



For the spiritualist, the path of the zodiac forms an important course of his theoretical and practical study. The zodiac is the limitation of man when he is in the lowest and at the same time it is the path of his liberation when he is on the higher plane.

These lines are from "Spiritual Astrology" by Dr. E. Krishnamacharya. Spiritual astrology deals with the relationship between man and cosmos. It is one of the six keys to the secrets of wisdom whose centre is the consciousness of man. Through study and continuing meditation on the human and animal forms of the zodiac, he discovers that he is a small image of the cosmic man. He eventually realizes within himself all the planets, the solar system, and the cosmic plan to which he devotes his life. This wisdom reveals itself to the person who lives in the soul consciousness. Whoever is firmly anchored in the personality will never find the subtle dimensions.

The "Letters on Spiritual Astrology" contain thoughts from the wisdom teachings. Their purpose is to give encouragement to explore connections and correspondences and to elevate oneself to the level of Oneness which is found beyond the riddles of creation.

Aries

The Circle and the Beginning

The circle is a symbol of the eternal existence, which has no beginning and no end. A circle is formed from its centre; it does not have its origin on the circumference, but in the central point. In the centre the beginning of all things can be seen, how they develop and dissolve again. From the circumference we can only see what has already come into being, but not how. People dominated by the intellect move only along the circumference and cannot reach the centre. Standing in our centre we see the things and events on the background of eternal existence. Therefore the Scriptures say: "Man know thyself, don't try to understand other things first."

When we mark an event as beginning, we have to define another as an end. It is a concept of our mind, a frame which we set up. Depending on the point where you begin with the subdivision of the circle you get another wisdom. The circle of the solar year has four points of beginning: The equinoxes of spring and autumn as well as the solstices of summer and winter. As a basis for the subdivision of time you can also take the lunar cycles and thus obtain the lunar year which is used by some nations and religions. Some people also have taken the Venus cycles as basis for a year. With the Venus cycle you work with the line of immortality, the lunar cycles stress the influence of the past, the solar cycles the consciousness.

To begin the year with the 1st of January which is in use today doesn't correspond to any of the cycles, but is a date arbitrarily fixed by people in more recent times, without knowledge of the an-

cient wisdom. The names of the months of September, October, November and December contain the names of the Latin numbers for 7, 8, 9 and 10 and still hint to the old order: If December is the tenth month, it cannot be the closing of the year, but January is the eleventh and February the twelfth month. March with the equinox at 0 degree of Aries is then the beginning of the new annual cycle. The wisdom teachings also look upon it like this. When we try to live according to the eternal values, we should follow this understanding, then a deeper knowledge about time reveals to us. With this however, we shouldn't reject the social customs, but respect them.

Every time several planets enter into Aries, this is a time of a new beginning. Every year when the sun crosses the spring equinox, Aries supplies fiery energies for changes. Life gets a powerful impulse so that it doesn't move in a circle, but progresses in spirals. The sun stands for consciousness, and like the plants now strive out of the ground with full power and start to blossom, the individual consciousness also has the opportunity now to spring up. Therefore the season starting now is called "spring" in English. When we see the outer spring we should yearn for the inner spring. The spirit should awaken, collect itself and break through the individual egoism and ascend into higher realms.

Meditative Visualisation

The sign of Aries rules the head. The meditation in the month of Aries recommends meditating on the symbol of Aries (♈). It starts from the tip of the

nose and diverges through the eyebrows. We can imagine that we are a lotus unfolding right from the eyebrows and above. We can imagine our nose as the stag of the lotus, the eyebrows as the preliminary bifurcated petals of the lotus and the forehead and the upper part of the head as a globe of light positioned in that lotus. We can contemplate the top of the lotus having 1000 dimensions, just like a diamond stone which is well cut emitting brilliant light. The mantram for this meditation is SOHAM, meaning "That I Am": We don't identify any longer with the individual life of our personality, but with the great Life, like the wave identifies with the ocean. SOHAM is the song of the respiration, of the pulsating principle. SO expresses through the inhalation and HAM through the exhalation. The sound SO shall have to be visualised at the head centre and the sound HAM right from the throat centre. With this the part between the throat centre and the head centre should be consciously pervaded by us while we utter forth the sound inwardly.

The Program for the Year

Aries contains the potential of all other sun signs, we can experience in it the energy of the whole year in a seed form. Like this the knowers experience in Aries the Plan for the year. It is also a good time for us to set up a plan for the year and to consider improvements. The equinox offers an opportunity to make an introspection, to examine our way of life and to think about the areas in which we can improve something: In our dealing with time, with food, drink and sleep, with money or with our fellow men.

From ancient most times the spiritual student is recommended to deeply consecrate and live with utmost purity from the beginning of Aries on, in order to attune to the energies of Aries. They try to live on minimum food and drink, try to speak as little as possible, and link up to the highest possible awareness. Above all in the time from Aries new moon to full moon they devote themselves to a yogic program in order to bring all the five senses to a state of equanimity, to give them an order and thus to keep them in a good state for the rest of the year. Our program for the year substantially

depends on how we orient ourselves during these 15 days (20 Mar to 5 Apr 2004).

Bridling the Horses

The senses are compared with wild, untamed horses governed by Mars, the ruler of Aries. They draw us to the outside and make us run after the material things. With this we overexert our energies, we become tired and exhausted. Here the horses decide where the chariot goes and not the charioteer. This can go to a point where even the chariot breaks, that is that by a wrong, excessive lifestyle the body becomes sick and dies. When we give an order to the senses, we take the reins. With our sense of discrimination we neutralise the negative, impetuous activity of Mars. Then Mercury becomes the ruler of Aries, he transmits to us the light of the soul. The light doesn't manifest by itself, but it emerges when we invoke the soul and the presence of the Master.

For the one who is living on the soul level Uranus becomes the ruler of the sign. Uranus causes sudden changes. His motto is: "Be open for the unexpected, for new possibilities." Uranus initiates works which are in accordance with the Plan, give a new direction to life and are lasting long. When Uranus again travels through Aries from 2011 on, this will stimulate activities which bring far-reaching changes.

It is an ancient-most knowledge that Aries provides the opportunity to ascend into higher stages of existence. Likewise in the month of Aries, on Good Friday the Passover festival is celebrated, a passing over into higher circles of existence. In harmony with that Master Jesus has manifested this through death and resurrection. The heavens are open at this time, and with the right preparation and alignment we can receive the incoming energies.

2004. Sources used: K. P. Kumar: *Hercules: The Man and the Symbol* / seminar notes / E. Krishnamacharya: *Spiritual Astrology. The World Teacher Trust - Dhanishta, Visakhapatnam, India (www.worldteachertrust.org)* - A. A. Bailey: *Esoteric Astrology, Lucis-Trust, London. (www.netnews.org / www.lucistrust.org)*.



Synthesis

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