



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.

Cancer

THE PRINCIPLE OF REFLECTION

Each star we see in the clear sky at night is a sun like the sun of our system. According to the Wisdom Teachings the inner spiritual sun, who is invisible and is at the same time the real sun, shines through all suns. It corresponds to the radiating centre of consciousness in man. The sun rays we see are only its reflections. This principle of reflection is the symbol of the universal mind and is called the moon-principle. The visible moon in the sky reflects the rays of the sun and represents the moon-principle for the earth. In us this principle corresponds to the mind. Shape and colour of the sun again correspond to the physical body. So the material, the lunar and the solar principles form the threefold existence of man - his body, mind and spirit, from which his consciousness radiates. Cancer is a watery sign and for all mundane matters is ruled by Moon, the mother of forms. Cancer enables the embodiment of a form, the reflection of the invisible in the visible, of the higher in the lower. Each moulded form rises like a wave out of the ocean of existence and holds in itself the living spiritual essence. All that is taken from the wholeness of being, temporarily gathered into a shape, to flow afterwards back into the one existence.

THE ILLUSION OF POSSESSING

This truth of existence is reflected in our minds like the sun in a bowl of water: The sun seems to be circumscribed by the bowl. Thus the principle

of reflection causes in the mind the notion of „mine“ and the illusion of possession, which is strongly developed in Cancer. We speak of „my house, my children, my family, my profession“ and see the things as different from us. We think that the truth we realize belongs to us, that the thoughts we have are ours. But thoughts come even if we don't want them. The body also does not belong to us; it was given to us and will also be taken from us again. From the spiritual point of view the concept of ownership is unreal and a distortion of truth. From the worldly standpoint however there exist „my property“ and „the property of others“. We suffer from the inversion through the feeling of „mine“ and the age-old instinct of possession, which today has expanded so much: Individuals, companies and nations are intelligently striving to steal or exploit others, to pass others' ideas off as one's own and to push ownership rights through with patents and copyrights, with contracts and laws. Many would even like to possess that which legally belongs to others.

As soon as we think we possess, we are possessed and get conditioned by the possession. We cannot possess anything at all, since all belongs to the One who permeates all. „All beings are in ME and I AM in them“, is an expression of the highest truth in the Bhagavad Gita. All we have and need is given to us in trusteeship, to use it for divine and not for selfish purposes.

SENSITIVITY

At the point of the summer solstice which marks the beginning of Cancer, the sun seems to move sideways, as seen from the earth, before it recedes from its northernmost direction towards the south. Therefore the symbol of this sign is the crab (♋), which moves sideways on the shore of the ocean, between water and land. In the Cancer-stage the soul moves between the physical and the watery emotional feeling nature, imprisoned in the hard shell of physical incarnation. Like the crab builds its shell as a house and carries it on its back, the people born in Cancer are always conscious of what they have built, and they try to hold it. They are considered to be over-sensitive and emotional. Their sympathies and antipathies change with their moods, and their minds can jump in a flash from one subject to the other.

Silver, the metal ruled by Cancer, affects sensitivity, psychic susceptibility and behaviour. It is related to the solar plexus centre and the reactive faculty of the mind. Silver in homoeopathic form (Argentum nitricum) is a remedy suited for calming the solar plexus. You also can fill water into a silver cup in the morning, keep it in a room with a current of air and drink it in the evening. Then you refill the cup, put it to the air and drink the water on an empty stomach in the morning. The water gets impregnated by the quality of the silver.

Cancer stands for the relation between nature and man and the instinctive bond between mother and child, through which the mother becomes aware of the needs, pains and pleasures of her child. In the womb both are linked through the umbilical cord. Surrounded by the waters the foetus grows up, when man, imitating the drama of evolution, descends into incarnation.

DESCENT AND ASCENT

Cancer represents the gate, through which the soul „falls” at birth from the spiritual world into matter. The opposing sign Capricorn is the gate through which the soul, liberated from matter, can ascend again. In the cycle of the year the entrance of the sun into Cancer on the 21st of June marks the beginning of the „cycle of descent”, where the subtle matter becomes more dense, until from December 22nd on it becomes lighter and bright again. That which has been gained in the spiritual during the first half of the year, should be consolidated and lived from Cancer onwards through application in everyday life. We have to regularly recall the higher to memory, since otherwise we will forget the wisdom in the outer life.

In the old Egyptian zodiac of Denderah Cancer is represented as a beetle, which can sing and transform a worm into a winged being by the power of his music. This beetle stands for the Neptune-principle, the planet of divine music and devotion, whose vibrations are transmitted to earth through the moon. By contemplating these magnetic lines of force during the full moon hours of Cancer, the winged soul can ascend from the plane of the earth to the more subtle, musical planes, until it finally settles at the place of the experience of liberated presence.

2001. 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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