allowed him to continue rehearsing. His due diligence and examination ensured a safe return. He lifted off from Cape Canaveral on February 20, 1962. During the countdown, there were further delays due to equipment malfunctions, equipment improvements and the weather. *Friendship 7* entered an orbit around Earth at a speed of about 17,500 miles per hour. Glenn radioed back, "Capsule is turning around. Oh, that view is tremendous." He was the first astronaut to orbit the Earth. It served as one of the first steps to the nation's space exploration journey.

Friendship 7 safely splashed down 800 miles southeast of Cape Canaveral after Glenn's 4-hour, 55-minute flight. As the first American in orbit, he became a national hero; he met JFK and received a ticker-tape parade in New York. He was Hercules in a space-suit. The mission, which Glenn called the "best day of his life," renewed U.S. confidence in the space race with the Soviet Union.

Think of the adventurous Argonaut expedition, the dangerous unknown, in Glenn's case, space, the new frontier, his quest to explore and conquer. "To look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible."

Due to his arduous research on space, he fulfilled his passion to go where no American had gone before. NASA administrator

"The divinatory significance of the *Trey of Cups* is a marriage for love; its inner interpretation is RESEARCH."

— C. C. Zain

Course VI,
The Sacred Tarot



Astronaut John Glenn relaxes aboard the USS Noa after being recovered from the Atlantic after his historic Mercury flight. Credits: NASA

Charles Bolden said: "Senator Glenn's legacy is one of risk and accomplishment, of history created and duty to country carried out under great pressure with the whole world watching."

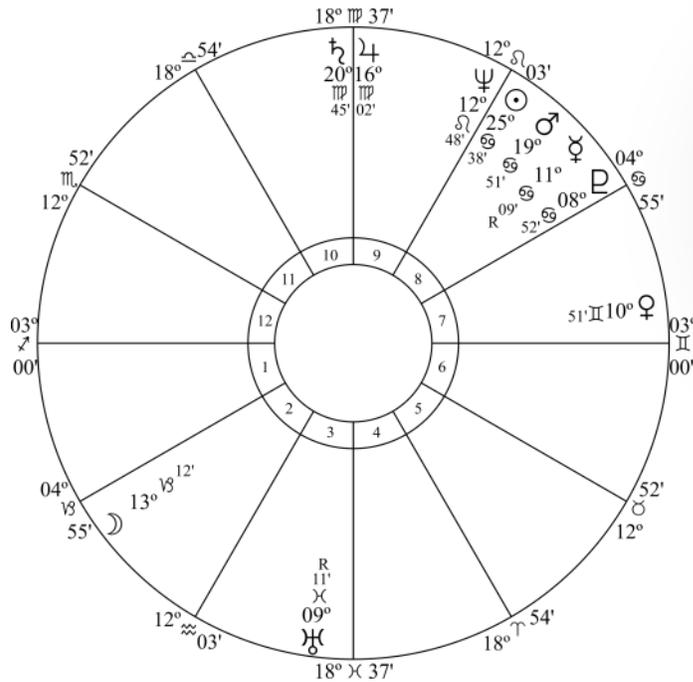
As a politician he was considered one of the Senate's leading experts on technical and scientific matters and won wide respect for his work to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

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(Continued from page 12)

He died on December 8, 2016, at 95 years old. No cause of death was disclosed.

He has four planets in the 8th house of the final frontier; he risked his physical life to go where few men had gone before him. Pluto rules space flight and the unknown. John Glenn had tremendous faith in his skills with Jupiter and Saturn conjunct his Virgo MC. Venus in his 7th brought him popularity from the public. His Sagittarian Ascendent gave us the trailblazer, the freedom seeking aviator. "Fear connotes something that interferes with what you're doing." John Glenn did not have a fear of flying or dying, his extensive and intensive research on rockets in space meant he had an exceptional chance of survival. His mission gave him heroic status in the eyes of the American people. Godspeak John Glenn.



John Herschel Glenn
July 18, 1921; 4 p.m. (AA rating); Cambridge, OH



Jason—only because Hercules turned down the position. He never really commands the Argo. Every time he faces some kind of test, he has assistance, his crew. He isn't the ever brave, fearless hero common in so many of the stories. Anthony, like Jason, is an honest regular person who, at times, is

"Every story I write adds to me a little, changes me a little, forces me to reexamine an attitude or belief, causes me to research and learn, helps me to understand people and grow."

— Octavia E. Butler

Anthony Paul Kennedy Shriver

Anthony Kennedy Shriver is not your ordinary activist. He's a superhero of sorts, fighting tirelessly for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities by finding employment and social opportunities, giving them a chance to lead fulfilling lives. He fights for those who have limitations, who can't fight back.

He is the Founder, Chairman & CEO of *Best Buddies International* which he created in 1989 at the age of 24 to foster one-to-one friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). He is their leader —



An American activist for people with intellectual disabilities, a businessman and significant industry influencer.

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

capable of great things, like we all are. The *Best Buddies* group is Anthony's band of heroes, where he finds marvellous heroism. They are his Argonauts.

Shriver's commitment to the cause of disability rights runs deep. As a member of the Kennedy family, he has a long history of public service and a keen sense of social justice. He has been an advocate for the disabled since growing up with parents deeply dedicated to the service of others. His mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, is the founder of the Special Olympics, a pioneer in the worldwide struggle for rights and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities. His father, Sargent (Robert) Shriver Jr., was an American diplomat, politician and activist, the founder of the Peace Corps.

Anthony has followed both his father and mothers' footsteps. His research started from observing his parents, their dedication, and their values. He would have gained immense knowledge from his Fathers' understanding of leadership, peacebuilding, and practical problem solving. He learnt from his mother's strong sense of values and fell under the influence of his Kennedy uncles.

His mother made him feel that he was the greatest human being on the planet. *Best Buddies* does the same thing. It makes people think that the greatest thing that can happen to them is to be themselves, and that being themselves is the greatest gift that they have. His eldest son, Teddy, has Down syndrome.

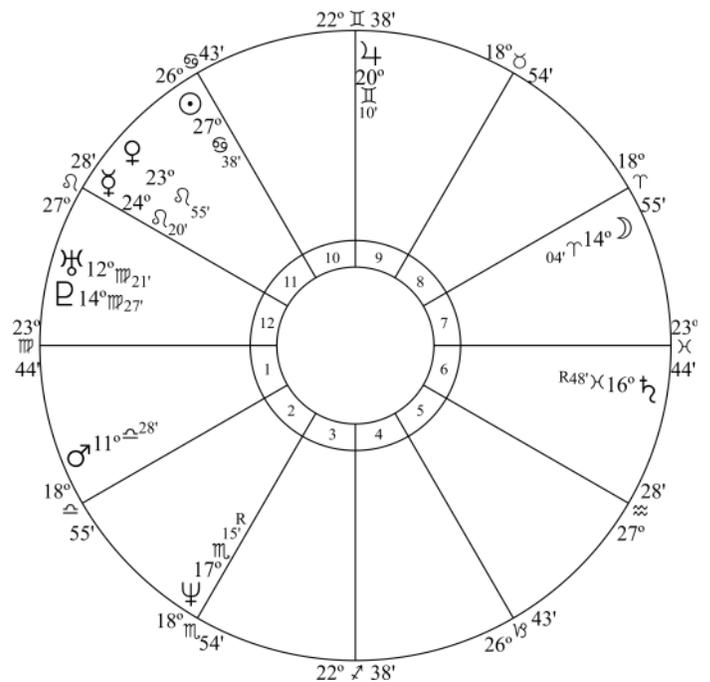
"I'd love to go out of business," Shriver said. "I know that's not the goal of most companies, but that's definitely my goal. I'd love to be in a situation where people with intellectual disabilities naturally integrate on their own and are able to get employed on their own and don't need us. I think it will happen, and one day we won't need an organization like *Best Buddies*, but we'll be here for as long as they need us."

Shriver used the skills he learned from his family, along with his education, dedication, and belief systems to continue this journey—his quest for equality for his band of heroes. His research and investigation on the multitude of related topics; the disease, social welfare, the financial aspects, and all areas in fundraising, helped him to create one of the largest nonprofits in the U.S, located in 50 States and 49 Countries with 3,387 Chapters.

"You can accomplish an enormous amount if you stay focused and keep grinding it out day after day. That's one of the advantages

"We come to love not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."

— Sam Keen



Anthony Paul Kennedy Shriver
July 20, 1965; 10:20 a.m. EST (AA rating); Brighton, MA

(Continued on page 15)



of *Best Buddies*. There are a lot of people who've been here for a long time. We get the message, we understand our influence, and we feel the emotional connection with the cause. It would take a lot for someone like me to break away from that.”

This seems to be Anthony’s mission, to inspire those with IDD to do great things, encouraging his Best Buddies, his Argonauts that they can! Jupiter conjunct his MC in the 9th house delivers his optimism, joviality, benevolence, and goodwill. In Gemini, he is their spokesman, their advocate, their messenger.

He has Uranus & Pluto in the 12th house of charitable movements, brotherhoods, and public welfare. Pluto gives him the strong desire to fight for validity for those with IDD, his brotherhood. Uranus is the rebel with a cause, to change the old-world view to a new perspective, to bring that which is hidden from society to the forefront with cooperative efforts from large organizations. Venus in Leo in the house of friends and colleagues is prominent in his chart. He has a strong influence upon those who cross his path; he is a natural influencer. His continual work towards universal welfare for the intellectually disabled and his service to others, his sympathetic empathetic Cancerian/Piscean Sun has brought him to where he is today, a protector of his collective tribe, his *Best Buddies*.

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Anthony Shriver

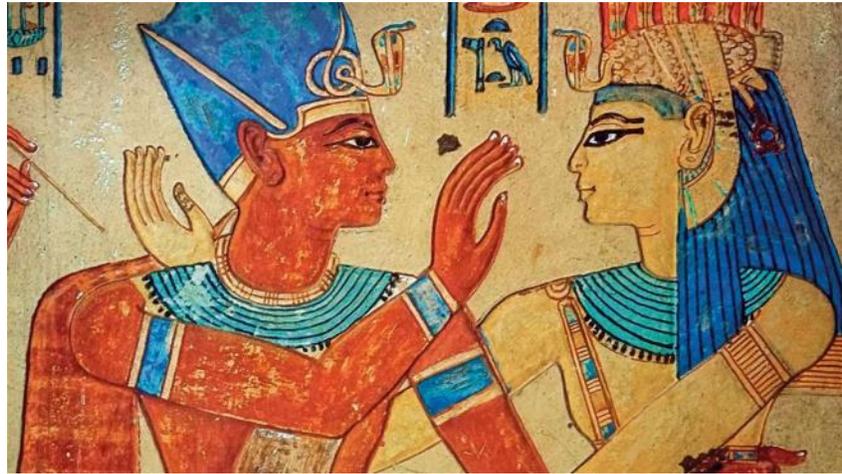
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“...Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it’s having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome. Vulnerability is not weakness; it’s our greatest measure of courage. A lot of cheap seats in the arena are filled with people who never venture onto the floor...”

— Brené Brown





The Egyptian Roots of The Brotherhood of Light Series:

Part 3 - The Osiris Myth

by J. A. Miller, PhD, Hermetician

These allegories symbolically picture the drama of the soul's descent from the celestial state, the separation of the twin souls in the highest realm of the spiritual world, who after a time Nature again brings together, breathes upon them the breath of love, uniting them, and by their united strength they become immortal.

On Zain's intent behind revealing secrets hidden in ancient texts...

"... secrecy in any matter that will aid the soul in gaining knowledge of its true relations to the universe, or that will assist in making life happier, or the attainment of spirituality easier, is not a virtue...Consequently, departing from the custom of many other writers on this subject, I am introducing no blinds and no subterfuges into these lessons. ... what I present, in its essentials, has been in the custody of The Brotherhood of Light for ages."

— C. C. Zain

*CSVI, The Sacred Tarot—
Foundation of the Science*

Introduction

In Part 1 of this series [1], we put forward the observation that The Brotherhood of Light key teachings were encoded in the theological symbols and stories of the gods of the Heliopolitan Ennead whose cult was dominant in the theocracy of Old Kingdom Egypt. In Part 2 [2], we demonstrated that this observation is not new, but was articulated by Elbert Benjamine who gave us the key to decoding these theological symbols and stories in the "Osiris Passage" given in Course 2, *Astrological Signatures* [3]. This "key" is the recognition that Osiris, as a theological symbol, represents the BOL

Doctrine of the Separation and Reunion of the Twin Souls.

Since the BOL major doctrines are inter-related, as are the gods of the Heliopolitan Ennead, this key allows the symbols and stories of the other Heliopolitan gods to be the decoded to reveal the other inter-related BOL teachings. Many of these teachings are encoded within the "Osiris Myth." In this article, our goal will be to gain familiarity with the stories involved in this myth, which will then provide us with the material to decode.

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Understanding Benjamine's Osiris Passage

To begin, we must re-examine the “Osiris Passage” given by Benjamine.

In Egypt, Osiris is portrayed as murdered and the fourteen dismembered parts (each soul possessing a septenary constitution) sent floating down the Nile (the current of involutory life) finally to be cast upon the muddy banks of the Delta (the material world). But faithful Isis (Nature) gathers together these fragments and breathing upon them the breath of life they become reunited and Osiris is born anew, never again to die. These allegories symbolically picture the drama of the soul's descent from the celestial state, the separation of the twin souls in the highest realm of the spiritual world, who after a time Nature again brings together, breathes upon them the breath of love, uniting them, and by their united strength they become immortal [3].

“We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.”

— T.S. Eliot

This important passage must be properly understood as a very condensed and abbreviated rendering of some of the key elements of the Osiris Myth. In the context of Course 2, *Astrological Signatures*, Benjamine did not have the space for a more detailed account or full decode of the Osiris Myth. His goal was simply to bring our attention to it in order to give us a key that could be used to unlock the

BOL teachings contained within its fuller version. Consequently, before we can begin our decode, we must become familiar with a full account of the Osiris Myth (which contains some, but not all, of the stories of the Heliopolitan gods)

(Continued on page 18)

The Osiris Myth

The following adaptation of the Osiris Myth is taken from the account given in *The World History Encyclopedia* [4].

After the creation of the world, the first four gods were born of the union of Geb (god of the Earth) and Nut (goddess of the sky) and these were Osiris, Isis, Set, Nephthys. Osiris, as the first born, assumed rule as Lord of the Earth, with Isis as his sister, queen and consort. He found the people of Egypt uncivilized and lawless and so gave them laws, culture, religious instruction, and agriculture. Egypt became a paradise under Osiris' rule where there was abundant food as the crops were always plentiful.

Set was jealous of his brother's success and grew resentful. Their relationship deteriorated further after Nephthys, Set's sister and wife, disguised herself as Isis and seduced Osiris, becoming pregnant with the god Anubis, the god of mummification. Set had a beautiful coffin made to Osiris' exact height and then threw a grand party where he presented this box and told the guests that whichever of them fit in it most perfectly could have it as a gift. When Osiris lay down in the coffin, Set slammed the lid on, fastened it shut, and threw it into the Nile, where it was carried away down river.

Osiris' body traveled out to sea and eventually his coffin became lodged in a great tamarisk tree growing near Byblos in Phoenicia. The tree grew quickly around the coffin until it completely contained it. The king of Byblos, Malcander, came to the shore with his wife Astarte and admired the tree and the sweet scent which seemed to emanate from it. He ordered the tree cut down and brought to his palace as an ornamental pillar for the court, and there Osiris remained, trapped inside the coffin within the pillar, until he died.

Isis had meanwhile left Egypt in search of her husband and eventually came to Byblos, disguised as an older woman, where she sat down by the

(Continued on page 19)

“Knowing that the stories of the Heliopolitan gods are all inter-related and intertwined, Benjamine essentially gives us the “key” and encourages us to unlock the other related BOL teachings that are also there.”

shore and cried for her missing husband. She was invited to the palace by the royal handmaidens who had come to the shore to bathe and there ingratiated herself to the king and queen so she was asked to be nursemaid for their young sons.

Isis tried to make the younger boy immortal by bathing him in fire and, when Queen Astarte discovered this, she was horrified. Isis then revealed herself as the goddess and the king and queen promised her anything she wanted if she would only spare them. She requested only the pillar - which they swiftly granted to her.

After leaving the court, Isis cut Osiris from the tree and carried his body back to Egypt where she hid him from Set in the swampy region of the Nile Delta. She left him to go gather herbs to make a potion to return him to life, leaving her sister Nephthys to guard the body. While she was gone, Set learned of his brother's return and went out to find his body. He managed to get Nephthys to tell him where it was, and when he found it, he hacked it into 14 pieces and scattered it across the land and into the Nile.

When Isis returned, she was horrified but quickly composed herself and went to work finding the pieces of her murdered husband. With Nephthys' help, she recovered all of the body parts except the penis, which had been thrown into the Nile and eaten by the oxyrhyncus fish, which is why this fish was forbidden food in ancient Egypt. Isis and Nephthys brought the pieces to Anubis, who then put them together with bandages and thus making Osiris the first mummy.

Isis, with her powerful magic, was able to revive Osiris and then she assumed the form of a kite and flew around him, drew the seed from his body into her own, and became pregnant with a son, Horus, the god of the Sky. Even though Osiris now lived, he was incomplete and could no longer rule the land of the living. He withdrew into the afterlife where he became Lord and Judge of the Dead.



*“Exploration is really the
essence of the human spirit.”*

— Frank Borman

(Continued on page 20)

Isis, fearing what Set might do to her son, hid Horus among the swamps of Egypt until he was grown. At that point, Horus emerged as a mighty warrior and battled Set for control of the world. In some versions of the story, Set is killed but, in most, he is defeated and driven from the land. The chaos Set had unleashed on the world was conquered by Horus, who restored order, completed the full resurrection of Osiris, and then ruled with his mother.

Inter-Related Gods, Inter-Related Doctrines

In the above account, we now have a more expanded view of the Osiris Myth. This allows us to see how six of the Heliopolitan gods – Osiris, Set, Isis, Nephthys, and Horus – are inter-related to each other. Just so, the decoding of these theological symbols will demonstrate that they represent inter-related BOL doctrines.

Isis and Queen Astarte, (5) the cutting of Osiris into 14 pieces, (6) the finding of the pieces of Osiris by Isis and Nephthys, (7) the revival of Osiris by Isis and the birth of Horus, (8) the growth of Horus and his battle with Set, and (9) Horus' victory over Set.

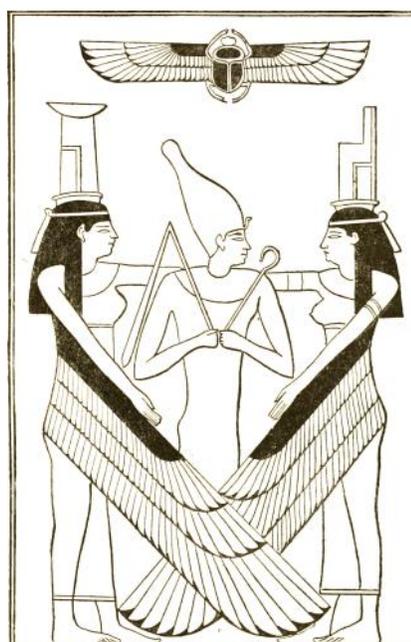
Each of the stories of the Osiris Myth pertain to BOL doctrines. For example, in the next installment of this series, we

will see that if Osiris, as Benjamin indicates, represents the BOL doctrine of the Separation and Reunion of the Twin Souls, then Nephthys and Isis, together (who find the separated pieces of Osiris and then put them back together), represent the central BOL doctrine of The Cycle of Necessity.

(Continued on page 21)

“...the decoding of these theological symbols will demonstrate that they represent inter-related BOL doctrines.”

Furthermore, we can more easily see that the Osiris Myth is actually comprised of a number of stories. They are: (1) the affair of Nephthys and Osiris which produces Anubis, (2) the murder of Osiris by Set, (3) the Osiris Pillar in the palace of the King of Byblos, (4)



Nephthys (left) and Isis (right) embrace Osiris (middle). The Cycle of Necessity (Nephthys and Isis) embrace the Twin Souls (Osiris)

About the Author

J. A. Miller, PhD is an anthropologist, scientist, researcher, and Hermetician with a longstanding avocational interest in Egyptology and Western Esotericism. The contents of this article reflect the results of the author’s personal study and research, as a Hermetician, which Elbert Benjamine and T. H. Burgoyne encouraged to supplement the foundational BOL materials that they left to all

Footnotes and Citations

[1] For Part I of this article series, “An Overview of the Heliopolitan Ennead and BOL Theology,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 98, Issue 3 at <https://www.light.org/>

- [pdf/Quarterly/2023-summer-web.pdf#page=15](https://www.light.org/pdf/Quarterly/2023-summer-web.pdf#page=15)
- [2] For Part II of this article series, “Elbert Benjamine's Key to Decoding the BOL Doctrines in Heliopolitan Theology,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 98, Issue 4 at <https://www.light.org/pdf/Quarterly/2023-fall-web.pdf#page=16>
- [3] see C. C. Zain, Course 2, *Astrological Signatures*, Chapter 9 “The Ritual of Egyptian Initiation,” paragraph 13, at <https://www.light.org/The-Ritual-of-Egyptian-Initiation-SL001.cfm>
- [4] see the article “Osiris” at the *World History Encyclopedia Website*: <https://www.worldhistory.org/osiris/>



“When a tradition gathers enough strength to go on for centuries, you don't just turn it off one day.”

— Chinua Achebe

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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...

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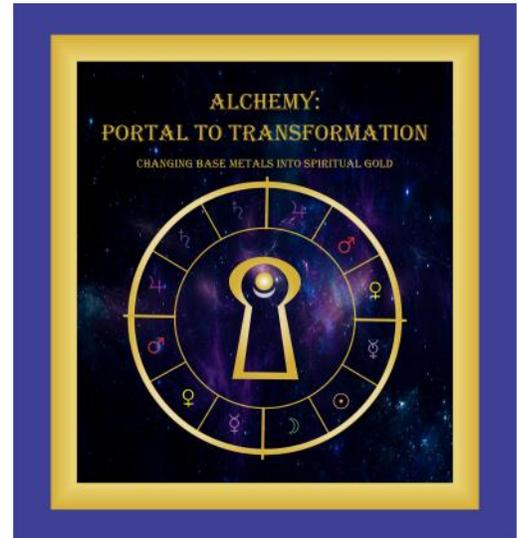


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*“The beauty of networks,
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properties are greater than
the sum of their parts.”*

— Marissa King
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You are cordially invited to our convention for three days of work, play and Alchemical transmutation. Our goal is for you to leave the convention fortified with the tools and enthusiasm you need to make great strides in increasing your Happiness, Success and Spirituality.

On Friday we commence with the Opening Ritual and Annual Membership Meeting at 11am, during which the status of the Church and its future is discussed.

Afternoon free time.

Friday evening you are invited by The Order of the Sphinx to witness and/or participate in initiations for new members and incremental grade achievements for existing members. The evening concludes with a celebratory reception.

Saturday: Focus is on learning how to alchemize the most discordant planet in your chart.

The day begins with a comprehensive exploration of Alchemy in the context of the Hermetic teachings of The Brotherhood of Light lessons presented by Alan Gatlin. This is followed by a discussion led by Chelsea Hessel on how to identify the alchemical metals and their relation to the Alchemical Laboratory. The lecture is followed by a workshop titled “Where are My Metals?”

Lunch buffet is provided by The Church of Light.

Yvette Fortin and Erin McLean will then discuss “Mental Alchemy: Building a Mental Body,” with an associated workshop on “Alchemizing Your Worst Planet.”

On Saturday evening, we gather for an Awards Banquet Buffet including a playful round of Occult Jeopardy, organized by Vanessa Brown.

(Continued from page 22)

**Sunday: Focus is on learning how to strengthen
the weakest planet in your chart.**

Sunday morning begins with a Spiritual Service on Cosmic Alchemy, led by Rev. Patrick Ramsey. After the service, Mark Doubleday delivers a talk on “Spiritual Alchemy – Building Our Spiritual Body.”

Luncheon buffet, courtesy of the Church of Light.

After lunch, there will be a raffle, followed by a Spiritual Alchemy Workshop – “Identifying Your Weakest Planet and What to Do About It.”

All in all, a weekend of camaraderie and enjoyment culminating with the Church of Light Closing Ritual.

We sincerely hope to see you there!

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Speakers or topics may be subject to change.



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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.