

results. Belief in re-birth is necessary for complete explanation. Explanation in detail, moreover, would require in the observer, development of the requisite spiritual power for the examination of the historical facts in the Memory of Nature. This has been done, and is a fact of occultism.

It is obvious then, that the most important time of our lives is the present—THE ETERNAL NOW—in which all work is accomplished. The effects of our present thoughts and actions will influence us at a later period. We make up our minds today to go to a distant land. We set forces in motion which eventually culminate in the desired result, and we step from the vessel on to the shores of the land which we decided to visit. Other actions, spiritual and material, may take years to attain their results, or may continue through this present life and bring about the final result in a future life. But once put these forces into action, the die is cast. Henceforth, from the mold of the die will proceed certain forms, and neither tears, protests, or threats can alter them by so much as a hair-breadth.

Truly, man is master of his own destiny, and the truth of this is greater than is usually imagined. It is true in daily life and equally true in the eternal life of the real man—our better self—the permanent, divine I, so different from that superficial, selfish, outer personality which frequently is the only expression of ourselves shown to the world.

It is not permissible to rest on the benefits of past actions, on the laurels of past victories. All life is progressive and active. We must be up and doing, cultivating our talents, using our powers to greater ends, those powers so hardly fought for, and eventually gained, in past lives. The modern person seeking spiritual help and knowledge must be a fighter; as keen as our commercial magnates, eager for fresh activities in all spheres; as

sharp and keen as the naval and military officers in this present titanic struggle, but with nobler battles to fight; ruthless in the war against prejudice, superstition, falsehood.

NOW is the great time. Incessant activity in well-doing, in study, self-control, and in the common routine of daily life, apparently so dull and grey, but actually as effective as the monotonous blows of a steam-hammer upon hard iron. Their merit is in cumulative effect and not in the individual blow.

It is only by mental stimulant that many who are naturally inactive can rouse themselves to be “up and doing.” “Fine words,” they say, “but I am different—I am not built that way. Can the leopard change his spots or the Ethiopian his skin?”

One of the greatest surprises in life is the wonderful amount of work, strange and arduous, too, that a man can achieve if he once makes an effort. It is not only surprising but tremendous. A cheery laugh at mistakes, indomitable courage to persevere, are great assets. If the cheery laugh refuses to materialize and the courage peters out, even that is something gained. For in trying to laugh and by the show of courage, we have a foundation as real as a concrete bed on which eventually the real cheery laugh and courage may be built.

It is hard to say which is the finer sight, that of the man who is superbly powerful and goes through life overcoming obstacles by sheer force, or of the man who struggles along, continually struck, buffeted, making little headway, with jaw set, head down, always, always fighting, never thinking of defeat, but game to the last.

Defeat is not quite so hopeless an event as is often thought. It means that the end in view has not been achieved. But by the very act of struggling, greater strength has been gained, which in itself is a real victory, and of immense value.

Tests in the Quest

B. Rogers

IN THE intellectual sphere of the civilized world today there is a great unrest. Many “run to and fro” in search of a something that they find easier to grope for than to define. They are attracted to and they dabble in every new cult that appears on the restless religious firmament, and carefully noting its exterior, they give a passing attention to any novel precept or explanation, and too often the latter is little better than an apology, and then journey onward along their aimless path, just as the fickle butterfly visiting every bright-hued flower and tasting of its pollen.

At first they tread this path quite unconsciously, yielding solely to the spirit of curiosity, but after a time, having observed certain discrepancies and anomalies to be apparent in the claims and elucidations of the various sects, they begin to feel puzzled, uncertain, and dissatisfied, and attaining to the first degree of consciousness in their search they utter the historic cry of Pilate, who was once in a like position, and who in his difficulty asked, “What is Truth?”

Thus, for the first time, these people realize that their transit from one set of opinions to another has a definite

object, and though its nature will appear very nebulous at first, yet as disappointment after disappointment is sustained this object will gradually loom up from the background, growing clear cut and imposing and eventually compelling the attention of the seeker.

This dissatisfaction and questioning is the outward sign of the first definite gropings for the path, and if the traveller is taking the staff of the intellect to feel his way onward, then the doubts, fears, and puzzlings will provide the thorns of his Via Dolorosa.

He will be intellectually assailed on all sides, every diversity of doctrine and practice will appear to him and seek to be reconciled with every other, until with wearied mind and aching head he may well be led to lift his consciousness from the bewildering diversity up to its Source, the great Unity, and utter with rhythm of heart and head, "Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom," the first line of Newman's immortal poem.

This admission of failure is in reality the moment of the seeker's greatest success, for he has raised his mind for that brief period into the realms where the desired knowledge rules unalloyed; and by the recognition of his own weakness he lays himself open to the assistance of those Beings who, working from the superphysical planes, stand as representatives of the Good Shepherd, ever ready to assist the more precocious of His flock.

There never was an earnest soul who uttered words of despair at his inability to unwind the seeming tangle wrought by the entwining of the multitudinous threads of appearances, whose words did not resound in the superphysical realms and whose call was not responded to gladly by Those laboring for, and directing our humanity.

And from this time he will receive help and guidance from the unseen, though the sources of this assistance will remain unmanifest. This does not mean, however, that he will be taken by the hand and led up to the fountain head, and after bathing his eyes and regazing upon the former enigma that which before was inexplicable will appear plain. Not in the least.

The Elder Brothers of humanity, in distributing anything in Their custody, whether it be love, wisdom, or the power to discriminate in action, keep one thing in view, and that is the prospective service value of the recipient. They are in reality the stage managers of this world platform on which the drama of life is being played and therefore the only object they have in distributing any talent is that the person who receives it may become an efficient actor in the ever continuing play. Unselfishness alone spells efficiency in the cosmic service.

For this reason, after his supplication has been made, the seeker is first of all tested upon his persistence, and

constancy, for without these two qualities he will be useless as a future Helper, and be caused unhappiness as a result of failure in that direction.

A certain feeling of relief comes over the seeker when he has poured out his heart, for he has been true to himself, he has attended the true confessional, and he requires no earthly lips to tell him that his shortcomings are forgiven and commiserated with and that an invisible grace will aid him in future attempts to solve his problems. And so he enters again into the intellectual sphere of the everyday world and again applies himself to the same questions.

He reads, investigates, and communes with himself upon the great mysteries of the source, purpose, and destiny of life, and of the justice of environments, and although he seems to be nearer a solution in the deepest sense, yet a little further on another deadlock presents itself, and the same impenetrable wall formed of every negative quality builds up around him.

He knows nothing of the working from behind the scenes and therefore may well be pardoned if with this obstacle confronting him, even his accumulated faith may fail. As a result, he may either give up the quest, declare that knowledge is impossible and that all is speculation, or drift into the most congenial set of opinions.

This is the wise and necessary test set by the Elder Brothers to all seeking definitely for truth. In the Rosicrucian Fellowship, where the rules are based upon the occult facts prevailing, the Student must remain in the most elementary section, whatever his previous knowledge, for a period of two years before he can have the opportunity of touching the fringe of the deeper teachings.

Now Those who are governing the Rosicrucian Order itself are also most active along similar auxiliary lines in the Western world, therefore They apply the same methods, which are the only rational ones from both viewpoints when understood.

The test spoken of may last for varying periods numbered by months or years, and many will fall by the wayside weary or despondent, or wander into the many by-paths. Thus those seeking from idle curiosity, or from uncertain motives, are gradually eliminated from the quest, and only the prospective actors remain.

In the course of time the third stage begins to develop. The seeker commences to learn the necessity of discrimination. Formerly he was fascinated by each sect offering new explanations, and he judged the whole subject by the totality of their presentations. From that experience gained he begins to collate and analyze his information, and as time passes, is able to synthesize the

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Question Department

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Nature Spirits

QUESTION:

It is stated in the *Cosmo* page 126 that the faculty of space perception is connected with the delicate adjustment of the three semi-circular canals in the ear, pointing in the three dimensions of space. Logical thought and mathematical ability are in proportion to the accuracy of their adjustment.

It seems that the perception of the fourth dimension has been arrived at by mathematicians of a very high degree. Can you tell me if there is any change in the arrangement of these semi-circular canals, or what is the process that leads up to the fourth dimensional consciousness?

It would also seem that nature spirits and elementals have this fourth dimensional consciousness which is a higher degree of consciousness than that which we now possess and possibly the bee or the Elberfeld horses. Will you please supply the missing link? What makes man or humanity superior to these beings and what is the arrangement of these semi-circular canals in the case of the bees and these gifted horses?

Answer:

To the majority of mankind figures are exceedingly dry. They are not only uninteresting, but exceedingly tedious, for we are used to living an outward life among other people and friends where we give expression to our desires, feelings, and emotions. The more these are stirred the more interesting we find life and, contrariwise, the things that do not cause a ripple of emotion are held to be dull and uninteresting. Therefore the majority do not take to mathematics or anything else that will sharpen the mind without at the same time arousing the emotional nature.

We know that God geometrizes, that all the processes of nature are founded upon a systematic calculation which argues the great Master-Mind. When God as the great Architect of the universe has built the whole world upon mathematical lines, we may know that consciously or unconsciously the mathematician is reaching out in a direction in which eventually he will find himself face to face with God, and this in itself argues an expansion of consciousness. When we consider the fact that each one of the semi-circular canals is in fact a super sensitive

spirit level adjusted so as to indicate to our consciousness the motion of our body through the length and breadth, height or depth of space, we may easily understand that their actual adjustment is necessary to space perception. If they are true, then the space perception of that person is perfect, and if he takes up the study of mathematics then his theories will agree with what he sees in the world as actual facts. This in some high minds engenders an actual love of figures, so that they may rest such a mind instead of being a source of fatigue as they are to most people, and then that love of figures may arouse in him the latent spiritual faculties, but not through any change in the semi-circular canals, for these are bony structures and not easily changed during the life time. There is no doubt, however, that one who has a taste for music or mathematics will later build these canals more accurately in the Second Heaven between death and a new birth.

With respect to the consciousness of the elementals or nature spirits. You are quite correct in assuming that they have what may be called a fourth dimensional consciousness, for in addition to the height, width, and depth, which are the dimensions of space in the physical world, there is what we may call "throughness" in the ethers. With the etheric sight you may look into a mountain and if you have an etheric body such as the nature spirits possess, you may also walk through the hardest granite rock. It will offer no more obstruction than the air does to our progress here, in fact, not so much, for here we are hindered by winds. But even among nature spirits there are different entities and a corresponding variation of consciousness.

The bodies of the gnomes are made of the chemical ether principally, and therefore they are of the earth earthy; that is, one never sees them fly about as do the sylphs. They can be burned in fire. They also grow old in a manner not so greatly different from the human beings.

The Undines, which live in the water, and the sylphs of the air are also subject to mortality, but their bodies, being composed of the life and light ethers respectively, make them much more enduring, so that while it is stated that the gnomes do not live more than a few hundred years, the undines and sylphs are said to live for thousands, and the salamanders, whose bodies are principally

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The Astral Ray

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How to Test a Horoscope

IT SOMETIMES happens that a momentary mental aberration causes even the best of mathematicians to make a mistake in his figures, and if an error occurs when casting a horoscope an immense amount of labor may be wasted before it is discovered. There is an easy method of verifying the figure in the main points by a glance at the position of the sun, which the cautious astrologer never neglects to make use of, and we would specially recommend it to beginners, who are naturally more prone to miscalculate than those who have long experience.

When you have calculated the place of the sun and entered it in its proper house and sign, note at once if its position coincides with its actual place in the sky at the time of day when the child was born. If the birth occurred about sunrise the sun must be near the Ascendant, if in the middle of the forenoon the sun should be somewhere in the eleventh house, if near noon the sun will be found near the Midheaven in a correctly cast horoscope, and in the middle of the afternoon it is in the eighth house.

A child born near sunset has its sun close to the cusp between the seventh and sixth houses, and if the birth

occurs about 9 p. m. the sun will be in or near the fifth house. When birth is at midnight the sun is near the nadir, and a child born about 3 o'clock in the morning has the sun in or near the second house.

If you find that the sun is in its proper position relative to the houses, you may confidently proceed with your calculations and place the other planets; if not, you have made a mistake which must be corrected before you go further.

When someone hands you a horoscope calculated by another astrologer and asks you to read it, look first at the time of birth and then see if the sun is in its proper position relative to the houses, for if you start to read from an improperly cast horoscope you lay yourself liable to ridicule. Suppose Saturn were on the Asc., and you accuse that person of being melancholy; when he denies the imputation and you discover that Mars and Mercury should be there in Scorpio, it is not probable that he will accept your explanations, he will more likely sneer at astrology and astrologers, nor can we deny that, from his point of view, such condemnation is justified, therefore be careful to look at the Sun. Other mistakes may occur, but that is the most serious and the most easily detected.

When is the Best Time to be Born?

IN THE light of occult investigation of some of the modern methods, it appears that Birth is an event we are powerless to control; when we seem to do so in a slight degree we are really the agents of Destiny to accelerate or delay it till the proper moment has arrived. This view is also justified by the author's experience in Horary Astrology.

The philosophy of horary astrology is that at the time

one is impelled to ask a question concerning an important matter, the heavens contain also the answer, and a figure set for that time will contain the solution to the problem. But it should be particularly noted that the time to set the figure is when the inquirer asks the question of the astrologer, when this is done in person; when it is done by mail the astrologer sets the figure for the time he reads the question in the letter.

On a number of occasions we have received letters containing questions which bore marks of having been delayed by flood or fire, but the figure cast for the moment of reading gave the answer, showing that the delay had a part in the plan. Nor should it surprise us that the great Intelligences which are the ministers of destiny foresee and make allowance for contingencies beyond the grasp of the human mind, and when the infinite mind bestows equal care when designing the anatomy of a fly, a mouse, or a lion, may we not conclude that a similar attention to the minutiae prevails in all departments of Life, and that when we seem to delay or accelerate birth, we are really aiding nature to take its predetermined course, as said in the opening sentence of this article?

Nevertheless, people often ask the astrologer when is the best time to be born, young astrologers also frequently want to know, not that they have any idea of controlling birth, but so that on seeing a horoscope, or being told a person's time of birth, they may make a quick mental calculation to determine whether he has a so-called good or bad horoscope.

Such a judgment would of course be founded only on the position of the sun by sign, and approximate house, hence general in the extreme. It may be said, however, that other planetary positions being equal, it is better to be born when the Moon is increasing in light, from the new to the full, than when she is decreasing, from the full to the new, for the growing Moon always increases vitality and furthers our affairs.

It is best to be born in April or August when the life-

giving Sun is in its exaltation sign Aries, or Leo, its home, for then we enter the sea of life on the crest-wave of vitality and are backed in the battle of existence by an abundant fund of vim and energy.

It is good to be born in May and July when the life-light of the Sun is focused through the exaltation sign and home of the Moon: Taurus and Cancer, especially, as said, when the lesser light is increasing, for those configurations also furnish an abundance of vitality, which is such a great asset in physical life.

With respect to the time of day most favorable for birth, it may be said that children born about sunrise or during the forenoon from 8 to 12, while the Sun is traversing the houses of friends and social prestige are the "luckiest" for they are helped on every hand. Children born between noon and midnight are less "lucky" the nearer the Sun comes to the nadir; then the "luck" turns again, for the children born in the early morning while the Day-star is ascending toward the eastern horizon will have to carve their own way in the world, but opportunities will be given them in abundance.

We may therefore sum up our conclusions by saying that it is best to be born at sunrise, or in the forenoon, preferably in April or August, when the Moon is increasing in light.

Finally it should always be borne in mind that there is no "luck" in the commonly accepted sense, but that what we have or lack in any respect is due to our own actions in the past and that in the future we may have what we now lack by proper application.

The Urn of Aquarius

C. W. Stiles

THE Zodiac is the circle of the heavens which most immediately concerns us, and like every circle contains three hundred and sixty degrees.

To get an idea of the immensity of this plane of the ecliptic, remember that the Earth's orbit around the Sun is about 585,000,000 miles and that this plane of the Zodiac is fifteen degrees wide over the whole distance.

This big circle is divided into twelve parts of 30 degrees each which are called, the Signs of the Zodiac.

The different Signs were given their names by the Ancient Sages because by a long course of observation and tabulation it was found that the influence of the Sun, as it passed through each Sign, had a certain effect upon the vegetable kingdom and brought into active manifestation certain qualities in mankind.

Each Sign is expressed by a symbol, and the invention

of these symbols goes back into ages of which no record remains.

When the Signs of the Zodiac were named they, no doubt, coincided with the constellations, which they no longer do.

Each Sign has a Ruler who is believed to best express the qualities of that Sign. These planets or Rulers are the physical bodies of Great Beings who are called in the Bible, "The Seven Spirits before the Throne," and who have charge of our evolution.

Each visible planet is the embodiment of a Great Spiritual Intelligence who is endeavoring to guide humanity according to God's plan, having always regard to the end in view, without especial regard to present suffering. Each one of these Great Beings has his own special work to do for mankind.

The first Sign, Aries, is at one of the corners of the Heavens, and when the Sun is in Aries he is as far East as he can go. Aries, the Ram, was so called because it rose with the Sun in the Springtime and expresses Life. The shepherds named it for their flocks, which were their most precious possessions.

Next follows Taurus, the Bull, called from the herds which were esteemed next in value to the sheep.

The next is Gemini, the Twins, sometimes called Castor and Pollux, who in their eternal youth tell their own story of human brotherhood.

The fourth Sign, Cancer, is at another corner of the Heavens. At the summer solstice the Sun seems to stop and crab-like to crawl backward. So we call it "The Crab."

But the Egyptians named this Sign "*The Scarab*," the Beetle, and used the scarab as a symbol of the soul, calling this Sign, "The Sphere of the souls awaiting re-birth."

Then rises the Royal Sign, Leo, the home Sign of the Sun.

Next comes the "Celestial Virgin," generally called Virgo.

The Sun is said to be born of the Celestial Virgin because at the winter solstice, when the night is darkest, the Virgin rises upon the Eastern horizon and the Sun begins its new circuit toward the vernal equinox to pour fresh life into the Earth.

The third corner of the Zodiac is held by Libra, the Scales, so called because at the Autumnal equinox the days and nights are equally balanced.

Then follows Scorpio, the Scorpion, who carries his sting in his tail and rules the Eighth House, the House of Death. Scorpio rules the organs of generation, and death awaits all who are born from sex.

The ninth Sign, which has especial control of the mind, is Saggitarius, the Archer, who is half man and half animal. The symbol shows a man with a bow, and represents man rising from the animal.

The Archer aims his arrow directly at the Sun, which shows his aspiration and although he frequently misses his aim, he sometimes hits, and at least he keeps on trying.

The fourth and last corner of the Heavens is held by Capricorn, the Goat, which delights in climbing lofty precipices. He occupies the corner where the Sun begins to climb the sky on his return North.

The eleventh Sign is Aquarius, the Waterbearer, who is supposed to be carrying an urn full of water in his arms. This urn contains his feelings and emotions and if he tips the urn, they will run out. If he carries it steadily, they will remain in the urn. So the thing is entirely under his

own control, and this is the ideal set in the Heavens for us all to reach.

The last or twelfth Sign of the Zodiac is Pisces, or the Fishes. The symbol is two fishes swimming in opposite directions, united by a band. The two fishes point to the great deep, that place of mystery. The band uniting them speaks of the Unity of All.

The Zodiac means a "Circle of Animals," and while two of the Air Signs, Gemini and Aquarius, are human, one of the Fire Signs, Saggitarius, is half human, and one of the Earth Signs, Virgo, is human, all the rest except Libra, which is neuter, belong to the animal kingdom.

These twelve constellations are always in the same relative position, but on account of a slight motion of the poles of the Earth, the Sun crosses the equator at a slightly different point each year at the vernal equinox and appears to go slowly backward in the Zodiac, at the rate of 50 seconds per year, taking 2100 years to go backward through an entire Sign, and completing the circuit of the whole twelve in about 25,868 years.

This backward movement is called "The precession of the Equinox."

The great cycle was completed the last time in 498 A. D. when the world began on a higher spiral of its evolution.

The Signs that most intimately concern us of the present time are Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, and Cancer. These six Signs really comprise the quality of all the Signs in the Zodiac, as the quality of a Sign is always reflected in the opposite Sign.

Each Sign of the Zodiac has a Ruler who is believed to be in accord with the Sign. Each one of these Great Beings is charged with a certain phase of our development, "So it is clear that the education of humanity depends largely upon the training our instructors have had in previous evolutions."

When the Sun was last by precession in the Watery Sign Cancer, the continent of Atlantis was buried beneath the waves and what seemed to be a new Heaven and a new Earth appeared, with a new race to inhabit the Earth.

This catastrophe which overtook Atlantis while the Sun was in Cancer is the cataclysm told of to Plato by the priests of Egypt and which Plato afterward recorded. The priests told Plato this deluge, according to their records, took place about ten thousand years before.

Cancer is a fertile Sign and the Moon also controls growth. As the vibration of the Moon shows, it also controls mind, the digit of the vowels being the spiritual force of the expression number of the active Trinity.

In this connection it is interesting to recall that mind was given to infant humanity toward the close of the Atlantean period.

Jehovah, the Holy Spirit, who also expresses three in his vowels, is the Regent of all the Moons, which are used for the purpose of giving beings who have fallen behind in the march of progress another chance under different circumstances and more rigid law to try to regain lost ground.

The name *Jehovah* shows the protecting care He is always exerting and that He tries to reach his pupils through their mind.

But Jehovah was a severe taskmaster and taught his children to realize that when they did right and pleased Him, they would be rewarded, and when they did wrong swift punishment would overtake them. It was "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." It was in no sense a reign of mercy, for humanity would not have understood mercy, it was a Reign of Law, in which selfishness flourished. So by appealing to the selfish instincts, humanity, while it was developing a mind, was pushed and prodded up the path of evolution.

As the Sun went backward in the Zodiac after about 2100 years in Cancer, it entered the Air Sign, Gemini. Gemini controls the lower or brain mind, and the Twins are the symbol of eternal youth and human brotherhood. Being an Air Sign, it was an Age of Expression.

This time is believed to have been the Golden Age in Egypt, for in an Air Sign souls are most easily aroused to a recognition of their divine origin. It is probable that the writer of the Book of Job lived in the Gemini Age.

The Ruler of Gemini is Mercury, whose name shows the hard educational work he called for, and the vowels in his name point to the fact that his work was intended to enlarge the mind of infant humanity until it could function on the Universal Plane.

The Great Beings who came among men at that time to lead and teach humanity were known as Lords of Mercury and Lords of Venus. Though infinitely higher in development than the children of men, they were really beings belonging to Mercury and Venus who had fallen behind in evolution and been thrown off to one of the Moons of their planet. At that time, by helping humanity, they were given a chance to retrieve their backsliding and again enter the parent planet, when their work on Earth was done.

The work of Mercury had especially to do with humanity while the Sun was in Gemini, and Venus had more work to do in the next period while the Sun was in Taurus, the Bull.

At this time in the world's history it is very difficult for us to think back to a time when we were without the faculty of reason and the nearest approach to it was seen in the form of cunning. But to develop the reasoning faculty and to get the brain mind into action was really the

work Mercury had to do. That to a great extent he has been successful is proven by the fact that many of us are now beginning to use our intuition instead of our reason.

At the close of the period the Sun had gone backward out of Gemini and entered Taurus, which was at that time known as "The Winged Bull of Nineveh."

In that Age the Bull was considered a sacred symbol and was looked upon as the highest expression of physical strength which was still considered of more value than mere mind. The Bull was also worshiped as a symbol of procreative force.

The Sign opposite Taurus is Scorpio which is ruled by Mars, the planet of Dynamic Energy. As there is always an exoteric and an esoteric meaning to every teaching, the opposite Sign generally expresses the inner meaning; so during the Taurian Age, when they worshiped the Sacred Bull, the priests wore the Uraeus, or Serpent Symbol belonging to Scorpio, the Sign opposite Taurus, to indicate their possession of esoteric wisdom.

From what has been said it can readily be gathered that Force was rampant in the world and ruling. So we understand the work the gentle Venus, Ruler of Taurus, had to do.

Most of what we call "evil" came into the world through Mars, Ruler of Scorpio, and also Ruler of Aries.

As is taught by the Rosicrucians, the Lucifer Spirits were stragglers from the Moon period of evolution and could not live either upon the Sun or the Moon, being actuated by passion and selfish desires. So a separate place had to be found for them, and they were placed upon Mars.

Thus Mars is "the Devil," and Lucifer, the chief of the fallen Angels, was the adversary of Jehovah. But we see from his vibration that he was what Job calls him, "A son of God," which Jude confirms by saying that even the Archangel Michael dared not revile Lucifer.

Mr. Heindel tells a beautiful story of how Lucifer, when he strove with the Archangel Michael over the body of Moses, lost the choicest gem in his crown. It was dislodged in the struggle. "This beautiful gem was an emerald named 'Exilir.' It was thrown into the abyss but was recovered by the Angels and from that the chalice or Holy Grail was made which later was used to hold the cleansing blood that flowed from the Savior's side."

Heindel notes the fact that "this jewel was an emerald; it was green; green is a combination of blue and yellow, and is therefore the complementary color of the third primary color, red. In the physical world red has the tendency to excite and energize, whereas, green has a cooling effect; but the exact opposite is true when viewed from the Desire World. There the complementary color is active, and has the effect upon our desires and emo-

tions which we ascribe to the physical color. Thus the green color of the gem lost by Lucifer shows the nature and effect thereof.

“This stone had power to attract passion and generate love of sex, so it was the exact opposite of the Philosopher’s Stone, which is the Apocalyptic White Stone, which means the love of soul for soul.”

The Lucifer Spirits from Mars put the iron in our blood which makes it possible for us to live in an atmosphere containing oxygen, and they have stirred all our forces into action and given us incentive so that now we do things, even though at times our doing is evil.

Mars makes people ride rough shod over the rights of others; might makes right with him; he considers only himself.

So in the Taurian Age it was the work of Venus to make men loving and kind. She did not attempt to go much beyond the immediate family, but under her influence the women began to make themselves attractive and drew their mankind after them with cords of love instead of constant lust.

Toward the close of the Taurian Age, when the Sun had come within the Orb of Influence of Aries, the Ram, the worship of the Bull was considered idolatry, for they had now entered another dispensation. It is evident that the Israelites slain for setting up a golden calf to worship were not keeping up with the precession.

Aries is believed to be divided into two parts, the first of which is represented by the Ram, and the last part, during which Christ Jesus was born, the Ram was presented in so gentle a manner that he is called “the Lamb.”

The Ruler of Aries, as well as of Scorpio, is Mars. Aries has dominion over the head, and the brain was built by subverted sex force while Scorpio governs the reproductive organs. Aries is the House of Life, and Scorpio is the House of Death, signifying that all which is born of passion and desire is bound to die.

From Lucifer comes our red blood and martial energy, which is the vehicle of all material progress and energy. From Jehovah comes the inculcation of Law and punishment for sin.

At the time we are considering, the quality of mercy had not yet entered into men’s consciousness. Altruism had not even been thought of.

When the Sun by precession came within a few hundred years of the Water Sign Pisces, in its passage through Aries, Christ Jesus was born of a Virgin, (Virgo, the Sign opposite to Pisces) and the Fish became the sign of the Christian. The Bishops of the Church used a head-dress resembling the head of a fish and water was placed at the door of the church as an emblem of purity.

The Ruler of Pisces is Jupiter, the planet of philan-

thropy, so we can see that humanity is now ready to take another step.

Venus had begun the work of beautifying and humanizing in the Taurian Age, and now Jupiter was to continue the work but as always, on a higher level.

It is interesting to consider the means used to keep humanity climbing. Remember that at the beginning there was no power of reason whatever, and the first faculty developed was cunning.

It was necessary to develop selfishness in the course of making them realize their separate identity. This the rule of Jehovah did. Material gain was constantly held out to them as a bribe; if they pleased Jehovah, they reaped profit, if they disobeyed him, they suffered poverty.

Then after the germ of mind had been developed, humanity was very inert, they had no incentive to action—they were perfectly satisfied with things as they were, and saw no reason for making any effort. So the Lucifer Spirits from Mars were sent to put iron in their blood to give them “red blood,” so they would want to do things. Better to do evil than do nothing. And, of course, the first result was very evil. Ambition, greed, lust, and brutality ruled, but humanity was working.

The influence of Venus showed in a more gentle regard for women. Instead of regarding them as mere beasts of burden and creatures for the satisfaction of lust, they gradually developed genuine tenderness and true love.

Now was the time when Christ Jesus was born, with the Sign Aries well in orb of Pisces; He was born of the Celestial Virgin (the sign opposite Pisces), and for the first time in the history of the world woman was given a place of honor.

The Ruler of Pisces, Jupiter, stands for benevolence, philanthropy, and altruism. This was the highest influence humanity had yet felt.

Christ struck a new note when he said: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.” And, “God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

The world at that time knew nothing of love or fellow-feeling. If a man stumbled and fell in the streets of Rome, he was liable to be left undisturbed as he fell. Nobody took any interest in him. They emphatically DID NOT feel themselves to be their brother’s keeper.

All this the Christ endeavored to change. With the influence of Jupiter helping with humanity, He got them to realize a sense of human brotherhood. Instead of the old Jehovistic doctrine of “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,” He instituted the idea of mercy. Instead of always trying “to pay back,” they were taught to over-