

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

Creation and Reproduction

In creation there are two main principles: the creative and the reproductive principle. The creative principle is life itself and is called the Father-principle. The reproductive principle is the Mother-principle ruling over nature, it is the radiant expression of the Father, the Absolute One. The Mother is the vehicle through which the Father presents himself, without her the Father cannot be experienced. She is also the child-bearing principle. The relation between nature and man is like the relation between mother and child. It works through the subconscious and expresses in the instinctive affection of the mother to her child. This is the umbilical cord, through which Mother Nature nourishes and protects the child, before it grows into soul consciousness.

In the zodiac Cancer stands for the universal Mother aspect. This principle is often also called Moon, which is also the ruler of Cancer. The moon we see is a satellite transmitting to us the moon principle. The original moon is the Mother, who receives in order to give. The sun also transmits the moon principle, he receives and gives. The Eastern wisdom teachings call this principle Chandra. The times of Pralaya, of the dissolution of creation, are represented as a crescent on the head of Shiva. It is said that Shiva is there even when the creation is not there. The crescent is painted only to indicate that creation is potentially there. When creation is in manifestation, Shiva recedes into the background. The full moon makes creation radiate in its splendour, and we don't see the background any more. It is like with

the screen which we don't see any more when the pictures are running over it. The illuminated screen is the Mother, the non-illuminated black screen is the Father, the background. He supports the light and makes creation appear.

Moon has the special property of fertilizing and germinating. Without moonlight the plants on earth would not germinate and bear fruit, there wouldn't be pregnancies either. The reproductive principle of nature works through the moon, and the orbital cycles of the moon of 28 days were called the calendar of the Mother by the ancients. These cycles have an influence on the female cycles of fertilisation and on the growth of the embryo.

Full Moon of the Teacher

The mind too is ruled by the moon, for it represents the reflective principle. According to our alignment the mind mirrors the higher and subtle or the lower and material. Especially in Cancer spiritual students should reflect upon the higher and think about their Teachers and Guides. The Teachers themselves work as reflective principles and transmitters of higher energies, they transmit them to those who follow them. Thus Master E.K. says in the meditations of Spiritual Psychology: "These are from Higher Circles. These are from whom I follow to those who follow me." In the East Cancer is therefore considered to be the month of the Teacher and Cancer full moon is celebrated as the full moon of the World Teacher, Guru Poornima.

Wisdom Tales

The great initiate Veda Vyasa is the master related to Cancer full moon. Over 5000 years ago he has given the wisdom teachings for the present age, in order to keep the wisdom available to mankind also in these materialistic times. However, although he had given out innumerable concepts about the cosmic, solar and planetary system and his contemporaries looked upon him as the greatest light, he was dissatisfied with himself. He had the feeling that something was missing in all the work he had done. His son Sukha lived in complete union with God without doing all the work his father did. Each time Vyasa was looking at his son he was reminded that he was missing something in life, but he did not know what. It was a mystery for Vyasa how his son could live so much in tune with everything and didn't worry about himself at all.

Once when Vyasa was deeply contemplating on it, Narada, one of the Kumaras passed by and said: "I see that you are worrying and also why. You have given out everything as abstract wisdom, but you haven't seen the beauty of the Lord in his creation. You see God in a scientific manner, as universal energy, how it penetrates the entire cosmos. But there is also the art of experiencing Him. Your son lives in the presence of the Lord and in this forgets himself completely. You have still maintained the I AM-consciousness. Experience the bliss of the presence and take the last step."

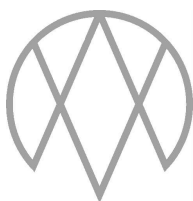
Narada gave him the hint for a direct path of getting into the presence of the Lord: "Tell the wisdom in form of lively stories about the work of God. Then you will discover a new dimension which you don't know yet." Wisdom stories are much more attractive than abstract wisdom. They absorb the reader entirely into the content and make him merge with the experience. In this way the last book of Vyasa came about, describing in stories the life of the Lord as Krishna and his work-

ing through the world disciples. Thus story-telling about initiates became an important instrument for the imparting of wisdom. Good teachers are good story-tellers, and also the Masters sometimes gather to tell each other stories.

Varuna

The moon is used by higher circles for many purposes, it is a transmitter who conveys the vibrations to the earth. It reflects the influence of Neptune and thus makes Cancer receptive for sound and the music of the soul. The downward flow of the year into objectivity also begins with Cancer, and the manifestation of dense matter is related to the Lord of the Waters called in the East Varuna. Varuna is a cosmic being and works together with Uranus and Neptune; Cancer is called his birth-place. Symbolically Varuna is represented as a five year old boy with four arms carrying in his hands a trident like Neptune. He moves through the waters of space drawing with his trident lines of force which give the direction for the manifestation of creation. The coming-down of the waters is also represented by the rain, and therefore Varuna is considered to be the rain-god. With the directions Varuna is the Lord of the West, and Cancer also represents the dusk of the year. As a cosmic principle Varuna is related to the mother energy; he helps the souls by providing right bodies for their coming down. The movement of the year beginning with Cancer brings consciousness into matter, and thus this time is ideal for consolidating and implementing good intentions now.

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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Circle of Good Will