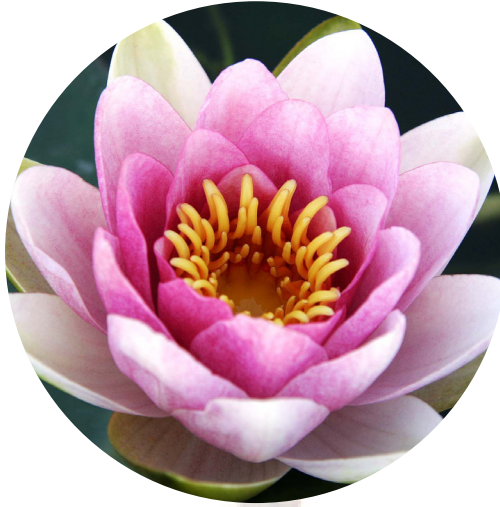


The Nature of Esoteric Astrology



Academy of Wisdom Teaching Eu

Universalis - hallmark and true expression of the spiritual life



The Nature of Esoteric Astrology

The Law of Periodicity



Academy of Wisdom Teaching Eu

Universalis - hallmark and true expression of the spiritual life

Points and hints given on initiation

In this world cycle it might be said that the emphasis of all spiritual power is placed in the Hierarchy, which is, at present, the divine intermediary, interpreting the will of God, which is the purpose of Shamballa

It will be obvious to you how much correlating work and how much readjustment of ideas will be needed as the new astrology is worked out into practical usefulness and eventually substituted for that now holding sway.

This new astrology really embodies five sciences:

1. The Science of the Rays
2. The Science of Esoteric Interpretation, which is carried out through:
 3. The Science of Triangles.
 4. The Science of the Centres.
 5. The Science of Destiny.

The Nature of Esoteric Astrology

Astrology is concerned with the effect produced in the substance of the sheaths by the influences, vibrations, etc., of the various planets. These are, esoterically, the influences of the solar centres. The forces, emanating from the solar centres, play upon the planetary centres.... This is hidden in the karma of the Heavenly Man. When true esoteric astrology comes into being, more anent this will be given.

In esoteric astrology we are, therefore, dealing with the Life and Lives which inform the "points of light" within the universal Life. Constellations, solar systems, planets, kingdoms in nature and microscopic man are all of them the result of the activity and the manifestation of energy of certain Lives whose cycle of expression and whose infinite purposes lie outside the comprehension of the most advanced and illumined minds on our planet.

Universal relationships, the interplay of energies, the nature of what lies behind the Great Illusion, the deluding "Appearances of things as they are," and the destiny of our planet, of the kingdoms in nature and of humanity as a whole - these will constitute the major part of our theme.

We will endeavour to work from the universal to the particular and from the general to the specific, but our emphasis will always be on the universal and the general, and not upon the particular and specific. It will rest with those of you who are students of astrology to make due application of the truth to the specific.

There is an astrological key to The Secret Doctrine which cannot yet be given in completeness. We can, however, give you some hints and suggest some lines of approach, and these, if carried in the consciousness of the illumined astrologers, may enable one of them at a later date to discover that key and then - turning it on behalf of humanity reveal the fourth great fundamental of the Ageless Wisdom of which three are already given in the proem of The Secret Doctrine.

Four energies make a man; eight energies make a Master; twelve energies make a Buddha of Activity.

All the three Crosses (Mutable, Fixed and Cardinal) are shown as functioning simultaneously in His life - in the perfection which He displayed - a perfection of perfect responsiveness and perfect demonstration of result as well, giving us a manifestation and an example of the fusion of the twelve energies in one divine Personality (expressing Individuality) on the physical plane. This truth is that in the initiate of the higher degrees, all the twelve zodiacal energies can focus simultaneously and produce a complete exhibition of divinity, as it is intended eventually to express itself through humanity on this planet.

Astrology must be based upon a deeper understanding of the relation of the planets - sacred and non-sacred - to the centres and to certain prominent "cycles of polarisation" emerging as the fore-ordained results of "periods of crisis."

The Science of Triangles of Energy underlies the new esoteric science both in astrology and in the science of Laya-yoga or the science of the centres. Both this ancient yoga and the still more ancient astrological science have now to be studied upon a higher turn of the spiral.

A few points, hints can be gathered together as to the interlocking forces of all the twelve constellations, as they pour into and through all the kingdoms in nature, carrying with them also not only their own individual potencies but also those of the seven rays, focussed through the sacred and non-sacred planets - the discovered and undiscovered planetary Lives. It has been occultly said that a vision of these powers and their many weaving lines (seen as rivers and streams of light) is given to the initiate from the mountain top of Capricorn, once that summit has been reached. It is at the Transfiguration initiation that this vision appears before the eyes of the astounded disciple.

Passing as we are into the Aquarian Age in which the spirit of Aquarius will be exemplified in its universality and its sense of "general distribution," it is inevitable that a point of crisis should be reached.

CONTENT

Page

Three Basic Statements

1

The Great Illusion and astrological prediction and interpretation
Attitudes and positions taken by the esoteric Astrologer
The disciple and the initiate respond distinctively to the incoming influences
Today a conflict upon a higher turn of the spiral is taking place
Readiness and capacity for initiation – Guardians of Four Secrets
Second ray influences and potencies presently pouring into our planetary life
Various initiations and planetary influences

Introductory - the three Cosmic Crosses

12

The occult Cross
The Cross – an ancient symbol of divine origin
The three Crosses and the zodiac
The three Crosses and their ancient names
The three phases of man's Path and the three Crosses
The three Crosses and four symbols
The three wheels of Life and the three Crosses
The three zodiacal Crosses and incarnated man
The three Crosses and man's body, soul and monad
The three Crosses and three great planetary centres
The three Crosses of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Man placed upon the three Crosses
Towards a synthetic understanding of the effect of the Crosses upon humanity
Relations between the three great cosmic Crosses

PART 1 – The Mutable Cross

20

Man – binded and sacrificed upon the Cross of Matter
The synthesis of evolution on the Mutable Cross
Towards a synthetic understanding of the effect of the Mutable Cross upon humanity
The great reversal: from Mutable Cross to Fixed Cross

PART 2 – The Fixed Cross

23

The disciple's obligation
The disciple's four major stresses on the Fixed Cross
The dissipation of all personal illusion – upon the Cross
The server upon the Cross of the Saviour
The Brothers of Light aid the sons of man to surmount the Cross
The four signs of the Fixed Cross
The symbol for man, the mediator, is the revolving Cross
Humanity's transition from the Mutable to the Fixed Cross
Three emerging conditions in man on the Fixed Cross

PART 3 – The Cardinal Cross

27

The two Doors of the Cardinal Cross
The four signs of the Cardinal Cross: milestones of human evolution
Prepare for initiation by divine indifference – a quality of the highest Cross
Monad and personality at-one-ment
Completing his journey through the three Crosses, man fulfils the law
The true Soul, the spiritual man on the highest Cross
The controlling Cross, depending upon the relative age of the individual or group

PART 4 – THE SCIENCE OF THE TRIANGLES

30

A new approach to astrological diagnosis
 The macro and micro-cosmos
 Centres and Triangles of Force
 To undertaken task
 The second ray relates soul and form
 The significance of numbers as conscious energy and in this science of esoteric astrology
 Twelve incarnations in each sign – a recollection of twelve energies (7 major and 5 minor rays)
 The signs that will mark the points of crises in progress
 An example study of scientific, statistical and analytical investigation
 In case of the subjective, esoteric side of the disciple
 Universality
 The objective of the Cardinal Cross – after the third initiation

PART 5 – THE DECANATES OF THE CONSTELLATIONS

48

The importance of the three decanates of the age of Aquarius for humanity
 Three cosmic decanates – three planets
 Intensification – electrification
 Decanates from the angle of the disciple
 Decanates of:

- Aries
- Taurus
- Gemini
- Cancer
- Leo
- Virgo
- Libra
- Scorpio
- Sagittarius
- Capricorn
- Aquarius
- Venus and its decanate in Aquarius
- Pisces

Energy form Saturn, Leo, Shamballa to humanity governs two decanates in Capricorn

Tabulation of the Great Zodiacal Wheel (25.000 years)

THREE BASIC STATEMENTS

The statement is frequently made that astrology is an exact science but that is far from correct in spite of the many mathematical computations.

1. *Astrology is based, curiously enough, upon illusion –*

For, as well you know, the zodiac is naught but the imaginary path of the sun through the heavens, and this as it appears from the standpoint of our totally insignificant planet. The sun is not, as stated, in any sign of the zodiac. It simply appears to be so as it passes between our little sphere, the Earth, and the constellations at any particular time or season.

In ancient days it was believed that the earth was the centre of the solar system and that around it revolved the sun and all the other planets. This was the exoteric knowledge and position, though not the esoteric understanding. Later, when further discoveries brought more light to the human mind, our planet was decentralised and the truth was more clearly seen, though much remains as yet to be discovered and may even be of as revolutionary a nature. From certain astrological angles, a similar process of decentralisation must take place and the solar system must no longer be regarded as a point around which the zodiac revolves or through which the sun passes in its great cycle of approximately 25,000 years. Astrologers with insight may deny that this is the commonly accepted attitude. Yet - for purposes of clarity and in connection with the general public - the inference is permitted and accepted by the ignorant. Upon this theory anent the zodiac rests very largely what we call the Great Illusion, and I would have you bear this in mind as you study with me the newer approaches of this greatest and oldest of all the sciences. Astrology is a science which must be restored to its original beauty and truth before the world can gain a truer perspective and a more just and accurate appreciation of the divine Plan, as it is expressed at this time through the Wisdom of the Ages.

2. *Astrology is essentially the purest presentation of occult truth in the world at this time –*

Because it is the science which deals with those conditioning and governing energies and forces which play through and upon the whole field of space and all that is found within that field. When this fact is grasped and the sources of those energies are better comprehended and the nature of the field of space is correctly understood, we shall then see a far wider and at the same time a more closely related horizon; the relationships between individual, planetary, systemic and cosmic entities will be grasped, and we shall then begin to live scientifically. It is this scientific living which it is the immediate purpose of astrology to bring about.

At present, the position of the average believer in astrology is that he is an individual of importance (at least to himself), that he is living on that important planet the Earth (important to humanity) and that, through astrology, he can discover his destiny and know what he ought to do. In making this comment, I do not refer to those few astrologers who possess real esoteric knowledge. They are few in number indeed, and only a handful of them are to be found practising at this time. The modern investigator likes to believe that on him impinge and through him flow all those energies which come from the sign in which the sun "finds" itself at the time of his birth. He regards himself also as responsive to the forces of the various planets as they govern the houses in his horoscope and he believes that his life trends and circumstances are thus determined. This makes him feel himself to be a factor of isolated importance. Modern interpretations fail to *emphasise the importance of the rising sign (the ascendant) and this has been due to the fact that few have been as yet ready to function as souls*; small allowance has been made for the energies which play upon our planet all the time from other constellations or from the many "hidden" planets. Of these, the Ageless Wisdom claims that there are around seventy in our solar system.

I desire to give you a truer and more accurate picture. This has now become possible because group awareness, group relations and group integrity are coming to the fore in the human consciousness. As this takes place, the personality which is individual, separative and self-centred will recede increasingly into the background, and the soul, non-separative, group conscious and inclusive, will come more and more to the fore. Interest, therefore, in the individual horoscope will gradually die out, and *increasingly the planetary, the systemic and the universal picture will stand out in the awareness of the individual; he will then regard himself only as an integral part of a far more important whole and*

his world group will interest him far more than himself, as an individual. I shall not, therefore, deal with the subject of esoteric astrology from the standpoint of the horoscope at all.

Universal relationships, the interplay of energies, the nature of what lies behind the Great Illusion, the deluding "Appearances of things as they are," and the destiny of our planet, of the kingdoms in nature and of humanity as a whole - these will constitute the major part of our theme.

It is immaterial to me whether modern astrologers accept or reject these presented ideas.

I will endeavour to give you certain facts as the Hierarchy recognises them; I will indicate, if I can, the subjective realities of which the outer illusion is but the phenomenal appearance, conditioned by men's thoughts throughout the ages; I will emphasise the fact of the livingness of the Sources from which all the energies and forces which play upon our planet flow and emanate; I will endeavour, above all else, to demonstrate to you that all-pervading unity and that underlying synthesis which is the basis of all religions and of all the many transmitted forces; I will seek to remove you, as individuals, from out of the centre of your own stage and consciousness and - without depriving you of individuality and of self-identity - yet show you how you are part of a greater whole of which you can become consciously aware when you can function as souls, but of which you are today unconscious, or at least only registering and sensing the inner reality in which you live and move and have your being.

This brings me to the third statement, which is so basic and fundamental that I would ask you to pause and contemplate it, even though you grasp not its full implications as yet

3. *The Ancient Wisdom teaches that "space is an entity" -*

- a. It is with the *life of this entity* and
- b. with the *forces and energies*,
- c. the *impulses* and the *rhythms*,
- d. the *cycles* and the *times* and *seasons* that esoteric astrology deals.

H.P.B. stated this in *The Secret Doctrine*. I would remind you that:

There is an astrological key to The Secret Doctrine which cannot yet be given in completeness. I can, however, give you some hints and suggest some lines of approach, and these, if carried in the consciousness of the illumined astrologers, may enable one of them at a later date to discover that key and then - turning it on behalf of humanity reveal the fourth great fundamental of the Ageless Wisdom of which three are already given in the poem of The Secret Doctrine.

Space is an entity and the entire "*vault of heaven*" (as it has been poetically called) is the phenomenal appearance of that entity. You will note that I did not say the material appearance, but the phenomenal appearance. Speculation about the nature, the history and identity of that entity is useless and of no value. Some dim idea, providing analogy even when eluding specifications, might be gained if you will endeavour to think of the human family, the fourth kingdom in nature, as an entity, as constituting a single unit, expressing itself through the many diversified forms of man.

You, as an individual, are an integral part of humanity, yet you lead your own life, you react to your own impressions, you respond to exterior influences and impacts, and in your turn you emanate influences, send forth some form of character radiation and express some quality or qualities. You thereby, and in some measure, affect your environment and those whom you contact. Yet all the while you remain part of a phenomenal entity to which we give the name of humanity. Now extend this idea to a greater phenomenal entity, the solar system. This entity is itself an integral part of a still greater life which is expressing Itself through seven solar systems, of which ours is one. If you can grasp this idea, a vague picture of a great underlying esoteric truth will emerge into your consciousness. It is the life and the influence, the radiations and emanations of this entity, and their united effect on our planetary life, the kingdoms in nature and the unfolding human civilizations, which we shall have briefly to consider.

The subject is so vast that I have been faced with the problem of the best method whereby to handle it. I decided on brevity, the concise statement of facts (facts to those of us who are working on the inner side of life, but which must rightly be only hypotheses to you) and the avoidance of detail and of detailed discussion. We will endeavour to work from the universal to the particular and from the

general to the specific, but our emphasis will always be on the universal and the general, and not upon the particular and specific. It will rest with those of you who are students of astrology to make due application of the truth to the specific. It is definitely in this connection that modern astrology has gone astray. It has reversed the true and right procedure and has laid the emphasis upon the specific and particular, upon the personal horoscope and the individual destiny, and has not laid the emphasis upon the great energies and their Source. These sources are ultimately responsible for the manifestation of the specific. This position and presentation of truth must be altered.

The Great Illusion and astrological prediction and interpretation

Starting with the basic fact of the Great Illusion it should be remembered that the accuracy of astrological prediction and interpretation will be based upon three factors:

1. The potency of the thoughtforms which have been built up in connection with the twelve signs -

These thoughtforms were originally constructed or anchored upon the mental plane by the Hierarchy in Atlantean days and they have steadily gained in power ever since. They serve as focal points for certain forces and enable the individual, for instance, to be in touch with great reservoirs of energy which then definitely condition him.

2. The intuition of the astrologer -

The casting of the horoscope serves to put the astrologer en rapport with the individual, but this is of small service to either party unless the intuition and sensitivity of the astrologer is actively present.

3. The capacity of the astrologer in any specific period to respond to the changes which are all the time taking place, such as the gradual shifting and changing brought about by the precession of the equinoxes, or the slow shift of the pole of the planet -

To this should be added that - as man evolves - the mechanism of response or the vehicles of consciousness likewise steadily improve. His reactions, therefore, to the planetary influence and to the energy of the various constellations change with equal steadiness and allowance must be made for this. It is consequently essential that the modern astrologer begin to study the point in evolution of the subject, prior to casting his horoscope. He must ascertain his approximate place upon the path of evolution. To this end, the study of the rays is most necessary through an investigation as to quality and characteristics and life objectives.

Astrologers will eventually be able to cast the horoscope of the soul, which is sensitive to different combinations of forces to those controlling the personality life. The disciple and the initiate respond distinctively to the incoming influences and their response differs from that of the undeveloped man or the self-centred person. This will have to be recognised. Those who "live below the diaphragm" and who react to the incoming energies through the medium of the lower centres will have a very different type of chart to that of the disciple and initiate. It will require a different mode of interpretation. We have referred to this before and would remind you of some of the points which we made.

Attitudes and positions taken by the esoteric Astrologer

The following attitudes and positions taken by the esoteric astrologer should also be noted:

1. That the planetary influences indicate the trend of the outer life circumstances -

When correctly interpreted for the average man and for the unevolved man, they can and do indicate the personality destiny and fate; they do condition and completely control the man who has no conscious soul experience. The moment that a man becomes aware of his own soul and is endeavouring to control his own "path in life," the influence of the planets, per se, definitely weakens and steadily becomes less and less; his personality chart appears inconclusive and often most inaccurate. It is the force flowing through the planets and not the force of the planets themselves which then governs and controls. The man then becomes receptive to the subtler and higher energies of the solar system and of the twelve governing constellations.

2. *That the Sun sign, as it is called, indicates the nature of the man, physical, mental and spiritual. It holds the secret of the personality ray and of the man's responsiveness or lack of responsiveness to the Soul, the real man -*

It indicates also:

- a. The integration already achieved and
- b. The present point of unfoldment of the soul qualities,
- c. Of the present available equipment,
- d. Of the present life quality and
- e. Of the immediately possible group relations.

It indicates, from the angle of the Ageless Wisdom, nothing more. This is a reversal of the usual astrological position. The reason that I proffer this is that humanity is enough evolved so that the astrology of the soul will become possible before long; it constitutes - from many points of view - a reversal of normal procedure. This is both wise and necessary, and also inevitable. Astrologers will eventually be divided into two classes: the exoteric astrologers who will be occupied with the horoscope of the personality, and the esoteric astrologers who will be occupied with the purposes of the soul.

3. *That the rising sign indicates the remoter possibilities, and the spiritual goal and purpose of the immediate incarnation and of the immediate succeeding incarnations -*

This sign concerns itself with the struggle of the spiritual man "to carry on" from the point achieved so that when the life energy is temporarily exhausted and the "death of the personality" takes place, the man finds himself "nearer the centre of his life, closer to the centre of his group and approaching the centre of divine life," as the Ageless Wisdom expresses it. This particular phrase "death of the personality" has two definite connotations:

- a. It may mean the death of the physical body, which is inevitably followed by the two stages of the death of the emotional vehicle and the subsequent dissipation of the temporary and ever-changing form which the quota of mental energy has assumed during incarnation.
- b. The subjective and mystical "death of the personality." This is a phrase indicating the transfer of the focus for the distribution of energy from the personality (a definite centre of force) to the soul (another definite centre).

I realise that these concepts are not in line with the usual astrological postulates. However, astrology would not be wasting time if it experimented with these ideas for a while. Astrologers might discover some most interesting and arresting problems and perhaps arrive at an accuracy which is at present unknown. It might be of some service if I enlarged somewhat upon this point:

In connection with the sun sign, the rising sign and the effect of the thoughtform relating to the moon, the position of esoteric astrology is as follows:

1. The sun sign - *this sign indicates the present problem of the man*; it sets the pace or the established tempo of his personality life; it is related to quality, temperament and the life tendencies which are seeking expression during this particular incarnation, and *it is suggestive of the rajasic or the activity aspect of the innate man*. Fundamentally, the forces here found are indicative of the line of least resistance.

2. The ascendant or rising sign *indicates the intended life or immediate soul purpose for this incarnation*. It holds the secret of the future and presents the force which, rightly used, will lead the man to success. *It represents the sattvic or harmony aspect of life and can produce right relationship between soul and personality in any one incarnation*. It thus points the way to the recognition of the force of the soul.

3. The moon - this type of force (coming from certain planets and not from the moon) indicates that which is past. It, therefore, summarises limitation and the present handicaps. *It governs the physical body and shows where the prison of the soul is to be found*.

The next statement which I would like to make, and which grows normally out of the above, is that:

the zodiacal, the systemic and the planetary energies act either as hindering or as stimulating forces, according to the type of vehicle or body upon which they play; the nature of these vehicles and their capacity to attract, to respond, to reject, to absorb and to transmute is entirely dependent upon the point in evolution attained and also upon the general planetary condition and psychology to be found in the human family at any given time.

An instance of the latter can be seen today in the world where the forces, beating in an almost violent and somewhat new measure and tempo upon our planetary life, are evoking a greatly intensified response from the world thinkers, thus stimulating them to earnest effort along ideological lines and, at the same time, are drawing forth from the masses and the little evolved people nothing but terror, a miserable fatalism, widespread physical depletion and many other undesirable reactions from the form nature. An understanding of these hindering or stimulating effects can be easily grasped by those who can comprehend the nature of the activities of the planet, Saturn. This is the planet which conditions primarily the point in evolution where choice definitely becomes possible, where rejection of opportunity or its acceptance can consciously be undertaken, and the shouldering of personal responsibility becomes a recognised fact in a planned and ordered life. This point in the human evolutionary process is spoken of in the Old Commentary in the following symbolic phrases:

"Amid the whirling forces, I stand confused. I know them not, for, during all my past, they swept me up and down the land wherein I moved, blinded and unaware. From place to place and point to point, they drove me up and down the land and nowhere was there rest.

I know them now and here I stand and will not move until I know the Law which governs all this movement up and down the land. I may revolve and turning face the many different ways; I face some wide horizons and yet today I stand.

I will determine for myself the way to go. Then onward I will move. I will not travel up and down the land nor turn in space. But onward I will move."

There is another revolutionary idea which the esoteric science of astrology brings to its modern and exoteric aspect: In the greater cycle of man's many incarnations, he - as is well recognised - passes through the zodiacal circle from Pisces to Aries, thus retrograding through the signs as he follows the sweep or path of the Sun's retrogression. This phrase has always disturbed me, but the apparent retrogression, based upon the precession of the equinoxes, is all an integral part of the Great Illusion. The moment a man begins to emerge out of that illusion and is no longer subject to the glamour and to the effect of the world maya, that moment the motion of the great Wheel of Life is reversed and he then begins (slowly and laboriously) to work in the opposite direction. He then passes through the signs from Aries to Pisces. He begins patiently and consciously to function as a soul struggling towards the light until finally he emerges at the end of the Path in Pisces as a world Victor and a world Saviour. He then knows the significance of the triumph over death because he has surmounted and overcome desire.

This reversal of the way a man travels through the signs of the zodiac will necessitate a readjustment of the method employed by astrologers when they are casting a horoscope of senior aspirants, of disciples and of initiates.

The disciple and the initiate respond distinctively to the incoming influences

Upon the Fixed Cross:

1. Eventually the Ram becomes the Scapegoat and the will of God in love and salvage is demonstrated.
2. The Bull becomes the bestower of light, and the darkness of the earlier cycle is lightened by the Bull.

3. The Goat becomes the Unicorn, and leads to victory. The Crocodile, the Goat and the Unicorn depict three stages of man's unfoldment.

Aries, Taurus, and Capricorn are the great transformers under the great creative plan. They are in the nature of catalysts. Each of them opens a door into one of the three divine centres of expression which are the symbols in the body of the planetary Logos of the three higher centres in man: the head, the heart and the throat.

- I. *Aries opens the door into Shamballa, when the experience of Taurus and Capricorn has been undergone.*
- II. *Taurus opens the door into the Hierarchy when the significance of Gemini and Leo is understood and the first two initiations can therefore be taken.*
- III. *Capricorn opens the door into the Hierarchy in a higher aspect when the last three initiations can be undergone and the significance of Scorpio and of Virgo is understood.*

In these signs and their relationship upon the Fixed Cross lies hid the mystery of Makara and of the Crocodiles (Venus is the ruler of Capricorn after the third initiation).

The keynotes of this sign are all indicative of a crystallisation process. This concretising faculty of Capricorn can be considered in several ways.

(1) First of all, Capricorn is an earth sign, and in it we have expressed the densest point of concrete materialisation of which the human soul is capable. Man is then "of the earth, earthy" and is what the New Testament calls "the first Adam." *In this sense, Capricorn holds in itself the seeds of death and finality - the death which takes place finally and eventually in Pisces.* Ponder on this. When crystallisation has reached a certain degree of density and so-called "hardness," it is easily shattered and destroyed and man, born in Capricorn, then brings about his own destruction; this is due to his fundamentally materialistic nature, plus the "blows of fate" which are the enactments of the law of karma. Again and again, a certain measure of concreteness is achieved, only again to undergo destruction, prior to the release of the life and the rebuilding of the form.

(2) Secondly, Capricorn is ever the sign of conclusion, and of this the mountain top is frequently (though not always) the symbol, for it marks the point beyond which further ascent in any particular life cycle is not possible. Capricorn is, therefore, the sign of what has been called esoterically "*periodic arresting*." Progress becomes impossible under the existing forms, and there has to be the descent into the valley of pain, despair and death before a fresh attempt to scale the heights takes place. But - and this is the matter of moment and of interest - when humanity emerges into the light and relative glory of the new civilisation, they will at the same time conquer this last remaining summit. That which is of the densest materiality and which is the consummation of earthly grandeur will remain - but it will be beneath the feet of humanity.

(3) Thirdly, Capricorn is, as a consequence of all the above, the sign in which is inaugurated a new cycle of effort, whether this effort is in connection with the individual man or with the initiate. Effort, strain, struggle, the fight with the forces native to the underworld, or the strenuous conditions entailed by the tests of discipleship or initiation - these are distinctive of experience in Capricorn.

In ancient days, as you may perchance have heard, there were only ten signs, and - at that time - Capricorn marked the end of the zodiacal wheel, and not Pisces as is at this time the case. The two signs of Aquarius and Pisces were not incorporated in the signs for the simple and sufficient reason that humanity could not respond to their peculiar influences; the vehicles of contact and the mechanisms for responses were not adequately developed. Originally, there were eight signs; then there were ten and now twelve.

1. *In Lemurian days*, during the early period of animal man and before humanity appeared on earth, in the interim period of development, eight signs influenced the planet and the kingdoms of nature found upon it. There was no response to the influences of Leo and Virgo. The mystery of the Sphinx did not exist and these two signs were not then part of the zodiacal wheel. Then individualisation took place and the seed of Christhood was planted in man and these two signs began to influence humanity, and

gradually that influence was recognised and the zodiac was then known to have ten signs. The Mutable Cross dominated, but it was then the Tau, for Pisces was lacking and only Gemini, Virgo and Sagittarius were evidenced. Aries to Capricorn marked the circle of experience.

2. *In Atlantean days*, man had become so responsive to the planetary and solar influence that the door of initiation into hierarchical experience was opened and two more signs were added. These two signs were the higher correspondences of Leo and Virgo and were the polar opposites of these two: Aquarius and Pisces. Their influence became active and effective and thus they formed part of the zodiacal wheel because man began to respond to their potencies. It then became possible for the Fixed Cross to function esoterically in the life of humanity, and the first reversals of the wheel in the life of the advanced men of the period took place. *It was this reversal which was the true cause of the great contest or battle between the Lords of the Dark Face (as they are called in The Secret Doctrine) and the Lords of Light - a contest which is today persisting.* Certain men then reached the stage of discipleship wherein they could consciously mount the Fixed Cross and be prepared for a major initiation. This the Forces of Materiality and of Obstruction (as they are sometimes called) fought and the battle was fought out and conditioned in the sign Scorpio.

Today a conflict upon a higher turn of the spiral is taking place

3. *Today, in Aryan times*, a similar conflict upon a higher turn of the spiral is taking place. The reason is that certain world disciples and initiates have reached the point in their unfoldment wherein *they are ready to mount the Cardinal Cross and take some of the higher initiations.* So the conflict is on between humanity (under the control of the Lords of Materiality) and the Hierarchy (under the control of the Forces of Light and Love), and right before our eyes the battle is being waged. The influences of the twelve signs of the zodiac (*particularly of seven of the signs*) are being engaged, for today men of all types and rays are responsive to their influences and are implicated in some form or another in the affair.

You will note, therefore, that if the concentrated forces of the Cardinal Cross are definitely potent at this time (as they are) the battle is terrific, because,

1. *Humanity, as a whole*, is in a state of turmoil, prior to a great step forward in self-conscious unfoldment, and in the expression of the sense of responsibility which is the first flower and fruit of self-conscious awareness. This fact is responsible for sweeping into the conflict in a peculiar and pronounced manner, the forces of Cancer (involutionary in nature), of Leo (concerned with individualisation), and of Gemini (expressive of man's essential duality). You find, therefore, today, the activity of the mass consciousness of Cancer which is indicative of the activity of the Cardinal Cross in the involutionary stage; the self-consciousness of man as indicated by Leo, the most human sign of all, and indicative of the Fixed Cross; and Gemini, which gives the sense of the dual nature of man - human and divine - which is the goal of the consciousness of experience upon the Mutable Cross. You consequently have a sign in each of the three Crosses particularly active today in influencing the masses of men everywhere. A little study of world conditions, as far as man is concerned, will prove this.

2. *The disciples of the world today* and advanced humanity are equally in a state of turmoil. They are being tested and tried, prior to taking a major step forward - in some cases this will be the taking of the first initiation and in others the second. This is brought about by, and brings in, *the forces of Taurus, Leo and Scorpio*, plus *a general pervasive influence coming from Gemini.* You have here three signs found in the Fixed Cross and one in the Mutable Cross conditioning and *affecting the world disciples, and all of them of terrific importance and potency today, owing to the stage of development and the sensitivity of the disciples and world initiates.*

3. *The initiates*, in their turn, are being subjected to the impact of energies from *Scorpio, Capricorn and Pisces* - an inflow of force from each of the three Crosses. *These three forces enable the initiates to take the third initiation.*

It will interest you to note that average humanity is, therefore, subjected to the influences of three major signs at this time and conditioned by potencies coming from each of the three Crosses. These present men with the responsibility of choice, evoking their free will, their trend towards self-determination and their established decision at this time of world crisis. You will note that the world

disciples are related to the mass of men through their responsiveness to influences emanating from Gemini, and to each other through Scorpio. This produces in them the capacity to respond to test, to a sense of the vision (through the illumined eye of Taurus) and to use their power of individuality through a developed personality and through the potency of Leo.

Initiates are brought into relation to the world disciples through the constellation Scorpio, to the hierarchical centre through Capricorn, and to the mass through Pisces, the sign of all world saviours.

Seven constellations are, therefore, predominantly brought into a close combination at the present moment of crisis and are responsible for world affairs as they are found today:

Cancer		The Cardinal Cross	<i>"Both Gates stand wide"</i>
Capricorn			
Taurus		The Fixed Cross	<i>"The Disciples dominate the world"</i>
Leo			
Scorpio			
Gemini		The Mutable Cross	<i>"World salvation is possible today"</i>
Pisces			

The exoteric and the esoteric planetary rulers of Capricorn are the same, and Saturn rules the career of the man in this sign, no matter whether he is on the ordinary or the reversed wheel, or whether he is on the Mutable or the Fixed Cross. When he has taken the third initiation and can consciously mount the Cardinal Cross, he is then released from the ruling of Saturn and comes under the influence of Venus, who is governor or ruler of the Hierarchy which is that of the Crocodiles. A reference to the tabulation heretofore given will show this.

It is only when a man is upon the Cardinal Cross that the significance, purpose and potencies of the Creative Hierarchies become clear to him and the "doors of entrance" into all of them stand wide open.

On the Mutable Cross and on the Fixed Cross we have the so-called green ray, controlling not only the daily life of karmic liability upon the path of evolution, but also controlling the experiences and processes of evolution. The reason for this is that Capricorn is an earth sign and because the third and fifth rays work pre-eminently through this sign, embodying the third major aspect of divinity, active intelligence plus that of its subsidiary power, the fifth Ray of Mind. These pour through Capricorn to Saturn and to Venus and so reach our planet, the Earth. Saturn is one of the most potent of the four Lords of Karma and forces man to face up to the past, and in the present to prepare for the future. Such is the intention and purpose of karmic opportunity.

From certain angles, Saturn can be regarded as the planetary Dweller on the Threshold, for humanity as a whole has to face that Dweller as well as the Angel of the Presence, and in so doing discover that both the Dweller and the Angel are that complex duality which is the human family.

Saturn, in a peculiar relation to the sign Gemini, makes this possible. Individual man makes this discovery and faces the two extremes whilst in the sign Capricorn; the fourth and fifth Creative Hierarchies do the same thing in Libra.

Readiness and capacity for initiation – Guardians of Four Secrets

Through Saturn and Venus, therefore, Capricorn is connected with Libra and also with Gemini and Taurus, and these four constellations - *Taurus, Gemini, Libra and Capricorn* - constitute a potent quaternary of energies and between them produce those conditions and situations which will enable the initiate to demonstrate his readiness and capacity for initiation. They are called the *"Guardians of the Four Secrets."*

Taurus - *Guards the secret of light and confers illumination upon the initiate.*

Gemini - *Guards the mystery or secret of duality and presents the initiate with a word which leads to the fusion of the greater pairs of opposite.*

Libra - *Guards the secret of balance, of equilibrium and finally speaks the word which releases the initiate from the power of the Lords of Karma.*

Capricorn - *Guards the secret of the soul itself and this it reveals to the initiate at the time of the third initiation. This is sometimes called the "secret of the hidden glory."*

Through certain other of the planetary rulers, through the medium of which the third and fifth rays work, Capricorn is connected with other constellations besides the four above mentioned, but these four are for our purposes the most important. Students can work out the remaining interlocking energies for themselves, if they so desire, by relating the rays, planetary rulers and constellations through reference to the tabulations already given. The subject is, however, definitely confusing to the beginner, and it is for this reason that we are dealing here with the philosophy and symbolism of the signs first of all, so as to familiarise the student with the general scheme and the universal broad interlocking.

The third and fifth rays are peculiarly active upon the Path of Discipleship, just as the sixth and fourth are dominant upon the Path of Evolution and the first and seventh upon the Path of Initiation.

The second ray controls and dominates all the other rays, as you well know:

<i>Path</i>	<i>Rays</i>	<i>Planets</i>	<i>Constellations</i>
Evolution	6 and 4	Mars - Mercury	Aries - Gemini - Cancer - Virgo - Scorpio
Discipleship	3 and 5	Venus - Saturn	Gemini - Sagittarius - Capricorn
Initiation	1 and 7	Vulcan - Uranus - Pluto	Taurus - Libra - Pisces

You will notice from the above tabulation one or two interesting points. These should be carefully considered by all astrologers, after determining the approximate place of the subject upon the evolutionary path in one or other of its three divisions.

(a) First that the constellation Gemini appears twice on account of its close connection with the fourth Creative Hierarchy.

(b) Second, that during the period of the Mutable Cross five constellations are concerned with the experience of man upon the path of daily life, of constant rebirths and of karmic difficulty. *Four of them lead to Scorpio, in which sign comes the point of the reversal of the Wheel.*

(c) Third, that *on the Path of Discipleship three constellations control and lead up to the activity of Capricorn, at which time initiation becomes possible.*

(d) Fourth, *on the Path of Initiation the activity of all the three Crosses is felt simultaneously through the medium of the "released powers" of Taurus, Libra and Pisces.*

You will note also that the first ray influence, expressing through Pluto and Vulcan, is only felt in a positive manner upon the Path of Discipleship. This first ray potency has only lately been experienced by humanity as a whole as it neared the stage of being the world disciple, and vast numbers relatively stood upon the Path of Discipleship and Probation. Hence the recent discovery of Pluto and the sensed power of Vulcan, veiled by the potency of Mercury and hidden behind the planet.

Second ray influences and potencies presently pouring into our planetary life

Second ray influences and potencies are abidingly present and pour into our planetary sphere and life, via the Sun (veiling a hidden planet) and Jupiter. These sweep the forces of Leo, Sagittarius, Pisces, Aquarius and Virgo into and through our entire planet and all its kingdoms in nature.

From the above few points, hints can be gathered together as to the interlocking forces of all the twelve constellations, as they pour into and through all the kingdoms in nature, carrying with them also not only their own individual potencies but also those of the seven rays, focussed through the sacred and non-sacred planets - the discovered and undiscovered planetary Lives. It has been occultly said that a vision of these powers and their many weaving lines (seen as rivers and streams of light) is given to the initiate from the mountain top of Capricorn, once that summit has been reached. It is at the Transfiguration initiation that this vision appears before the eyes of the astounded disciple.

The great experiences upon the various mountain tops as related in the Bible have all to do with Capricorn. Moses, the Lawgiver on Mount Sinai, is Saturn in Capricorn imposing the law of karma upon the people. A clue to the significance of the Jewish people as a karmic clearing house can be found here. Ponder on those words "a karmic clearing house." The Mount of Transfiguration in the New Testament is Venus in Capricorn when love and mind and will meet in the person of the Christ, and "He was transfigured" before all men. At the same time, He received the vision of the Father and of what He had to do as He "went up to Jerusalem," the place of death and likewise the city of peace. This Jerusalem is Pisces. In Aquarius, Christ put His disciples in touch with the "man, bearing a pitcher of water," Aquarius, and in the upper room introduced them to union and unity under the symbolism of the communion feast. For that feast, humanity is today preparing, as we saw when studying the last constellation. The astrological significance of the New Testament is as yet little understood. Christ was born in Capricorn, fulfilled the law under Saturn, initiated the era of intelligent brotherhood under Venus and is the perfect example of the Capricornian initiate who becomes the world Server in Aquarius, and the world Saviour in Pisces, thus completing the round of the zodiac and able to say triumphantly in Pisces "It is finished."

The polar opposite to Capricorn is Cancer and, as you have been taught, these two signs are the two great Gates of the zodiac - one opening the door into incarnation, into mass life, and into human experience, whilst

the other opens the door into the life of the spirit, into the life of the Kingdom of God, the life and purposes of the Hierarchy of our planet.

Cancer admits the soul into the world centre which we call Humanity. Capricorn admits the soul into conscious participation in the life of that world centre which we call the Hierarchy.

Libra admits the soul into the world centre which we call Shamballa, for it is the polar opposite of Aries which is the place of beginnings.

Libra demonstrates the perfect balance of spirit and matter which first came together in Aries. This balance and this relation of the great opposites, spirit and matter, is symbolised for us in the personality situation of balancing the pairs of opposites on the astral plane, and finding between them the "narrow razor-edged path" which leads the man into the kingdom of the soul. As man passes around and around the zodiac in the ordinary manner, he continually and consciously enters into life in Cancer, the constellation under which the Law of Rebirth is applied and administered. But it is only on the reversed zodiac that the man learns to pass with equally conscious purpose through the gate of Capricorn.

Five times he has to pass through that Gate in full waking consciousness and these five happenings are frequently called the five major initiations.

Viewing the fourth Creative Hierarchy as a whole, the appearance and experiences of the life of the planetary Logos through the medium of the five races - two past, one present, the Aryan, and two to come - are planetary correspondences to the five initiations. This is peculiarly interesting to study

because at the time that any particular race comes into being both the doors in Cancer and Capricorn stand wide open, being then occultly aligned.

Various initiations and planetary influences

1. Disciples upon the Path of Discipleship are strongly influenced by Mercury and Saturn - one bringing illumination and the other offering opportunity.

2. At the various initiations, the influence of the planets affects the candidate in a totally different manner than earlier. Cyclically the energies from the constellations pour through the planetary centres.

2.1 *At the first initiation*, the disciple has to contend with the crystallising and destroying forces of Vulcan and Pluto. The influence of Vulcan reaches to the very depths of his nature, whilst Pluto drags to the surface and destroys all that hinders in these lower regions.

2.2 *At the second initiation*, the candidate comes under the influence of three planets - Neptune, Venus and Jupiter. The three centres - solar plexus, heart and throat - are actively involved.

2.3 *At the third initiation*, the Moon (veiling a hidden planet) and Mars bring about a fearful conflict, but at the end the man is released from personality control.

2.4 *At the fourth initiation*, Mercury and Saturn again bring about great changes and unique revelation, but their effect is very different to the earlier experience.

2.5 *At the fifth and final initiation*, Uranus and Jupiter appear and produce a "beneficent organisation" of the totality of energies found in the initiate's equipment. When this reorganisation is complete, the initiate can then "escape from off the wheel and then can truly live."

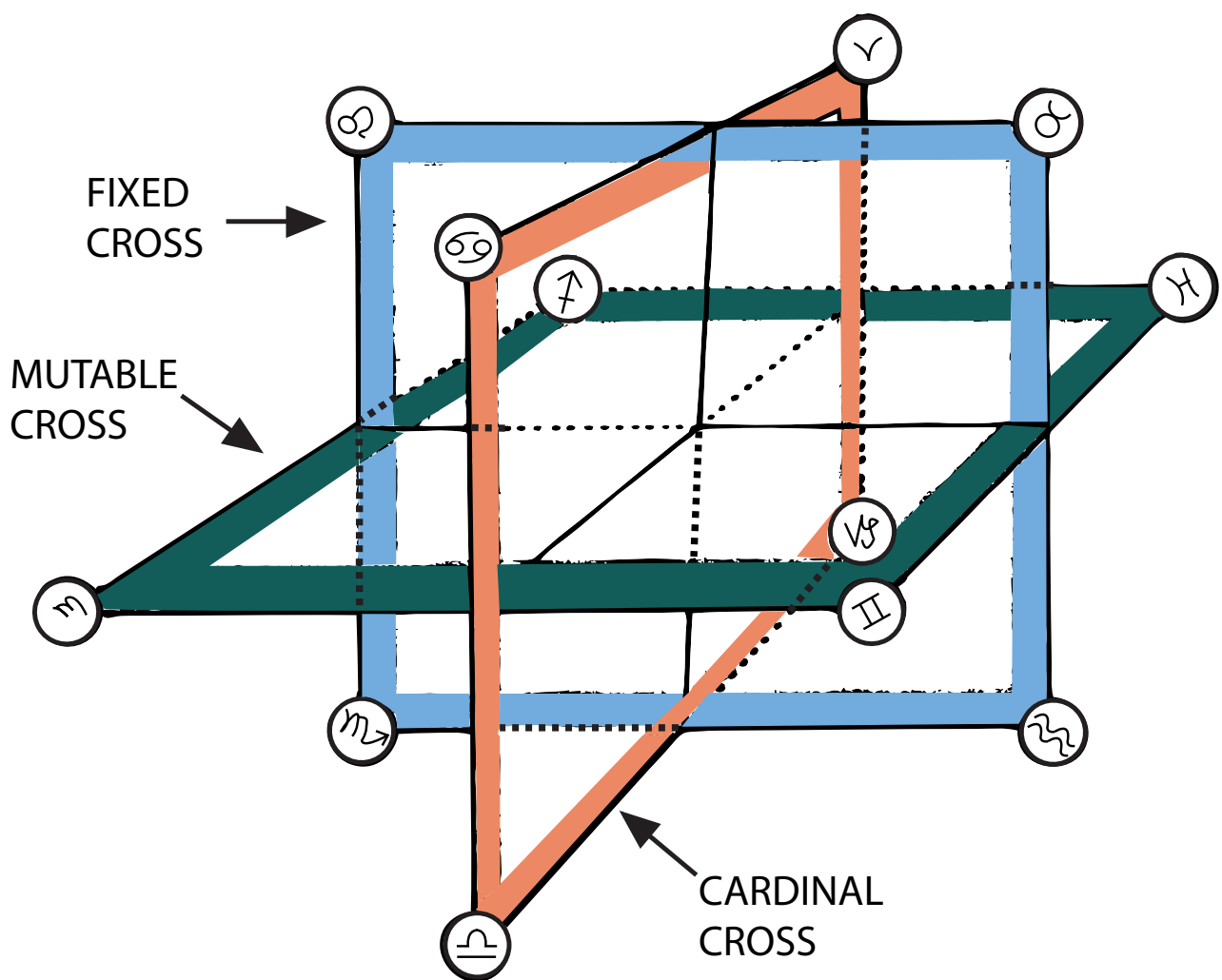
All this time the energy of the sun (veiling a sacred planet, hitherto unknown) is steadily and persistently reaching the man via the solar angel.

THE THREE COSMIC CROSSES

Esoteric Astrology is designed to instigate research and the power to delve and seek, because that process has a definite effect upon the cells of the brain and leads to a needed stimulation. In the study of the Crosses, the true meaning of their influence will only appear as you begin to think in terms of synthesis or of the relation of the four streams of energy, flowing united upon and through any form of divine manifestation. This is by no means easy, for the ability to think synthetically is only just beginning to appear in the foremost minds of the race.

The esoteric teaching emphasises the fact that the soul of man is a Lord of Sacrifice and of loving persistent Devotion - the two outstanding qualities of the Shamballa Lives, sustaining life and giving.

PLANES OF THE THREE CROSSES



PART 1 – The three Crosses

*The presence in humanity today of an ardent intelligence and a growing inclusiveness
is symbolised under the words "the vertical and the horizontal life".
It is therefore visually portrayed under the symbol of the Cross.*

The occult Cross

In the Cross is hidden Light.

The vertical and horizontal in mutual friction create; a vibrant Cross scintillates, and motion originates.

When the vertical assumes the horizontal, pralaya supervenes.

Evolution is the movement of the horizontal to upright positiveness.

In the secret of direction lies the hidden wisdom.

In the doctrine of absorption lies the healing faculty.

In the point becoming the line, and the line becoming the cross is evolution.

In the cross swinging to the horizontal lies salvation and pralayaic peace.

The Cross – an ancient symbol of divine origin

The sign of the Cross - associated in the Western world with the fourth initiation and with the Christian faith - is in reality a cosmic symbol, long ante-dating the Christian era. It is one of the major signs to be found in the consciousness of Those advanced Beings Who, from the distant sun, Sirius, the seat of the true Great White Lodge, watch over the destinies of our solar system, but Who pay particular attention to our relatively little and apparently unimportant planet, the Earth.

The three Crosses and the zodiac

The three cosmic Crosses are composed of the (present) twelve constellations of the zodiac:

(1) Mutable Cross	Gemini	- Virgo	- Sagittarius	- Pisces
(2) Fixed Cross	Taurus	- Leo	- Scorpio	- Aquarius
(3) Cardinal Cross	Aries	- Cancer	- Libra	- Capricorn

The three Crosses and their ancient names

Next, the names for the three crosses taken from the ancient archives, difficult to translate:

1. The *Mutable Cross* - The Cross of changing and absorbed Experience. This is the place of action and of reaction, of karmic control and of response to impacts leading to the awakening of consciousness to the nature of the goal ahead.

2. The *Fixed Cross* - The Cross of Transmutation. Desire becomes aspiration, and selfishness is transformed into selflessness.

3. The *Cardinal Cross* - The Cross of Transcendence. Personality life and form life and planetary life no longer control. The man stands free.

Esoteric Astrology is designed to instigate research and the power to delve and seek, because that process has a definite effect upon the cells of the brain and leads to a needed stimulation. In the study of the Crosses, the true meaning of their influence will only appear as you begin to think in terms of synthesis or of the relation of the four streams of energy, flowing united upon and through any form of divine manifestation. This is by no means easy, for the ability to think synthetically is only just beginning to appear in the foremost minds of the race.

The three phases of man's Path and the three Crosses

The study of the planets which are exalted, in detriment, or which fall in any particular sign, will indicate the three phases of the Path – with:

1. Its involutory cycle of becoming increasingly involved in matter, or life upon the Mutable Cross,
2. The interlude of readjustment or struggle for liberation which leads to the mounting of the Fixed Cross,
3. The period of liberation with the final mounting of the Cardinal Cross.

The three Crosses and four symbols

You have the next conditions and correspondences in connection with the three Crosses:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------|------------|
| 1. The Cardinal Cross | Spirit | Will | Shamballa. |
| 2. The Fixed Cross | Soul | Consciousness | Hierarchy. |
| 3. The Mutable Cross | Form | Activity | Humanity. |

The initiate is one who is in process of relating consciously and effectively all these three within himself. Man the essential triangle of energy, man the square, man upon the Cross, and finally, man the five-pointed star! In these four simple symbolic forms lies the whole history of the fourth kingdom in nature. The triangle and the star are subjective expressions of a fixed consciousness, focussed in reality, whilst the square and the Cross are objective expressions of the man focussed outwardly.

The three wheels of Life and the three Crosses

The Crosses turn, being the spokes of the great wheel (of the zodiac). The developed man goes from Aries to Cancer and to Libra and Capricorn. We could consider the great experience of life as taking place upon the three wheels within the wheel of Life, viewing it from three angles:

- | | |
|------|--|
| I. | 1. The Wheel of Incarnation |
| | 2. The cycle of ordinary evolution |
| | 3. The period of captivity, wherein the man is bound upon the wheel |
| | 4. The fourfold influence of the Common Cross |
| | 5. Life in the three worlds |
| | 6. The development of personality |
| II. | 1. The Wheel adjusted or reversed |
| | 2. The cycle of discipleship |
| | 3. The period of emergence, wherein the man alters the revolution of the wheel |
| | 4. The fourfold influence of the Fixed Cross |
| | 5. Life in the five worlds of superhuman evolution |
| | 6. The unfoldment of soul through the personality |
| III. | 1. The wheel controlled or dominated |
| | 2. The cycle of initiation |
| | 3. The period of liberation from the work of the Great Wheel |
| | 4. The fourfold influence of the Cardinal Cross |
| | 5. Life in the seven worlds of our seven planes |
| | 6. Fusion of spirit, soul and personality |

The three zodiacal Crosses and incarnated man

The three zodiacal Crosses - the Mutable, Fixed and Cardinal Crosses are concerned with the wholes or with the syntheses of manifestation and with the unified experience of an incarnating entity, be it God or man. They can be truly comprehended only by those with an inclusive consciousness, with an initiate-awareness. Some general comments can be made. These three Crosses are:

1. *The Cross of the Hidden Christ - The Mutable Cross*

- a. The Cross of the four major energies which produce the conditioning circumstances which transform animal man into an aspirant.
- b. The Cross of the personality or of the steadily developing and finally integrating human being. This takes place at first in response to circumstance and later to soul inclination.

c. The Cross of temporal and temporary change, of fluidity and of those constantly altering environments which drive the soul within the form from one extreme of experience to another, so that the life shuttles between the pairs of opposites.

d. The Cross of the responsive form, nurturing and developing the life of the indwelling Christ, the hidden Soul or Lord of Being.

The four arms of this Cross are Gemini – Virgo – Sagittarius - Pisces. Sometimes called the Common Cross because it conditions the common herd, the mass of humanity.

2. The Cross of the Crucified Christ - The Fixed Cross

a. The Cross, composed of the four energies which condition the life of the man who is first a probationary disciple and then an accepted or pledged disciple.

b. Outstandingly the Cross of the soul. The man who is upon the Fixed Cross is becoming increasingly aware of its direction and influences and does not respond as blindly as does the man upon the Mutable Cross. He does not *"mount this Cross of Right Direction"* in a technical sense until he has attained some measure of soul contact and has had some touch of illumination and of spiritual intuition - no matter how fleeting that touch may have been.

c. The Cross of *"fixed vision and of that immovable intent which draws the man from points of light to blazing solar radiance."* The man upon the Fixed Cross says: *"I am the soul and here I stand. Naught shall remove my feet from off the narrow place whereon I stand. I face the light. I am the Light and in that light shall I see Light."*

The Cross, whose four energies blend with and transmit the energies of the solar system itself. This it can do because the man upon the Fixed Cross is becoming increasingly conscious of issues which are larger than himself, more engrossing than his previous interests and which concern humanity in its relation to the solar forces and not just to the planetary forces. He is becoming sensitive to a larger whole. The energies of this Cross continue to evoke response until the time of the third initiation. The four arms of this Cross are Taurus – Leo – Scorpio - Aquarius. It is called the Fixed Cross because the man is stretched upon it by the directed choice and immovable intent of his soul. From that decision there is no turning back.

3. The Cross of the Risen Christ - The Cardinal Cross

a. The Cross, whereon under the occult paradox and in time and space, the Spirit is crucified. Its four energies govern and direct the soul as it moves forward upon the Path of Initiation.

b. It is pre-eminently the Cross of Initiation and of "beginnings." It concerns fundamentally *"the beginning of the endless Way of Revelation"* which starts when Nirvana is entered and for which all the previous stages of the Path of Evolution have been but preparatory.

The following quotation may carry understanding and help to illumine this most difficult subject, indicating the significance of this Cardinal Cross as a consummating influence and revealing that which lies ahead of those who attain hierarchical standing:

"All beauty, all goodness, all that makes for the eradication of sorrow and ignorance upon the Earth must be devoted to the Great Consummation. Then when the Lords of Compassion shall have spiritually civilised the Earth and made of it a Heaven, there shall be revealed to the Pilgrims the Endless Path, which reaches to the Heart of the Universe. Man, then no longer man, will transcend nature and impersonally, yet consciously, in at-one-ment with all Enlightened Ones, help to fulfil the Law of the Higher Evolution, of which Nirvana is but the beginning,"

c. It is the Cross of the *"widespread arms, the open heart and the higher mind,"* for those who lie upon this Cross know and enjoy the significances underlying the words: *Omnipresence and*

Omniscience, and are in process of unfolding the higher phases of Being which we inadequately cover by the word, *Omnipotence*.

d. The energies of the Cardinal Cross blend with the energies to which we can give no greater name than cosmic energy even though that word is meaningless. They carry the quality of the One About Whom Naught May Be Said and are "*tinctured with the Light of the seven solar systems*" of which our solar system is one. The scope and cycle of its influence in the life of the initiate is utterly unknown even to our planetary Logos, Who is Himself stretched upon its "widespread arms."

The three Crosses and man's body, soul and monad

Speaking generally:

1. The Mutable Cross governs the form or body nature, controls the whole life cycle of the individual soul through the stages of the lower experiences of humanity, the strictly human stages, and the integrating processes of personality development until the man stands forth as an aligned person, slowly reorienting himself to a higher vision, a wider horizontal and vertical grasp of reality and thus becomes the aspirant. This Cross governs the lower triad (the personality) in manifestation and rules in the three worlds of human evolution (physical, astral & lower mental worlds).
2. The Fixed Cross governs the soul, which is now conscious within the human form and in the three worlds, but controls throughout what is called "*the five worlds of human attainment*" - the three strictly human levels of activity and the two superhuman, i.e., the lower trinity and the Spiritual Triad. It deals with the entire life of soul experience and expression after the Mutable Cross has effectively forced the man on to the Path of Purification and of Discipleship. It is concerned with the integration of soul and personality and their complete blending or fusion.
3. The Cardinal Cross governs the manifestation of the Monad in all its glory and beauty, and this cycle of influence falls into two stages: First, the one in which the Monad expresses itself upon the six planes of manifestation in "*wisdom, strength and beauty*" through the medium of the integrated soul and personality. This is a relatively brief stage. Second, the stage wherein - withdrawn and abstracted from those forms of Being - "*the ONE proceeds upon the higher Way and passes on to realms unknown even to the highest of the Sons of God upon our Earth.*"

The three Crosses and three great planetary centres

We might add:

1. The Mutable Cross is the conditioning influence in that great planetary centre which we call the human (Humanity).
2. The Fixed Cross is paramountly the major controlling set of energies governing, and being transmitted by, the centre, which we call the planetary Hierarchy.
3. The Cardinal Cross rules and conditions (in a manner unknown to men) that great planetary centre to which we give the name Shamballa.

The three Crosses of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Our theme is stupendous. Think in terms of one or other of the three above Wholes. Lesser minds will get a general picture or vision of transcendental possibilities, which will aid them to an expansion of consciousness, but what we say will remain far-off in the realm of the (temporarily) unattainable. Technically and academically we point out that:

1. The Mutable Cross is the Cross of the Holy Spirit, of the third Person of the Christian Trinity, as it organises substance and evokes sensitive response from substance itself.
2. The Fixed Cross is the Cross of the Son of God, of the second Person of the Trinity, driven through love to incarnate in matter and to be consciously crucified upon the Cross of matter.

3. The Cardinal Cross is the Cross of the Father, the first aspect of the sacred Trinity, Who sent forth the Holy Spirit (the Breath) because the Mind of God visioned a destiny for matter which had been long in coming. Now that the "time was at hand," the Son fulfilled the law in cooperation with the Holy Spirit and this in response to the fiat of the Father.

Man placed upon the three Crosses

The three Crosses are, in their totality of manifestation, related to the three basic energies, which brought the solar system into being. They constitute the three major and synthetic expressions of the supernal Will, motivated by love and expressed through activity. (Being) upon these Crosses, the ability to see the Whole, purpose-motive-expression, life-quality- appearance, shifts and changes.

1. Upon the Mutable Cross, the crucified man sees naught of the picture. He suffers, agonises, desires, strives, is the apparent victim of circumstances, and is distinguished by a veiled vision and inchoate longings. These gradually take shape until he reaches the stage of acquiescence and aspiration.

2. Then he finds himself upon the Fixed Cross and begins to grasp the whole of the purpose of experience upon the Mutable Cross (as far as humanity is concerned) and to realise that there is a hierarchical purpose which can only be grasped by the man who is willing to be crucified upon that Cross. He reaches the stage of responsibility, self-awareness and right direction. His orientation is now *"the spiritually vertical which involves the inclusive horizontal."* At this stage, the Plan of the Logos begins to take shape in his consciousness.

3. Upon the Cardinal Cross, the purpose and the unified consummations of the two earlier crucifixions become almost blindingly apparent and a vision of the unified intent of the three Persons of the underlying Trinity (each upon His Own Cross) emerges with clarity.

Towards a synthetic understanding of the effect of the Crosses upon humanity

The theme of all three Crosses is fusion and integration.

- a. The fusion of the personality into one functioning whole.
- b. The fusion of soul and personality consciously.
- c. The fusion of the threefold expression of divinity - Monad, ego and personality - so that there is an appearance of the blended energies.

The keynote of their influences is the power to include and the full expression simultaneously, in time and space, of the vertical and the horizontal life.

Fact 1 - There are 7 forms of light, related to the substance of the 7 planes. These are stimulated and enhanced by the 12 forms of light of the 12 Creative Hierarchies (of planet Earth, of which humanity is the fourth Creative Hierarchy), related each of them to one or other of the 12 signs of the zodiac. This concerns the mysteries of the higher initiations. It is an occult fact.

Fact 2 - A paralleling statement is that the light of the 7 centres in man (when enhanced by the light of the 7 planetary centres) and the 5 kingdoms in nature (7+5=12), plus the 12 lights of the zodiac will produce a consummation of "light" effectiveness which will make possible the expression of the whole. This, through the medium of humanity. This is a basic statement, which will - in the 21st century - form a seed thought or "key sound" for the next revelation of the Ageless Wisdom.

The significance of the three Crosses must be understood more fully and synthetically by astrologers and astrological investigators. Then we may find the words to convey clearly the intended meaning. A general or synthetic understanding of the effect of the Crosses upon humanity. All that has as yet been conveyed is the effect of one arm of the Cross upon the human born in a particular sign. But there is a fusion of energies to be noted when, esoterically speaking, man *"stands at the midway point where the four energies meet."* The common man with Sun sign in Gemini, is subjected to the forces flowing through the Cross as whole, He will be sensitive to the influences of the other three signs when they sweep into power as the lesser zodiac of the year plays its part. When the practical value of esoteric astrology is better understood, men will avail themselves of the three energies of the three

other signs of the Cross in which the Sun sign finds a place. This is a future development of the science of esoteric astrology.

Relations between the three great cosmic Crosses

Consider the three great cosmic Crosses:

The Cardinal Cross

Initiation
The Planetary Logos
Cosmic Initiation
Spirit
Life
Monad
Three Initiations
Initiates

The Fixed Cross

Discipleship
Humanity
Solar Initiation
Soul
Consciousness
Ego
Two Initiations
Disciples

The Mutable Cross

Evolution
Kingdoms in Nature
Planetary Initiation
Body
Form
Personality
Ordinary man
Ordinary man

Also consider the relation of these three Crosses to the 12 planets and the general sweep of the soul in incarnation.

PART 1 – The Mutable Cross

Gemini the Twins, Virgo the Maiden, Sagittarius the Archer, Pisces the Fishes

Man – binded and sacrificed upon the Cross of Matter

"God is Love," for love signifies giving and sacrifice, at least in this solar system. It is for this reason that *the esoteric teaching emphasises the fact that the soul of man is a Lord of Sacrifice and of loving persistent Devotion - the two outstanding qualities of the Shamballa Lives, sustaining life and giving.* This is lasting devotion to the good of the whole or the expression of the spirit of synthesis and sacrifice in order again that all lesser lives (such as those embodied in the personality of man) may rise to the "resurrection which is in Christ," through the crucifixion or sacrifice of the soul upon the Cross of Matter. (EXH 166)

Many people are not only under the control of some one or other of their forms but are the captives of all the three. In studying the lower threefold man and the energies or lives that seek to control him it should be remembered that they fall into three categories:

1. The individual tiny lives, which we call the atoms or cells of the body. These exist in three groups and compose respectively the four types of bodies: dense physical, etheric, astral and mental.
2. The aggregate of these lives which constitute in themselves four types of elementals or separate coherent, though not self-conscious, existences. These four lunar lords constitute what the Ageless Wisdom teaching calls *"the four sides of the square."* They are the *"lower quaternary," "the imprisoning cubes,"* or the cross upon which the inner spiritual Man is to be crucified. These four elementals have an intelligence all their own, are upon the involutionary arc, are following the law of their own being when they tend to become powerful, and thereby fully express that which is in them.
3. A dominant controlling lunar lord who is that which we understand by the term *the 'lower personality'*; he is the sumtotal of the physical, astral and mental elementals, and it is this power which at present forces the *'fiery energies'* of the body to feed the lower three centres. The etheric body has a unique and curious position, being simply the vehicle for prana or life and the centre, which it uses exists in a category by itself.

The synthesis of evolution on the Mutable Cross

Esoteric Astrology is designed to instigate research and the power to delve and seek, because that process has a definite effect upon the cells of the brain and leads to a needed stimulation. In the study of the Crosses, the true meaning of their influence will only appear as you begin to think in terms of synthesis or of the relation of the four streams of energy, flowing united upon and through any form of divine manifestation. This is by no means easy, for the ability to think synthetically is only just beginning to appear in the foremost minds of the race. It can be illustrated analytically (which negates synthesis) by remarking in connection with the Mutable Cross, for instance, that the synthesis of evolution, its problem and its goal all appear in a united, whole presentation when the influences are viewed as follows:

Gemini	- the presentation of duality.
Virgo	- the presentation of blending life and form.
Sagittarius	- the presentation of focussed energy.
Pisces	- the presentation of a blended radiance.

This culminating radiance is the result of the focus of life, intention, and energy into a *"radiant point of power."* In connection with the Mutable Cross at this time the sign Pisces is the most potent and when the work of the Mutable Cross has been accomplished, the acquiescing disciple passes onto the Fixed Cross and prepares for the tests and trials of initiation. This is expressed for us in the occult symbology of the Old Commentary as follows:

*"The Light shines forth because the greater light and the lesser light approach and then invoke each other.
Their blended lights, though not yet one radiant sun, are merging fast.*

These blended lights reveal the Lighted Way.

*The man beholds himself taking this other Way, the Way of lighted wholes.
This leads from form to soul, from dark to light and thus around the Wheel.
Retracing thus his steps and backward moving on the Way (the reversed wheel of the zodiac)
he forward moves.*

*A new light enters in.
The Seven Sisters play their part (the Pleiades are in Taurus, the first sign of the Fixed Cross)
and then three lights shine forth.
And thus one radiant sun appears."*

Towards a synthetic understanding of the effect of the Mutable Cross upon humanity

Later, when the practical value of esoteric astrology is better understood, men will avail themselves of the three energies of the three other signs of the Cross in which the Sun sign finds a place. This is a future development of the science of esoteric astrology. Putting it simply and necessarily limiting significances:

- a. A man will endeavour, when in Sagittarius, to practise one-pointedness along some one line.
- b. When in Virgo, he will know that opportunity to bring the form more under the influence of the hidden Christ is possible.
- c. In Pisces, sensitivity to the higher impression is his right and privilege.

All these four possibilities, in regard to the advanced initiate are beautifully demonstrated for us in the life of Jesus, the Master on the sixth ray.

1. The Gemini aspect of His life is shown in the perfect fusion of the basic duality found in humanity: the human and the divine.

2. The Virgo aspect came into expression in His 12th year when He said: "*Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business,*" indicating the subordination of the form life to the will of the indwelling Christ; this was consummated when "divinity descended upon Him" at the Baptism.

3. The Sagittarian energy enabled Him to say, when confronted with full knowledge of the imminent sacrifice which He would have to make: "*I must go up to Jerusalem,*" and, He then "set His face" and trod the Path of the Saviour, leading to the liberation of humanity.

4. The Piscean aspect in its highest expression is demonstrated by His sensitivity to immediate and unbroken contact with His "Father in Heaven"; He was in constant communication with the Monad, thereby proving to the world that He was initiated into states of consciousness of which the third initiation is but the beginning.

All the three Crosses are shown as functioning simultaneously in His life - in the perfection which He displayed - a perfection of perfect responsiveness and perfect demonstration of result as well, giving us a manifestation and an example of the fusion of the twelve energies in one divine Personality (expressing Individuality) on the physical plane. This truth is that in the initiate of the higher degrees, all the twelve zodiacal energies can focus simultaneously and produce a complete exhibition of divinity, as it is intended eventually to express itself through humanity on this planet. We have given you the expression of the Mutable Cross. We will take the other two, in connection with the Christ and with the Cosmic Christ.

The great reversal: from Mutable Cross to Fixed Cross

Then comes a great process of polarisation and a moment of transference, after which the influence of the Fixed Cross causes reversal and the lessons gained upon the Mutable Cross have to be worked out and the effects demonstrated upon the Fixed Cross. In the early stages of unfoldment, experience

is gained only through the Mutable Cross. The man lives in and experiences in all the signs, but the influences pouring through the Mutable Cross have a more potent effect upon him than those pouring in the early stages through the Fixed Cross.

Two signs are definitely triple in construction and this has a clear meaning to the esotericist:

- Virgo is a triple sign.
- Scorpio is also a triple sign, closely resembling the symbol of Virgo.

These two signs are crucial in the experience of the human being, indicating as they do the function of the triple form and the liberation of the man imprisoned in the form, through the tests in Scorpio wherein he proves to himself and to the world the reality of that which Virgo has veiled or hidden.]

Only when the soul is becoming more alive within the form and the man is aware of his duality, the energies of the Fixed Cross supersede in effectiveness those of the Mutable Cross, just as after the third initiation the energies of the Cardinal Cross begin to control the man and are of more insistent incentive than those of the other two crosses.

PART 2 – The Fixed Cross

Taurus the Bull, Leo the Lion, Scorpio the Scorpion, Aquarius the Water-carrier

The disciple's obligation

*"I play my part with stern resolve, with earnest aspiration;
I look above; I help below: I dream not, nor I rest; I toil; I serve; I reap; I pray;
I mount the CROSS; I tread the Way; I tread upon the work I do;
I mount upon my slain self; I forego peace; I forfeit rest, and in the stress of pain,
I lose myself and find my Self, and enter into peace."*

The disciple's four major stresses on the Fixed Cross

Every disciple in these troubled times carries the major stresses, which are of four kinds:

1. There are the stresses and the strains incident to the disciple's family life or his immediate daily relationships, and of these you have had your full share.
2. There are stresses and strains due to the deep interior life of soul relation; these bring with them their own unique difficulties which can be shared with no one (except the Master, when the disciple has reached the point of unfoldment which you have now reached), and yet which bring about a life of inner tension which can lead inevitably to the next point of revelation.
3. There are the problems and circumstances which arise out of the period in which our modern humanity lives; these today are unique and of disturbing importance; they involve the balancing of values which is going on in every department of human living and which evokes in the disciple an almost unendurable pain and anxiety.
4. There are also peculiar complications and tests, which have their origin in ashramic relationships, which the disciple realises through his contact with the Ashram. These are the result of his attempt to lift the burden of humanity and the measure of his understanding of the Plan, in unison with the entire Hierarchy. This produces an inevitable crisis and constitutes a load which - when added to the other three spheres of difficulty - often make the disciple feel that his cross (his vertical and his horizontal life) is more than he can bear. The Fixed Cross becomes a reality, and he begins to learn its true meaning.

All these four types of difficulties are further enhanced when you consider the fact that they are felt in all three aspects of the disciple's personality simultaneously. There is a (threefold) reaction in his etheric body, in his emotional vehicle and in his mind. This makes what is sometimes called the "*seven divine sorrows*" - brought together in a synthesis of service, of discipline and of unfoldment.

The dissipation of all personal illusion – upon the Cross

The disciple is prone to various types of illusion. In its pure form, this illusion has to be met and some day surmounted; it has to be isolated and dispelled by the initiate. It was the final successful effort to do this that led Jesus upon the Cross to cry out in words of apparent distress. He then finally dissipated the illusion of the personal, objective Deity. At that moment, He entered fully into the consciousness that He was Himself God, and naught else; that the theory of unity outlined by Him in the Gospel of St. John was indeed and in truth a fact in His Own consciousness, established unalterably. Yet, nevertheless, in this infinite and supreme realisation, there entered for a moment a sense of loss and of negation, forcing from His dying Personality that tremendous utterance which has bewildered, and at the same time comforted, so many. This signified the surmounting of the final synthetic illusion. When that has been dispelled, illusion, as it can be understood in the human family, disappears. The man stands free. The illusion of the mental plane can no longer deceive him. His mind is a pure instrument for the reflection of light and of truth. The glammers of the astral plane have no further hold over him, and the astral body itself fades out.

The server upon the Cross of the Saviour

One of the difficulties which comes to the server immersed in the thick of the undertaking is that of preserving contact with the vision. We refer to the vision itself and not to its materialisation. Just as long as the contact is a vertical one, the work is fairly simple, the next step is apparent and plain, the line of activity to be followed is clear and the inspiration is fresh and vital. But the moment that the consciousness of the disciple becomes inclusive horizontally (and that must take place), then the difficulty becomes great, and the disciple begins to understand - for the first time - the true significance of the words, "*the Cross of the Saviour.*" Yet if he can train himself to stand where the four arms meet (speaking symbolically) he will discover that he stands in the place of power, and at the "*midway point.*" Then he can truly begin (symbolically) to look off to the four corners of the earth, both subjectively and objectively, and with reality; immediately the strain is terrific.

The Brothers of Light aid the sons of man to surmount the Cross

The mental plane is the plane on which the Brothers of the Light work. The White Lodge dominates on the three higher sub-planes of the mental plane being the levels that They beg the evolving sons of men to seek. This is Their region, to which all must strive and aspire. The Brothers of Light plead as pleaded the Man of Sorrows for an erring humanity to rise upward to the light. The Brother of Light bends every effort to the hastening of evolution and - foregoing all that might be His as the price of achievement - stays amid the fogs, the strife, the evil and the hatred of the period if, in so doing, He may by all means aid some, and (lifting them up out of the darkness of earth) set their feet upon the Mount, and enable them to surmount the Cross.

The four signs of the Fixed Cross

1. Taurus. - Christ said (as have all the Sons of God Who know the true significance of the Fixed Cross), "I am the Light of the world," and he added, "*if thine eye be single thy whole body shall be full of light.*" Taurus is the Mother of Illumination, and the "*eye of the Bull*" is the symbol of the eye to which Christ made reference.

2. Leo - This is the sign of self-conscious identity. This is testified to by Christ in the words He spoke to His disciples: "*What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?*" or his own centre of self-consciousness - that significant point of attainment which must precede all the more inclusive states of consciousness.

3. Scorpio. - The significance of this sign in the life of Christ has been deleted from The New Testament, but has been preserved for us in the ancient Christian legend that - in the cradle itself - Christ killed or strangled two serpents, thus referring to the pairs of opposites which could no longer control Him.

4. Aquarius. - The expression of this influence has been beautifully given to us in the story of the Last Supper. Christ sent His disciples into the city to find the man "*bearing a pitcher of water*" upon his shoulder. This is the symbol of the sign Aquarius - the sign in which the universality of the water of life will become a factor in human consciousness; then we shall indeed all sit down eventually to the communion of bread and wine. He referred indirectly to the same idea when He spoke of Himself as the "*water of life,*" assuaging the thirst of humanity.

Through the use of the energies of these four signs of the Fixed Cross, Christ demonstrated perfection.

The symbol for man, the mediator, is the revolving Cross

Just as the disciple enters the *world of meaning* and so can interpret events, just as the Hierarchy works in the *world of mediation*, applying the Plan which the world of meaning has revealed, so the higher initiate works consciously in the *world of purpose* which the Plan implements, the *world of meaning* interprets, and the *world of events* expresses in sequential order and under the evolutionary Law.

- a. The symbol, which expresses the door of evolution is *the crescent moon*.
- b. The symbol of the process of evolution - as it affects the material or substantial life of the man - is *the waxing and the waning moon* - the symbol of growing desire and of the dying out of desire.
- c. The symbol of the *world of meaning* is *Light* - the light, which shines upon the ways of men, interpreting events and bestowing revelation.
- d. The symbol of the *world of mediation* is *the revolving Cross*.
- e. The symbol of the *world of purpose* is a twofold one: *the five-pointed star and then the radiant heart of the Sun*.

When we talk and think in symbols, we are placing something between ourselves and reality; i.e. something protective, interpretive and significant, but something nevertheless veiling and hiding. After the fifth initiation all veils are rent and naught stands between the initiate and Essential Being.

Humanity's transition from the Mutable to the Fixed Cross

The Fixed Cross of the Heavens is of prime importance. Aspirants to the Mysteries are steadily increasing in numbers at this time and this involves their re-orientation towards the Light, their conscious reversal upon the wheel of the zodiac, and their comprehension of the objectives of the processes to which they have given themselves upon the Fixed Cross. Disciples are apt to think that the fact of their taking their place upon that Cross and demonstrating their willingness to be tested and to show unalterable stability is the major factor involved. This is by no means so in reality. Each of these Crosses makes its presence felt as a fourfold sphere of influence or a potent centre of energy through the medium of an "*invoking sound*." This sound goes up from each of the Crosses and produces a result and a response from some source. It is this new fact anent the Crosses, which is of importance. Only when the influence of all the four arms of each Cross, has produced an effect in the subject is a transition in consciousness made from one Cross to another - each transition marking a point of crisis, both in the individual and in the larger whole. Then a process of invocation is instituted - at first unconsciously, in which case it is in the nature of a diffused call, and, later, consciously, when it takes the form of a focussed appeal.

When the time of transition from the Mutable Cross on to the Fixed Cross arrives, three things occur:

1. The influence of the four energies of the Mutable Cross, have brought about a vast experience of life in form.
2. Now a gradually growing and profound dissatisfaction awakening in the consciousness of the man making the transition. He has exhausted material desire to a very great extent and is no longer attracted by the Path of outgoing into matter; the needs of the physical nature no longer dominate him; he is afraid of the impulses, emanating from the astral plane; he is awake and active mentally and as a functioning personality. But he remains unsatisfied and uncomfortably aware of it.
3. He turns to invocation. This process of invocation falls into two stages:

Stage 1: The stage of aspiration, irregular and vague but gradually assuming power.

Stage 2: The stage of mysticism, merging into occultism. Duality is now consciously and uncomfortably recognised and the higher way and the spiritual vision is contacted. Desire gives place to the vague promptings of what might be called love. This is the movement in the personality of that divine emerging aspect. This he seeks to invoke. When this is adequately strong then true evocation takes place and the disciple (for such the man now is) mounts the Fixed Cross.

The above is true of the individual disciple and also today of humanity as a whole, and this process of invocation is taking place in the human family. This produces the present dire crisis. The two stages above outlined are present today in a general and potent sense in mankind.

Three emerging conditions in man on the Fixed Cross

Upon the Fixed Cross, the united influence of its four streams of energy, when expressing themselves fully through an individual disciple and through the Hierarchy, produces likewise three emerging conditions:

1. There is a vast experience of group life, group activity and group awareness. The self-conscious man in Leo becomes the group conscious man in Aquarius.
2. There arises in the consciousness of the disciple a vision of the *"endless Way of which Nirvana is but the beginning."*
3. He recognises his task of mediatorship, which is the major task of the Hierarchy, mediating between Shamballa and Humanity. *He knows that he must carry forward the dual task of invocation and evocation simultaneously - the evocation (through right invocation) of the will-to-good of the world thinkers and aspirants, and also the will-to-save of the Shamballa Lords, via the Hierarchy, which he is in a position directly to approach. I touch here on grave mysteries.*

So, there awakens in him a vague determination at first which gives place in time to an evocation of the will in himself. This eventually puts him en rapport with the will aspect of Deity as it emanates and is stepped down from Shamballa, via the Hierarchy, into which spiritual organisation he is being gradually integrated through experience upon the Fixed Cross. It might here be pointed out that:

- a. Experience upon the Mutable Cross integrates a man into the centre, which we call Humanity.
- b. Experience upon the Fixed Cross integrates the disciple into the second planetary Centre, which we call the Hierarchy.
- c. Experience upon the Cardinal Cross integrates the initiate into the primary planetary Centre to which we give the name Shamballa.

He eventually becomes a radiating centre of spiritual will, affecting humanity and evoking its will-to-good; he blends this into the Hierarchy as far as he can, fusing this human will into hierarchical activity in an effort to evoke response from Shamballa.

PART 3 – The Cardinal Cross

Aries the Ram, Cancer the Crab, Libra the Scales, Capricorn the Goat

The two Doors of the Cardinal Cross

There are two words also which convey the purpose and intent of expression upon the Cardinal Cross. They give the reason why the two "*Doors of the Zodiac*" open wide to the impulse and demand of the divine Spirit.

One is the word "*self-preservation*" which leads to the impulse to incarnate in Cancer, which is the Door to the physical plane expression of spirit. This impulse (when the form is the prime object of the attention of the soul and that with which it primarily identifies itself) brings about the stage of static concretion in the earth sign Capricorn.

The other word is "*immortality*" which is the divine aspect of self-preservation. It is the major conditioning factor in the creative process and leads to the whole revelation of evolution, to the recurrent appearance of life in form, and to the revelation of life in form. In Capricorn, at the third initiation, this life aspect assumes primary importance.

You will see why the Cardinal Cross is so mysterious; also why both Cancer and Capricorn are so little understood by modern astrology and why, in the last analysis, only the initiated Sons of God can grasp the significance of the four signs which comprise the Cardinal Cross, or understand the relation which exists between the four major divine energies which - pouring through the four arms of this Cross - produce the vortex of force (a synthetic force) which constitutes that "pool of pure, fiery light" through which all those who take the higher initiations must eventually pass. Those taking the first two initiations must tread the Path as it passes through the Burning Ground. Those taking the higher initiations have to plunge into the sea or pool of fire, which is essentially the fire of God as it has been cleansed from every aspect of the material form through the complete purification of desire.

The four signs of the Cardinal Cross: milestones of human evolution

We state a basic truth that:

1. In Aries the essential substance of manifestation awoke to renewed activity under the impact of divine desire, impelled by the divine Breath, by divine Life or Spirit.
2. In Cancer this living substance assumed a triple differentiated relationship to which we give the names of Life (Aries) of Consciousness (Taurus, the next sign to Aries) and manifested duality (Gemini, the sign preceding Cancer) and these three, blended together, came into outer manifestation in Cancer, thus completing an esoteric quaternary of great importance. Here the first major fusion, inchoate and unrealised, took place.
3. In Libra, these reach a point of balance and of a somewhat static equilibrium (later to be disturbed in Scorpio), so that this essential triplicity appears clearly in relation to each other.
4. In Capricorn, the sign of initiation, this basic triplicity begins to return to the earlier state of the "*breath of spirit*" but, *this time, with full awareness and properly fulfilled organisation, so that form is a perfect expression of the soul and the soul is sensitive and responsive to the pulsations of the One Life, as that Life reveals, through its activity, the perfect will of the Logos.*

Most of you are in transition of stabilising your individual will, attempting to express it in the will-to-good. If the will-to-good influences and directs you, then to the awakening of mass aspiration you must add the task of evoking the response to world need in the thinkers and aspirants *through the medium of the Great Invocation, blending the two approaches in an effort to evoke - via the Hierarchy - the will-to-save of Shamballa.*

Prepare for initiation by divine indifference – a quality of the highest Cross

It is the quality of *patient endurance* (of all tests and trials on the Path of Discipleship) which is so sorely needed by the members of a group being prepared for initiation. Once, however, the purpose underlying all distressing events and disrupted personnel is grasped, rapid progress can be made - again by the simple practice of *divine indifference*. This divine indifference was the outstanding quality of the Master upon the Cross at Calvary. The seven words from the Cross were concerned with others, with His mission, with world need, and with relationship with the Father or with the Monad. But disciples and aspirants are so intensely preoccupied with themselves, their effect upon others, their endurances and pain, or with criticism of their brothers or of themselves!

The goal and the main objective is not adequately emphasised in their consciousness. The group personality is often functioning with potency, but the fusing love of the soul is absent and the shattering inflow of the life at the heart of the Jewel is not permitted full sway. It is blocked and intercepted by group conditions, and until there is at least some united will to take together what is needed in order to shift the life of the group to higher levels of awareness and into the Ashram on buddhic levels, the technique of transference will not be committed to the group by the Master.

Monad and personality at-one-ment

In the final stages of the great work of transference, the group has to arrive at a new point of tension and of united attainment. It has to use the dynamic will, the energy of the first aspect, and so bring about the final destruction of the causal body. The life within the causal body has been stimulated and vitalised and is now seeking to break out of its confining form. The vehicle of the soul is being subjected to pressure from within but then - both in the case of the individual initiate and of the initiated group - the final blow has to be struck also from without, by an act of the united will. This corresponds to the great cry of the Christ upon the Cross, when He exclaimed "*It is finished.*" With these words, the veil of the Temple was rent from the top to the bottom, and the life of the Christ ascended to the Father. Ponder upon the significances of these phrases. "*That which has been created at the midway point*" is no longer needed.

No mediating principle or intermediary between man and the Father is any longer required. The Monad and the personality are in complete at-one-ment and have achieved perfected relationship. Triplicity has given place to duality, and the Way of the Higher Evolution stands open before the initiate.

Completing his journey through the three Crosses, man fulfils the law

Man has reached the stage of conscious life, of full self-awareness and creative expression. All of these were the expression of divine energy as it poured into his mechanism, via the silver thread of divine potency. This might be regarded as a threefold demonstration of the vertical life, which becomes the horizontal life through the expression of creativity.

Man then indeed becomes the Cross. When, however, he succeeds in constructing the rainbow bridge (the antahkarana, which can only be done when man is upon the Fixed Cross), then finally the Cross gives place to the line. This takes place after the fourth initiation - that of the Crucifixion. There remains then only the vertical line "reaching from Heaven to Hell." The goal of the initiate (between the fourth and the seventh initiations) is to resolve the line into the circle, and thus fulfil the law and the "rounding out" of the evolutionary process. Another summation of the entire process may be found here:

*"In the Cross is hidden Light. The vertical and horizontal in mutual friction creates; a vibrant Cross scintillates and motion originates. When the vertical assumes the horizontal, pralaya supervenes. Evolution is the movement of the horizontal to upright positiveness.
In the secret of direction lies the hidden wisdom.
In the doctrine of absorption lies the healing faculty.
In the point becoming the line, and the line becoming the cross, is evolution.
In the cross swinging to the horizontal lies salvation and pralayaic peace."*

The true Soul, the spiritual man on the highest Cross

The Soul, untouched by limitation, free from karma and desire gives us the picture of the spiritual man as he is in reality. His relation to the three worlds is shown. This is the state of the master or the adept, of the soul who has come into its birthright, and is no longer under control of the forces and energies of the lower nature. This pictures the liberated man who has passed through the cycle of incarnation and through struggle and experience has found the true self. Here is depicted the nature of the solar angel, the son of God, the ego or the higher self.

- a. He is stated to be: Untouched by limitation.
- b. He is no longer "cribbed, cabined and confined" by the lower quaternary.
- c. He is no longer crucified upon the cross of matter. The four lower sheaths - dense, etheric, emotional and mental - are no longer his prison. They are but instruments, which he can use or vacate at will.
- d. His will functions freely and if he stays within the realm of the three worlds, it is of his own choice, and his self-imposed limitation can be terminated at will.
- e. He is master in the three worlds, a son of God dominating and controlling the lower creations.
- f. He is free from Karma. He is free from desire.

The controlling Cross, depending upon the relative age of the individual or group

A whole new field of study will open before the astrologers of the New Age and fresh light on this greatest of all sciences will be available when the investigator can determine the relative age of the person or of the group whose destiny is to be determined and whose horoscope is being cast. Each of these signs will eventually have to be considered in such cases from:

1. The angle of the unevolved man who will be centred
 - a. In one or other of his vehicles.
 - b. In the integrated personality, prior to the Path experience - *In these, the Mutable Cross controls.*
2. The angle of the cycle of lives wherein the dualities are recognised and the aspirant is then "reversing himself upon the Wheel" - *The Fixed Cross then controls.*
3. The angle of the initiate - *Here the Cardinal Cross is beginning its control.*

These Crosses are also known as:

The Cross of the hidden Christ	- The Mutable Cross	- The individual Cross
The Cross of the Crucified Christ	- The Fixed Cross	- The Planetary Cross
The Cross of the Risen Christ	- The Cardinal Cross	- The Cosmic Cross

To determine these angles will involve among other things a close analysis of the qualities of the four energies, which play through each arm of the Cross upon humanity. One aspect of this will eventually determine statistically the average of the signs governing the various types of men.

It has been said that:

"four energies make a man; eight energies make a Master; twelve energies make a Buddha of Activity."

During this process of "*fashioning*," great changes take place in consciousness and there are fundamental changes wrought through this sign (Taurus), which - in combination with its polar opposite, Scorpio - is one of the major conditioning signs of the zodiac. Under its energy impact, profound disruptions and alterations in character, quality and direction take place.

Part 4 - The science of Triangles

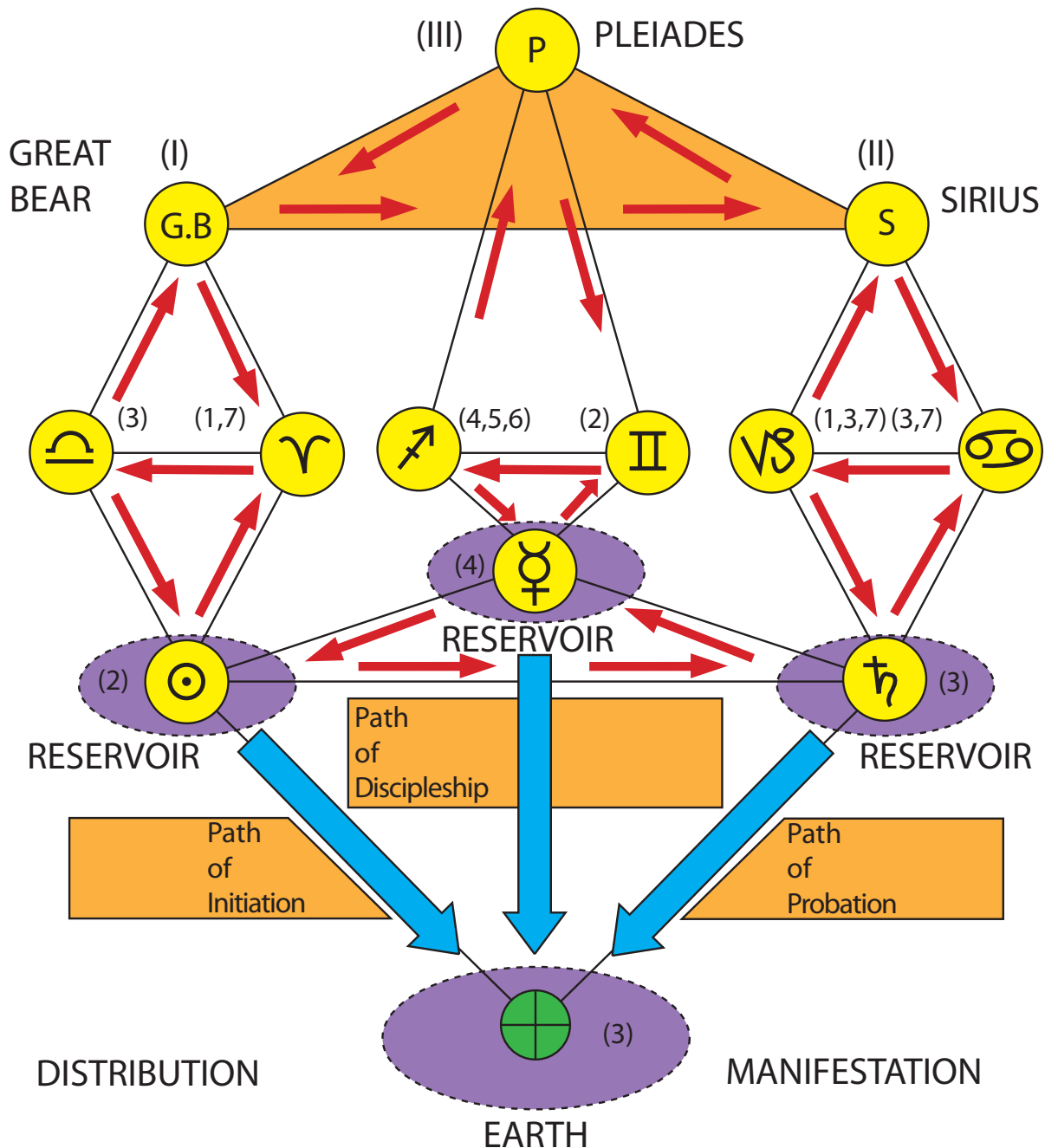
*I will endeavour to give you certain facts as the Hierarchy recognises them;
I will indicate, if I can, the subjective realities of which the outer illusion is but the phenomenal appearance, conditioned by men's thoughts throughout the ages;
I will emphasise the fact of the livingness of the Sources from which all the energies and forces which play upon our planet flow and emanate;
I will endeavour, above all else, to demonstrate to you that all-pervading unity and that underlying synthesis which is the basis of all religions and of all the many transmitted forces;
I will seek to remove you, as individuals, from out of the centre of your own stage and consciousness and - without depriving you of individuality and of self-identity - yet show you how you are part of a greater whole of which you can become consciously aware when you can function as souls, but of which you are today unconscious, or at least only registering and sensing the inner reality in which you live and move and have your being.*

These points we will endeavour to elucidate in greater detail when taking up with you the basic astrological Science of Triangles. The generalisations and the hints in connection with the twelve signs of the zodiac which have formed the subject matter of our past instructions have been primarily intended to lay the ground and to prepare your minds for the later section upon triangles; this will be far the most important aspect of the teaching on esoteric astrology and the one which will be the first to be grasped by modern astrology.

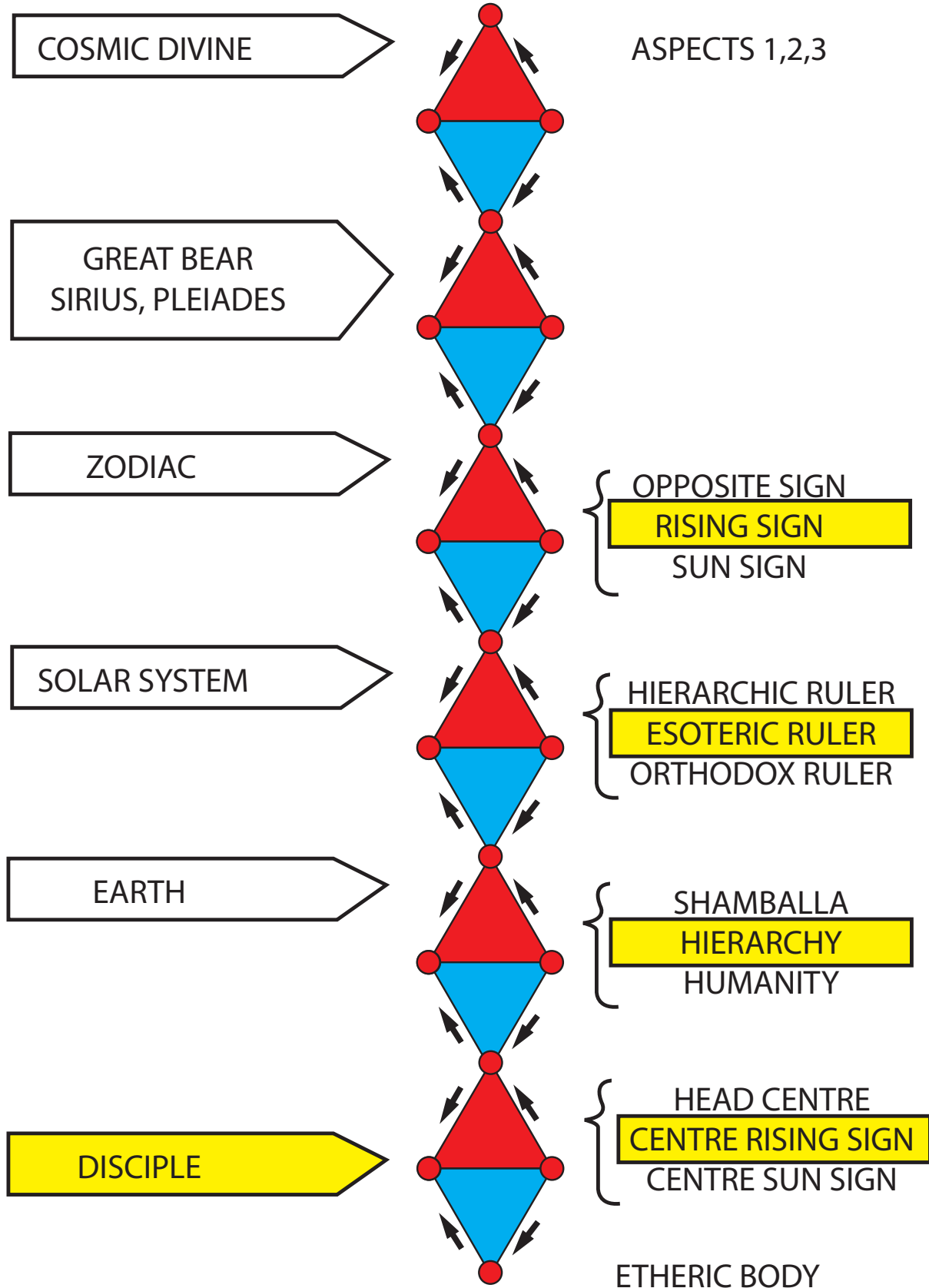
A MAJOR COSMICAL TRIANGLE

Purpose ① Self_Consciousness
For Earth: ② Spiritual_Consciousness

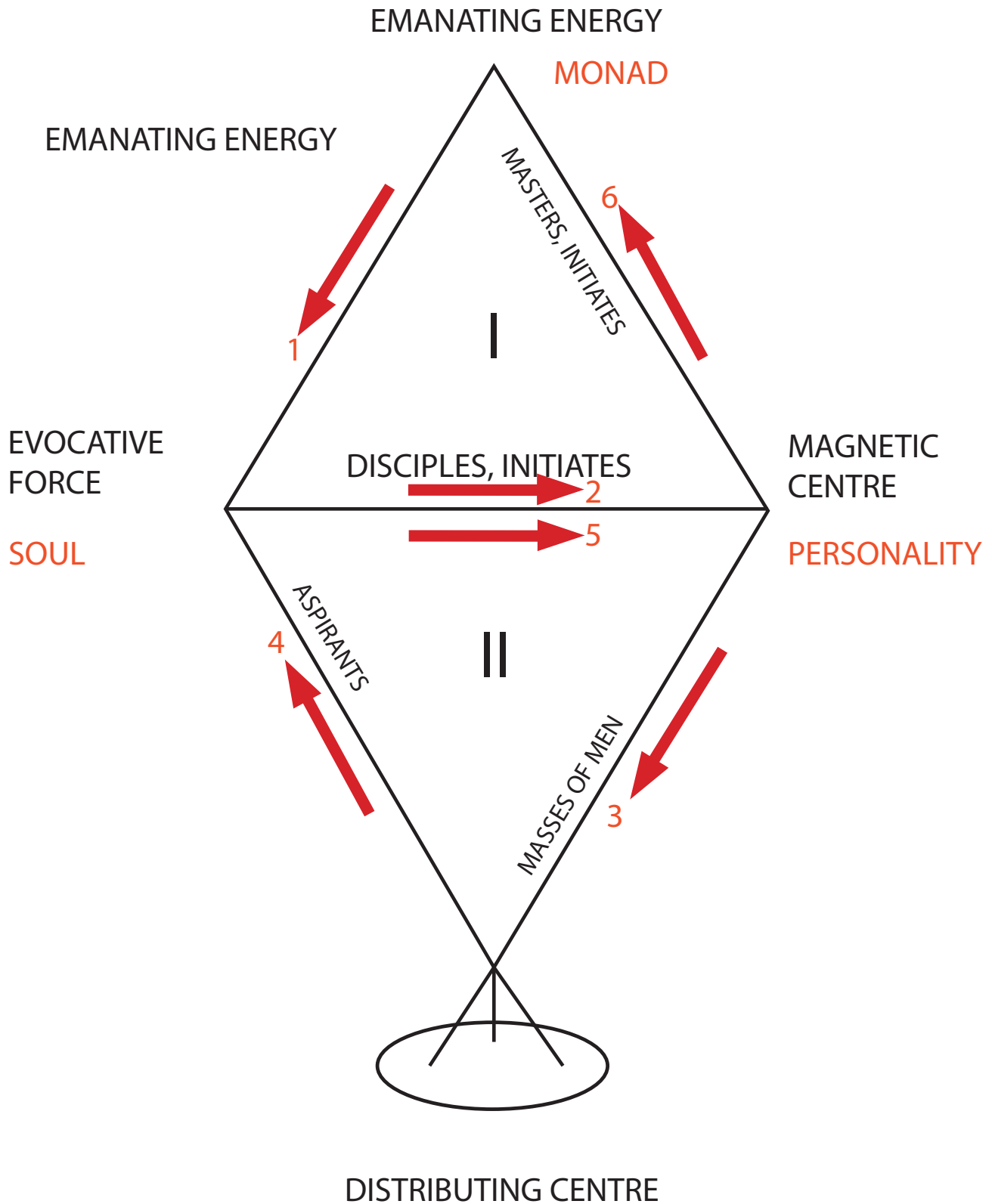
7 STREAMS OF RAY_ENERGIES



TRIANGULAR ENERGY STREAMS



TRIANGLE DYNAMICS



A new approach to astrological diagnosis

It will be apparent to you after studying the foregoing that one of the results which should emerge under the impression of this new approach to astrological diagnosis (as far as the individual is concerned) will be the more correct casting of the horoscope of advanced human beings - disciples and initiates. This has not hitherto been accurately possible. It will only come about, however, if there is wise and right experiment and investigation.

As we know we have posited two sets of rulers for two types of people:

1. The orthodox and generally accepted series of planetary rulers for the undeveloped and average man.
2. A new combination of rulers and constellations for those upon the Path.

It will be necessary to remember nevertheless that there are an infinite number of permutations possible, of complexities and relationships, due to the vast number of possible combinations existing in the path of life of the individual and dependent upon his stage of evolutionary unfoldment. These might be divided into three groups through a broad, but necessarily inadequate, generalisation:

2.1 *Average and undeveloped man*, living below the diaphragm and with the emphasis of the incoming energies and forces focussed either in the solar plexus or in the sacral centre.

2.2 A large number of *people who are in an interim stage*, with the energies and forces focussed mainly in the lower centre but at the same time playing quite frequently through the throat centre and evoking a faint response from the heart and the ajna centres.

2.3 *People upon one or other of the final stages of the Path*, with the emphasis passing rapidly away from the lower centres into the higher triad and with the highest head centre in process of awakening. These people also fall into two major groups:

a. Those who are using the solar plexus centre as a vast clearing house for the incoming energies and who are beginning to work through the throat and the heart centres, with the goal of *completely awakening the ajna centre*.

b. Those who are using all these centres, but in whom *the heart centre is fully awakened and the triangle of force in the head* (from the ajna centre to the head centre and from the head centre to the centre found in the medulla oblongata) *is beginning to function*.

When these centres are all awakening, *their simplest combinations are the following triangles*.

The Science of Triangles underlies all astrological deduction as well as the centres in the human body.

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| I. | 1. Base of the spine. |
| | 2. Sacral Centre. |
| | 3. Solar Plexus Centre. |
| II. | 1. Throat Centre. |
| | 2. Heart Centre. |
| | 3. Ajna Centre. |
| III. | 1. Ajna Centre. |
| | 2. Head Centre. |
| | 3. Centre in the medulla oblongata. |

The macro and micro-cosmos

Unfortunately the organising principle is not as simple as the above tabulation would make it appear, for the emphasis, the focus and the mode of arranging and of vitalisation, and the appearance of these esoteric triangles vary with the ray type.

This Science of Triangles of Energy underlies the new esoteric science both in astrology and in the science of laya-yoga or the science of the centres. Both this ancient yoga and the still more ancient astrological science have now to be studied upon a higher turn of the spiral.

Up till the present time, the teaching about the centres has been inherited from Atlantean times and couched in *the old forms and formulas which are basically unsuited to our present greatly advanced stage of development*. The same can be said of orthodox or exoteric astrology. Both these sciences must be reoriented and rearranged.

And astrology must be based upon a deeper understanding of the relation of the planets - sacred and non-sacred - to the centres and to certain prominent "cycles of polarisation" emerging as the fore-ordained results of "periods of crisis."

This last sentence embodies a basic and important statement of truth.

Centres and Triangles of Force

1. Centres and Triangles of Force

There are, as you well know, five non-sacred planets, and seven which are regarded as sacred. These twelve planetary lives (with their own cycles, points of crisis and moments of polarisation) are closely related to the seven centres. The five centres up the spine are related to the five non-sacred planets, but in unevolved or average man, are focussed almost entirely upon the astral plane and in the astral body. It should be noted that:

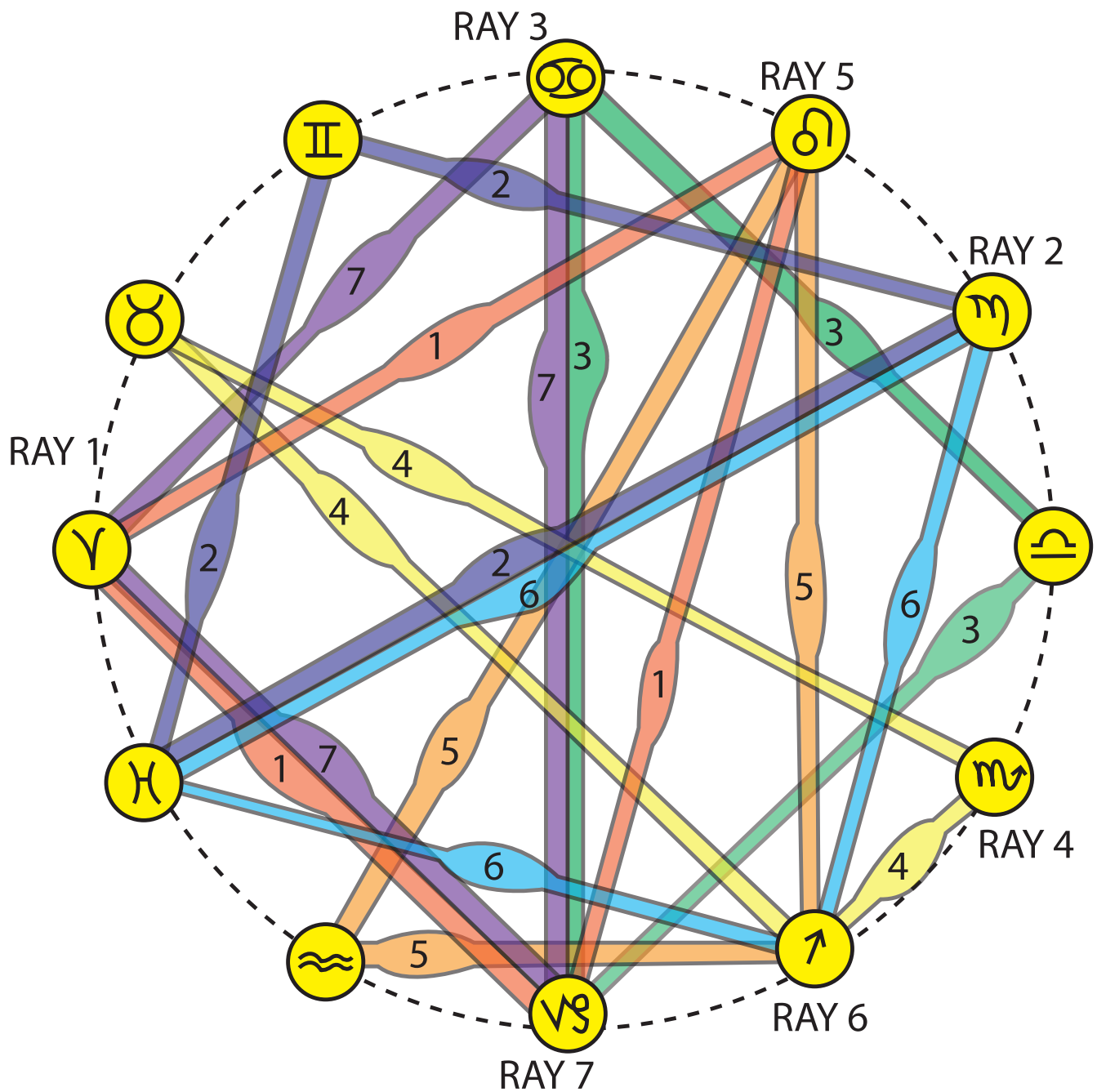
1. Two of the non-sacred planets (the Earth itself and the Moon) are connected with two centres which in the highly evolved man are not of dominating importance:

- a. The spleen receiving pranic emanations from the planet Earth on which we live and concerned with the etheric and physical bodies and their physical relation.
- b. A centre in the chest related to the thymus gland. This centre becomes inactive in the advanced man but has a connection with the vagus nerve, prior to the awakening of the heart centre.

2. Two of the other non-sacred planets - Mars and Pluto - function in connection with the sacral centre (Mars) and the solar plexus (Pluto). This latter planet becomes active in the life of the man who is *"becoming alive in the higher sense, his lower nature passes into the smoke and darkness of Pluto, who governs the lesser burning ground, in order that the man may live in truth in the higher land of light."*

3. The Sun (standing here for Vulcan, which is a sacred planet) governs a centre in the front of the throat which is related to the para-thyroids and not to the thyroid gland, which is related to the throat centre. This centre in the front of the throat falls into disuse as the creative period of throat activity begins. It acts as a *"mediator"* between the higher and the lower creative organs (between the sacral and the throat centres) and *leads eventually to that creative activity which is consciously that of the functioning soul*. Vulcan was one of the first creative workers among men. He was also related to "Cain who killed his brother." The symbolism underlying these ancient myths will be easily interpreted by the intuitive student.

7 RAY TRIANGLES



To undertaken task

Some of the tasks which we propose to undertake on the Seven Rays are as follows:

1. Consider why five of the seven rays express themselves through two sets of planets - sacred and non-sacred - and also which centres these two groups of rays govern. Thus we shall relate:

- a. The seven centres in man's etheric body.
- b. The seven centres of the fourth Creative Hierarchy of which the seven races are the expression.
- c. The seven planetary centres.
- d. The seven and the five planets which are the centres of energy in the solar system, responsive to the energy of the twelve zodiacal constellations.

These planetary centres will be studied from one angle:

From the angle of discipleship and initiation.

2. Consider the energies of the three major constellations as they each pour through three of the zodiacal constellations, thus forming great interlocking triangles of force. Thus *nine* of the zodiacal constellations are involved, and *these in their turn fuse and blend their energies into three major streams of force upon the Path of Initiation*. These three streams of force pour through:

- a. Leo, Capricorn and Pisces.
to
- b. Saturn, Mercury and Uranus (the Moon).
to
- c. The head, ajna and heart centres.
to
- d. The throat, the solar plexus and the base of the spine.

It should be remembered that the sacral centre and the spleen are primarily connected with the planetary emanation of the Earth itself.

3. Consider the three great cosmic Crosses:

<i>The Cardinal Cross</i>	<i>The Fixed Cross</i>	<i>The Mutable Cross</i>
a. Initiation	Discipleship	Evolution
b. The Planetary Logos	Humanity	Kingdoms in Nature
c. Cosmic Initiation	Solar Initiation	Planetary Initiation
d. Spirit	Soul	Body
e. Life	Consciousness	Form
f. Monad	Ego	Personality
g. Three Initiations (Initiates)	Two Initiations (Disciples)	Ordinary man.

and the relation of these three Crosses to the twelve planets and the general sweep of the soul in incarnation.

4. Elaborate the subject of the interplay between the three groups of ruling planets as given in the next Tabulation:

TABULATION - PLANETARY RULERS IN 3 TABULATIONS

<i>Constellation</i>	<i>Orthodox</i>	<i>Disciple</i>	<i>Hierarchies</i>
1. Aries	Mars	Mercury	Uranus
2. Taurus	Venus	Vulcan	Vulcan
3. Gemini	Mercury	Venus	The Earth
4. Cancer	The Moon	Neptune	Neptune
5. Leo	The Sun	The Sun	The Sun
6. Virgo	Mercury	The Moon	Jupiter
7. Libra	Venus	Uranus	Saturn
8. Scorpio	Mars	Mars	Mercury
9. Sagittarius	Jupiter	The Earth	Mars
10. Capricorn	Saturn	Saturn	Venus
11. Aquarius	Uranus	Jupiter	The Moon
12. Pisces	Jupiter	Pluto	Pluto

These, in the totality of their effects, are the agencies through which the purposes of God are wrought out.

The second ray relates soul and form

It is the activity consequently of the second ray force, which relates soul and form and brings the two together, and this magnetic potency is peculiarly descriptive of the activity of Pisces. From another angle and in a dual sign, this can also be seen working out in Gemini. In Pisces, there is demonstrated the captivity angle of relationship and the two fishes are unable to escape from each other; in Gemini there is also a definite relationship between the two brothers but there is no connecting band, and in that relationship is latent free choice and free determination. In connection with a lesser duality found in every human being, that of head and heart, of mind and love, and of will and wisdom, the work of Jupiter is to develop these two qualities and bring them into synthetic interplay.

Eventually there has to be the complete fusion of love and mind before a world saviour can manifest and function efficiently, and this is pre-eminently the final result of the forces of the Mutable Cross, as they work out the qualities released by the planets active in Pisces, Sagittarius, Virgo and Gemini.

These planets are:

Orthodox - Jupiter and Mercury
Esoteric - Pluto, The Earth, The Moon (hiding Vulcan) and Venus

As you know:

- a. Pluto stands for death or the region of death;
- b. the Earth stands for the sphere of experience;
- c. the Moon or Vulcan stands for the glorification, through purification and detachment, of matter, and
- d. Venus stands for the emergence of the love principle through the directing power of the mind.

Students will find it interesting to work out the implications for themselves. Orthodox astrology assigns only two planets to these four signs, which in itself indicates a definite interplay.

(1) *Jupiter and its influences* indicate that the way of incarnation is the "beneficent" method of evolutionary unfoldment and that the way of love-wisdom (2nd ray) is the way for humanity to go.

(2) *Mercury indicates that the line of least resistance for humanity* is harmony through conflict, for Mercury expresses the fourth ray energy which is buddhic, intuitional and expressive of the Christ, as Mercury and the Sun are one. But:

The esoteric planets are more explicit in their inferences and man appears, when ready for their influence, to be responsive in a fourfold way which he is not in the earlier stages.

They embody the recognitions and the reactions which condition man's consciousness when he is preparing to transfer off the Mutable Cross and mount the Fixed Cross.

He comes, therefore,

1. Through Venus - *under the power of mind, transmuted into wisdom through the instrumentality of love.*
2. Through the Moon - under the bondage of form in order *through form experience to achieve release* and the *"uplift of matter"* in Vulcan.
3. Through the Earth - under the influence of *planetary experience* (which is different to individual experience) in order to transmute his personal consciousness *into group awareness.*
4. Through Pluto - under the destroying power of death - death of desire, death of the personality and of all which holds him between the pairs of opposites, in order *to achieve the final liberation.* Pluto or death never destroys the consciousness aspect.

Six planets, therefore, govern the Mutable Cross as far as humanity is concerned and this in itself is significant, for six is the number of the great work of the period of manifestation, is the number of "the Beast," which is the lower nature as far as man is concerned, and is all that which seeks to destroy the higher life, but also that which can be controlled and directed finally by the soul.

The significance of numbers as conscious energy and in this science of esoteric astrology

The student should very carefully study here the significance of the numbers three, four and five in the evolution of consciousness. Numerology has hitherto been studied primarily, and rightly, from the substance aspect, but not so much from the standpoint of conscious energy. The Triad, for instance, is usually looked upon by our students as the triangle formed by the manasic-buddhic and atmic permanent atoms; the cube stands for the lower material man, and the five-pointed star has frequently a very material interpretation. All these angles of vision are necessary, and must precede the study of the subjective aspect, but they lay the emphasis upon the material rather than upon the subjective; the subject nevertheless should be studied psychologically. In this solar system, the above numbers are the most important from the angle of the evolution of consciousness. In the earlier system, the numbers six and seven held the mystery hid. In the next system, it will be two and one. This refers only to the psychical development. Let us illustrate: The five-pointed star on the mental plane signifies (among other things) the evolution, by means of the five senses in the three worlds (which are also capable of a fivefold differentiation) of the fifth principle, the attainment of self-consciousness, and the development of the fifth spirilla.

On the buddhic plane, when flashing forth at initiation, this number signifies the full development of the fifth principle or quality, the completed cycle of the Soul upon the five Rays (under the Mahachohan), and the assimilation of all that is to be learned upon them, and the attainment - not only of full self-consciousness, but also of the consciousness of the group wherein a man is found. It infers the full unfoldment of five of the egoic petals, leaving four to open before the final initiation.

The five-pointed star at the initiations on the mental plane flashes out above the head of the initiate. This concerns the first three initiations which are undergone in the causal vehicle. It has been said that the first two initiations take place upon the astral plane and this is correct, but has given rise to a misunderstanding. They are felt profoundly in connection with the astral and physical bodies and with the lower mental, and effect their control. The chief effect being felt in those bodies, the initiate may interpret them as having taken place on the planes concerned, for the vividness of the effect, and the stimulation works out largely in the astral body. But it must ever be remembered that the major initiations are taken in the causal body or - dissociated from that body - on the buddhic plane. At the final two initiations, which set a man free from the three worlds and enable him to function in the logoic body of vitality and to wield the force which animates that logoic vehicle, the initiate becomes the five-pointed star, and it descends upon him, merges in him, and he is seen at its very centre. This descent is brought about through the action of the Initiator, wielding the Rod of Power, and puts a man in touch with the centre in the Body of the planetary Logos of which he is a part; this is consciously effected. The two initiations, called the sixth and seventh, take place on the atmic plane; the five-pointed star

"blazes forth from within itself" as the esoteric phrase has it, and becomes the seven-pointed star; it descends upon the man and he enters into the Flame.

Initiation and the mystery of numbers primarily concern consciousness, and not fundamentally *"ability to function on a plane,"* nor the energy of matter, as might be gathered from so many occult books. They deal with the subjective life, life as part of the consciousness and self-realization of a planetary Logos, or Lord of a Ray, and not life in matter as we understand it. A Heavenly Man functions in His pranic vehicle, and there His consciousness is to be found as far as we are concerned in this system; He works consciously through His centres.

To sum up: There is a stage in the evolution of consciousness where the three, the four and the five blend and merge perfectly.

Confusion on this point arises from two causes which are the point of individual achievement of the student. We interpret and colour statements according to the state of our own inner consciousness. H. P. B. hints at this when dealing with the principles; also the interpretation of these figures varies according to the key employed.

The fifth or spiritual kingdom is entered when the units of the fourth kingdom have succeeded in vitalizing the fifth spirilla in all the atoms of the threefold lower man; when they have unfolded three of the egoic petals and are in process of unfolding the fourth and fifth and when they are becoming conscious of the pranic force of the Heavenly Man.

The significance of numbers enters into this science of esoteric astrology, and *numerology, as it is, per se, a branch of esoteric astrology.*

Love - Mind - Experience - Form - Human Understanding - Death:

these are the keynotes of the *fourth* Creative Hierarchy, the human kingdom and they are embodied in the planetary influences which pour through these planets from their allied signs.

Through the activity of these forces which work at this stage through the Mutable Cross, man is brought to a great Crisis of Polarisation and to a point of basic change for which all the earlier and many changes have prepared him.

It is these words also which, from a different angle, govern the processes undergone upon the Path of Discipleship and of Probation. The task of the disciple is to understand their significance in a practical and effective manner and to deal with the energies which these planets release, subordinating them to the energies released by the Fixed Cross upon which he stands, and thus increase their potency through occult combination. It is by achieving intelligent and active response to the energies released and earlier mastered through the experience of the Mutable Cross, and by relating them to the potencies let loose upon him whilst crucified upon the Fixed Cross, that he learns to prepare himself for the twelve great tests in all the twelve signs for which the experience of the two Crosses prepares him.

Twelve incarnations in each sign – a recollection of twelve energies (7 major and 5 minor rays)

We would ask you to remember that though we shall trace the progress of the man from sign to sign around the zodiacal way, yet there is not necessarily this ordered sequence of travel or the smooth passage from sign to sign as we may portray it. All souls come into incarnation in the sign Cancer. By this we mean that the very first human incarnation was always taken in this sign which has been recognised down the ages as "the doorway into life of those who must know death," just as the constellation Capricorn is ever regarded as another door and is called esoterically the "doorway into life of those who know not death." As the ages slip away, the man passes into and out of all the signs, the particular sign being determined by the nature of the personality ray which itself changes, as you know, from life to life. In those signs he learns the needed lessons, broadens his horizon, integrates his personality, begins to sense the conditioning soul, and thus discovers his essential duality.

When he is upon the Path of Discipleship (and here we include the Path of Initiation) occult rumour says that he then becomes conditioned by the tireless Watcher, the soul, and is subjected (during the final stages of the path) to exactly twelve incarnations, passing one in each of the twelve signs.

In them he has to prove himself, attaining great moments of crisis in each of the constellations of the Fixed Cross in particular.

- a. From point to point,
- b. stage to stage, and finally
- c. Cross to Cross.

He fights for his spiritual life –

1. In all the twelve houses and
2. all the twelve constellations,
3. subjected to countless combinations of forces and energies - ray, planetary, zodiacal and cosmic - until he is "*made anew*," becomes the "*new man*,"
4. is sensitive to the entire range of spiritual vibrations in our solar system and
5. has achieved that detachment which will enable him to escape from the wheel of rebirth.

He has accomplished this by mounting the three Crosses –

01. the cross of the Personality or the changing form,
02. the Cross of the Disciple or the eternal soul, and
03. the Cross of the Spirit.

This really means that he has passed through three momentous crises in his life cycle.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| I. The Crisis of Incarnation | The Mutable Cross |
| The Mounting of the Wheel | Personality and form life |
| The Cycle of Rebirth in Form | Experience |

Manifestation of Manhood

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| II. The Crisis of Reorientation | The Fixed Cross |
| The Changing to the 2nd Cross | The life of the soul |
| Preparation for the 2nd Birth | Consciousness |

Manifestation of Christhood

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| III. The Crisis of Initiation | The Cardinal Cross |
| The Transfiguration | The Life of the Spirit |

Manifestation of Divinity

In our study of the interlocking system of energies, in so far as they affect and condition a human being, *the theme of the Three Crosses is of profound and practical interest, especially as they provide those points of crisis wherein a man steps off the ordinary path of evolution and treads the path of discipleship or - after the third initiation mounts a third Cross. It will underlie our thought and all that we have to say.*

A steady recollection of the twelve basic energies (five major and seven minor which are in reality, and apart from astral reversion due to the Great Illusion, seven major and five minor) will be of value. These work out into human expression via the Lords of the twelve signs and the twelve planetary Rulers. These twelve basic energies emanate from the seven stars of the Great Bear (transmitted through seven stars of the Little Bear); two of them come from Sirius and three from the Pleiades.

This set-up will be the condition of the major solar sphere of influence at the end of the Great Age of Brahma, as it is esoterically called. In the "interim or interlude of evolution" (which is the inadequate

translation of an occult phrase given to a world cycle in the Masters' Archives) these energies are stepped down into forces and are literally sixteen all told - from the angle of manifestation, we would remind you - and make literally: $7+7+2=16=7$. In these numbers the mystery of our evolutionary process lies hid.

Always, however, the emphasis must be laid upon the Rays of Energy and Quality as they pour through the zodiacal constellations and the planets. The new astrology therefore is necessarily based upon an understanding of the rays.

The following tabulation is fundamental in its implications in this connection and upon it all that we have to say will be based.

- I. Seven stars of the Great Bear are the originating Sources of the seven rays of our solar system.
- II. The seven Rishis (as They are called) of the Great Bear express Themselves through the medium of the seven planetary Logoi Who are Their Representatives and to Whom They stand in the relation of prototype.
- III. The seven Planetary Spirits manifest through the medium of the seven sacred planets.
- IV. Each of these seven Rays, coming from the Great Bear, are transmitted into our solar system through the medium of three constellations and their ruling planets.

The signs that will mark the points of crises in progress

<i>Leo</i>	<i>Sagittarius</i>	<i>Aquarius</i>
The Lion	The Centaur	The Water-Carrier
The Man	The Archer	The Server
Self-consciousness	Focussed consciousness	Group consciousness
Physical nature	Emotional nature	Lower mental nature
Integrated man	Aspiring man	Intuitive mental man
<i>Human soul</i>	<i>Spiritual human soul</i>	<i>Spiritual soul</i>
Individualisation	Discipleship	Initiation
Personality	Egoic focus	Monadic focus
<i>The Fixed Cross</i>	<i>The Mutable Cross</i>	<i>The Fixed Cross</i>
Centralisation	Orientation	Decentralisation
<i>Individual unity</i>	<i>Sensed duality</i>	<i>Universal unity</i>
Fire	Fire	Air
Selfishness	Struggle	Service
<i>Evolution</i>	<i>The final path</i>	<i>Liberation</i>

We could continue to summarise the qualities and characteristics of these three and their peculiar inter-relation but the above will suffice amply to demonstrate the connection between them and their progressive effect upon the subject passing under their influence periodically and cyclically. They are frequently referred to as the signs which - when studied - will reveal divine intent in man, will mark the points of crisis in his progress and will (when the three influences which they express have done their work) carry the man *"from door to door, for Leo is the next sign to Cancer, and Sagittarius is the sign which precedes Capricorn."* I am quoting from an ancient book on the signs.

An example study of scientific, statistical and analytical investigation

It would also be interesting to make an analysis of those particular incarnations and their horoscopes wherein the polar opposites both appear in relation to each other - one as the sun sign and the other as the ascendant, for these lives usually express some degree of either equilibrium or of consummation; they will not in any case be negative lives or lacking in direction, event or purpose. This is particularly the case upon the Fixed Cross of the Heavens.

You will note that our purpose in this section is to evoke interest and enquiry and to incite students to scientific, statistical and analytical investigation. Only in this way will my basic premises be proven and eventually substituted for the present unsatisfactory methods - methods which most astrologers who have any real capacity and insight regard as deplorable and unsatisfactory.

The ruler of Sagittarius from the orthodox angle is Jupiter, and from the standpoint of the path of discipleship it is the Earth itself. Mars governs this sign from the standpoint of the Hierarchies involved. The most interesting fact which emerges as we study the Mutable Cross as a whole is connected with the rulers of all the four signs. From the point of view of orthodox astrology, only two planets rule or govern all the four signs; these are Jupiter and Mercury. Mercury governs Gemini and Virgo, whilst Jupiter governs Sagittarius and Pisces. The reason for this is obvious if you study the nature of the rays which express themselves through these signs.

Mercury is the agent or the messenger of the fourth Ray of Harmony through Conflict, whilst Jupiter is the medium for expression of the second Ray of Love-wisdom. These two rays govern the mass of men upon the Mutable Cross and are closely concerned with the mass incarnation of the fourth Creative Hierarchy. Their function is to fuse and blend into one cooperative whole the great dualities expressing themselves through the fourth kingdom in nature. The significance of this will be obvious.

It is easily apparent how, through the influences of Mercury and Jupiter, material desire can be transmuted into divine love, and the conflict which is the distinguishing characteristic of the human family can be instrumental in resolving dissonance into harmony.

The definite pattern and direction of this process has to take form upon the Mutable Cross before the energies of the Fixed Cross can change the ambitious selfish man into the selfless disciple. All this has perforce to be initiated upon the Mutable Cross which is essentially and significantly the Cross of the mutable, fluidic, restless mind and it is on this Cross that the mind nature is finally developed and begins its integrating control of the personality. When this process is proceeding, the Mutable Cross experience is over and the Cross of Discipleship begins to play its part.

In case of the subjective, esoteric side of the disciple

The case is quite different in connection with the subjective side of unfoldment, and esoterically the disciple who finds himself in incarnation under the influence of the Mutable Cross in his personality life whilst he, as a soul, is upon the Fixed Cross, comes under the directed energy of four planets, three of which are non-sacred planets. Usually these four supersede or rather begin to dominate the influence of Mercury and Jupiter, giving greater facility of expression and exerting that influence which will bring the personality into right relation to the soul, for that is essentially the task of the Fixed Cross and the goal of the disciple. It is in connection with the planets governing Sagittarius, exoterically and esoterically, that an idea can easily be gained of the complexity of the forces with which every disciple has to contend and the significance of the ray forces which pour into and through him. Take for example the constellation which we are now for instance considering (Sagittarius), and remember that the same basic streams of energy will have to be noted in connection with every other sign in which a man may take incarnation. We find that we shall have to consider:

1. The Sun Sign - In this case Sagittarius conditions circumstances, indicating inheritance and forcing the environment to be declarative in connection with the subject.
2. The Rising Sign - The ascendant can be one of the other eleven signs.
3. The Mutable Cross - The four energies which meet "*at the midway point*" and have a united and definite effect upon the subject. The same statement applies to the other two Crosses.
4. The Orthodox Planets - These condition the personality. In this case we have Mercury and Jupiter. The twelve houses governed by the planets are likewise of prime importance from the angle of the transmitted energy.
5. The Esoteric Planets - These bring in renewed or increased planetary energy and ray energy in a more dynamic manner. In the case of Sagittarius these energies are Venus, the Moon, the Earth and Pluto.

6. The Planetary Ruler of a Hierarchy - In this particular case, this planet is Mars, ruling the sixth Creative Hierarchy, the lunar Lords (the elementals of the threefold personality) who have to be brought under the control of the solar Lord.

A study of the above will reveal most interesting relationships and prove my point anent the multiplicity of energies to which the wonderful mechanism of man can respond and to which, as evolution proceeds, he can become increasingly sensitive.

We cannot here enter into a detailed analysis of the many energies which pour through the disciple as he arrives at the final stages upon the Mutable Cross, and in Sagittarius achieves the determination to "*direct his steps into another way of life and with ardour firm to mount another Cross*," as the Old Commentary puts it. We can only point out that the following ray forces pour onto the man through the medium of the following planets:

Exoteric	Mercury - 4th Ray - Harmony through Conflict
	Jupiter - 2nd Ray - Love-wisdom
Esoteric	Venus - 5th Ray - Concrete Science or Mind
	The Moon - 4th Ray - Harmony through Conflict
	The Earth - 3rd Ray - Active Intelligence
	Pluto-1st Ray - Destructive aspect

Hierarchical | Mars - 6th Ray – Devotion - War to the death of the personality or form

An analysis of this will show that the "forces of conflict" are powerful in this sign, primarily in the life of the disciple. Harmony through Conflict is ceaselessly active and appears in both the orthodox and the esoteric assignments. The destructive power of the first ray, focussed in Pluto, brings change, darkness and death. To this intensity and potency of Pluto must be added the forceful and dynamic energy of the planet Mars. This brings the entire human family, as well as the individual, under the law of strife, based this time upon sixth ray devotion to an ideal, high or low. All these play upon the individual born in the sign of Sagittarius, as well as upon the fourth Creative Hierarchy as a whole. This, you can see for yourself, brings in a terrific situation, and the forces playing upon the disciple are of a momentous nature - provided that the mechanism of awareness is adequate to respond. These forces in all the signs are ever present, but responsiveness and sensitivity to their impact is dependent upon the nature of the response apparatus.

Ponder upon this thought, for it is this sensitivity which marks the difference between the disciple and the average man.

These planetary influences are distinctive of the Sons of Mind, of Venusian origin;

they are characteristic of the Lords of Sacrifice and Will functioning in time and space as the fourth Creative Hierarchy.

The form life is ruled by the Moon, veiling a hidden planet; these Sons of Mind live on the Earth and thus within the body of the planetary Logos, and are of a definitely intelligent nature, making them

Lords of Knowledge, achieving their goal through the light of the mind and through the method of conflict, for they are also Lords of Ceaseless and Persevering Devotion.

All the above names which are related to the planets governing Sagittarius will be remembered by students of The Secret Doctrine. They are the "*quality names*" of the Divine Manasaputras, the Agnishvattas who are ourselves.

A consideration of the above paragraph will indicate to you the importance of the sign Sagittarius in the life of the incarnating Sons of God.

Universality

Through the Moon and also through Jupiter, Virgo is brought into relationship with Aquarius which means, in this case, with the seventh Creative Hierarchy, or with the atomic substance out of which the dense body of manifestation has to be constructed if the Christ life (which the Virgin nurtures) is to be brought to successful manifestation. The cause of manifestation is, esoterically speaking, the stimulation of the "dead lives" (the so-called inorganic substance) into activity and into usefulness to the positive Christ life, which is the agent of the stimulation. Hence the Moon is the symbol of the response of the dead lives to the outer spiritual impact.

The central idea of occultism that even the smallest atom of substance has in it the germ of that which can respond to spiritual energy is preserved for us in the teaching anent the influence of Jupiter, the second ray agent of the Christ spirit.

In connection with Jupiter, as might be expected from a study of the rays, Virgo is related both to Sagittarius and to Pisces. This is an exoteric impact but produces a constant stimulation of the life of the indwelling Christ. Sagittarius rules or conditions (for that is what the word means) the activity of the lunar lords who build the body of man out of their own substance. It will, therefore, be obvious to you why, when a man begins the one-pointed activity of Sagittarius and becomes the earnest disciple, it is possible for him to rule his personality and to govern it so that eventually it becomes the vehicle of the soul. It accounts also for the reaction of the personality against this control.

It is because of facts such as these that astrology is bound to become one of the major sciences of the future, and when this is so the control of the personality will be scientifically carried forward; full use will be made of the planetary influences and the energies coming from the signs as they cyclically make their appearance, and special effort will be made, for instance, to gain certain aspects of control during the month in which the Sun is in the sign Sagittarius.

The relation existing between Virgo and Pisces (between the Virgin Mother and the Fish Goddesses) is well known, for they are polar opposites and their functions are interchangeable in a peculiar manner. In the revolution of the ordinary wheel, Aries and Scorpio mark the beginning and the end, and consummate in the rounded out and equipped personality. They are, exoterically, Alpha and Omega. In the life of the disciple, Virgo and Pisces stand in the same relation. Pisces consummates the work carried forward in this major world cycle. Some idea of the creative story above indicated can be gained if the tabulation of the nine constellations with their signs is studied.

1. Aries	Beginning	Cardinal Cross.
2. Gemini	Relation	Mutable Cross.
3. Taurus	Desire	Fixed Cross.
4. Cancer	Movement	Cardinal Cross.
5. Scorpio	Test - Trial	Fixed Cross.
6. Sagittarius	Direction	Mutable Cross.
7. Aquarius	Service	Fixed Cross.
8. Pisces	Salvation	Mutable Cross.
9. Virgo	The Mother	Mutable Cross.

One point of interest emerges: All the four arms of the Mutable Cross are represented in this interrelation, indicating the completed activity of the Mutable Cross or of the preparatory stage of evolution which has successfully prepared the man for mounting the Fixed Cross. The personality is prepared to be the mother of the Christ.

If we consider the two solar systems (the past and the present) as a unity, it might be said that:

1. *The Mutable Cross governed the first solar system.*

In that system and in this solar system, and to humanity en masse, this Cross rules or governs the path of probation (which in reality is the entire life experience, prior to treading the path of discipleship).

2. *The Fixed Cross governs the present solar system and corresponds to the path of discipleship.*

3. *The Cardinal Cross will govern and rule the next solar system and in this system governs the path of initiation, which is trodden by the flower of the race.*

The fact that all four energies of the Mutable Cross, three of the Fixed Cross and two of the Cardinal Cross pour into the sign Virgo in relative degrees and potencies indicates the fundamental importance of this "sign of reception" as it is called. All nine energies are required to bring a man to the point where the world and influence of the two solar systems have done their task in:

1. Preparing the vehicle of reception and protection, which is the personality, the form, the self-conscious man.

2. Bringing into manifestation thereby the hidden man of the heart, the Christ within, the soul, the group conscious man.

The objective of the Cardinal Cross – after the third initiation

What will be the objective and the consummation of the activity of the Cardinal Cross during the next solar system is hidden in the revelation which comes to the man who has taken the third initiation.

It is connected naturally with the Spirit or first aspect of divinity, or with the Monad and with the expression of the divine consciousness. Until a man has, however, taken this initiation, he profits not from anything that we could tell him in this connection. For its impartation also, words are useless and in fact do not exist.

Virgo is regarded by the esoteric teachers of the Hierarchy, to be identified with the third aspect of divinity, the mother principle, and is believed to be the director of the energies, developed and recognised in the first solar system.

It is for this reason in this solar system that Virgo is subjected predominantly to the influence of the second, fourth and sixth ray energies through Jupiter (second ray) the Moon and Mercury (fourth ray) and Neptune (sixth ray). The Moon and Mercury together indicate the activity of the higher and lower mind and are, therefore, related to the third Ray of Active Intelligence which controlled the first solar system. There is consequently only one planet, Vulcan, which is distinctly and purely first ray energy.

These are points which advanced astrologers will later elaborate.

There is another point in connection with the planetary influences which we would like to mention here because it emphasises again the synthetic position of Virgo and its contribution as a major focal point for the distribution of energy to the fourth Creative Hierarchy. Jupiter rules four signs and each of them represents a different element out of the four which are expressing themselves in the three worlds of human evolution. The following tabulation will make this somewhat clearer:

Virgo	Pisces	Sagittarius	Aquarius
Earth	Water	Fire	Air
Hidden Christ	Hidden Saviour	Hidden Master	Hidden Server

Jupiter - ruler and the conveyor of EXPANSION

In this sign, Virgo, the place and the mode of expression of the planets are of paramount interest, though most esoteric in implication and most difficult to understand.

Mercury –

is exalted in this sign because the mother is necessarily ruled by her son, the Son of Mind who is also the Son of God. Of this son, she is the protector and is responsible for his development and slowly acquired experience. Mercury, being the Messenger of the Gods and the Agent of Their applied

control, is therefore the agent of the third aspect (active intelligence) from one point of view, and of the second aspect (love-wisdom) from another. He is regarded as embodying in himself both these aspects of the mental principle, the expression of the concrete and the abstract mind of God. The lower concrete mind was unfolded in the first solar system and the higher abstract intuitional mind, the pure reason, is unfolding in this system. Mercury is the synthesis of manas-buddhi, mind-wisdom which expresses itself through the human soul; Mercury rules the bridge or the antahkarana. In Virgo, Mercury reaches his full power, for Virgo is intelligence and the hidden Christ is wisdom or pure reason.

Venus –

pure love-wisdom, falls into generation in this sign and occultly "descends to earth" and stands (as The Secret Doctrine has so carefully pointed out) for the gift of mind and of divinity, embodied in the Son of Mind and thus for the descent of the Christ principle into generation or into matter. Virgo and Venus are together two aspects of intelligence. The symbolism of the descent of Spirit into the womb of the virgin mother is preserved for us in the astrological fact that Venus falls in this sign; esoterically, she disappears from view and vanishes into the darkness.

Neptune –

the expression of the sixth Ray of Idealistic Devotion, is naturally rendered more impotent in this sign and simultaneously his "power is lessened," for the drive and urge of devotion and desire give place in this powerful sign to the natural processes of form production and to the silent activity which is going on within the womb of time and space.

Jupiter –

in spite of its latent power, is also "lessened" in influence at this time because of the second principle or second aspect of divinity, the Son or the germ of the Christ Who will come, the Son of Mind, descends into the depths and is temporarily veiled or hidden.

I would recommend to the astrologers of the future a careful investigation of the falls, exaltations and the diminution of power which take place within any zodiacal sign;

the whole problem must be viewed in a large manner and not so specifically from the angle of personality horoscopes.

When the planets are rightly related to the rays which they are expressing, then the wider theme of the soul's life will emerge; these condition the personality but not in the same sense as material circumstance (physical body and material environment) condition the mass of men. Ponder on this.

PART 5 – The decanates of the constellations

The importance of the three decanates of the age of Aquarius for humanity

During the Aquarian age and during one third of its expression, that is, during the first decanate, esoterically considered, the vitalising of the human centre (spiritually considered) and in relation to the Plan and the steady growth of widespread creative activity, both in the individual and the race, will be increasingly seen. This will be due to the work and influence of Saturn, which is governed by the third ray. This planet is the planet of opportunity, of discipleship and of testing and the race can look for an increasing expression of Saturnian activity as that great divine Life continues His beneficent task.

The second initiation is closely related to the Hierarchy as a planetary centre and to the activity of the second ray. This initiation will produce in the initiate a growing sense of relationships, of a basic unity with all that breathes, and a recognition of the One Life which will lead eventually to that state of expressed brotherhood which it is the goal of the Aquarian Age to bring into being. This major centre, the Hierarchy, brings to bear upon humanity the focussed life of love and it is this basic love, which the second decanate of Aquarius - governed as it is by Mercury - will bring into manifestation. Mercury, the Messenger of the Gods (the Hierarchy of souls), carries always the message of love and sets up an unbreakable inter-relation between the two great planetary centres, that of the Hierarchy and that of Humanity.

You have again in this connection certain fundamental numerical correspondences, which are based upon the coming into activity of an awakened heart centre in the race. *This is the second major centre in the individual and is situated above the diaphragm, and through it the Hierarchy can reach the whole of humanity and the subhuman kingdoms likewise.*

1. The second planetary centre - the Hierarchy.
2. The activity of the second ray - love-wisdom.
3. The second initiation, which relates the solar plexus to the heart, humanity to the Hierarchy and the personality and the egoic rays to the second, which is ever basically in manifestation.
4. The second ray centre - the heart centre.
5. The second race (the Atlantean) as it climaxes in the fourth, the next race.
6. The second plane - the astral plane. This is the reflection of the second highest plane.
7. The second periodical vehicle - the soul.
8. The second divine aspect - love-wisdom.
9. The second type or grade of Messenger - Christ. Buddha.
10. The sustaining Life, the second or subjective Sun - heart of sun.

To all these is related the sixth ray as allied to or subsidiary to the second.

In this world cycle it might be said that the emphasis of all spiritual power is placed in the Hierarchy, which is, at present, the divine intermediary, interpreting the will of God, which is the purpose of Shamballa.

It transmits or steps down the divine energy so that safe application to Humanity becomes possible. It will be apparent, therefore, why *in the second decanate of Aquarius the Hierarchy can, as the representative of Shamballa and with the aid of Mercury, bring into physical manifestation the coming Avatar.* This becomes possible when the work of the first decanate is accomplished and when Shamballa has released and definitely re-oriented the energies of the third great centre, that of Humanity. This release and readjustment leads to creative expression and renewed spiritual life. Planetary alignment can take place and this is a planned objective for which the Hierarchy is preparing and for which the Avatar Himself is preparing at Shamballa.

The third initiation is connected with Shamballa as a planetary centre and to the activity of the first ray. It should be borne in mind that this is the first initiation in which personality and soul are united and fused so that the two aspects form one unit. When this initiation has taken place, it happens that for the first time some of its broader group implications become a reality and henceforth constitute the motivating impulse of the initiate's life. Aspiration ends and the intensest conviction takes its place. It is

interesting also to note that Venus now comes into control in the third decanate of the Aquarian Age. Venus is esoterically recognised as that mysterious force which is a blend of love and knowledge, of intelligence and synthesis, and of understanding and brotherhood. Within the Hierarchy itself, the two great Messengers who have embodied the dual Venusian energy were the Buddha and the Christ. The Messenger Who will later come and express the Shamballa urge to synthesis, the hierarchial aspiration towards love and the desire of humanity for intelligent activity with combined power will gather all into Himself. All these qualities will focus in Him, plus another quality or divine principle of which the race of men as yet knows nothing and for which there is, as yet, no name. He will be a great and potent Avatar and is not along the line of our humanity at all.

The numerical correspondences might be noted as follows, remembering that the third initiation is, in reality, the first initiation of the soul, after complete identification with the personality within the life and consciousness of the Monad, the One and the First.

1. The first planetary centre - Shamballa.
2. The activity of the first ray - will or power.
3. The third initiation, which is the first soul initiation, relating the base of the spine to the head centre, and the soul to the Monad.
4. The first major centre - the head.
5. The first truly divine race - the final race.
6. The third plane, which is in reality the first plane of soul consciousness, the reflection of the highest plane, the Logoic.
7. The first periodical vehicle - the monadic.
8. The first divine aspect - will or power.
9. The first or highest type of Mediator - the coming Avatar.
10. The sustaining Life, the spiritual sun - the central spiritual sun.

It is seldom realised that hundreds of thousands of people in every land have taken, or are preparing to take, this first initiation, called the Birth at Bethlehem, the House of Bread. Humanity, the world disciple, is now ready for this. Indications of the accuracy of the above statement can be seen in the re-orientation of people everywhere to things spiritual, their interest in human good and human welfare, the perseverance they show in their search for light and their longing and desire for a true peace, based on right human relations, implemented by goodwill.

In a cycle of thirty years the infant Jesus grew to manhood and could then take the second initiation, the Baptism in Jordan, and begin His public service. Today the many who in this life have taken the first initiation are entering the long silence of that symbolic thirty years wherein they too will grow to manhood and take the second initiation. This initiation demonstrates the complete control of the emotional nature and of all Piscean characteristics. The thirty years can be looked upon as a period of spiritual unfoldment during the three divisions into which Aquarius (and consequently the New Age now upon us) will be divided. I refer to what is technically known as the three decans of each sign. In this sign the waters of the Piscean age will, symbolically speaking, be absorbed into the water-pot carried on the shoulder of Aquarius in the symbol which is distinctive of this sign, for Aquarius is the water-carrier, bringing the water of life to the people - life more abundantly.

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The Lord of the fourth ray has many names, which warrant careful study and much consideration. In the 21st century this Lord of harmonising power will have more influence and will offset some of the Saturn disruption of the first decanate of Aquarius. In the meantime a study of His names will produce a simplification of His efforts and build up a body of constructive thought, which will facilitate His work

when He is again in active manifestation. He is always, however, more or less in power where the human family is concerned, for there is a numerical alliance between the fourth ray, the fourth Creative Hierarchy, or the human monads, and the fourth kingdom in nature. His power is always consequently active.

Three cosmic decanates – three planets

Just as each sign is divided into three decanates, which are ruled by specific planets, so the zodiac itself is a part of a still greater zodiac and is also divided into three parts. The three-fold division of the zodiac is ruled by three constellations, which are to this greater zodiac what the planets are to the decanates. The three ruling constellations are Scorpio (on the Fixed Cross), Taurus (also on the Fixed Cross), and Pisces (on the Mutable Cross). This would necessarily be so because testing, trial, desire, illumination, matter, form and salvation are the keynotes of our solar system and of our Earth in particular. This solar system is a system which is expressing the second aspect of divinity and hence the emphasis upon the forces pouring through Scorpio, Taurus and Pisces. Ponder on this. A hint is there conveyed anent our zodiac, which is of supreme importance to the astrologer of the future. In the cosmic decanates to which I here refer, it will be found that three great sons of God have expressed for us the quality, the keynote and the development which is expressive of each decanate:

- a. Hercules - Scorpio. - Strength through testing.
- b. Buddha - Taurus. - Illumination through struggle.
- c. Christ - Pisces. - Resurrection through sacrifice.

In a peculiar sense, these three constitute a triangle of initiation and are of paramount potency in the initiation process. They express strength, illumination and love in full expression.

Intensification - electrification

An intensification of the light is going on all the time, and this increase in intensity began on the earth at about the time when man discovered the uses of electricity, which discovery was a direct result of this intensification. The electrification of the planet through the wide-spread use of electricity is one of the things which is inaugurating the new age, and which will aid in bringing about the revelation of the presence of the soul. Before long this intensification will become so great that it will materially assist in the rending of the veil which separates the astral plane from the physical plane; the dividing etheric web will shortly be dissipated, and this will permit a more rapid inflow of the third aspect of light. The light from the astral plane (a starry radiance) and the light of the planet itself will be more closely blended, and the result upon humanity and upon the three other kingdoms in nature cannot be over-emphasized. It will, for one thing, profoundly affect the human eye and make the present sporadic etheric vision a universal asset. It will bring within the radius of our range of contact the infra-red and ultra-violet gamut of colours, and we shall see what at present is hidden. All this will tend to destroy the platform upon which the materialists stand, and to pave the way, first, for the admission of the soul as a sound hypothesis, and secondly, for the demonstration of its existence. We only need more light, in the esoteric sense, in order to see the soul, and that light will shortly be available and we shall understand the meaning of the words, *"And in Thy light shall we see light."*

This intensification of the light will continue until A.D. 2025, when there will come a cycle of relative stability and of steady shining without much augmentation. In the second decanate of Aquarius these three aspects will again be augmented by increased light from the fourth aspect, that is the light from the soul realm, reaching us via the universal "chitta" or mind stuff. This will flood the world. By that time, however, the soul will be recognised as a fact, and as a consequence of this recognition our entire civilisation will have changed so radically that we cannot today even guess at the form it will take. The next ten years will see a greatly increased merging of the first three forms of light, and those of you who are awake to these issues and happenings will find it interesting to note what is going on. The consensus of opinion in the religious and spiritualistic fields and in the field of biblical prophecy, and likewise a study of the symbolism of the Pyramid, lead students to believe that the immediate future will see some great event and some unforeseen spiritual happening. This should be duly anticipated, and careful preparation should be made for it. I refer not to any coming of any individual. I refer to a natural process with far-reaching effects.

During the next two hundred years the old influences under which we have been living will gradually die out, and the new potencies will make their presence felt. Three things we are told will characterise the coming Aquarian age, and they will be made possible through the influence of the three planets governing the three decanates of this sign. First, we shall have the activity of Saturn, producing a dividing of the ways and a proffering of opportunity to those who can avail themselves of it. We shall have, therefore, a period of discipline and a cycle wherein choices will be made, and through these discriminating decisions humanity will enter into its birthright. This influence is now being strongly felt.

Then, later, we shall have, through the influence of Mercury in the second decanate, the pouring in of light, of mental and spiritual illumination, and a truer interpretation of the teaching of the Lodge of Messengers. The work of the first decanate will enable many to make those choices and efforts which will enable them to raise the lower energies into the higher centres, and to transfer the focus of their attention from below to above the diaphragm. The work of the second decanate will enable those who are thus ready to fuse the personality and the soul, and thus, as I earlier pointed out, the light will shine forth and Christ will be born within them.

During the third decanate we shall see the rule of Brotherhood inaugurated, and Venus controlling by intelligent love; *the group and not the individual will be the important unit, and unselfishness and cooperation will steadily take the place of separateness and competition.*

Decanates from the angle of the disciple

In connection with the decanates, we would point out that what we are in constantly emphasising is that the astrologer needs to study the horoscope of an individual from the angle of his place upon the wheel of the zodiac and to consider which way he is going. Is he progressing around the wheel as a personality or is he moving forward as a soul?

The conflict to which all disciples are subjected can be traced to the fact that the form life of the disciple is influenced in one way by the wheel, and the consciousness aspect in another way or in the reverse direction. The disciple enters the sign under the influence of that decanate which is for him the first but which is the third for the ordinary man. This is interestingly and practically instanced by the constellation which we are now entering.

The three decanates of Aquarius, from the angle of the disciple, are Saturn, Mercury and Venus.

It is in this sequence that they affect him and carry him forward on his desired way, thus giving opportunity through conflict, the illumination of the mind and eventually the achievement of brotherly love which is wisdom. Ordinarily speaking, the mass of men would pass through the sign via Venus, Mercury and Saturn, for the undeveloped man is influenced by those qualities which can be best described as instinctual mind or affection (Venus), which is brotherly love in embryo; by the slow unfoldment of the mind through the activity of Mercury; finally, as the result of this unfoldment, conflict supervenes and Saturn offers opportunity to suffer and, through suffering, to learn to choose rightly, to analyse correctly and to decide upon the higher values. These points must be carefully considered by the astrologer.

But at this time, we are at a point of crisis and the problem takes wider implications, for the reason that, for the first time in its history, humanity is beginning to mount the Fixed Cross of the disciple, thus reversing its progress upon the circle of the Zodiac. Humanity - as a whole and owing to the large proportion of aspirants and thinking idealists - is entering Aquarius, via the open door of Saturn. At the same time, a very large number of men are in the non-thinking instinctual stage and their consciousness is predominantly Atlantean. These enter via Venus and hence the conflict.

Alan Leo gives us Mercury, Saturn and Venus. I would remind you here of a point which is oft forgotten by astrologers; this is that, in the case of the disciple, Mercury and the Sun are interchangeable terms.

When the disciple becomes aware that he is himself Mercury, the Son of Mind, and therefore one with the universal Christ, the "Sun and yet the Son of God" (as it is esoterically called), he is then an initiate.

Therefore, Alan Leo's assignment of rulers is the truly esoteric one.

When the disciple knows Saturn as the God who offers opportunity and does not only feel him to be Deity who brings disaster, then he is on the path of discipleship in truth and in deed and not just theoretically. When Venus is the source of wisdom and the expression of the transmutation of the mind into intuition and of intellect into wisdom, then he is ready for initiation. He is rapidly achieving liberation.

Again, the keynotes of this sign convey their meaning clearly and there is no need for me to elucidate. On the ordinary wheel, the command goes forth in the following words which institute the activity of Virgo: "And the Word said, Let Matter reign." Later, upon the wheel of the disciple, the voice emerges from the Virgin Herself and she says: "*I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am.*"

Ponder upon the beauty of this synthesis and teaching and know that you yourself have said the first word as the soul, descending into the womb of time and space in a far and distant past. The time has now come when you can, if you so choose, proclaim your identity with both divine aspects - matter and Spirit, the mother and the Christ.

Decanates of Aries

1. The decanates can also be dealt with in two ways, according to the direction in which man is travelling upon the wheel and therefore entering the sign, speaking in symbols.
2. If he enters Aries when on the Common Cross he will come under the influence of Mars, the Sun and Jupiter, according to Sepharial. This means conflict, revelation and the successful satisfaction of desire and ambition as the aeons pass away.
3. When he reorients himself and mounts the Fixed Cross, he comes under the influence of Jupiter, the Sun and Mars, for the initiate and the disciple culminates his career in any of the signs with a final and dominant struggle and fight.
4. Alan Leo had a glimpse of the inner significance of the decanates when he assigned Mars, the Sun and Venus to the three decanates. He touched the truth of the inner subjective reversal upon the wheel, which brings in other energies and influences when he substituted Venus for Jupiter. Mind and heart must be coordinated and brought into play when the great reversal takes place.

Decanates of Taurus

Constantly in this sign (Taurus) comes the emphasis upon struggle. It is a cosmic, planetary and individual struggle, for desire-will underlies the manifested activities of the Logos, the planetary Life and of man and also of all forms in nature. It is the struggle of that which is deeply hidden in darkness to reach the light of day; it is the struggle of the hidden soul to dominate and control the outer form, the struggle to transmute desire into aspiration and aspiration into the will to achieve. It is the struggle to attain the goal, which an increasing light reveals. So potent is this struggle that on the ordinary wheel it culminates (prior to the re-entry in Aries of the soul seeking incarnation) by the fixed desire, growing steadily stronger, to follow the wheel of re-birth; on the reversed progress around the zodiac, the struggle is to overcome and destroy all that has been so laboriously achieved upon the ordinary wheel and to demonstrate in Scorpio (through the terrific tests there applied) that the form no longer controls but that the lessons learnt through the use of the form have been retained; the struggle is to achieve initiation in Capricorn and thus release the soul from the revolving wheel and achieve final liberation from the thralldom of desire and from form control of any kind.

This is curiously emphasised by the rulers of the decanates in this sign. Both the astrologers, Leo and Sepharial, practically and to all intents and purposes, agree in their assignment of planets to govern the triple aspects of the sign. They only vary exoterically on one point for Sepharial gives the Moon as governing the second decan whilst Leo gives Venus as ruling the first decan. However, Venus and the Moon are often used interchangeably and both express or emanate the same basic energy of active intelligence in its higher and lower aspects. One expresses intelligent love and the other the intelligence of matter; this dual emphasis is concerned with the dominance of the form nature in the

Taurian subject and his release through the Venusian Son of Mind. The Moon or Venus, Mercury and Saturn control the decanates and our consideration of these planets in the other signs will have indicated to you their right interpretation, both here and elsewhere. Form life, intelligent activity, and intense struggle summarises the Taurian problem, whilst Mercury, the Messenger of the Gods, reminds the struggling man that he must become ever what he essentially is, thus escaping from illusion and entering into light.

Decanates of Gemini

In connection with the decanates and their rulers, it is interesting to find that Sepharial and Alan Leo give entirely different ruling planets, and yet both are right. Uniquely for him, Sepharial gives the three planets of Jupiter, Mars and the Sun, and thus indicates those, which are the esoteric rulers of the sign upon the wheel of discipleship. Usually his choice is exoteric and not esoteric. Leo, in this case, gives Mercury, Venus and Saturn, and these three govern the wheel of ordinary life. Between them, they cover the wheel as it turns in both directions. You will note how two out of the governing planets of the decanates in the case of the ordinary wheel serve to enhance the planetary rulers of the sign, Gemini with Saturn offering at a certain fairly advanced stage the opposition needed to bring about a basic revolution. Note this phrasing. The entire question of the revolving wheel with its dual action and its dual effect upon consciousness (and therefore the whole problem of the three decans and their rulers in each sign of the zodiac) must remain a difficult and abstruse problem until such time as astrologers have developed a four-dimensional consciousness and know the true meaning of the Biblical phrase: the "wheel turning upon itself." In reality, the wheel does not turn like a wheel in a car either forward or the reverse. It turns every way and both ways simultaneously. This fact is, as yet, an impossible one for the human consciousness to grasp. The complexity involved in the progress through the decans - conditioning also the rulers - is to be found to be based upon this multiple action of the wheel. The wheel, therefore, moves not only clockwise, but both ways at once and also at right angles to itself.

Decanates of Cancer

Curiously it is Sepharial who places the rulers of the decanates more accurately than does Leo. Usually this is reversed and Leo is the more correct of the two astrologers. Sepharial gives us Venus, Mercury and the Moon whereas Leo apportions the Moon, Mars and Jupiter to these decanates. The mind, the uses of conflict and form life are the contributing factors, leading the soul along the way of incarnation. The instrument of release is, in the last analysis, the right use and control of the organ of illumination, which is the mind. Hence the necessary emphasis ever laid upon meditation when the aspirant awakens to spiritual opportunity. The strength, which comes through conflict and constant struggle builds up steadily that reserve of strength and power which enables the aspirant to take the final tests of discipleship in Scorpio and to brave in Capricorn the trials of initiation and the breaking of all the bonds which the processes of incarnation have forged.

Decanates of Leo

Leo in its consciousness is the dominant self-aware agent and has therefore the control and can—because of this - remain uninfluenced. This fact will be increasingly understood as the advanced Leo subject makes his appearance. He will be distinguished by his personal freedom from outside control. He knows innately that he is king of himself, the ruler of his own life and, therefore, no planet is exalted and likewise no planet falls. The power of the mind, as symbolised by Uranus, is lessened, for it is not the mind which in reality controls but the Self, or Soul, using and controlling the mind. The man is not then conditioned by his surroundings or life events but rules them with deliberation, bringing out of circumstances and environment that which he requires. Saturn, therefore, the Lord of Karma, has his power lessened in this sign. It is for this reason that Sepharial is incorrect when he gives Saturn as the ruler of the first decanate. The three decanates are given by him as being ruled by Saturn, Jupiter and Mars. Alan Leo is, however, nearer the truth when he gives us the Sun, Jupiter and Mars.

Self-rule through initial conflict, carried to a successful issue and blessed by the beneficence of Jupiter, is the true history of the advanced Leo aspirant, and this thought and the objective result of this realisation is summed up for us in the two word mottoes of this sign:

1. And the Word said: Let other forms exist. I rule because I am.

2. I am That and That am I.

Decanates of Virgo

In connection with the decanates, we would point out that what I am in this treatise constantly emphasising is that the astrologer needs to study the horoscope of an individual from the angle of his place upon the wheel of the zodiac and to consider which way he is going. Is he progressing around the wheel as a personality or is he moving forward as a soul? The conflict to which all disciples are subjected can be traced to the fact that the form life of the disciple is influenced in one way by the wheel, and the consciousness aspect in another way or in the reverse direction. The disciple enters the sign under the influence of that decanate, which is for him the first but which is the third for the ordinary man. This is interestingly and practically instanced by the constellation, which we are now entering. The three decanates of Aquarius, from the angle of the disciple, are Saturn, Mercury and Venus. It is in this sequence that they affect him and carry him forward on his desired way, thus giving opportunity through conflict, the illumination of the mind and eventually the achievement of brotherly love, which is wisdom. Ordinarily speaking, the mass of men would pass through the sign via Venus, Mercury and Saturn, for the undeveloped man is influenced by those qualities which can be best described as instinctual mind or affection (Venus), which is brotherly love in embryo; by the slow unfoldment of the mind through the activity of Mercury; finally, as the result of this unfoldment, conflict supervenes and Saturn offers opportunity to suffer and, through suffering, to learn to choose rightly, to analyse correctly and to decide upon the higher values. These points must be carefully considered by the astrologer. But at this time, we are at a point of crisis and the problem takes wider implications, for the reason that, for the first time in its history, humanity is beginning to mount the Fixed Cross of the disciple, thus reversing its progress upon the circle of the Zodiac. Humanity - as a whole and owing to the large proportion of aspirants and thinking idealists - is entering Aquarius, via the open door of Saturn. At the same time, a very large number of men are in the non-thinking instinctual stage and their consciousness is predominantly Atlantean. These enter via Venus and hence the conflict.

According to Sepharial, the three decanates into which Virgo is divided are governed by the Sun, Venus and Mercury, whilst Alan Leo gives us Mercury, Saturn and Venus. I would remind you here of a point which is oft forgotten by astrologers; this is that, in the case of the disciple, Mercury and the Sun are interchangeable terms. When the disciple becomes aware that he is himself Mercury, the Son of Mind, and therefore one with the universal Christ, the "Sun and yet the Son of God" (as it is esoterically called), he is then an initiate. Therefore, Leo's assignment of rulers is the truly esoteric one. When the disciple knows Saturn as the God who offers opportunity and does not only feel him to be Deity who brings disaster, then he is on the path of discipleship in truth and in deed and not just theoretically. When Venus is the source of wisdom and the expression of the transmutation of the mind into intuition and of intellect into wisdom, then he is ready for initiation. He is rapidly achieving liberation. The weakness of the rulers of the decanates as given by Sepharial lies in the fact that as both Mercury and the Sun are one, the choice is therefore redundant; he omits Saturn and because of this omission, esoterically speaking, the *"door is not open."*

Decanates of Libra

The rulers of the decanates in this sign are again dual in their presentation by different schools of astrologers. Sepharial gives us the Moon, Saturn and Jupiter, whilst Alan Leo posits the controlling planets as Venus, Saturn and Mercury. In this case, as in some others, the truth lies between the two or in a combination of both. The true rulers of the decanates in Libra are Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury. I need not enlarge upon their effect except to point out that the result of the Jupiterian influence is to *"open the door of the womb"* in Virgo - a planet which we shall consider when we specific study that sign of the zodiac.

Decanates of Scorpio

The three major tests are again divided into three stages, and upon the Path of Discipleship the man may find himself passing into this sign for testing and experience nine times. The fact of the three tests each existing in their three stages may convey a hint to esoteric astrologers as to the purpose of the three decanates into which each sign is divided - a point upon which we touched when we came to our study of the Science of Triangles. Each test (and therefore each decanate) concerns the three

aspects, which in this study we have called: *life, quality and appearance*. Thus the three great tests in Scorpio are in reality nine tests and hence the nine-headed Hydra or Serpent which is ever associated with Scorpio and hence also the nature of the stupendous victory achieved by Hercules, the Sun-God, in this sign.

Each of the great Sons of God Whose names are pre-eminent in the minds of men - Hercules, the Buddha and the Christ - are associated in the archives of the Great White Lodge with three special signs of the zodiac (which in a peculiar manner constitute the "zodiacal decanate") in each of which They passed from test to victory.

- a. In Scorpio - Hercules became the triumphant disciple.
- b. In Taurus - The Buddha achieved victory over desire and arrived at illumination.
- c. In Pisces - The Christ overcame death and became the world saviour.

The three decanates and their rulers are given very differently by various astrologers. One group posits Mars, the Sun and Venus as ruling the decanates of Scorpio whilst another regards Mars, Jupiter and the Moon as the three rulers. Perhaps the truth lies in both conclusions, if we view them from the esoteric standpoint or from that of the undeveloped man. This will be an interesting point for astrologers to investigate and study. Some day they will arrive at a clear decision as to the position of the five planets suggested as ruling the decanates (they agree on one); we cannot indicate to you the essential truth because a new planet is arising in this sign and it is for man to discover and rightly place it within the circumference of the Great Wheel.

Decanates of Sagittarius

For the three decanates of Sagittarius, Sepharial gives us the three governing planets as Mercury, the Moon and the Sun, whilst Alan Leo gives us Jupiter, Mars and the Sun, emphasising as he always does the way of the esotericists. He usually tunes in on the esoteric significances but not always.

1. Jupiter gives expansion, superseding Mercury, for the mercurial mind is ever a limitation even if only a temporary one.
2. The Moon gives place to Mars, which confers the quality of devotion and the capacity to fight for an ideal. This idealistic concept and method of work is always the characteristic of discipleship during the early stages of unfoldment upon the Path.
3. The Sun, typifying the solar Angel remains constant both through the exoteric and the esoteric processes and therefore astrology recognises it as a constant pressure and presence. This fact in itself indicates a significant truth. The soul remains eternally present - in the past, in the present and on into the future.

Decanates of Capricorn

The triplicity into which each sign is divided and which we call the decanates is of particular interest in the case of Capricorn. As is the case in all correspondence, this triplicity can be related to the three aspects of God and man - spirit, soul and body. The central decanate is therefore of peculiar moment in our world period as it is concerned with the effect of the planetary influences, the solar rays and the energy of the constellations upon the soul or the consciousness aspect. This is the case whether we are considering man on the ordinary wheel or man upon the reversed wheel. From the standpoint of astrological interpretation and in the case where the astrologer is not sure which way the wheel is turning, it is the only decanate with its ruler of which he can be sure. The influence of the ruler is, therefore, inevitable. This is strikingly the case in connection with the sign Aquarius into which sign our sun is now entering, its three decanates, Saturn, Mercury and Venus, bringing inevitably difficulty, illumination and brotherly love. On the ordinary wheel, in all outer affairs, Saturn controls, and we consequently find ourselves today in a state of chaos and trouble, but as far as the consciousness of the race is concerned, Mercury is becoming increasingly active. A steady illumination is taking place and light is being thrown on all problems - light on government and politics through experiments and the study of great and basic ideologies; light on the material nature of the world through all the many

branches of science; light on humanity itself through education, philosophy and psychology. This light is spreading down to the very darkest places in our planet and its many forms of life.

Two sets of rulers for the three decanates are available. According to Alan Leo, we have Saturn, Venus and Mercury. According to Sepharial we have Jupiter, Mars and the Sun. Of these two, the first is the more correct and the more esoteric. The true rulers are Saturn, Venus and the Sun. I would remind you that Mercury and the Sun are interchangeable but that in this case the Sun stands exoterically for Mercury and esoterically for a hidden planet.

Saturn relates Capricorn to the previous sign Aquarius, upon the ordinary wheel, and Jupiter, exoterically understood, relates Capricorn to Sagittarius upon the reversing wheel. It will be obvious to all esotericists that the Sun is the obvious ruler of the third decanate, veiling as it does a hidden and deeply significant planet and being that which reveals divinity at the time of the third initiation. You will note how, in this great sign of initiation, Saturn reveals the nature of the third aspect of divinity, the nature of intelligent substance; Venus reveals the nature of the second aspect, which is consciousness or intelligent love, whilst the Sun - the physical Sun and the heart of the Sun together - reveals the synthesis of these two.

Decanates of Aquarius

The decanates in Aquarius are governed (according to Alan Leo) by Saturn, Mercury and Venus, and the effect that they will produce upon human affairs and world conditions is already beginning to appear. Saturn is the planet of discipleship and of opportunity; it is exceedingly active today, presenting to the world disciple those difficult situations and crises which will involve free choice, discriminative pioneering, wise response and correct decision, thus bringing about the destruction of that which hinders without the relinquishing of any true values of which humanity may be aware. The individual disciple has always been faced with these conditioning and releasing circumstances, and today humanity itself is in the same position. We stand at the gateway of the new world, of the new age and its new civilizations, ideals and culture.

Saturn, having offered opportunity and proffered us a choice to bring about the needed changes and to destroy that which holds back the free expression of the soul, eventually stands aside in order to let His great Brother, Mercury, spread the light of the soul - intuitive and illuminating - upon the situation, to interpret for us, through our own illumined minds, the significance of events and to relate the old and the new, the past and the future through the light of the present.

Hence, the subjective usefulness of the present general trend towards meditation processes which bring about the capacity to be "impressed from on high" (technically understood) and to be illumined by the light of the soul.

When the task of Saturn and of Mercury has been accomplished, then during the third decanate, Venus, which is the union of heart and mind, will usher in the long hoped for era of love-wisdom, of brotherhood and of expressed brotherly relationships. Opportunity - Illumination - Brotherhood: these are the gifts that Shamballa is planning to confer upon mankind during the Aquarian Age, if man will but prepare for them, accept them, and use them. Only the future will make clear man's reaction.

According to other astrologers, the three decanates are governed by Venus, Mercury and the Moon. You can here see the relation of astrology to the normal or to the reversed wheel of life. The Moon which here takes the place of Saturn hides the planet Uranus. In this case Uranus, the occult planet, stands for exoteric science which penetrates into the hidden side of form life, and thus we have the period wherein man is not alert enough or conscious enough to seize upon opportunity and turn it to esoteric or soul ends, but can identify himself with the more advanced aspects of form. The energy which produces opportunity, illumination, and brotherly love as expressed and attained upon the Fixed Cross, demonstrates upon the Mutable or Common Cross as difficulty, the versatile and volatile mind (unstable and dark) and as sex.

This appears clearly in the words spoken to the man upon the Mutable Cross as he passes through an Aquarian cycle. The words are: "And the Word said, Let desire in form be ruler," for desire becomes gained knowledge and the knowledge of that which is hidden at any stage upon the path of evolution relates the individual to Uranus. When the man is upon the Fixed Cross, the words come forth: "*Water*

of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men." The implications are so clear that there is no need for me to be more explicit or to elaborate the theme.

In the Aquarian Age, the power of the planet Venus becomes a dominant factor in the last decanate. This I have already told you when we were studying that sign. Upon the reversed wheel in the case of the spiritually oriented man and the disciple, it is the first decanate under whose influence he comes, which is governed by Venus; this should be remembered. Venus was the planet, which we are told was responsible for the appearance of the individualised consciousness in man - this in combination with other influences and forces. In the Aquarian Age, Venus will again have an analogous influence only with this difference that the emergence into manifestation of an increased individualism and self-conscious realisation will be subordinate to the appearance of the first stages of an expanded consciousness throughout all mankind - the consciousness of group responsibility. It will be perhaps better expressed as a form of group individualism.

Venus and its decanate in Aquarius

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Therefore: behind all these events, the dim outline of a lesser triangle of energy can be seen; this is a blend of the energy of three planets, producing a combination of the energies of

Ray 3. - Active intelligence.
Ray 7. - Ceremonial order or magic.
Ray 5. - Concrete mind.

Decanates of Pisces

The same symbolic mode of interpretation must govern also our understanding of the three decanates.

1. Both Leo and Sepharial give a list of the decanates and between them there is much resemblance but there is, however, an important difference. Leo approaches the closer to the esoteric interpretation of astrology whilst Sepharial is purely exoteric.
2. According to Sepharial, the three decanates are governed by Saturn – Jupiter - Mars, presenting opportunity to work off karma and to be successful in so doing and indicating the method employed, that of conflict and of war.
3. Leo gives us Jupiter, the Moon and Mars. He indicates, therefore, (1) the success, incident to proved discipleship and consequent readiness for initiation, (2) the seeing of the vision with which Jupiter rewards the disciple, and (3) the experience, which Vulcan confers.
4. Vulcan has been hitherto hidden, but its influence has steadily superseded all lunar control, for the personality or form side of life is lost to sight in the radiance of the Sun, the soul. The light of Vulcan and the light of the Sun are one light and these three - Mercury, Vulcan and the Sun - stand for a synthesis and a radiance which eventually dims the light of Mercury and it "falls" into the background and Vulcan too becomes invisible and only the Sun remains. We have consequently (1) a vision of the Sun, (2) the experience of the personality and (3) effort, which is the mode of attainment governed by Mars.

Energy form Saturn, Leo, Shamballa to humanity governs two decanates in Capricorn

Some subsidiary points are of interest to the esoteric astrologer and these we might briefly list in connection with these effective triangles, using the word "effective" to imply conditioning and potent in results. In this present world cycle all results are of unusual significance and also unusually emphasised in human consciousness.

1. Saturn, through which energy flows from Leo, via Shamballa, to Humanity, governs two decanates in Capricorn. Hence its extreme potency today in the triangle of Humanity. Saturn breaks up existing conditions by the force of its energy impact, thus enabling the influence of Mercury to be more fully expressed. The vision can then be intuitively perceived when obstructions have been removed.

2. Leo is one of the birth signs of the zodiac; it connotes the birth of self-consciousness. Capricorn is also a birth sign, because it is also an aspect or one of the arms of the Cardinal Cross - the Cross of that which initiates or brings into being. This has a peculiar relation to Humanity. It is the birth of the two types of consciousness - self-consciousness and Christ consciousness - which are brought to the attention of humanity by the fact of this Leo force, pouring through Saturn to Humanity and thus bringing Shamballa and Humanity into a closer relation, via Capricorn, active through Mercury.

Tabulation of the Great Zodiacal Wheel

The following tabulation makes this clear but must be interpreted only in terms of this present turn of the Great Zodiacal Wheel (25.000 years):

<i>Ray</i>	<i>Constellations</i>	<i>Planets</i> (Orthodox)	<i>Planets</i> (Esoteric)
I. Will or Power	Aries, The Ram Leo, the Lion Capricorn, the Goat	Mars Sun Saturn	Mercury Sun Saturn
II. Love-Wisdom	Gemini, the Twins Virgo, the Virgin Pisces, the Fishes	Mercury Mercury Jupiter	Venus Moon (veiling a Pluto planet)
III. Active-Intelligence	Cancer, the Crab Libra, the Scales Capricorn, the Goat	Moon Venus Saturn	Neptune Uranus Saturn
IV. Harmony through Conflict	Taurus, the Bull Scorpio, the Scorpion Sagittarius, the Archer	Venus Mars Jupiter	Vulcan Mars Earth
V. Concrete Science	Leo, the Lion Sagittarius, the Archer Aquarius, the Watercarrier	Sun Jupiter Uranus	Sun Earth Jupiter
VI. Idealism / Devotion	Virgo, the Virgin Sagittarius, the Archer Pisces, the Fishes	Mercury Jupiter Jupiter	Moon Earth Pluto
VII. Ceremonial Order	Aries, the Ram Cancer, the Crab Capricorn, the Goat	Mars Moon Saturn	Mercury Neptune Saturn

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