

The Church of Light

# QUARTERLY

Spiritual Astrology Series: Virgo-Virgo



SUMMER 2025  
VOLUME 100, ISSUE 3

## The Quest of Spirit

### The Virgo Decanate of Virgo

Tim Prichard, Hermetician, Order of the Sphinx

Zain gives the Virgo, a Mercury influenced decanate of the Earth sign, the Spiritual message: *From Every Event of Life the Soul May Extract Value, Even as the Verdant Vine Transforms Indifferent Waters into Rich and Sparkling Wine.*

Zain mentions Boötes:

“In its annual circuit of the heavens, as indicated by Bootes, the keeper of the vineyard, it is when the Sun enters Virgo that the harvest ripens and the water drawn



Boötes as depicted by Johann Bayer in his *Uranometria* (1603). Source image provided by Wikimedia Commons

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## Spiritual Astrology: Achievement

By 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 first decanate of the sixth sign, Boötes, is termed *Virgo-Virgo*, as it is found within the primary sign Virgo, and enjoys a secondary influence of the earth sign, Virgo. The Keyword for this decanate is

“Achievement”, and it extends from August 23 to September 2 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 value and meaning. If you will recall, as the sixth sign of the zodiac and as the second earth sign, Virgo archetypi-

(Continued on page 10)

#### For Your Consideration...

**Affirmation:** “I am easily able to find any resources I require to achieve my goals.”

“To judge you by your failures is to cast blame upon the seasons for their inconsistency.”  
— Khalil Gibran

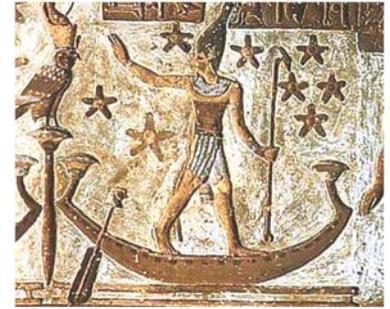
“Achievement is made possible by the power of discrimination.”  
— C. C. Zain



# The Stellarian Honor Guard

*For the period between Jan 1, and Mar 31, 2025.*

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



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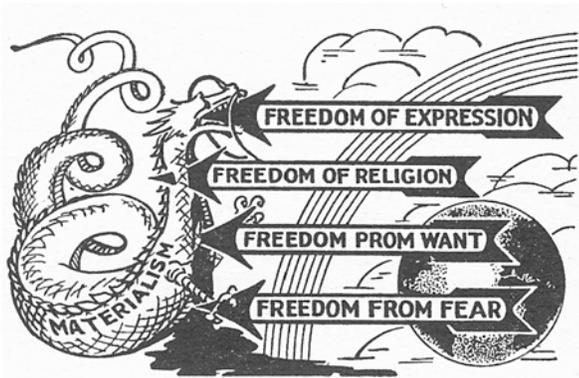
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*Unbalanced Materialism is not sustainable by Nature.*

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**The Church of Light Teaches that all people should have the following Four Freedoms:**



- Freedom of Expression
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom from Want
- Freedom from Fear

**If you do too, GIVE GENEROUSLY!**

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## Editorial

Margaret Joscher, President

*“God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done.”*

— *Anonymous*

Many gardeners will tell you that no matter how much you nurture a plant, if it's not placed in the right spot, it simply won't thrive. For us, a thriving plant means vibrant blooms or an abundance of tomatoes. We assign value to those that offer beauty or nourishment and, with little hesitation, pull and discard those that don't. In essence, we are practicing discrimination—the chief attribute of Virgo .

Sometimes, a plant can stir deep emotions. Take, for example, Stumpy the cherry tree in Washington, D.C.—old and damaged, yet resilient, blooming beautifully despite adversity. Due to repeated flooding of the Tidal Basin caused by climate change and the sinking of its seawall, the National Park Service initiated a project to restore the area, which included removing several trees, among them Stumpy. As a proud member of the Stumpy fan club, I was dismayed to see it cut down this spring after one final bloom. You can read a moving tribute by photo-journalist Carol Guzy here: [Saying goodbye to Stumpy, the tree that changed my life](#) .



The Virgo-Virgo decanate is represented by the constellation Boötes, which Zain calls the “Husbandman in the Sky.” In biblical usage, a husbandman is a farmer or cultivator of the soil—one who toils with no guarantee of success. Unpredictable weather or personal neglect can undo our efforts in an instant. But to be good stewards of the land and of whatever we nurture and grow, we must pair knowledge with will .

Though we can't control external forces, we can take measures to mitigate their impact. Whether it's the seed you plant in your garden or the houseplant you bring home, it will flourish with your attention and understanding of its needs. So too will the soul. Growth—of any kind—is an achievement .

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*“The life force of the vine produces fruit that becomes wine, still breathing, evolving..”*

— Terrior Talking

from the earth into the grapes swelling on the vine is converted into juice which is suitable for wine.”

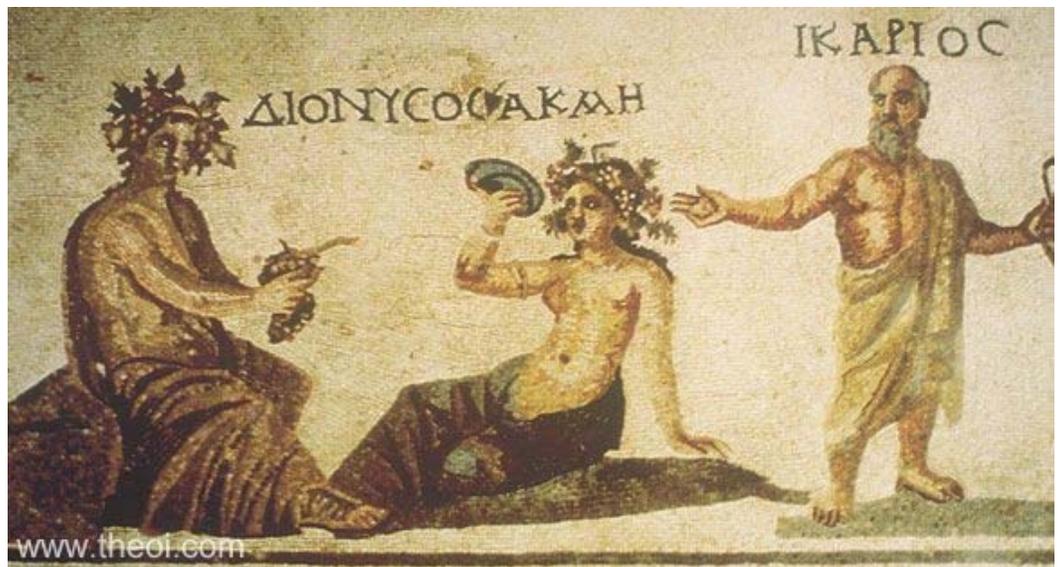
In an allegorical story from Greek Mythology, Boötes is taken to represent the Athenian Icarius (not to be confused with Icarus), a gardener who once invited Dionysus to visit his vineyards. The god was so impressed with the abundant swelling clusters of grapes that he gave Icarius the secret gift of making wine. Icarius followed the god’s instructions and became so successful at it that he had a thought to distribute his product to the masses, in a cart laden with barrels. However, as the people had never tried wine before, and without exercising moderation, they became intoxicated. Upon waking the next day, feeling disoriented and sick, they assumed Icarius had tried to poison them. Without giving Icarius a chance to vindicate himself, they slew him and buried his body under a tree.

Icarius’ daughter Erigone searched for his body with the help of her faithful dog Maera. Upon finding it, in grief, she hanged herself from the tree planted there.

Dionysus was angered by his friend’s passing and blighted the Athenians with a curse. He was only appeased after a festival was set up in honour of Icarius and his daughter, with dancing and fruits, as would befit the harvest sign Virgo. Dionysus decided to place Icarius among the stars as Boötes, Erigone as the Virgin, and Maera as the Dog Star so that we may learn to respect his divine gifts and remember the fate of Icarius.

**Pictured below**, the god Dionysus gifts grape and wine to the Athenian Icarius. The god and his Maenad nymph companion Acme are both crowned with wreaths of fruiting grapevines. Not pictured below is the rest of the image that shows Icarius with cart and barrels.

*(Continued on page 5)*



*From the House of Dionysus, 3rd century AD.  
Paphos Archeological Park.*

## The Grapevine



*“The root of alchemy is the grapevine. Without wine, vinegar, and Salt of Tartar, all obtained from this noble plant, there would be no alchemy. Much of alchemy stems from these three. As all three can be obtained very easily, it is not crucial to make your own wine and vinegar; even Salt of Tartar can be obtained through art supply stores. But it is important to learn how to ferment and calcine. And what better way than to work with such a generous plant—the grapevine and all it can give.”*

—Brian Cotnoir,  
*The Weiser Concise Guide to Alchemy*

Icarius, because of his devotion and skill in tending to Nature's garden, was blessed by Dionysus with the knowledge of the ‘spirit’ of the vine, Nature's inner secret to growing grapes, like an initiation into the mysteries. But like Icarius, sometimes we should realize, that not all people are ready, or of a nature to understand, and Nature's secrets are not to be widely disseminated without discretion; they may be distorted or abused by the profane. Sometimes they are intended only for those who have earned them.

We are all vines in our own way, growing in Nature's garden, but some are born to

remain as grapes. Even though the wild Dionysian natural yeast, or ‘bloom’ on grapes, bears its own means of fermentation, not all are born to know the ‘spirit’ of the vine, that is, to become conscious of Nature's Innermost secrets, and quaff the “mercurial water” of philosophy.

Here is an interesting link: <https://arianagunderson.com/2020/09/23/wild-fermentation/>.

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*“Agriculture is the noblest of all alchemy: for it turns earth, and even manure, into gold, conferring upon its cultivator the additional reward of health.”*

— Paul Chatfield



# Virgo-Virgo

The Mercury Decanate of Virgo: Boötes, the Bear Driver

Keyword: Achievement



[Thermat-hert](#)

Ancient Egyptian Name for the First Decan of Virgo

0° - 9°59'59%

## River Phoenix

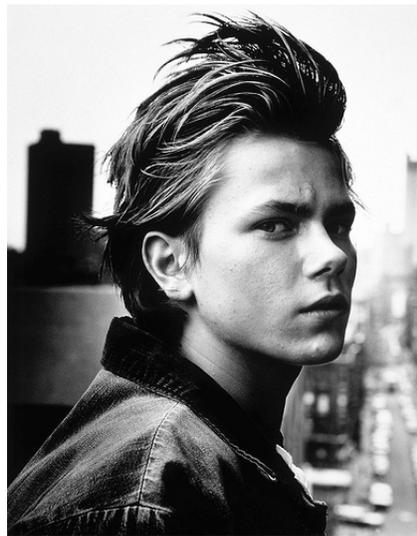
By Laurie Dixon, Hermetician

*River Phoenix was named after the river of life in Hermann Hesse's book Siddhartha, a poetic novel about a man's spiritual journey during the time of the Buddha.*

“Have you learned that secret from the river; that there is no such thing as time? The river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future”

— Hermann Hesse,  
Siddhartha

With his Sun at 0° Virgo in the 10th house, his soul's path was clearly aligned with achievement and public recognition. He rose to fame with *Stand by Me* (1986), earned an Academy Award nomination at 18 for *Running on Empty* (1988), and starred alongside Harrison Ford in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989). His role in *My Own Private Idaho* (1991), which won him Best Actor at the Venice Film Festival, was widely seen as his crowning performance. Yet Phoenix felt most connected to *The Mosquito Coast* (1986), saying, “It wasn't such a big hit,



River Phoenix

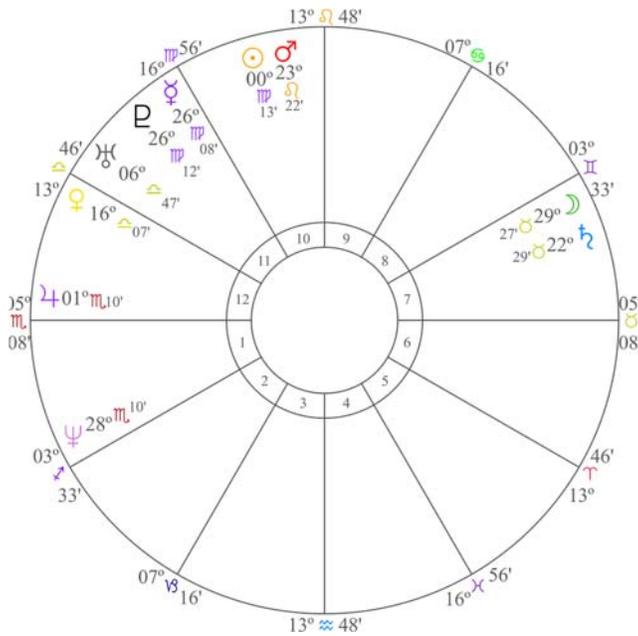
[Wikimedia Commons: no changes made https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/](#)

but for me it was more meaningful than anything else I'd ever done.” Though his career was brief, he is still regarded by many as one of the finest actors of his generation.

Beyond acting, River Phoenix was the guitarist and vocalist for the folk-rock band Aleka's Attic (1989–93), formed with his sister Rain. While the band never gained commercial success,

it reflected his deep commitments to activism, environmentalism, and spirituality. Homeschooled by his parents, River's education centered on his artistic gifts—

*(Continued on page 7)*



**River Phoenix**

August 23, 1970; 12:03 p.m. PDT, Madras, Oregon

Rodden Rating: AA



“Virgo is an earthy sign, and to those who understand the stellar doctrine, the Sun’s entrance into this sign symbolizes the descent of the soul into matter...Mother Earth is the place of the soul’s gestation; and that after the preparatory development which is supplied by the earth—after it has partaken of the fruit of the tree of good and evil which alone enables it to acquire knowledge—it will be born into a more glorious life.”

— C. C. Zain  
Course VII,  
*Spiritual Astrology*

*River Phoenix (cont. from page 6)*

especially music and acting. Intellectually curious and self-taught, he was articulate, idealistic, and unusually mature for his age. Tragically, he died at 23 from “acute multiple drug intoxication,” a mix of cocaine, morphine, marijuana, Valium, and cold medicine. His death was ruled accidental. Today, he is remembered as a cultural icon—often called Generation X’s James Dean.

**Exploring River’s Chart:  
A Soul Marked for Achievement  
and the Question of What Might  
Have Been**

River Phoenix’s Sun at 0° Virgo in the 10th house speaks of a soul destined to achieve, with precision, purpose, and a quiet intensity. As a first-decan Virgo, “achievement” defined him: disciplined, morally grounded, and devoted to his craft. His public identity was built on service, integrity, and a commitment to

excellence. With Leo on the Midheaven and Mars in Leo, his ambition burned brightly. He wasn’t just acting—he was answering a calling. Mars here gave him the courage and drive to command the spotlight, but for River, success meant more than fame. His performances were bold, purposeful, and deeply felt—a testament to his inner fire and unwavering standards.

The square between Sun and Moon reflects the tension between River’s Sun in Virgo in the 10th, which sought independence and public recognition, and his Moon in Taurus in the 7th, which craved emotional security and deep connection. This inner conflict often pulled his public and private selves in opposite directions. River likely struggled to balance the pursuit of success with his emotional needs, feeling torn between ambition and love, an unresolved tension that colored his relationships and sense of self.

*(Continued on page 8)*



River's Moon at 29° Taurus in the 7th house, conjunct Saturn at 22°, speaks to a deep need for stable, grounded relationships. The final degree of Taurus suggests a karmic lesson around security and self-worth, while Saturn adds emotional gravity, making River take commitments seriously, sometimes too seriously. He likely longed for unconditional love but struggled with trust, and his emotional life often carried a patient, resigned tone. With Saturn's influence in the 7th house and close range to his Moon, a part of him was always prepared for loss, as reflected in his quote: "I'm having a kind of hard time keeping my head above water in this crazy business."

Mercury and Pluto conjunct at 26° Virgo in the 11th house reveal River's sharp, transformative mind. This placement gave him incredible focus, critical thinking, and a drive to improve systems, particularly in social and collective contexts. River wasn't interested in superficial fame; he aimed to reshape the world through his voice, whether in film or activism, a communicator of transformation. A devout vegetarian from age 8, he condemned the exploitation of animals, advocating for organizations like PETA, Earth Save, and Earth Trust. With five planets in Earth signs, River found peace in nature, feeling most at home outdoors, disconnected from the artificiality of celebrity.

Uranus in Libra in the 11th house fueled River's desire to innovate and challenge traditional norms. It amplified his idealism and drive to connect with causes and groups that reflected his progressive values. Unwilling to conform to Hollywood's machine, he sought out roles in films that broke boundaries. River gravi-

tated toward artistic and social circles that valued authenticity and rebellion, empowering his visionary mind to achieve not just fame but cultural influence.

Adding to his story, Venus in Libra in the 12th house reveals River's quiet, romantic connection to beauty and art, particularly music. "I've been wanting to go into music ever since I can remember. I mean even before I became an actor. I just thought it would be a tough field to break into, so I became an actor instead." Though acting brought him public success, music remained his hidden passion, a personal sanctuary he cherished deeply. "Music is a whole oasis in my head. The creation process is so personal and fulfilling," he said, reflecting on its special place in his life. While acting aligned with his Virgo Sun's theme of achievement, music was the dream he hadn't fully pursued. The sextile from Venus to his Midheaven suggests this private passion subtly enriched his public work, adding emotional depth. Yet, music remained the love he never fully realized, a bittersweet contrast to his purpose-driven life.

With his Scorpio Ascendant at 5°, conjunct Jupiter in the 12th, River exuded a mysterious, soulful aura that made him unforgettable. Scorpio rising made him private, emotionally complex, and deeply intuitive, while Jupiter amplified these traits, giving his persona a larger-than-life quality. Audiences sensed his spiritual and emotional depth, which transcended his age. This magnetic energy made him compelling to both directors and fans. He carried a mythic, almost fated resonance, reflecting his own belief: "I don't want to die in a car accident. When I die,

(Continued on page 9)

"Uranus in Libra—

With the Individualistic thought-cells expressing from the I Balance attitude, originality should be sought in artistic endeavors rather than in unconventional attachments."

— Elbert Benjamine  
*Beginner's Horoscope  
Maker and Reader*

it'll be a glorious day. It'll probably be a waterfall."

Neptune in Scorpio in the 1st house deeply shaped River Phoenix's identity and presence, enhancing his intuitive sensitivity to emotional undercurrents. This gave him a raw, vulnerable energy in his performances: "You feel the spirit move you. I can be possessed really well." While Neptune fueled his artistic genius, it also blurred the line between reality and illusion, pulling him into the emotional undertow that surrounded him. This placement, connected to his 5th house of creativity (ruled by Pisces), tied his emotional intensity directly to his craft.

Neptune at 28° Scorpio, opposing his Moon at 29° Taurus, reveals River's deep emotional sensitivity, empathy, and spiritual longing. This aspect made him highly attuned to others' feelings, often blurring boundaries and leading to emotional overflow. He could idealize others or neglect his own needs, seeking perfection through art—or escape. The tension between Neptune and the Moon suggests inner confusion, vulnerability, and a susceptibility to substance use as a way to soothe raw emotional pain. "I am confused. I go back and forth about success and wealth and want to take the Devil's bribe and use it for God," he once said, capturing his inner conflict and yearning to serve a higher ideal.

River wasn't careless. He was deeply sensitive, attuned to the mysteries of life but burdened by intense emotions and the gap between his ideals and reality. "Sometimes I wish I wasn't as conscious as I am. It would be so much easier." For him, drugs were a temporary escape from emotional pain and the weight of expecta-

tion. With Venus in the 12th and Neptune in the 1st, he longed for transcendent beauty and love—something rarely found in the harsh world of fame.

River Phoenix's chart reveals a brilliant, emotionally rich, and spiritually attuned soul. He was born to shine, challenge norms, and elevate consciousness. But his openness left him vulnerable to the intensity and rawness of the world around him. His legacy lives not only in his films, but in the emotional truth, compassion, and idealism he embodied. He brought depth and soul to every role, every cause, every connection. His chart remains a map of greatness and a reminder of the cost of being extraordinarily gifted in an unkind world. Even now, he carries a mystique, a haunting sense of what could have been. In his short lifetime, River fulfilled the soul task of the Virgo Decanate—leaving behind a legacy of quiet mastery, heartfelt conviction, and the kind of achievement that transcends time.

"It's a great feeling to think that I can be a friend to so many people through my movies." River Phoenix, reflecting on the impact of touching lives through his art.

Quotations from the people he worked with showcasing his superior ability, and his achievements:

In *Running on Empty*, director Sidney Lumet commenting during an interview with the *New York Times* in 1988: "River had an emotional depth that you don't often see in someone so young. His performance in this film is heartbreaking because you can see the conflict and pain within him. He gave everything to the role."

(Continued on page 10)



*"The Keyword for the decanate is Achievement; Theseus' achievements were great; but...possible only by that clew of thread which is the chief Virgo attribute...by the power of discrimination. It is only through exercising the powers of discrimination...only by following the thread thus discerned through careful analysis, that gradually one can extricate himself from the darkness and the confusion of false paths, to emerge into the full light of Truth."*

— C. C. Zain  
Course VII,  
*Spiritual Astrology*



(Continued from page 9)

Rob Reiner, director of *Stand By Me*, said: “He was a natural. I don’ know how to explain it. He just had a presence. He was such a soulful young kid and had that ability to be both tough and vulnerable at the same time.”

Gus Van Sant, director of *My Own Private Idaho*, in an interview with *Rolling Stone* in 1993, said: “River rewrote some of his own dialogue. He brought so much of himself to the role, and it made the film something I could have never imagined.”

Director Peter Weir told the *Washington Post* in 1986: “I saw in River an extraordinary understanding of his character. His performance was more than acting—it was like he was living inside that role. River was so grounded in his emotions; he helped hold the film together. His quiet strength gave the story its emotional core.”

Harrison Ford in a 2019 interview with *Entertainment Weekly*: “I thought River

was an extraordinary actor. He brought a freshness and a depth to that character that really made it come alive for the audience. I felt like he captured the adventurous spirit of Indy perfectly.”

[AI was used to check for grammar, clarity, and feedback for potential refinement areas.]

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The divinatory significance of the Seven of Swords is danger through travel or sport...the inner interpretation is Achievement.

— C. C. Zain  
CS VI, *The Sacred Tarot*

*Spiritual Astrology: Achievement (Continued from page 1)*

cally represents the descent of spirit into matter and the principle of reaping as we sow. The allegory that Zain (1997) most completely analyzes in this sense is the story of The Creation of Man and Woman in the Holy Bible as detailed in the earliest chapters of the Book of Genesis (*New International Version, 2025a, Genesis 1-3*). As the tale is told in the Bible itself, this event is shrouded in darkness and negativity, casting Eve as the cause and culprit of the entrance of sin into the world. However, Zain’s (1997) explanation is far

more uplifting, and in particular, casts Eve in a completely different light.

As Zain (1997) explains, in this tale, Adam represents the immortal ego, the limitless potentiality that vivifies and animates all life. In other words, Adam represents the principle of Spirit. On the other hand, Eve represents the material world, the broad and bountiful bosom of Nature that provides a dwelling place for Spirit. In other words, Eve represents the principle of Matter. The serpent, an an-

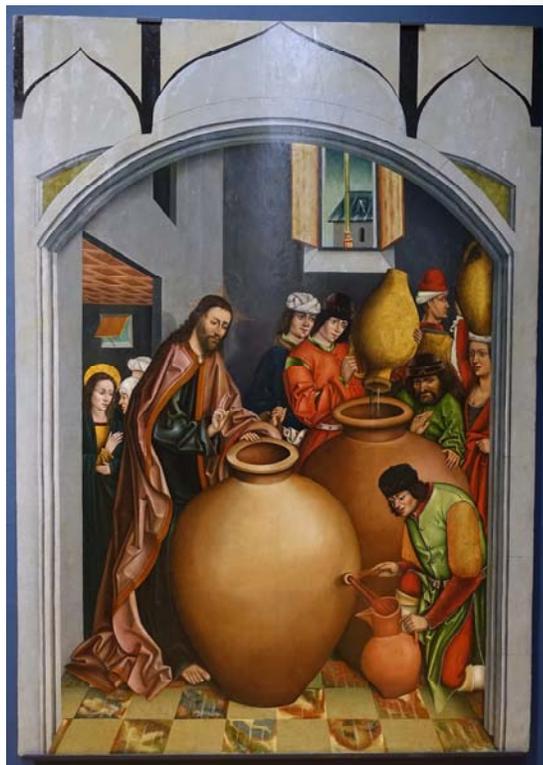
(Continued on page 11)

cient symbol of evil, but also of renewal, transformation, growth, and wisdom, “tempts” Eve into partaking of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, who then enlists Adam in her cause. Metaphorically, this can be interpreted as Adam, or Spirit, uniting with Eve, or Matter, in order to learn and develop through the gift of life’s multitudinous experiences. Recast in this manner, Eve is converted from the weak-willed source of original sin into a daring, fearless heroine who makes the fundamental transformation from unbearable ignorance to abiding wisdom possible.

Furthermore, as the harvest sign, Virgo reminds us that at all times we are sowing seeds in the fertile soil of our own consciousness. If we sow good seeds, then we shall gather good fruits. In other words, virtuous thoughts, feelings, words, and actions establish the conditions for virtuous experiences. On the other hand, if we sow bad seeds, what else can we expect to reap but sour, distasteful, and disfigured fruits? In other words, vicious thoughts, feelings, words, and actions just as effectively establish the conditions for vicious experiences. For this reason, the Leading Text of Virgo is stated thusly: “*If a Man Sows Discordant Thoughts He Will Reap Painful Experiences, But if He Sows Thoughts of Harmony He Will Garner Success and Happiness*” (Zain, 1997. p. 137).

In a similar fashion, all three of the decanates found within Virgo elucidate important aspects of these two main messages. The first decanate of Virgo is called Boötes, which Zain (1997, p. 137) translates as “the Husbandman,” or as might

be rendered more simply in a contemporary context, “the farmer” (Merriam Webster, 2025). The primary tale that Zain (1997) tells in order to expound the moral message of Boötes is found in John 2 (*New International Version, 2025b, John 2: 1-11*). Along with his mother, Mary,



*Changing the Water into Wine*  
Ciudad Rodrigo 1480-1488

Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding at Cana in Galilee. It must have been a lively affair, because at some point, all of the wine was gone. Mary noted this to Jesus, who directed the host’s servants to fill six stone vessels with water. Then Jesus told them to draw some of the liquid out and bring it to the master of the banquet. By the time they did so, the water had been transformed into wine. This constituted Jesus’s first miracle, and his disciples believed in him.

(Continued on page 12)



“Transformation is an ongoing process that tends to appear ordinary, when, in fact, something extraordinary is taking place.”

— Suzy Ross



“The only source of knowledge is experience.”

— Albert Einstein

Similar to Jesus in the allegory above, Boötes, the keeper of the vineyard, cares for and cultivates the magical vines that naturally convert the waters of the earth into sweet, delectable juice suitable for winemaking. Fascinatingly, grape vines are extremely hardy, capable of surviving under very diverse, often challenging climatic conditions. They are found broadly distributed on every continent with the sole exception of Antarctica. With proper care, they can survive in arid deserts or regions of the Earth’s surface that experience cold, harsh winters. They thrive in deep topsoil, tunneling roots up to 20 feet to sidestep competition from other plants with shallower root systems. Conversely, they do perfectly well on steep, craggy hillsides with just the merest coating of topsoil. In all, grape vines are capable of thriving under an astonishing array of temperature and precipitation variations (Clemens, 2020).



In the same way, the spiritual sower seeks growth and development from all of the experiences of life. They do not protest that spiritual growth can only be achieved under very precise conditions, for example ensconced safely away in a monastery or nunnery. Rather, they recognize that experiences themselves are the seeds of enlightenment, and they seek higher and higher states of consciousness right where they are, no matter the prevailing environmental conditions or cir-

cumstances. The leading text for Boötes is: *From Every Event of Life the Soul May Extract Value, Even as the Verdant Vine Transforms Indifferent Waters into Rich and Sparkling Wine* (Zain, 1997, p. 141). Similarly, we as timeless tillers of life’s variegated experiences can cultivate a rich and sparkling elixir of life, love, and light when we perceive these events from just the right perspective.

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## The Egyptian Roots of The Brotherhood of Light Series:

### Part 6 - Anubis: The Evolution of Consciousness from Chemical to Simple

by J. A. Miller, PhD, Hermetician

*“The physical is merely the cellar of a vast skyscraper.” [1]*

#### Introduction

Recap of Part 5:

In our last installment (Part 5 of this series), we demonstrated that Set, the god of war-chaos-disharmony, husband of Nephthys, and brother of Osiris, is the theological “icon” that represents two BOL doctrines. As the murderer who “dismembered” his brother Osiris, he represents the polarization of the energies of the ego that results in the separation of the twin souls from a single soul sphere that occurs in the highest (7th) level of the Spiritual Realm during the Descent Phase of the Cycle of Necessity (CON). Additionally, Set represents the disharmonious energies of the soul that accumulate during its journey through the CON. As Nephthys, shown previously, represents the Descent Phase of the CON during which the separation of the twin souls occurs, it is no coincidence that she is theologically paired, as wife, to Set (a.k.a. “Seth”).

Interestingly, if we think of Set and Nephthys in terms of planetary associations, it is easy to recognize that Set, god of war, must be associated with Mars. Likewise, Nephthys, goddess of death, and representing the “descent” (contractive) phase of the CON, which results in the “crystallization” of the soul as it incarnates into the Physical Realm, is clearly associated with Saturn. If we think of the CON in terms of the Law of Polarity, the Descent Phase would be its “negative” side, and the Ascent Phase would be its “positive” side. So, again, we find it no coincidence that the two malefics, Set (Mars) and Nephthys (Saturn), are theologically paired on the Descent (negative) Phase of the CON.

In this installment, we will follow the twin souls, through the CON as they incarnate into the Physical Realm. Although we consider incarnation into the Physical Realm, at the initial mineral level, to be the beginning of the Ascent Phase of the CON, we must acknowledge, with Zain, that the soul's

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#### “Intelligence, Substance, Motion

*At start we must get rid of the notion that inanimate objects are wholly devoid of consciousness. Consciousness is everywhere present in degree, as are also motion and substance. The universe consists of this trinity, and where all three are not present there is no existence.”*

— C. C. Zain

CSIII, *Spiritual Alchemy*



### Chemical Consciousness

*“...intelligence displays itself through the activities of the minerals of which the earth is composed. They possess a discernable discrimination. Their chemical changes are not fortuitous, but governed by the same broad law that determines the alliances between members of the human race. Man is drawn to certain companions, and repelled from others. The atoms of matter exhibit similar preferences.”*

— C. C. Zain

CSIII, *Spiritual Alchemy*

experience in the Physical Realm, even up to its last incarnation into the human level, still represents the “bottom” of the CON - or as he puts it, “the cellar of a vast skyscraper” that is the Ascent Phase of the CON. Yet, it is within this “cellar” of the Physical Realm, as it transmigrates from the mineral through the animal level, to finally incarnate in human form, that the soul begins its ascent by means of the evolution of its consciousness. We shall see that Anubis, god of mummification, and son of Nephthys and Osiris, represents the BOL teaching regarding the evolution of consciousness from the mineral (chemical consciousness) to animal (simple consciousness) level.

To supplement this discussion, the reader is encouraged to read or revisit Parts I - V of this series [2, 3, 4, 5, 6], as well as read Chapter 5, (“Higher Consciousness”) in Course 3 (*Spiritual Alchemy*) by CC Zain [7].

### Anubis: Offspring of Nephthys and Osiris

To begin, let us address this question, “Why did Set want to kill his brother Osiris?” The answer to this was mentioned in Part 3 of the present series, “The Osiris Myth.” It was said, in one important version of the story, that although Nephthys was married to Set, she, nevertheless, was in love with Osiris. Furthermore, Nephthys and

Isis were “twin” sisters, and their appearance was identical in all respects except in their clothing. So, one night, Nephthys dressed up as her sister Isis and tricked Osiris into spending a night together. The result of this was her offspring Anubis. It is the discovery of this “affair” that is Set’s motive for killing Osiris. After giving birth to Anubis, Nephthys could not keep the child. Instead, it is said that Isis took Anubis and raised it as her own.

Let us now examine this theological story for its underlying doctrines. First, why is Nephthys said to be “in love with Osiris?” Remembering that Osiris represents the twin souls, and that the first part of their

journey through the CON is in the Descent Phase represented by Nephthys, we can now understand. It can certainly be said metaphorically that the Descent Phase of the CON (Nephthys) is “in love” with and “cares for” the twin souls (Osiris) as they descend through the various levels and Realms.

Next, why is it that Nephthys and Isis are said to be “twin sisters?” Remembering that both Nephthys and Isis represent the CON, and that the CON is comprised of two (“twin”) phases, we can now understand. The Descent Phase, represented by Nephthys, is certainly the mirror-image of the Ascent Phase, represented by Isis. In a meta-



Anubis  
Egyptian deity of  
mummification and the  
afterlife

[By Jeff Dahl - Own work. CC BY-SA 4.0.](#)

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phorical sense, these two phases are “twin sisters,” identical in appearance (involving the same levels and Realms), but different in function.

Now, we come to the birth of Anubis and his adoption and raising by Isis. What is the end result of the twin souls (Osiris) “interaction” with the Descent Phase of the CON (Nephthys)? The result is “birth” into the Physical Realm and the evolution of consciousness through the mineral, plant, and animal levels before the human level is reached. So, “Nephthys” (i.e., the Descent Phase of the CON) does indeed give “birth,” metaphorically, to “Anubis” (i.e., the twin souls) as they incarnate into the Physical Realm.

Finally, why does Isis adopt Anubis and raise him as “her own son?” This is an odd reaction. In human terms, given that she was betrayed by her sister who had an affair with her husband and then had his child, the last thing one would expect is for Isis to adopt, care for, and raise Anubis. Yet, she does so. Why? Again, we turn to the underlying theological meaning that explains this odd twist to the story. It is indeed true that the Descent Phase gives “birth” to the twin souls as they incarnate into the Physical Realm at the mineral level. But, from this point on, it is not the Descent Phase, “Nephthys,” that takes care of the separated twin souls; they are now in the Ascent Phase, represented by Isis. So, in a metaphorical sense, “Isis” (the Ascent Phase) “adopts” the separated twin souls and takes care of them, raising them as her own, nurturing the evolution of their consciousness as they now ascend through the mineral, vegetable, and animal levels of the Physical Realm. This evolution of consciousness (from chemical to simple consciousness)

through these levels is what Anubis represents theologically as we shall see.

## Anubis: The God of Mummification

So far, our BOL theology seems to have strong explanatory power that allows one to make sense of the stories of the Osiris Myth. It explains well the story of Nephthys' affair with Osiris, the birth of Anubis, and even Anubis' adoption by Isis. However, how can we be confident that Anubis represents the BOL teaching regarding the evolution of consciousness, from chemical to simple consciousness, as the soul ascends from the mineral through animal levels of the Physical Realm? The answer to this lies in a number of further “coincidences” having to do with Anubis.

Anubis is the god of mummification. This, in itself, is quite telling. One could say incarnation into the Physical Realm itself is a type of “mummification.” As the soul incarnates into the Physical Realm for the first time, it “crystalizes,” which can be considered a form of “death.” As it does so, it takes on the “outer wrapping” of a physical body – in this case, a simple crystal. So, in a poetic sense at least, the soul has become “mummified.” However, let's look closer at Anubis and the process of Egyptian mummification itself.

There are a number of steps in the process of mummification. However, several important steps are key to our understanding of Anubis theologically. When a body was prepared for mummification, and after the first step of purification and the removal of most internal organs (except the heart), the next key step was to dehydrate the body by covering it with Natron – a type of salt or “mineral.” It is not just the dehydration effect that is important here. The covering of the body with Natron

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*With no specialized  
consciousness,  
“The atom has had very  
limited  
experience...Nevertheless, its  
movements, such as they are,  
result from the feeling, which  
in higher life we call pleasure  
and pain, that is experienced  
when in proximity to various  
other atoms.”*

*(continued next side bar)*

— C. C. Zain  
CSIII, *Spiritual Alchemy*



itself has a theological meaning. It represents the soul's journey and evolution of consciousness through the mineral level of the Physical Realm (see Fig. 1).



Figure 1. The body covered by salt symbolizes the soul's journey through the mineral realm.

*“This consciousness of attraction and repulsion felt by atoms induces them to join in the formation of molecules. Then a colony of molecules may combine in a particular way to form the body through which an impersonal soul that has graduated from the stages of atomic consciousness can express itself. Such a colony dominated by a sovereign intelligence is called a crystal.”*

— C. C. Zain  
CSIII, *Spiritual Alchemy*

The next step in the mummification process involved stuffing the body with straw or other vegetable matter in order for it to retain its shape and then wrapping the body with strips of linen. This linen was made from the fibers of the flax plant. Resin from trees, mixed with other plant oils and extracts, was used to “glue” the wraps in place. Again, here we have, not only a practical process, but one with theological meaning. These steps, involving plant materials, represent the soul's journey and evolution of consciousness through the plant level of the Physical Realm (see Fig. 2).

Presiding over the embalming process was a priest who wore an Anubis mask. Why? The god Anubis is depicted with the body of a man with the head of a jackal. Unlike a hawk who can soar into the “heavens,” the jackal is an earth-bound animal. This depiction of Anubis, by the priest presiding over the embalming process, represents the soul's journey and evolution of

consciousness through the animal level of the Physical Realm (see Figs. 1 & 2).

According to the BOL teachings, the soul's journey through the mineral, plant, and animal levels of the Physical Realm corresponds to the evolution of chemical, vegetative, psychic, and simple consciousness. These forms of consciousness are developed and are characteristic of the impersonal soul at the animal level. It is this BOL teaching that has been encoded, and thus safe-guarded, in the theological story of Anubis, the god of mummification. There are other BOL theological teachings encoded in other roles of Anubis and in the mummification process. However, these are beyond the scope of our present focus.

In the next installment of this series, we shall examine Isis and the birth of her son Horus, who represents the evolution of rational, cosmic, and divine consciousness that ultimately reunites the twin souls and takes them from the human level of self-consciousness, out of the “cellar” of the Physical Realm, to ascend to the higher levels of the “vast skyscraper,” that is the Ascent Phase of the CON.



Figure 2. The body wrapped in linen made of flax symbolizes the soul's journey through the plant realm.

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### 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] see C. C. Zain, *Organic Alchemy* (Course 19), Chapter 1 “The Ceaseless Surge of Life,” 4th paragraph before the end of the chapter at <https://www.light.org/CeaselessSurgeofLife-SL209.cfm>
- [2] 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, pp. 15-20, at <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2023-summer-web.pdf>
- [3] 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, pp. 16-21, at <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2023-fall-web.pdf>

- [4] For Part III of this article series, “The Osiris Myth,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 99, Issue 1, pp. 16-21, at <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2023-24-winter-web.pdf>
- [5] For Part IV of this article series, “The Cycle of Necessity,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 99, Issue 3, pp. 13-17. <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2024-summer.pdf>
- [6] For Part V of this article series, “Seth - The Energies of Life,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 100, Issue 2, pp. 14-18. <https://www.light.org/pdf/Quarterly/2025-spring.pdf#page=14>
- [7] see C. C. Zain, Course 3, *Spiritual Alchemy*, Chapter 5 “Higher Consciousness,” at <https://www.light.org/Higher-Consciousness-SL053.cfm>

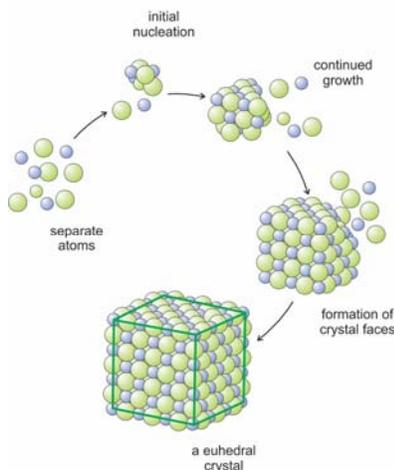
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“Assimilation and secretion as found in organic life depend upon the power of discrimination as exercised by atoms. This selective action, which is commonly recognized in chemical changes and in the formative processes of crystallization, is the chief manifestation of life and intelligence in the mineral realm. And because of its importance to higher life, we are safe in saying the primary function of life in the mineral kingdom is to confer that form of intelligence known as SELECTIVITY.”

— C. C. Zain

CSIII, *Spiritual Alchemy*



#### Crystals and Crystallization

The formation of crystals involves the bringing together and ordering of constituent atoms. Crystals grow from a small single molecule to their final visible form....

— <https://lopengeology.org/Mineralogy/4-crystals-and-crystallization/>

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# Membership Room



Congratulations to Our Newest ...

HERMETICIANS

Aaron Turetsky



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## Board of Directors

We are happy to welcome Deborah Yaffee from Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts who succeeds Veiga O'Sickey.

Welcome Deborah!

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## Moving on...

Patricia Sansoucie, Hermetician from St. Louis, Missouri, passed-over on March 30th.

Pat (Trish) was a member of the St. Louis Group from 1982 to 1986. She was a nurse practitioner, working until a few months ago. She was in her late sixties at the time of passing.

She remained in contact throughout the years with the group.

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# The Religion of the Stars – in a nutshell

–H.S.D. Starnaman

## **THE CODE:**

Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

I will do all the good that I can in every way that I can for as long as I can.

## **THE ASPIRATION:**

To develop more and more a feeling of kindness to all living creatures.

## **THE NINE POINT PLAN:**

1. The Facts of Astrology
2. People should have Freedom from Want.
3. Facts of Extra Sensory Perception.
4. People should have Freedom from Fear.
5. Facts of Induced Emotion.
6. People should have Freedom of Expression.
7. Facts of Directed Thinking.
8. People should have Freedom of Religion.
9. Culminating in the Universal Moral Code, Contribute your Utmost to Universal Welfare.

## **THE PURPOSE:**

To develop the four possessions we take with us after death;

1. Knowledge
2. Ability
3. Character
4. Dominant Vibratory Rate

## **THE GRAPH:**

1. The proper exercise of morality allows people to control their own life and destiny here and hereafter.
2. Law is the way of life.
3. Death is the doorway to a plane of conscious existence, a life of greater freedom and power.
4. The Planets have an influence over human life and destiny.

## **THE MEASURING GAUGE:**

Astrology measures the unseen and overlooked energies that affect a person's life.

The birth chart reveals specific weaknesses and the means to overcome them. It is a chart of the unconscious mind.

The birth chart indicates the aptitudes and the environments in which they can best be employed.

The birth chart indicates the diseases toward which there is a predisposition so they can be recognized and precautions needed to avoid them employed.

Astrology indicates the fortunate and unfortunate predispositions toward events, and the periods during which precautions are needed.

Astrology helps people to understand themselves and others, and it is the road map in following the Universal Pathway.



THE CHURCH OF LIGHT

2119 Gold Avenue SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

*Where Science and  
Religion Are One*

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

### **OUR MISSION:**

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

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The safe development of extrasensory perception (Extension

of Consciousness) is the best tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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