



Spiritual Alchemy

The Laboratory

By CC Zain

(From Spiritual Alchemy, The Doctrine of Spiritual Alchemy)

In the writings of nearly all alchemists there appears a reference to the place of gold in nature. It is one of their cardinal doctrines. Eireanaeus Philalethes states it more clearly and concisely than most. He says:

“All metallic seed is the seed of gold; for gold is the intention of nature in regard to all metals. If the base metals are not gold, it is only through some accidental hindrance; they are all potentially gold.”

The alchemists thus consider gold the climax of metallic evolution. Souls undergoing their journey through the Cycle of Necessity when they first incarnate in the metallic realm enter the lowest and basest form. By means of their experiences in this lower metal they acquire the ability, when this metal runs its life course, of attracting to themselves and incarnating in, the form of a more complex, or higher, metal.

When a metal decomposes and releases its astral counterpart, this counterpart undergoes a period of assimilation of its experiences. In due time it is carried along by the life-wave to a new metallic incarnation, this time entering a metal a step higher in the scale of evolution. Its experiences in lower, or less complex, forms give it the ability to function in a form of higher construction. This process continues, according to the alchemists, until at last it reaches the highest and most perfect metal. It becomes incarnated in gold.

Gold is the highest form or principle possible to any particular realm. And because all souls are evolving, on the plane they occupy, toward its highest state, it is, as Philalethes says, “the intention of nature in regard to all metals.” If they have not yet reached this highest state, or condition, it is because they have not yet had sufficient experience to mold about themselves a golden form.

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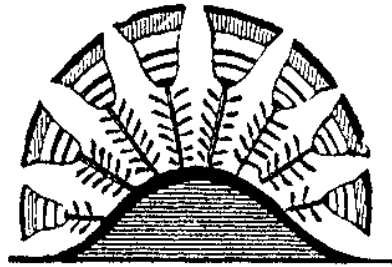
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Editorial Policy

The staff of the Church of Light Quarterly regularly receives questions about submitting material for publication in the Quarterly, as well about other publishing issues. Many of the questions can be answered by realizing The Church of Light is registered as a nonprofit religious organization. That means the Church and its various voices such as the Quarterly have certain limitations.

One is that neither the Church of Light nor any of its publications may enter the political arena regarding specific issues, people, or parties. To violate this legal policy is to put the church's nonprofit status in jeopardy. (Recently the Internal Revenue Service revoked the nonprofit status of a Christian church because of its placing a series of political ads in the New York Times. The courts so far have upheld the IRS' right to do so.)

Another limitation is that outside advertising cannot be published in the Quarterly. To do so would cause the Quarterly's bulk mailing privileges to be revoked.

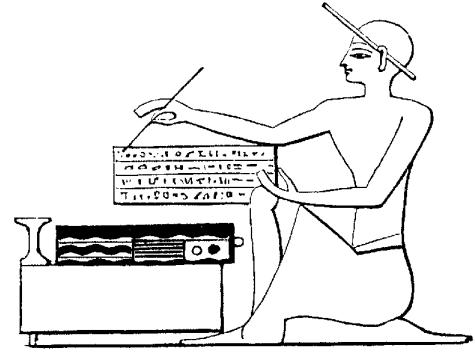
While keeping in mind the church's support of the fullest expression of freedom of speech, the editorial staff must retain the right to edit anything submitted for publication. Remembering the second paragraph above, political statements will be removed from works before they are published in the Quarterly. Libelous statements against anyone or any organization will be removed. The Quarterly staff also must edit for the more usual reasons, such as grammar, readability, and length.

Because of time and staff limitations, the Quarterly cannot accept lengthy hand-written articles. Please submit anything over one hundred words either typewritten, double-spaced, or on computer disk readable by IBM compatible computers. For submissions on disk, please specify the word processor used.

The editor feels the above policy reflects the Church of Light's aims and charter, and offers the fullest possibility of expression to contributors. Anyone wishing to submit a work for publication might wish to contact the editorial staff before producing the work, as not all submissions can be published. When submitting a work for possible publication, a self-addressed, stamped envelope should be included to allow the return of any material.

Thank you, The Quarterly Staff

Editorial



Why We Are Called The Church of Light

Editorial by Paul Brewer

Two of the more popular topics often discussed in CofL social circles include (1) the Church's chart and (2) our name, i.e., The CHURCH of Light. The Church's chart is a contentious subject due to the T-square of Uranus, Saturn and Pluto. The opposition of Saturn and Pluto (1st and 7th) has stimulated particularly difficult situations throughout the Church's history with regard to opposition, usually destructive, from certain member groups. Often you will run into discussion about re-incorporating the Church to get a better chart. While this certainly is a stimulating and important debate, it is not the primary reason for this article.

Rather, I direct your attention to the 9th house wherein our founder placed Venus, Jupiter and Neptune. This is because both the Brotherhood of Light, from which we sprang, and the Church of Light are dedicated to teaching, practicing and disseminating the RELIGION OF THE STARS, which we also refer to as the Stellarian Religion. The importance of this, in the mind of our founder, can be glimpsed by reading the following articles extracted from the December 1932 issue of the CofL Quarterly, published soon after the November 2, 1932 incorporation of the Church of Light. Included below is (1) the article by Elbert Benjamine on the transition from the BofL to the CofL (*The Church of Light* article), (2) the notice to the Brotherhood of Light membership, (3) Mr. Benjamine's list of advantages in being the CofL as opposed to the BofL, and finally (4) the original Articles of Incorporation. As you read this material, I invite you to consider what might have eventually happened in any event, with respect to the BofL to CofL transition, had Mr. Benjamine not been so concerned about the anti-astrological forces at the time of incorporation. I think that you will agree that the con-

version to the Church of Light was inevitable, sooner or later.

[Please note that any literary emphasis (capitalization, bold type, etc.) has been preserved as close to that used in the original article as possible.]

Church of Light Quarterly,
Vol. 06 No 4, Dec 1932

The Church of Light

by Elbert Benjamine

In the September Quarterly I pointed out in some detail that the planet Pluto rules (in addition to having a fine spiritual side) Gangsters and Racketeers. And as Uranus rules astrology, we need not be surprised that those interested in astrology have been severely affected by the square of Uranus to Pluto.

Apr. 21, 1932, Uranus came square Pluto, and at this time a deep plot was hatched to persecute those who believe in astrology and to make the practice of astrology and any distribution of astrological literature illegal.

Sept. 3, 1932, Uranus, now retrograde, again made the square to Pluto; and under this aspect the Council of the City of Los Angeles gave the first reading to a new ordinance which was part of the plot to abolish interest in astrology.

Sept. 19, 1932, the ordinance was given its second reading, and was passed by the Council by a vote of 10 to 2.

Oct. 3, 1932, in spite of the organized protest of those in Los Angeles who are interested in astrology, the

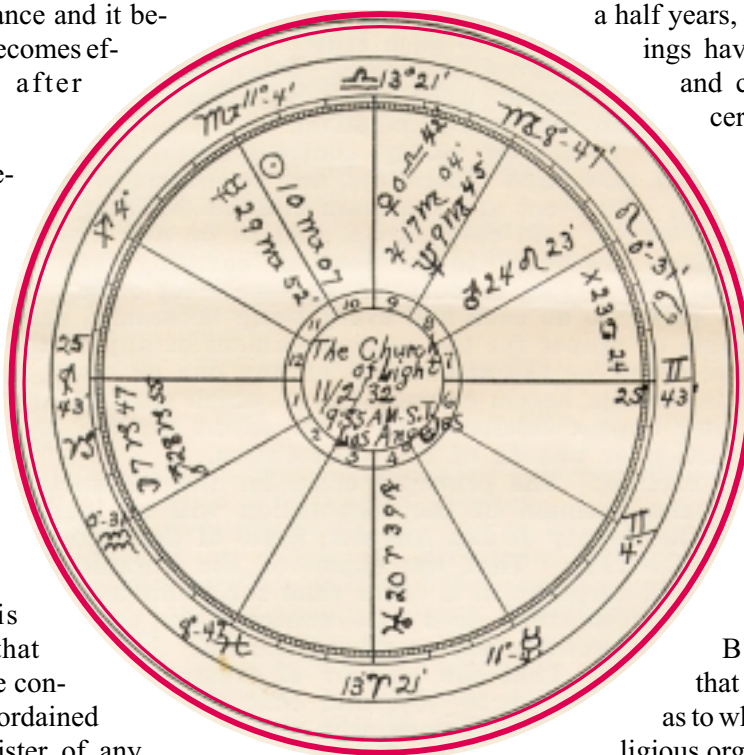
Mayor signed the ordinance and it became a law. Such a law becomes effective 30 days after publication.

According to the interpretation of the best legal talent obtainable, this ordinance makes it illegal for a person to give an astrological reading free of charge even to a member of his own family; and also prohibits either the sale or free distribution of astrological books and astrological literature such as this Quarterly "provided, that nothing in this ordinance contained shall apply to any ordained or duly accredited minister of any form of religious belief, or to the faith, practice or teaching of any religious body; provided that fees, gratuities, emoluments or profits therefore shall be paid solely to or for the benefit of said religious body."

Various attorneys consulted advised us that our only protection against this ordinance, and similar ordinances which have been passed, or are to be passed, in other cities, is to become incorporated as a church. And within less than 24 hours after the Council had signed the ordinance we had taken steps toward the formation of such a corporation.

Jupiter was exactly conjunction Neptune on Sept. 19. Jupiter rules religion, and Neptune rules altruistic associations such as The Brotherhood of Light always has been. Furthermore, The Brotherhood of Light already was a religious organization, as set forth in The Declaration of Principles, which each member reads before signing the application for membership. This Declaration of Principles, which was issued in May, 1915, and which has been used ever since, states in no uncertain terms that The Brotherhood of Light offers a course of lessons on each of the 21 branches of occult science, and that, "They are issued with the definite purpose of reviving THE RELIGION OF THE STARS."

As a religious organization, wherever our classes and meetings have been held during the last seventeen and



a half years, these classes and meetings have always been opened and closed with a religious ceremony.

Although we are already a religious body, in view of almost certain persecution for our astrological religious beliefs, it was the unanimous opinion of the lawyers consulted that it would be far better to incorporate, and use the word CHURCH instead of BROTHERHOOD, so that no question might arise as to whether or not we are a religious organization.

That those holding astrological beliefs will be persecuted further in the near future needs only the recognition that Uranus, turning direct, again makes the square to Pluto, March 7, 1933; turns retrograde and makes the square to Pluto again Nov. 7, 1933; and then turns direct and makes the final square to Pluto in January, 1934. Astrology is ruled by Uranus, and Pluto rules racketeers, therefore, the astrologers should be prepared to defend their religious beliefs and their constitutional rights.

One would not choose to start a new organization while the T of Uranus, Saturn and Pluto is operative. Yet when war is declared, one cannot wait until the planets have fine positions before starting to defend oneself. THE CHURCH OF LIGHT is, of course, merely the continuation of The Brotherhood of Light. The birth chart of the CHURCH, as such, is given above.

Church of Light Quarterly
Vol. 6 Dec 1932 No. 4

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF LIGHT

We are unable legally to transfer membership in The Brotherhood of Light to THE CHURCH OF LIGHT except through such members signing a new applica-

tion blank. Such a new application blank is enclosed, and we trust all who were previously members of The Brotherhood of Light will sign it, and send it in immediately for our files.

The Brotherhood of Light Annual

There will be no future issue of The Brotherhood of Light Annual which has been published for 13 years. A separate folder will be published listing all the 210 regular B. of L. lessons embraced within the 21 courses written by C. C. Zain in which is set forth THE RELIGION OF THE STARS, which The Church of Light is empowered to teach, practice, and disseminate.

The Church of Light QUARTERLY is issued in place of the Annual, and will be published March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1 of each year, commonly going to press 30 days before date of issue.

from same Quarterly issue as above

Advantages of The Church of Light

The Church of Light will retain for its members such advantages as were afforded by The Brotherhood of Light, and will afford certain other advantages as follows:

1. Members will be permitted to participate in the management of the Church through the election of the trustees or directors at the annual meeting.
2. Branch churches can be established and given a legal standing.
3. Those qualified can become ordained ministers or missionary teachers empowered legally to teach "The Religion of the Stars."
4. Gifts, donations, and legacies may be made to The Church of Light, with the assurance that all such shall be used to benefit "The Religion of the Stars," being administered by a board of trustees.
5. A corporation is an entity aside from any particular individuals, being unaffected in its standing as such by the death of any of its officers. The Church of Light, therefore, is a perpetual corporation, which is independent of the welfare of some particular individual.

The new corporation starts with a net worth of \$1,567.61. It is believed that under the present plan of management the capital will rapidly be increased by

gifts and bequests, and that it will be able far better to disseminate THE RELIGION OF THE STARS than was The Brotherhood of Light.

Church of Light Quarterly
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ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE CHURCH OF LIGHT

Know all men by these presents:

That we, the undersigned, citizens and residents of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the laws of the State of California, and we hereby certify:

FIRST: That the name of the corporation shall be, THE CHURCH OF LIGHT.

SECOND: That the purposes for which this corporation is formed are:

To teach, practice, and disseminate "The Religion of the Stars," as set forth in 21 courses of lessons covering each of the 21 branches of occult science, as written by C. C. Zain under the auspices of "The Brotherhood of Light," and especially

(a) To establish a church in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, and to establish branch churches thereof and/or other churches throughout the world, and, in connection therewith, suitable and customary organizations for the purpose of holding religious services and ceremonies in accordance with "THE RELIGION OF THE STARS," as set forth in the 21 courses of lessons covering each of said 21- branches of occult science.

(b) To regularly and duly teach, train, qualify, elect, appoint and ordain ministers and teachers and send them forth empowered to teach "The Religion of the Stars," and to offer and to give relief to humanity from ail manner of sickness and from all manner of disease, whether spiritual, mental or physical, all as under the teachings of the said "The Religion of the Stars," as set forth and comprised within the said courses of lessons mentioned.

(c) To cultivate social intercourse among its members and attendants and to assist in improving and ameliorating the spiritual, mental, moral, physical and social conditions of all its supplicants.

(d) To govern the spiritual, mental and physical welfare of the members of this corporation and the attendants of "The Church of Light," in accordance with the teachings of "The Religion of the Stars" as above mentioned.

(e) To organize and conduct classes for the purpose of disseminating knowledge pertaining to the spiritual and scientific principles involved in the accomplishment of the objects of this corporation.

(f) To publish, sell and distribute books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other literature on astrology, occultism, psychic phenomena, spiritualism, psychology, new thought, and kindred subjects, and to manufacture and sell other supplies required by students of "The Religion of the Stars."

(g) To accumulate a fund for the relief of sick and destitute persons and other charitable purposes connected and commensurate with the aims and objects of this corporation.

(h) To receive property by devise or bequest, subject to the laws regulating the transfer of property by will, and to otherwise acquire and hold all property, real or personal, including shares of stock, bonds and securities of other corporations.

(i) To act as trustee under any trust incidental to the principal object of the corporation, and to receive, hold, administer, and expend funds and property subject to such trust.

(j) To convey, exchange, lease, mortgage, encumber, transfer upon trust or otherwise dispose of all property, real or personal.

(k) To borrow money, contract debts, and issue bonds, notes and debentures, and secure the same.

(l) To erect and maintain suitable buildings for the use of said corporation, and to do any and all things necessary to be done in carrying out the purpose of said corporation as herein set forth.

(m) To do each and every thing necessary, suitable or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes, or the attainment of any one or more of the objects herein enumerated or which shall at any time appear conducive to or expedient for the protection or benefit of this corporation.

THIRD: The principal office for the transaction of the business of the corporation will be located in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

FOURTH: That the object of the organization of said corporation is other than for profit and that this corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof.

FIFTH: That the number of trustees or directors shall be three (3), and that the names and addresses of the persons who are appointed to act as the first trustees or directors are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Elbert Benjamine, Los Angeles, Calif.	
Fred H. Skinner, Los Angeles, Calif.	
Elizabeth D. Benjamine, Los Angeles, Calif.	

SIXTH: The number of trustees or directors of the corporation may be changed by a by-law regularly adopted as may be provided in the by-laws.

SEVENTH: That by-laws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees and/or Directors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereto set our hands . . . ✎

The Laboratory *(Continued from Page 1)*

This is an "accidental hindrance; they are all potentially gold."

The same thought, encompassing a vastly wider scope was stated by a Hermetic Master: "Every immortal soul is the seed of a universe."

In this he has gone even above the plane of spiritual alchemy; for he is dealing with the alchemy of the angelic state. Having accomplished the Great Work, he was looking to the plane next above his own level, and imparting his conception of what he there saw to one still below who was struggling yet with the problems of spiritual transmutation.

All souls are the seed of spiritual gold. They are undergoing those experiences, slowly or rapidly, by which ultimately they will be able to build about themselves a perfect spiritual form. It is the intention of nature that they become immortal, and unless some untoward circumstances arise, ultimately they will arrive at that exalted state. Their experiences with life may as yet all be base metal, and mostly dross at that. Nevertheless, there is a grain of pure gold within. It is the eternal ego.

Continued on page 16

Hermetic Path

Another Piece of the Hermetic Puzzle

Vicki Brewer, Hermetician and Minister

In Sienna Italy there resides a remarkable piece of the Hermetic story. Rarely is found such a graphic portrayal of our tradition. Perhaps only those of us who know that our brothers and sisters who preceded us kept the lamp lit in secret will recognize its significance.

Interestingly, in the land of the Christian church many fragments of our Hermetic past are woven into the images of Christian art and architecture. For most part the images, such as the astrological signs, can be explained away as an artistic representation of the passage of time. The Sienna cathedral cradles within an image that not only stands alone, but when taken into the context of these other Hermetic fragments, is an unmistakable piece of the Hermetic story!

For various reasons, mostly political, the story of Hermeticism has been fragmented and frayed. Missing a few pieces here and there, as a body or system, it seems resilient, surviving the tests of time.

Finally, during the present new age of freedom and enlightenment, humankind will be freer to explore the past and draw independent and useful conclusions. Each time a new thread is discovered, it will be woven into the larger image enabling us to see the whole more clearly. Mostly, we reconstruct these fragmented yarns together into whole stories within the context of other stories. Over time, through archaeological, anthropological and philosophical investigation, more and more of the delicate and frayed threads are gathered and framed into a consistency that has the markings of what can be termed truth or integrity.

One Hermetic story or notion, reasonably accurate and holding great fascination, is the idea of a “Divine Plan” and how it may be possible to gain a better grasp



**“HERMES MERCURIUS TRIMEGISTUS
CONTEMPORANEUS MOYSI”**

Inscribed on the tablet, supported by two sphinxes is: “Deus omnium creator secum Deum fecit visibilem et hunc fecit primum et solum quo oblectatus est et valde amavit proprium Filium qui appellatur Sanctum Verbum.” Upon the pages of the open book is inscribed, “Suscipite o licteras et leges Egiptii.”

of this plan by examining the time tapestry as it is defined by progressing the various "Ages." From reading Burgoyne and Benjamine, students form a picture that the various ages are fixed and marked by specific qualities. Each period carrying within its time frame a specific potential that forms an integral and important part of the fabric of the whole of existence. According to Hermetic tradition, each "Age" passes its treasured knowledge and traditions to the next, forming the foundation upon which the next "Age" is constructed. For example, The Age of Taurus was a time of domestic tranquility. We know these people by the magnificent culture they left behind. They recorded their knowledge in a very physical manner...in the pyramids, the sphinx and the chambers of the dead. Clearly, they were a people who built and paid homage to the material world a quality associated with the astrological sign Taurus.

Into the Aries world of the Jewish tradition, Moses brought the knowledge he gained by his study in the Egyptian schools of magic. The Age of Aries was a fiery time. Reading the Old Testament leaves no doubt in one's mind that Deity is pictured as a wrathful, vengeful and whimsical God. The Jewish people fought hard to win their freedom from Egypt. Though they fought for their freedom they also carried into the new age the Hermetic knowledge that survives today in the form of the Kabala. From the Aries Age, Jesus who studied with the Jews, transformed that message into one of Brotherly Love, which characterizes the Age of Pisces. It also gave birth to great works of art and music (Venus exalted in Pisces) as well as the mystical, belief-based Christian religion.

Intuitively, this notion of the progress of the "Ages" through time makes sense but occasionally there is a piece of evidence...a piece of the time tapestry that confirms we are not the first to notice how interconnected these fragments are. Somehow this is comforting and serves as a confirmation that we are following a thread of truth.

In Sienna Italy there is a cathedral sitting atop the highest point of the fortress-like city. At first view, one's inclination is to remain outside and admire it from a distance. Though distant, it calls. Having the goal of hiking to the cathedral from the bottom of the hill is no guarantee of arrival. Even with a map, comprehension of the intelligence behind the intricately

woven streets is illusive. Somehow this is appropriate, for it seems to mirror the Hermetic puzzle. And, just as each sincere question has an answer, there also is a resolution to the mysteriously intertwined streets that eventually leads to the top of the hill. Upon arrival, there resides a great prize.

The first clue that one is about to embark on something out of the ordinary is found on the parvis outside the entrance. It is not designed out of the average stone pavement...it is composed of a series of beautiful marble mosaics that turn out to be only a preliminary introduction to what is cloistered inside. Upon walking through the massive wooden doors into the central part of the cathedral, one is left breathless at the sight of the intricately patterned marble arches, walls, ceilings and floor. As the eyes explore the vast canyons of cool, black and white marble it is difficult not to become lost in its global grandeur and beauty. But then, directly in front of the entrance, as if to announce its significance, there is found the most startling piece of marble tapestry...the prize. Simply, and unmistakably, laid out before one's feet is a very important piece of the time tapestry. It is a depiction of two figures. One is Hermes Trismegistis who is passing the book (of nature) to the second figure, Moses. It is a confirmation of this story of the Ages and how the traditions have been passed, intact, in the form of the book of nature through time. Hermes, from the Age of Taurus is passing the Book directly to Moses who represents the Age of Aries.

Somehow knowing that an artisan by the name of Giovanni de Stefano (ca 1443-1504) paid homage and witness to this piece of Hermetic wisdom somehow seems to affirm that the present quest for connection to the past is solidly placed. His ability to weave this story into the marble floor of this cathedral so that it could become an intact portion of the story of Hermeticism is nothing short of exciting. His work unites each witness with the past, and becomes a part of the emerging and more completely seen fabric of time. Now a continuous fabric rather than fragmented pieces of frayed and lost images is seen.

Real excitement comes from the awareness that as we come to understand our past, not only do we live more fully in the present, we are able to more completely see the time tapestry of the future thereby comprehending more fully the notion of God's Great Plan. 🐉



Money and the Hermetic Path

Is Money the Root of All Evil?

Staff

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

— King James Bible, 1 Timothy 6:10

C.C. Zain wrote that the religion of our childhoods often is the one through which we see the world and act upon it. How many of us, who have earned the right to call ourselves Stellarians, still carry in our souls conditioning from the religions of our parents? Do we see the phrase “atheistic materialism” and emotionally translate it to mean that all material pursuits are bad? Do we think of John the Baptist or Jesus as literal role models without thinking what their poverty symbolized? We often make the mistake of seeing one person’s path as The Path for all of us at all times. Actually, each of us has a unique path. Although we may need to experience poverty at one time to learn one lesson, another time our lesson will come through abundance. The only way to tell which is right for us at a given time is to read the Book of Nature, Reality.

C.C.Zain also wrote that, as we transmigrate through many the many forms needed to find our true places in the universe and fill those places, we must learn to ever more efficiently gather, save, and use energy in its various forms.

The scientific definition of energy is “the ability to do work.” In our current culture, money obviously is one form of stored energy, because we can exchange it to cause work to be done.

Is it wrong to covet money, pushing aside love, wisdom, and what the Book of Nature tries to show us? Certainly.

Is it right, when the Book of Nature indicates, to become competent in earning, saving, and using money to help ourselves and others evolve? Certainly.

Please examine any negative and inaccurate conditioning that may still exist. Please help the Church of Light continue to make available the teachings you have found so valuable. 🐾





Mark your calendar

discover kindred spirits during a Divine weekend
beginning Friday March 31, thru April 2, 2000.

See page 12 for details...

Stellarian Honor Guard

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

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

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

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

May we all grow and prosper together!

Guardian Angels

- Barbara & Donald Baker
- Sally Masterson Baker
- Paul & Vicki Brewer
- Steve & Bessie Carrothers
- Dr. Russ Durocher
- Donald Granger
- Margaret Joscher
- Randall Kevin Hart
- Gregory Taylor
- Dorothy & Roland Wissler

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Cosmic Alchemy

Is Silence Always Golden?

(Occult uses of music.)

by Wm. H. Jeffrey

“Music is good for us, or bad for us, in proportion to the elevation or degradation of the impulses which it arouses.” C.C.Zain, *Cosmic Alchemy, Major Aids to Spiritual Advancement*.

Two weeks ago I bought a retrospective collection of Mel Torme’s music. Over the years I have enjoyed the “Velvet Fog’s” singing, so my purchase was a natural. The first CD included his early works which had the slow, languorous, emotional quality of the 1940’s music. As I listened through the later works, I noticed that Mel’s style and choices of songs changed. As he moved through the be-bop era, the relaxed but loose “beat” inspired jazz, and the other stylistic mini-eras which culminated for him at his death, Mel’s musical craftsmanship evolved.

What also struck me was that he sang the music of his time. My realization about that was that, (admittedly biased from an occultist’s viewpoint), in addition to producing music sweet to the ear, he also helped ingrain and fixate the consciousness and beliefs of his time, and lull the listeners into a state of complacency. His music, as that of other artists, included songs of neuroses and disappointment, of immature infatuations and other sugar-coated emotional attitudes which the subconscious often finds easy to absorb and make part of its world view.

So, was this a bad thing?

One idea that frequently surfaces regarding occult ideas and exercises is that they are prescriptive. That is, the idea or exercise is not universally applicable,

but, rather, to be applied when appropriate, like a prescription given by a physician for a specific illness. Applying this concept to the question about the music of Mel Torme and others, we might ask what purpose we wish it to serve.

As occultists dedicated to intentional and intelligent progressive evolution, do we wish to have our subconscious’s soothed by music? Do we wish to be kept on edge by other, more raucous or intense music? Do we wish for the music to pump us up, increase our brain-wave frequencies, raise our heartbeat rate, and make us want to get up and move? Do we wish our music to lower our physical stress level and allow our brain hemispheres to synchronize and more easily exchange signals, thereby allowing us to enter the meditative state? (And in entering that state, allow our rigid thought structures to relax, thus allowing us to see in new ways?) Or should we just have no music, thus allowing us to experience our thought realm without the external imposition of someone else’s rhythm and harmony?

Apparently the answer to all of the above questions is “Yes.” But the “Yes” depends on what we want the music or silence to do at the time we wish it to do it.

Now the question from moment to moment becomes, “What do I want to be doing right now, and how can I more effectively do it?”

Can music help us be more effective? Surely--if we prescribe rightly for ourselves. ✎

Stellarian Convention 2000

Angels



Archangels

Cherubim

Seraphim

Cupids

Protecting us

Dancing on heads of pins

Ordering the galaxies

A stage of our destinies

Our inner powers

Invisible helpers



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YOU AND THE ANGELS

by Rev. Dr. Russ Durocher



DURING the past decade the current “new age movement” (in its more superficial and trendy expressions) has witnessed a veritable explosion of interest in the phenomenon of angels. There are films about angels, television series and documentaries about angels, literally hundreds of books about angels, angel Tarot decks, and now, even a type of “ouija board” focused on angels. All things “angelic” presently have an immediate fascination and seemingly irresistible appeal in the popular mind — and not surprisingly, considering both angels and current fads and fashions are expressions of the Utopian Urges mapped by the Planet Neptune.

This is not to suggest that the current “angel fad” is without merit or benefit. Scores of people (according to media coverage) report everything from physical healings to protection from danger and rescues from accidents — and attribute these things to real experiences with angelic intervention. Apparently the current fascination with the angelic realms is tuning up the vibratory rate of many thousands of people and enabling them to temporarily contact the higher regions of the Inner Plane.

In *THE BROTHERHOOD OF LIGHT LESSONS, COURSE XX, THE NEXT LIFE*, C.C. Zain writes:

“Whatever your dominant vibratory rate may be, you customarily occupy the astral level having approximately this basic rate. Through extension of consciousness you can temporarily contact other levels, and enable entities of the levels thus temporarily contacted to get in touch with you.”

The current “angel movement,” understood in such terms, appears to be a significant step in the raising of race consciousness.

Zain continues, explaining angels thus:

“There are certain highly developed discarnate individuals who have acquired the power to thus raise or lower their dominant vibratory rate at will. They are commonly called angels, or exalted spirits. Normally

living on a level of high frequency — perhaps, let us say, in the seventh astral state, just on the boundary of the spiritual realm — for the purpose of service they lower their dominant vibratory rate through mood control. They dial down from high frequency to low frequency, and as they do so they pass the various levels and enter successively the worlds corresponding to these levels. They are thus seen by those who permanently, or more temporarily occupy these realms.

“As such a one moves through a world with a basic vibratory level he is glimpsed, even as when you turn the radio dial past a certain carrier wave you for an instant pick up the program being broadcast over that frequency. Thus the angel disappears also because he moves out of vibratory range into a different one. And he has the power, through mood control, to stop on any one of these levels and teach or minister to its inhabitants.”

In classical Hebrew Kabbalah, the angels (known as *KERUBIM* — “Cherubs”) are related to *YETZIRAH*, the third of the four Kabbalistic worlds, known as the Formative World. This seems to correlate well with Zain’s explanation: “...living on a level of high frequency ... in the seventh astral state, just on the boundary of the spiritual realm.”

Actually, according to the esoteric Hebrew Tradition, there ten types of “certain highly developed discarnate individuals who have acquired the power to thus raise or lower their dominant vibratory rate at will” (ref. Zain) — the Angelic Choirs, grouped as follows: the *CHAYOTH HA QADESH* (Holy Living Creatures), known as the Seraphim; the *OPHANIM* (Wheels), known as the Cherubim; the *ARALIM* (Mighty Ones), known as the Thrones; the *HASHMALIM*, known as the Dominations; the *SERAPHIM* (Flaming Serpents), known as the Powers; the *MELEKIM* (Kings), known as the Virtues; the *ELOHIM* (Gods), known as the Principalities; the *BENI ELOHIM* (Sons of the Gods), known as the Archangels; the *KERUBIM* (Cherubs), known as the Angels; and the

ESHIM (Flames), known as the Souls of the Redeemed.

High Ceremonial Magic of the Kabbalistic Tradition lays great emphasis on the formal invocation of the Archangels. Hebrew esoteric practice attributes the Archangels to the second of the four Kabbalistic worlds, known as the Creative World. This is the region immediately above (or interior to) the Formative World.

To the Kabbalist, speech (invocation) is the medium of God's revelation, making language itself sacred and thus a medium of mystical contemplation. In the Kabbalistic Tradition, the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet are viewed as profound realities and components of a living language of Universal Light, as well as primal spiritual forces which are the building blocks of Creation. Each Hebrew letter is a specified channel connecting Heaven with Earth in some form. Through contemplation of correct combinations of letters (including the sacred names of Angels, Archangels, and other exalted beings), the Kabbalist may eventually ascend (in consciousness) to high vibratory levels and gain ecstatic mystical experience and prophetic vision. Contact with angelic beings through use of words of power is embraced by many traditions and there are many idiomatic expressions in not only Hebrew, but also Sanskrit, Tibetan, Arabic, and other languages that are purportedly designed for stimulating contact with higher intelligences.

As part of their prayer ritual before retiring at night, many Jews throughout the ages have intoned a petition that they be given protection by the four mighty Archangels — Michael (Mik-kah-el), Gabriel (Gabh-ri-el), Uriel (Oo-ri-el), and Raphael (Ra-pha-el).

Traditionally, Michael is known as the greatest of all angelic beings and the special guardian of our solar system. Michael ("who is as God") is revered by Jews, Muslims, and Christians as the Prince of Angels and a mighty protective force who can be called upon at any time and any place. He is the Archangel of the Sun. The great "Sword of Light" wielded by Michael, with the "flame letters" of the Hebrew alphabet inscribed on it, cuts asunder the veil of darkness and ignorance that separates us from our true identities as "beings of light." The name of Michael can be invoked by anyone who feels threatened by negative forces as often as needed. Michael also assists the aspirant with expanding the consciousness to embrace a wider and deeper perception of Truth.

Gabriel ("God is my strength") is also a highly regarded Archangel in various world religions. Gabriel is both the angel of retribution and mercy, death and resurrection, annunciation and revelation. Gabriel and Michael are the only two angels mentioned by name in the Old Testament.

Gabriel appeared to Mary, the mother of Jesus (as recounted in the Gospel of Luke), and to Mohammed, to whom tradition holds he dictated the Koran. Invocation of Gabriel can assist with unfolding one's cosmic work.

Uriel ("Fire of God") is, according to Hebrew lore, the Archangel of salvation and a messenger of God who, it is claimed, gave the mystical teachings of the Kabbalah to humanity. Uriel is said to assist aspirants reach a greater and deeper appreciation of the Love and Beauty of all Creation.

Raphael ("God has healed") is revered as the greatest healing angel of our planet, and can be invoked separately from the other three Archangels to aid the sick. Raphael is most recognized as the angel who helped young Tobias on his journey (as related in the Old Testament Apocraphal book of Tobit). Raphael is said to be especially fond of travelers and is usually pictured in sandled feet with a walking staff in his left hand. Legend recounts that he was the angel who was sent by God to heal Jacob of injury after the Father of Israel had wrestled with another angel (identified by several sources as Metatron or Michael). Raphael can be invoked to aid in healing old emotional wounds, as well as for physical issues.

The traditional Jewish evening chant invoking the help and protection of all four mighty Archangels, translated from the Hebrew, is:

In the Name of the Lord, God of Israel:
May Michael be at my right hand;
Gabriel at my left;
Before me, Uriel
Behind me, Raphael;
And above my head, the Divine Presence.

In reciting this chant in English, the approximate Hebrew pronunciations (phonetics given earlier) of the four Archangelic names should be used, so that the vibratory power of the original may be captured.



Within the stream of Church of Light Teachings and The Religion of the Stars Tradition, THE BROTHER-

HOOD OF LIGHT LESSONS author, C.C. Zain, offers considerable detail on the topic of angels in Courses II, III, IV, VII, XVIII (together with extensive information on Ceremonial Magic and religious ritual), XIX, and XX. BofL Initiate Thomas Burgoyne also writes extensively about the Archangels in his two-volume, *THE LIGHT OF EGYPT*.

In *THE HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD OF LUXOR* (pp 207 - 212) authors Godwin, Chanel and Deveney reproduce a private BofL Manuscript for the "Second Part: Rite of Consecration of Crystals and of Mirrors" in which detailed formularies are given for calling upon the Archangel Michael and several other Archangels, together with an elaborate and dramatic prayer for "Evocation of a Spirit."

The section concludes with a list of attributions for Michael, Gabriel, Samael, Anael, Zachariel, and Cassiel for use when asking specific questions with a magic mirror or crystal.

Western esoteric practice (including the Gnostic Tradition, in which they are associated with portions of the liturgical year) has often attributed the four Archangels to the four classical elements, the four directions of the compass and the four seasons: Raphael to the element Air, to the East and to the Winter Quarter of the year (Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces); Gabriel to the element Water, to the West and to the Spring Quarter (Aries, Taurus and Gemini); Michael to the element Fire, to the South and to the Autumn Quarter (Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius); and Uriel to the element Earth, to the North and to the Summer Quarter (Cancer, Leo and Virgo).

In keeping with Brotherhood of Light Teachings, it can be helpful to view the Archangels not only as Divine Messengers, Ministers, and Teachers, but also as representative of our own future state of Angelhood. By holding this Image of Perfection before the consciousness, reinforced by frequent attunement to the Archangelic forces, unfoldment may possibly be enhanced and accelerated.



Derived from Order of the Golden Dawn-based sources is a simple ritual for invocation of the Divine Power and the four mighty Archangels:

Standing and facing East, imagine a brilliant white Light touching the top of the head. Reach up with the index finger to connect with the Light and bring it to the forehead.

Touch the forehead and intone: "ATAH" (Ah-tah — "Thou art")

Touch the breast and bring the index finger down and point to the ground.

See the Light descending from the forehead to the feet. Intone: "MALKUTH" (Mahl-kooth — "The Kingdom")

Touch the right shoulder and visualize the Light there. See a beam of Light run through the center of the body and forming a horizontal beam from the heart that joins with the point of Light at the right shoulder. Intone: "VEGEBURAH" (V'ge-boo-rah — "and the Power")

Touch the left shoulder and see a point of Light there. See the horizontal beam of Light from the heart join this point of Light. Intone: "VE-GEDULAH" (V'ge-doo-lah — "and the Glory")

See a completed cross of Light running from head to feet and shoulder to shoulder. Bring the hands outward, away from the body, and then bring them together again, clasped against the breast. Intone: "LE-OLAHM, AMEN," (Lay-oh-lahm, ah-men — "Forever unto the ages")

Continue to face East. Intone: "Before me RAPHAEL." Visualize in front of you the great Archangel of Air rising out of the clouds in flowing robes of yellow and violet, carrying a Caduceus.

Visualize another figure behind you. Intone: "Behind me GABRIEL." See Gabriel stepping out of the sea in robes of blue and orange, with a chalice in hand.

To your right see another figure in flaming red and green robes, bearing a sword. Intone: "On my right hand, MICHAEL."

On your left, see another Archangel, rising up from the Earth, clothed in robes of citrine, olive, russet and black, holding stems of ripe wheat. Intone: "On my left hand, URIEL."

Then intone: "Holy art thou, Lord of the Universe! Holy art thou, whom Nature hath not formed! Holy art thou, the vast and the Mighty One! Lord of the Light and of the Darkness! Amen."

* (See note at end)

Or, a simple, but effective Healing Prayer, may be used:

HAIL, ANGELS of the Healing Art!
Come to my aid!
Pour forth your Healing Life into me
For I am seeking wholeness.
Let every cell be charged anew with vital force.
To every nerve give peace.
Let tortured sense be soothed.
May the rising tide of Life set every limb aglow,
As by your Healing Power both body and soul are re-
newed
Leave with me an Angel Watcher,
To comfort and protect,
To ward away all ill and hasten the unfolding strength.
May Mighty Michael help me to accept the Sword of
Truth;
May the Healing Power of Holy Raphael heal my old
emotional wounds.
May I find the strength to fulfill my life's mission
with the help of Holy Gabriel;
and be guided by Holy Uriel to the full appreciation
of the love and beauty of Creation.
Hail, Angels of the Healing Art!
Come to my aid and share with me the labours of this
earth,
That God may be set free in me and in all people.



Without discounting the current popular interest in the
angelic realms; sincere study of Kabbalistic Tradition,
coupled with frequent invocation of Divine Aid from
the Spiritual Messengers of the Universe — the An-

gels and Archangels, affords the serious student of
practical occultism a rich field for enhancement of
consciousness, spiritual upliftment, authentic bless-
ings — and even the occasional “miracle”.



Rev. Dr. Russ Durocher was clergy-trained in the An-
glo-Catholic (High Episcopal) Church. After much
independent occult and astrological study, he left
mainstream religion, joined The Church of Light in
1981, and has pursued an independent ministry/priest-
hood in the Gnostic, Sacramental and Ceremonial
Magical Tradition, together with an active Teaching
Ministry and Professional Counseling Practice in
which he uses the tools of Hermetic Astrology. He is
founder and facilitator of Universal Life Fellowship of
the Inner Light, Phoenix, Arizona, and Priest at the
Private Gnostic Chapel of Holy Raphael and All An-
gels, where the Supreme Rites of Gnostic Alchemy are
regularly celebrated, as well as a Healing Service in
which the Archangels are invoked for all in need.
Names are received from around the world for inclu-
sion in the Services. Reports of healings and blessings
due to the help of the Archangels are frequent and of-
ten quite “miraculous.”

We are happy to receive names for inclusion in the
Services. You may mail your requests to: Universal
Life Fellowship, P.O. Box 86850, Phoenix, AZ
85080-6850,

AND/OR EMAIL: RDuroc8707@aol.com 🐾

The Laboratory *(Continued from Page 6)*

In due time, under the slow process of nature, all will
be changed into gold.

But the spiritual alchemist does not wish to await the
slow and ponderous workings of unaided nature. The
fact that in centuries to come she will ultimately con-
vert all his metals into gold is interesting philosophi-
cally and scientifically, but it does not satisfy his
present ambition. He has no desire to await a long pro-
cess by which additional experiences may be had on
the astral plane and through which these and earthly
experiences may be more fully assimilated. If he is to
have an immortal spiritual body, why wait perhaps
countless eons? Instead of permitting nature to do it all

in her deliberate way, why not help her? Why not ac-
celerate the process and by intelligently directed effort
build up this immortal form so that he may have it
now? This is what the spiritual alchemist determines
to do.

He, like other alchemists, must have a laboratory in
which to labor. The laboratory of any alchemist is de-
termined largely by the kind of work at hand. The ma-
terial alchemist must have a place where he may keep
his furnace, cupels, chemical reagents, retorts, cruci-
bles, test tubes, fluxes, and the metals upon which he
experiments. But the spiritual alchemist needs a more
comprehensive laboratory. The metals with which he
works are the experiences of life. His materials he col-
lects from the whole domain of nature. These he con-
verts to his uses in the laboratory of his own soul. 🐾

From the Church of Light Archives

Rising Star

Vol 16 Sep 1942 No 3

Three Ways to Control Your Stars

–EB/Anon

Many years ago Pavlov, the Russian scientist, experimenting with dogs, found that he could induce neurasthenia in them. First he would set problems for a dog that were not too difficult, by the solution of which it could reach food. From time to time new problems, in the way of opening doors, etc., would be set, but still within the mental ability of the dog to learn to perform. Then after the dog's confidence that he could reach the food had built up, he would present a problem so difficult that the dog could not solve it.

Under these circumstances the dog would fret and worry day after day – as some people fret and worry because they cannot balance the financial budget, or because they cannot control their children, or because they cannot keep up with the Joneses – until it was in a state of nervous exhaustion. Finally it would begin to act strangely, to be irritable, to start at every sound, to bay at the moon, to refuse to touch food, and to exhibit all the symptoms of insanity.

Thus did Pavlov, who won the Nobel prize in 1901, learn how conflicts between mental factors lead to neurasthenia and may result in insanity.

During the last three years, as reported by TIME magazine, issue of June 8, 1942, Jules H. Masserman of the University of Chicago has made some 200 animals neurotic through developing in them powerful mental conflicts. But after thus developing mental derangement, Masserman restored them to normal life. This he did by reconciling the mental conflict which was responsible for the condition.

The harmonizing of the mental factors of one group was accomplished through reassurance and suggestion; of another group through developing pleasure in facing and triumphing over the apparent peril, fear of which was one contending factor in the mental conflict; and of the third group by permitting them at leisure to examine the apparatus which had been used to

build up the conflict and learn about it for themselves. With sufficient insight into the sequence of things, even as psychoanalysis has been employed to reconcile the conflicts within the minds of people, the conflicts disappeared and the animals became normal.

These experiments have a high value as indicating both the cause and cure of much human mental derangement. But they are mentioned here because that which is mapped by a discordant aspect in the birth-chart has also been built by conflicts between mental factors; has been thus built by the soul in lower forms of life before its birth as a human being. A discordant aspect maps mental factors in the unconscious which are unreconciled. And these mental factors in conflict work from the inner plane to attract misfortune into the life. They are as blind to the individual's desires and welfare as were Pavlov's dogs when they became so crazy they would not touch food, or Masserman's cats some of which also refused to eat.

When these thought-cell groups within the unconscious mind are harmonized, and no longer frustrated by being opposed by other thought-cell groups, they cease to work to attract events into the life which are at variance with the desires of the individual. And to the extent this harmonizing process is successful will the difficulties mapped in the birth-chart and by progressed aspects disappear, and more fortunate events take their place.

Events are the result of the action of thought-cell groups, or mental factors, working from the inner plane to realize their desires, and the resistance of the physical environment to the conditions they strive to bring about. Events of importance only come into people's lives when there are characteristic progressed aspects present; for only then do special thought-cell groups get enough additional energy to bring to pass the events they want. This energy of progressed aspects also influences the nature of the thought-cell desires,

making them more inclined toward events beneficial to the individual if the aspect is harmonious, and more inclined toward events inimical to the individual if the aspect is discordant.

Therefore, even as Masserman found three methods of reconciling the mental conflicts within his cats, so are there three methods through which aspects can be handled. One method is to give the thought-cells more harmonious energy with which to work, chiefly through utilizing planetary Rallying Forces. Another

is to alter the composition of the thought-cells through Conversion or Mental Alchemy. In either of these methods, because the mental conflicts have been reconciled the thought-cells desire and work for more fortunate events. The third method is to select a type of environment in which the thought-cells, whatever their desires, will not have sufficient power to bring to pass the disagreeable event otherwise indicated.

(Thanks again to Barbara Kniffen for her excellent archiving work.) 🐾

A Brief History of Angels

(Thanks to Wanda Richardson and Camille Sale for providing this.)

Many people think that the Angels are a Christian belief. This couldn't be further from the truth. Angels are a gift given to us by the Goddess and the God for us to use in our daily lives. Not just only for those of a certain religion.

Angels have been around since the beginning of time. Supernatural winged creatures have been found in the ancient Mesopotamia and Sumeria. The Assyrians had their "kabiru" (the source of the word cherubim), winged beasts possessing features both animal and human. The role of the angel as protector can perhaps be traced to these ancestors, which acted as guards in Babylon and Sumeria.

The Greeks had "Hermes", the winged messenger. Hermes is often credited as being the source of the Archangel Michael. (Many of the Greek gods were molded into angels by the church in an attempt to convert the pagans.) The Greeks also had "daimones", spirits who came in both good and evil forms, the good ones being protectors. Daimones evolved into "demons" in Christianity, and in the process lost their good-natured brethren.

The Aryans who came to India and Persia around 2500 B.C. believed in "devas", meaning "shining ones". Perhaps it was from this that the angels inherited their charac-

teristics-the ability to shine, or radiate light. The "el" suffix so common in many of the angels' names is understood in several languages to mean "shining" or "radiant."

The devas made their way into the Veda, a collection of early sacred Hindu writings. They were closely aligned with the elements of nature, earth, air, fire, and water.

(Starting to sound familiar?)

Devas also found their way into Zoroastrianism. It was through this religion that the devas evolved into angels. They represented the concepts of wisdom, truth, immortality, deserved good luck, piety, salvation, and obedience. Each angel acts as the guardian of something-fire, for example.

Zoroaster's brand of angels took hold, and was handed down to Judaism, Christianity, and finally Islam. Islam's "malaika" (again, "messengers") are androgynous beings made of light who act as guardians of humans.

So you see, angels do not belong solely to one religion and therefore can be invoked, no matter what religion you happen to be. 🐾

Cosmic Alchemy

Getting Organized the Hermetic Way

(A book review)

Staff

"A beautiful home is no insurance of increased spirituality, but it does afford the facilities that encourage it." C.C. Zain, Cosmic Alchemy, Minor Aids to Spiritual Advancement.

If you are an organized person and if your environment reflects that, you may skip this article with no twinges of guilt. (Twinges of curiosity perhaps, but no guilt.)

Have you ever blitzed through your space and thrown out old magazines, unused or unwanted articles of clothing, and the thousand and one things that natural flesh attaches to? Have the descendants of your discards returned, multiplied seven-fold, like the demons Jesus warned us about? (When he said that casting out a demon is insufficient, because the space left must be filled or the demon will return with its freeloading friends and relations.) Have you bought special organizing cartons and other accouterments advertised to help one keep everything in its place, only to find everything soon overflowing with miscellany?

Do you wonder if messiness is built into your birth chart? In a Grand Square? In Fixed Signs?

It is amazing how we may overlook the tools and ideas available to us in the *Brotherhood of Light Lessons*.

One of those ideas, which we may overlook because it is so omnipresent, is that each of us is at the center of our universe. Each of us is a unique statement of the universe. For each of us, there is a way that is best for us. And, since this is an Aquarian Age organization, we each are responsible for finding the way that is best for us.

What has this to do with getting organized?

The basic conundrum of messiness and disorganization became a burning question for Julie Morgenstern, who was, by her admission, a messy and disorganized person at one time. That burning question led her to become a professional organizer working with individuals and corporations, and recently to write *Or-*

ganizing from the Inside Out: The Foolproof System for Organizing Your Home, Your Office, and Your Life.

The core tenet of the book is that each person must understand that he or she is the person that inhabits his or her life—and space. Because of that tenet, the only way to get organized that works is one based on who the person is and what he or she wants.

Often we have non-conscious reasons for our disorganization, which Ms Morgenstern addresses in the early chapters. If there are such hidden sticking points, the author as well as C.C. Zain offers ways to heal or fix them. After such hidden traps are disarmed, it is relatively simple to examine each area of our lives and change them so they work for us.

The basic strategy Ms Morgenstern uses is the "Kindergarten Model." In the Kindergarten classroom, everything is assigned an area: sports equipment here, art supplies there, blankets folded in the blanket box, and coats hung in the coatroom. From that model Ms Morgenstern advises the readers to decide how they want their "classrooms" arranged. If the reader is an avid sports participant, then there must be a place for all the sports gear. For an artist, there needs be studio space—perhaps a dedicated corner with shelves to store the supplies, and a special table on which to work. For readers, bookshelves are a must, preferably near a favorite chair. The basic methodology can be applied to offices, garages, or any area one inhabits or works in.

The main work is first deciding who one is and what one wants. Then the task of organizing becomes simpler as the various steps are followed. The final step is spending the very small time at the end of each day or each work session to put away what one has taken out. For the person whose space does not reflect his or her purpose, this putting-away phase is daunting, because things have not been assigned places. (What should I do with this *Sears* catalog? Oh well, I'll just leave it on the coffee table.) But for the person whose space is designed with purpose, the task takes a matter of minutes.

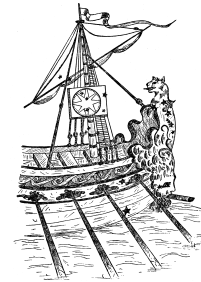
(The *Sears* catalog goes with the other catalogs or in the recycle bin.)

Is this scenario possible? One might ask if it is possible to find out who one is, where one fits, and then to live that life which is their potential destiny.

Organizing from the Inside Out: The Foolproof System for Organizing Your Home, Your Office, and Your Life by Julie Morgenstern is currently in print. It is available as a paperback from most major bookstores. It can be purchased by phone from Barnes and Noble, 1-800-THEBOOK or through the World Wide Web: www.bn.com. 🐾

Stellar Stories

Adrift With Noah



Staff

The BofL tradition reminds us that long before the written word came oral tradition. Our ancient brothers and sisters, having made important spiritual observations passed this knowledge to each subsequent generation in the form of stellar stories.

These stellar stories were written using the fixed stars of the night sky.

We Stellarians tend to take this tradition in stride as a normal part of the evolution of knowledge and of the Religion of the Stars.

It is always interesting when science comes along and is able to lend another dimension of credibility.

Recently, a story appeared on the *Good Morning America* news program. It reflects just one more step into the Aquarian Age where science and religion can coexist as a UNITY. We have extracted the following text from their website.

Michael Guillen on ABC NEWS:

“The story of Noah’s Ark has timeless attraction.

“In a recent Gallup poll, it came in third in the all-time list of things people want to know more about.

“John McHugh, a young archaeologist from Utah, and his colleagues have found evidence that long before the invention of writing, the original version of the basic Noah’s Ark story was written in the stars by the Sumerians, a culture that existed before modern civilization, as early as 6,000 to 7,000 ago.

“The story was told by using the constellations.

“To figure out the tale, researchers first took into account that Earth wobbles as it spins, which means that constellations back then appeared elsewhere in the sky. Then they used computer simulation to figure out what the sky looked like to early Sumerians.

“According to the researchers, the Sumerians imposed on these stars figures that corresponded to the three main characters in their flood story. Those constellations are what we call Aquarius, Orion and Argo.

“The shape of the ark back then was crescent, keeping with the real ships of the time.

“That began to change around 700 B.C., because as Earth wobbled, Argo began to dip below the horizon. The ancients needed to pick a substitute in order to keep the picture story intact. So they picked Pegasus, which is square-shaped. As a result, we see in depictions of the ark after that time that they are mostly square-shaped.

“This latest discovery doesn’t settle the mystery of the Great Flood, but it certainly assures us that the story is ancient history.”

For more about this story on the Internet, type the following: http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/science/MichaelGuillen/Michael_Guillen.html. There you will find this transcript as printed plus you can download a free media player and listen to the original presentation which has an expanded story with additional visuals. 🐾

The Religion of the Stars

Stellarian Question Box



Lloyd Matthiesen, Hermetician

ASTROLOGY

Q. My astronomy professor was telling his class there is nothing to Astrology because the signs have slipped back in the zodiac and are no longer where they should be. And besides, the influence of gravitational pull from the doctor and others in the delivery room is greater than that from the planets. Can you clarify these arguments?

A. These are two of the more common arguments the “debunkers” of astrology reiterate. His first objection refers to the precession of the equinoxes. The zodiac is defined as starting at the point of the vernal equinox—the point where the Sun is found when it crosses the celestial equator, going in a northerly direction, in the spring of each year. The signs are positioned at exactly 30-degree intervals from this point, and so never “slip” in reference to the tropical zodiac. (See also the first QUESTION FROM THE PAST, below.)

What does slip is the point of the vernal equinox with reference to the fixed constellations. This is called “precessional” motion, and is caused by the wobbling of the earth on its axis. However, since the delineation of astrological charts is based on the Signs of the Tropical Zodiac, and NOT the fixed starry constellations (Sidereal Zodiac), the argument does not apply to the Hermetic System or other tropical-based systems of astrology. It could present a challenge to the Sidereal Astrologers, however.

The second argument, pertaining to the influence of gravity, is totally invalid because gravity is a physical force, and the energies involved in astrology are non-physical (Astral) energies. These energies are fully explored in *ASTRAL SUBSTANCE* and *ASTRAL VIBRATION* in B. of L. Course I, *THE LAWS OF OCCULTISM*.

Q. I am trying to understand exactly what “intercepted signs” are. Why do they not appear on a house cusp when using a Table of Houses, and how are they interpreted?

A. Intercepted signs appear for the same reason there are seldom exactly 30 degrees of the zodiac falling in a given house. The circle of houses and the circle of zodiacal signs do not coincide in space; if they did perfectly coincide, each house would hold exactly 30 degrees of a sign. The resulting stretching or compressing of the signs can cause all of a sign to fall within a house of the chart, without it touching either house cusp. When this happens, the opposite sign will also be intercepted. For example, if you had Aries intercepted in the first house, you must have Libra (the opposite sign from Aries) intercepted in the seventh.

The appearance of intercepted signs in a chart also means there must be signs occupying more than one house cusp somewhere in that chart. Otherwise, If you had two signs intercepted (not appearing on a cusp), there would be signs missing on two cusps. These multiple-cusp signs are, again, in pairs of opposite signs. So if you have Cancer on two cusps, you must also have Capricorn on the two opposite cusps.

Intercepted signs map LATENT qualities. This means their expression only manifests under stress of environment. Most astrologers consider the energy of planets appearing in intercepted signs to be inhibited in like manner.

Q. The picture of the constellation CAPRICORN, in the chapter *NEWS FROM THE SUMMERLAND*, in *SPIRITUAL ASTROLOGY*, depicts the Goat with a fish’s tail. Why is this?

A. The fish’s tail denotes the higher, spiritual side of the sign Capricorn. Capricorn is usually thought of as a materialistic, ambitious sign, because of its movable earth quality, and Saturn rulership. It is often lost sight of that it can be one of the most spiritual signs of the zodiac. When a Capricorn allows this higher expression, he really goes places, in a spiritual way, using (key phrase: I USE) whatever opportunities and advantages the environment offers for spiritual progress. The sign appears in the zodiac at the Winter

Solstice, at which point the forces of light begin to take over the forces of darkness.

Here are some examples of the higher Capricorn expression: Albert Schweitzer (Sun in Capricorn), Elbert Benjamine (Moon in Capricorn) and Doris C. Doane (Ascendant in Capricorn). Meditate on the Spiritual Text for Capricorn given in the lesson to which you refer, to get a better feel for this higher Capricorn expression.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PAST

The following two questions are from the August 25, 1938 issue of THE RISING STAR:

Q. What is a sign?

A. A sign commencing with the first of Aries, is a space of thirty degrees of celestial longitude; the ecliptic, or sun's path, commencing at the point where it crosses the celestial equator, vernal equinox, or first of Aries, being thus divided into 12 equal sections.

Q. Why are there twelve each of both signs and houses?

A. Until we know more about astral fields of force—and science as yet knows very little about even the etheric fields of force—it is not possible to explain why there are twelve divisions, and not ten or fourteen. But ample observation goes to show that an orb crossing the line between one such sign and another and one house and another, immediately has a different influence in the case of the signs; and an influence over a different department of life, in the case of the houses.



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Quarterly Announcement:

In the future, look for the Quarterly on the CofL website at <http://www.light.org>. The website is not yet fully functional, so please be patient. It should be very soon! Temporarily, for the very curious, you may access the Quarterly at www.light.org/pdf and then double click on 1999 Winter. Although you can download a copy of the Quarterly for free, donations are appreciated and needed. To read the Quarterly from the Internet, you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader, version 3 or newer. You can download the Adobe Acrobat Reader free from Adobe Systems: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>

Printed editions of the Quarterly are mailed to those persons who have indicated a desire to receive the printed version by sending a contribution to the Quarterly Fund. Anyone wishing to receive a printed version may do so by completing the Quarterly Donation Form and returning to CofL.

Building a Better World

Congratulations to Roger Baldwin and his co-workers for opening two new Brotherhood of Light centers in Fort Worth, Texas and in Columbus, Ohio. For information about the new centers of the Dallas BofL center, you can write to Roger at: 3016 Plumtree Lane
Plano, TX 75074
(This is a mailing address only.)

Thanks to Wanda Gibson Richardson for her coordinating the "Modern Mystics" section of

Compuserve's New Age Living Forums. Wanda is publishing much material by and about C.C.Zain and the CofL on her forum. Wanda can be contacted via e-mail: 112020.3101@compuserve.com (In a few months, Compuserve/AOL will be opening their forums to the Internet, not just to their subscribers.)

Esoteric Double Takes:

Can you spot the hidden principles?

☆Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

☆How many of you believe in telekinesis? Raise my hands.

☆The early bird gets the worm, but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese.

☆Anything worth taking seriously is worth making fun of.

☆"To know yourself is to know your Lord." (Hint: Where we focus our attention is where our energy goes.)

Classes:

Astrology "301" is now being held at the Church of Light office at 111 So. Kraemer Blvd. Suite A, Brea CA. Phone 714 255-9218. The third Saturday of each month at 2:00 PM, astrology students from the area come together to examine in detail one chart which has been researched and brought to class by one of the members. The history of the person whose chart is being examined is known, and the tools of birth chart analysis and the Her-

metic tool of progressions are used to help understand the effects of the inner-plane weather the person experienced.

Convention 2000

Bring a pin. (To see how many angels can dance on its head.)

The average adult in the USA passively watches television about thirty hours each week! Stellarians can avoid this fate by actively participating in events, such as the upcoming convention.

And remember that, according to C.C. Zain, we only grow by attempting to overcome obstacles. So if there is an obstacle blocking your path to the convention, here is an opportunity to grow.

Mark your calendar...

Friday, March 31, 2000 Annual Meeting of the Membership

Saturday & Sunday April 1 & 2, 2000 Annual Conference
Embassy Suites Hotel, Brea, California

Theme...Angels and the Inner Planes

And In July:

Another opportunity for growth. In the fabulous Hotel Rio in Las Vegas, the AFA will be holding their convention July 9-13. Among the speakers will be CofL president Paul Brewer and past CofL president Christopher Gibson. For information, write to: AFA, PO Box 22040, Tempe AZ 85282-2040 or go to their web site at www.astrologers.com. 🐾

A nonprofit organization incorporated to teach, practice and disseminate The Religion of the Stars



The Religion of the Stars teaches that every person in the world should have Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion. And, to obtain these in proper measure, each must become familiar with the Facts of Astrology, the Facts of Extra-Sensory Perception, the Facts of Induced Emotion and the Facts of Directed Thinking. Rather than working to accumulate all that one can for himself or her-

self, each must learn to take pleasure in “**Contributing Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.**”

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