



Points of Interest:

- The Semi-sextile
- Astrological Keywords
- Tarot Spread Example
- Membership Room
- Stellarian Honor Guard
2nd Quarter 2016

Inside this issue :

The Hebrew Alphabet: Yod	1
The Semi-sextile	1
Stellarian HG	2
Editorial	3
Tarot Correspondences	6
Tarot Sample Spread	7
Membership Room	9
Vision Statement	12

The Sacred Hebrew Alphabet: Yod—Multiplicity as Unity

Scenza

The tenth letter of the Alefbayt (AB), Yod, is the smallest of all the letters, indicating that as with the Monad, it is a seed of things to come. It is also the only letter that hangs suspended above the line in a new plane of action and behavior, indicating its position as the starting point for a movement beyond the original archetypes represented by the nine single digits.

Perhaps the simplest way to penetrate the symbolism of Yod is by way of its association with the Decad (i.e., the number 10). The notation of the number 10 perfectly captures its intent: as comprised of 1 and 0, it is a unity formed through multiplicity. It acts as both an ending and a beginning. It is both old and new at once. It exists at a perfect point of balance, poised between two worlds.

Linguistically, Yod bears an uncanny resemblance in sound to its notation in number. The letter “y” is technically classified by modern linguistics as a *palatal approximant*. This describes the fact that the letter is sounded by partially restricting the air flow with the center of the tongue raised close to the palate. Unlike a

(Continued on page 5)

The Semi-sextile: Room to Grow

by Margaret Dissinger

“The Semi-Sextile aspect is formed when two planets are 30 degrees apart in the zodiac. It has an influence comparable to the Moon, being mildly harmonious. It is the aspect of GROWTH.” (CSII p94)

In order to grow there must be nourishment. As I’m writing this, it seems as though there is no real opportunity for growth anywhere in our government due to the election and the current mood in our country. It feels some days as if there is no air, no hope, and no way that we can move forward. It just seems stagnant and frankly is beginning to smell. By the time this piece is

published and comes your way, there will be some resolution and we may begin to grow again as “...one nation under God...” Although there may yet be divisions at that time, at the very least there will be room to grow. So it is with the semi-sextile.

Paraphrasing from Merriam Webster, growth is a stage in the process of progressive development. In the spiritual context, it is a real choice to grow. For many people spiritual growth has no real importance. Think of those whose daily lives are consumed by their search to meet their basic needs. In

(Continued on page 4)

Stellarian Honor Guard

For the period between July 1 and September 30, 2016

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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Editorial

Christopher Gibson

"Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom."

— Viktor Frankl

Viktor Frankl, Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor was among the rare individuals who could find meaning in life even among the extreme suffering and dehumanizing conditions of the Nazi concentration camps. Frankl believed that most individuals strive to find meaning in life, and that it is this sense of purpose that enables people to overcome the profoundly painful life experiences.

Struggle is not unique to human experience. The Brotherhood of Light Lessons stress that every lifeform on earth, from the tiniest bacteria to the immense blue whale, struggles to survive. One of the struggles faced by every lifeform is to find enough sustenance to stay alive. In the world of eat or be eaten, another struggle is to avoid becoming the next meal of another lifeform. An additional challenge is to pass on one's DNA so that the species continues to thrive.

For most living creatures, it is the environment that determines whether or not the species thrives, merely survives, or goes extinct. Among environmental factors, weather and climate have the greatest impact on life. Extremes of temperature, along with too much or too little water, are determining factors in survival. Nevertheless, plants, animals and microbes have developed survival strategies in such unlikely places as Death Valley, the Arctic Circle, and even volcanic vents in the Mid-Atlantic. This surge of life in its infinite forms continues to figure out ways to survive and even thrive in the harshest of environments.

Migratory animals have found solutions for adequate nutrition by always being on the move in search of greener pastures. However, the preponderance of bleached skulls in the American West indicates that some animals are not always successful in making it to the next waterhole or patch of grass before they expire. Around 66-million years ago there was an impact event that brought about the end of the Cretaceous Period, the result of a deep-space object colliding with earth. Some small hardy species survived this event, but life on earth has never looked quite the same as it was prior to impact. These surviving species were able to overcome the obstacles to their existence by adapting to a changing environment.

For much of our history, we humans have been migratory nomads, hunting and gathering seasonally. Over the last 10,000 years we became sedentary herders and farmers, growing and raising what we needed for our nourishment in an attempt to outsmart the vicissitudes of nature. As a species we have made efforts to eradicate hunger, nevertheless, food insecurity is still a reality. Some 795 million people in the world (about one in nine) do not have enough food.

(Continued on page 8)



The Semi-sextile Aspect

Measurement

Semi-sextile, 30° Zodiacal Longitude

The Semi-sextile is formed when two planets are one sign or 30 degrees apart. They are usually found near the same degree of adjoining signs. The Semi-Sextile is a weak aspect with a very narrow orb that ranges from 1 degree for planets in a Cadent House (3, 6, 9 & 12) to 4 degrees for a Luminary (Sun or Moon) in an Angular House (1, 4, 7 & 10). The waves of astral energy that are radiated by planets in a Semi-sextile aspect blend mildly and compatibly with one another. The Semi-sextile and Inconjunct aspects are the two weakest aspects measured in Hermetic Astrology.

Keyword

The keyword for the Semi-sextile is Growth. The areas of the chart where two planets are engaged in a Semi-sextile are mildly harmonious attracting small, positive advantages. In Natal Astrology, these are often areas where an individual may not display outstanding ability but more hidden traits which through effort and initiative are developed.

Planetary Comparison

The Semi-sextile is comparable to the qualities of the Moon, inasmuch as it brings gentle growth and nurturing to the two planets found 30° apart.

Application

The Semi-sextile is mildly-harmonious; neither signifies special talents nor does it bring rewards without exertion. The individual must cultivate effort, initiative and persistence to achieve full expression of the energies of the two planets engaged in this aspect.

(Astrology — Semi-sextile Continued from page 1)

our country, while poverty is certainly still an issue, many of us are at least fortunate enough to have the choice to grow into a spiritual life.

Growth implies movement forward; if we are going backward it is the opposite of growth; it is decline. This is important in our discussion of the semi-sextile as it explains Zain's definition that a semi-sextile is comparable to the Moon. The Moon is nurturing and caring; the very characteristics which must be present for growth. His comparison to the lunar energies confirms that growth will only occur with specific attention directed toward progressive development.

The next reference in Zain's definition is that the semi-sextile is mildly harmonious. As we compute our astrodynes, a semi-sextile has one-quarter of its power as harmony, which means then that three-quarters of the aspect's power is neutral. Keep in mind here that if the planets involved are discordant or harmonious, this creates another dynamic to add to the mix.

Our task once again here is to determine how we can use this aspect to further our spiritual growth. Assuming we have all learned the basics of astrology, we can concur that a semi-sextile is portrayed as a mostly minor aspect. It does not carry the power of a conjunction or opposition in any case; however, in terms of eternal progression, simply through nurturing this growth we may create a more powerful use of our energies!

A semi-sextile brings two or more celestial energies together which are 30 degrees apart. Semi-sextiles can occur with planets* at the end and beginning of the same sign because a semi-sextile has a small orb of influence, but often the semi-sextile will occur in adjacent signs. As discussed, the semi-sextile is a slightly harmonious aspect in itself, but we remember that additional harmony or discord for the aspect will be added depending on the harmony, discord, or neutral natures of the planets involved. As the planets and luminaries travel 30 degrees apart, we must consider each planet as having its own personality as it comes into contact with the other(s) in the semi-sextile. A semi-sextile creates GROWTH for all those traits signified by the planets involved, their sign, and their position in the horoscope.

(Continued on page 5)

(Hebrew Alphabet—Continued from page 1)

consonant, however, the airflow is never completely obstructed. Hence, it cannot be called a true consonant. On the other hand, air is not allowed to flow freely as in the case of a true vowel. For this reason, “y” acts as either a vowel or consonant in language, depending on its position and use, a function which has earned it the epithet “semi-vowel”.

While this is not always the case, the modern classification of the letter “y” concurs with that of the ancient Kabbalists. They also classified this letter as a *palatal*, indicating its point of formation. Recall that the Kabbalists define five points of articulation in the mouth: guttural, palatal, lingual, dental, and labial. The deepest points of articulation appear to coincide with letters that describe the spiritual world (as unseen and hidden), while the more obvious points of articulation correspond to the material world (as manifest and overt). As a palatal, Yod acts as a bridge between the spiritual and material, while still reminding us of its primarily spiritual origins through its closer proximity to the deepest recesses of the vocal tract.

Interestingly, if you slow down the phonation of the letter “y,” you will discover that it is actually a glide of two distinct vowel sounds: “e” and “a”. Recall that “a”, as the first letter of the AB, is the phonic representation of the Monad. Here again, we are reminded of the Decad’s implicit link to Unity. On the other hand, whereas Aleph represented a pure and initiating Unity, Yod represents a Unity born through Multiplicity and thereby bears a sec-



ond symbol, 0, in its identification. Phonically, this completed cycle might be represented by the “e” sound of the Yod, a high, front vowel, representing well the now manifest Decad. Taken according to this interpretation, the sound “y” is the literal transonification of the number 10.

Whatever its sound symbolism, it is clear that through its position as a pivot point between single and compound numbers, the tenth letter, Yod, acts as a bridge between that which has been and that which wishes to be. It stands at the boundary between past and future, and in this sense, represents the *infinite present*, in which all manifestation and manner of action exists.

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(Semi-sextile—Continued from page 4)

We are going to follow the same workshop format as last month where we look at each semi-sextile and parse it out.

Get out your chart and take a look at your aspect grid. Semi-sextiles typically have small orbs, so look at the aspect grid to make sure you have them all. (Orbs are given in the front of Course VIII, Horary Astrology.) As you note the semi-sextiles, use their position and their degrees, making note of the astrodyne power of each planet/luminary involved in the aspect. For example, if I have a Neptune at 6 degrees Scorpio (power 36.7) semi-sextile

Mercury at 5 degrees Sagittarius (power 42.5) then I will look toward the aspect being dominated by Mercury until I use my alchemy or major progression to enhance the powers of Neptune. List all of the semi-sextiles in the chart in this manner.

Go ahead and write about each semi-sextile, or use art or any means that works for you to understand how the semi-sextiles seem to manifest in your life. Remember that as these are minor aspects, we may have overlooked them because we tend focus our attention on the greater aspects. For me, this has been a wonderful opportunity to

(Semi-sextile—Continued on page 8)

Tarot Correspondence — The Horseman of Swords



Divination

“The Horseman of Swords denotes thoughts of enmity, strife or sickness. Right way up, it indicates thoughts devoted to the defense and protection of the client; reversed they are plans and desires for his ruin.”

From The Sacred Tarot by C. C. Zain

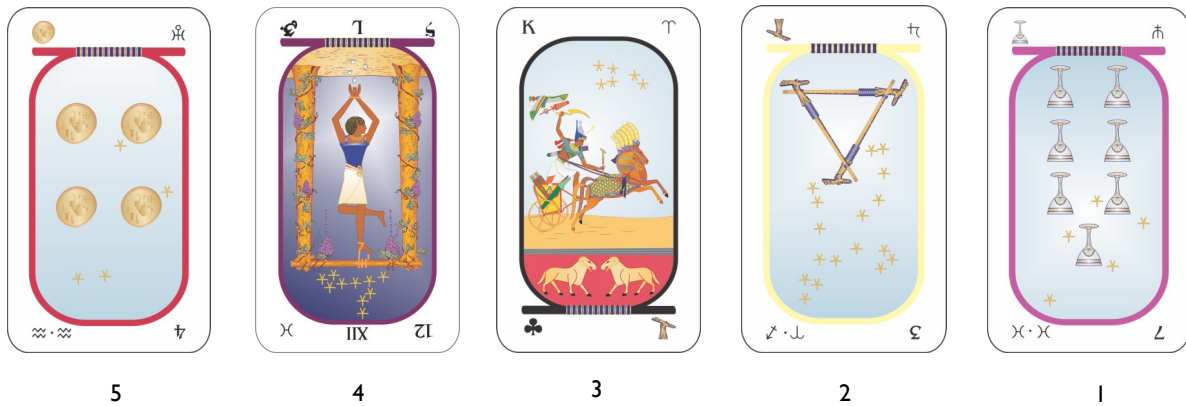
Interpretive Notes

In the Hermetic System, the tarot represents a synthesis of the universe based on astrological symbolism.

“The Horsemen do not represent people, but thoughts or unseen intelligences. As thoughts are ruled by Arcanum I, each Horseman has a numerical value of 1. In divination they are read as thoughts or intelligences that have an influence upon the life of the client. The one who thinks the thoughts is indicated by the Court Card nearest whom the Horseman is found in the spread.”

From The Sacred Tarot by C. C. Zain

The Yes or No Spread



Tarot Spread Interpretation

The question was asked, “Will my appeal to the County Accessor’s Office to lower my property taxes be successful?”

Card Spread

The Distant Past: Seven of Cups (reversed). “The divinatory significance of the Seven of Cups is a successful change of home; its inner interpretation is VERITY.”

The Recent Past: Trey of Scepters (reversed). “The divinatory significance of the Trey of Scepters is a business partnership; its inner interpretation is PROPAGANDA.”

The Present: King of Scepters. “The King of Scepters signifies a person ruled by the sign Aries: fiery, headstrong, ambitious, courageous and energetic. Right way up it denotes an Aries man; reversed it indicates an Aries woman. The dominant idea is I AM.”

The Near Future: Arcanum XII—The Martyr (reversed). “In Divination, Arcanum XII may be read as Sacrifice or Expiation.”

The Distant Future: Four of Coins (reversed). “The divinatory significance of the Four of Coins is money received through a partner; its inner significance is ORIGINALITY.”

Summary

The querent, faced with rising property taxes, asked the question, “Will my appeal to lower my property taxes be successful?” He retained property tax consultants whom he had successfully used in the past to appeal his recent tax hike.

The Distant Past: Seven of Cups (reversed) reveals that the property owners move to this home eleven years ago was a successful one.

The Recent Past: The Trey of Scepters (reversed) denotes that the querent recently retained a consultant whom he had previously used to appeal the current tax assessment.

The Present: King of Scepters indicates a fiery, headstrong, ambitious, and energetic man who has a powerful influence over the direction of this question. This might identify the consultant, or more likely the accessor who was sent out by the County to measure the property.

The Near Future: Arcanum XII—The Martyr (reversed) usually attracts loss and sacrifice.

The Distant Future: Four of Coins (reversed) normally shows money received through a partner. In this case, if we consider the 8th House nature of the card, it is money paid out on a tax bill.

Summary

The “Yes or No” spread has five cards that are dealt in a row from right to left. The middle card is valued at 2 points, and the other cards each have the value of 1 point. A majority of the cards right side up indicate a yes answer, or if the majority of the cards are reversed, as in the case of this reading, it is a no answer.

The presence of two Scepters (trey of Scepters and King of Scepters) shows the fiery business nature of the question. The Seven of Cups might reveal the affection that the owner has for his property which is in a garden-like setting. Having undergone repeated increases in his tax bill, he retained a property tax consultant represented by the Trey of Scepters, to appeal the current tax assessment. The County sent out an accessor pictured by the King of Scepters to inspect the property. Arcanum XII, The Martyr (reversed) shows that appeal was denied, and the Four of Coins (reversed), promises future increases, though in small increments.



(Semi-sextile—Continued from page 5)

identify some energy I had overlooked and taken for granted.

Meditate, for each semi-sextile on the way the planets involved work together for growth, what kind of new energy is created, and how this new energy contributes to spiritual development.

Follow steps one through four using the semi-sextiles in your progressed horoscope.

Consider in this process that the most powerful planet in the aspect is the natural place for the aspect to manifest, but as we have been doing spiritual work and alchemy in our quest, we may have altered the natural order of manifestation. The energies combined in each semi-sextile are

unique, so we must consider how to use them all for growth in our spiritual lives. Working on this aspect has great potential for us, about the importance of GROWTH, the progressive development in our spiritual life. Look for the possibilities to nurture the spiritual life no matter how small. Confucius reminds us that those who move mountains begin by carrying away small stones.

*Planets here refers to our system of 10 planets, 2 luminaries, the Ascendent, and the Mid-Heaven.

Suggested Reading: C. C. Zain, *Laws of Occultism*, pp 91-95; and *Horary Astrology*, aspect charts and pp 45-63.

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***(Editorial continued from page 3)***

For the majority of the world who have solved the issue of hunger, there are any number of areas where the modern human struggles. In developed nations our struggles are no longer just about food and environment. We may struggle to secure a job, keep a job, or to make enough money through our job to cover our expenses.

Health is another area of great concern for most people. If you have a physical body, then there is a good chance in the course of your lifetime you will have problems with that body. Death Certificates never list radiant, vital health as the cause of death. From our head to our toes, there is a lot of territory where something can go wrong. Although during the last century there have been great advances in medicine, the world's populations do not all have equal access to health care. This is why the life expectancy in the European principality of Monaco is 89.57 years, while in the African nation of Chad it is 49.44 years; another example of how environment impacts survival.

In the 40 years I have conducted spiritual counseling with clients, it has been clear that human relationships are one of the greatest areas of conflict for the majority of individuals. Chances are, if you have other human beings in your life, be it parents, children, siblings, spouses, friends, neighbors, schoolmates, colleagues, coworkers, bosses or subordinates, you also have the challenges and misunderstandings that come from being human. Few areas of life provide such fertile ground for our personal growth as do our human relationships.

According to The Brotherhood of Light Lessons, each one of our life challenges also provides an opportunity

for personal growth. Each time we successfully meet and overcome any obstacle in our lives, we grow in skill and ability. The Source of All Life wants us to grow in love and wisdom and discover our place in the Divine Plan. It is up to each one of us, even amidst the darkness of our personal struggles, to find the meaning and the purpose of our lives.

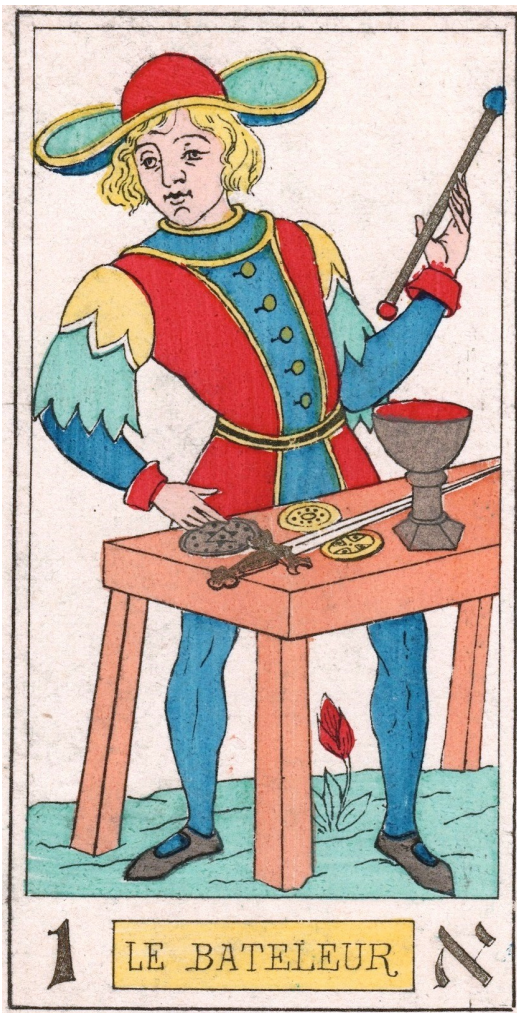
This issue of the Quarterly explores the theme of the Semi-sextile, whose experiences are summarized in the word Growth. Our personal growth does not come merely by virtue of our being alive – it comes as the result of concerted effort. Frequently that effort is birthed through the process of careful analysis and evaluation of the areas of our characters that need improvement. More often than not, pain is the indicator that something is remiss in our lives and requires correction. Usually what we discover is that there is a habit of thinking, feeling or behaving that is creating painful and negative interactions with the world. Our next step is arriving at a plan of correction. This requires making a concerted effort to replace destructive habit systems with constructive new habits. This is the space described by Frankl where we choose our response to stimulus. This may be the hardest work in the world, yet it is the work that guarantees our personal growth. As Stellarians working on becoming Adepts, we can no longer afford knee-jerk reactions to the stimuli of our world. Instead we reclaim what Frankl describes as: “our power to choose our response,” and at the same time we choose our opportunities for personal growth.



Membership Room

Convention 2017: Magic

Dates: June 21-25, 2017



Objective: For participants to gain a greater understanding of the larger role of ceremony, ritual and magic in world culture and religion, and The Brotherhood of Light viewpoint on how unseen (occult) forces can be utilized to influence and alter the courses of events.

Online Registration

<https://www.light.org/about-conventions.cfm>

Schedule of Topics

- ◆ Religion and Magic: An Anthropological Viewpoint
- ◆ Ceremony, Ritual Magic and Magical Paraphernalia
- ◆ Rhythmic Breathing: Vitalizing the Magical Act
- ◆ Timing is Everything: Astrological Planning of Rituals
- ◆ Rallying Forces: Magnetizing Talismans, Amulets and Charms
- ◆ Mental Magic: The Importance of Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion
- ◆ Defense Against the Dark Arts: What Harry Potter can Teach Us About Psychic Self-defense
- ◆ The Path of White Magic: Radiating Life, Light and Love in the World



Location: Best Western Rio Grande Inn, Albuquerque, New Mexico

By popular demand we have again chosen the Best Western Rio Grande Inn to host our 2017 Conference. Located in Albuquerque's historic Old Town district, the Inn is walking distance to numerous unique shops, restaurants, galleries, and museums. A complimentary shuttle is available to transport you to and from the Albuquerque Sunport, Old Town Plaza, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the Albuquerque Biopark and numerous museums. Our special conference 2017 rate is \$88 a night (plus tax) for up to four adults to a room. These rates are valid for rooms reserved from June 20—26, should you want to attend the pre-conference tours or stay on after the conference. We strongly recommend making your reservation in advance as the group rate expires May 20, 2017.

To make your room reservation and receive our special group rate call: (505) 843-9500. Please identify yourself as a member of The **Church of Light**.



The Beacon

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In Memoriam

Jan Blomquist

March 6, 1938—September 22, 2016

Jan joined the Church of Light in August 1990 and achieved Hermetician status in July 1993. She was a much loved mentor and a frequent participant at the Colorado conventions in the 1990's.

Welcome New Hermetician

Tim Prichard



Branch Church - Fort Worth, Texas Activities



The Fort Worth Center offers Brotherhood of Light classes on the first and second Tuesdays of the month from 7-9 PM

Religious services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 11 AM

A schedule for the upcoming month is available on their website at: **owlswebnest.com**

All classes and services are held at:

Owl's Clover Bookstore
3037 James Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas

817-921-5809



Paul Brewer



Vicki Brewer



Margaret Dissinger



Christopher Gibson

Participate with us live at Church of Light Headquarters
in Albuquerque, New Mexico

First Sunday Roundtable Discussions

11 a.m.—12 noon

Third Sunday Religious Services

Join our ministerial team consisting of Paul Brewer, Vicki Brewer, Margaret Dissinger, Yvette Fortin, Christopher Gibson, Veiga O’Sickey, Patrick Ramsey and Radine Ramsey on the Third Sunday of the month at 11 AM Mountain Time for our monthly religious service.



Patrick Ramsey



Yvette Fortin



Radine Ramsey



Veiga O’Sickey

Calendar of Third Sunday Services: December 2016—May 2017

Date	Event	Officiant
December 18, 2016	Capricorn—Winter Solstice Service	Pat Ramsey
January 15, 2017	Aquarius Service	Radine Ramsey
February 19, 2017	Pisces Service	Veiga O’Sickey
March 19, 2017	Aries—Spring Equinox Service	Christopher Gibson
April 16, 2017	Taurus Service	Yvette Fortin
May 21, 2017	Gemini Service	TBA

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Building A Better World With A Better Vision! The Church of Light Vision For the 21st Century

OUR MISSION:

To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of human-kind 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.