



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.

Capricorn

DESCENT AND ASCENT

With the winter solstice at the 21st of December the Sun enters into Capricorn, while the opposite summer solstice is the beginning of Cancer. If in the zodiac you connect Capricorn and Cancer with a line, it marks the horizontal. The vertical line of the equinoxes, of Aries and Libra, intersects it in a right angle. The four lines form the cardinal cross of the heaven. If we connect their corners, we obtain the deep symbol of the square and cross within the circle.

The cardinal cross illustrates clearly the process of the descent and ascent of the life wave: Aries is the emergence of the divine idea within the spirit, it comes down and externalises into a form in Cancer. In Libra the deepest point of material embodiment is reached. In Capricorn the form dies symbolically, the spirit rises and returns again to its origin.

The two solstice signs Cancer and Capricorn are ruled by Moon and Saturn respectively. Both planets express the same on two different planes of time: Moon transits a sign in two days and a half, Saturn in two years and a half. Moon rules over the physical birth: the soul descends and dies for the spiritual world. Saturn rules over the spiritual birth. He teaches to overcome the self-conditioning and imprisonment in the „tomb of matter“, through patient work with oneself. Thus Capricorn symbolises the untiring energy and perseverance, which makes a man pursue slowly and persistently his goals, in realistically planned steps.

BECOMING TRANSLUCENT

Capricorn represents the dawn of the year and Cancer the dusk. The night leads into the darkness of ignorance, the way to the light leads from matter back to the spirit. That's why from time immemorial the Dawning of the Gods, the birth of the Son of God as world saviour is celebrated at the beginning of the northwards journey of the Sun in Capricorn, and at Easter in Aries his culmination and entrance into a higher circle.

The birth of the saviour in us takes place, when through inner transformation the matter of our bodies becomes more subtle and translucent, until finally a light body develops. In the Bible it is called the „radiant white robe“. Then the individuality has become so pure and transparent, that the light shines through and spirit and matter meet each other „on the mount“. That's why Capricorn is represented as standing on a mountain top. How deeply are we touched by the beauty of the dawn in the high mountain regions!

Capricorn is the third earthy sign in the zodiac: We have Taurus as the form aspect of Nature and Virgo as its beauty aspect. Capricorn represents the spiritual aspect, the transformed matter, which the light of the spirit can permeate. If however the Capricorn-personality does not get purified, it tends to harden and solidify. Such a man is guided by rational utilitarianism, reveres logical thinking and the intellect and is suspicious and disapproving towards spiritual topics. Bitter experiences through

Saturn may be necessary, before he crosses the threshold of the intellect and the limitations of his crystallised opinions.

THE FIVE-POINTED STAR

The emblem of Capricorn is an enigmatic sign (♑), it represents a mythological animal, with the face of an ibex and the body of a crocodile. In Sanskrit this being is called „*Makara*”. Its name has different meanings: crocodile, hand with five fingers, or five-pointed star. Even in water the crocodile can make a firm grab. Strong as its grip we hold to things, just like with the five fingers of the hand we clutch onto memories and our ideas. Thus we tie ourselves to the personality. It is not by fighting against the personality that it gets subordinated to the soul, but by our strengthening the soul. Then the soul is the adviser and the personality executes what the soul advises it. Fidelity towards the soul and one's fellow beings is the message as well as the keynote of Capricorn.

The five-pointed star symbolises the fifth principle in man, which makes him a man: the mind. The energies of the Sun in Capricorn as well as of the dawn help us to purify the thinking and make it transparent, so that the spirit can descend and the star can light up in white. At Christmastime you can see the white five-pointed star everywhere. Christmas is meant to be a festival for the soul, but people indulge in consumption, sumptuous meals and entertainment.

The three Wise Men from the East saw the descent of the five-pointed star over Bethlehem. They realised that there this star incarnated itself in flesh and blood, and they announced the birth of the saviour. The three Wise Men are the representatives of the three great energies Light, Love and

Will. If we daily receive the light of dawn, and particularly in Capricorn, with an appropriate preparation, we are blessed by the three Great Ones.

AWAKENING

The mystery of Capricorn and of the dawn cannot be understood completely by the objective consciousness. It slowly reveals itself, when we try to experience the transition from sleep to awakening consciously. In sleep we exist, but without awareness. When we awake, we exist and are conscious of our existence. After that our thinking comes in, then we speak and act. These are the four stages of existence: the one of the spirit, of the soul, of the mind and of the body. The spirit covers itself and becomes the soul. The soul covers itself and reaches the state of the mind. The mind covers itself and becomes the concrete physical plane of existence.

The wisdom teachings recommend to ask oneself certain questions during awakening: „Who am I?” - „You are the dawn”, the awareness of existence. „Where am I?” - „You are in the East!” The East is the source of Light. „With which name am I called?” If we don't take up the name given to us in this life, gradually the name of our being discloses itself. Thus grows in us the awareness of the source of our existence.

2000. 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