



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

Transition from Darkness to Light

For millions of years, the earth has rotated about its own axis once daily and around the sun once yearly. Its rhythmic movement, which shapes all life on earth, provides us with the experience of day and night, as well as summer and winter. Day and night represent two different energies, which are exemplified in various mythologies as two women, the two queens of the Lord. The Queen of Day is described as bright and good, the Queen of Night as dark and evil. But the one cannot exist without the other; one side of the earth is always in light, the other in darkness. Just as there is the process of cooling and solidifying, in which matter gains control over the spirit, there is also the process of warming, in which crystallisation is dissolved and the spirit returns to its original source. When we identify with the whole of existence, we can accept the effect of light and dark without identifying ourselves with one side or the other. Then it becomes apparent that joy and sorrow, as well as pleasure and displeasure, visit us alternately in life. We learn to just let things come, without drawing them toward us or avoiding them.

Capricorn marks the transition from the cycle of darkness to the cycle of light. Like with everything in Nature, it's not a sudden transition, but a gradual transformation. The northward journey of the sun begins with the winter solstice at zero degrees of Capricorn, which is the shortest day and the longest night in the Northern hemisphere. This nodal point of the year corresponds to the new moon and the dawn at 6 o'clock in the morning,

whereas the summer solstice in Cancer represents the full moon and the dusk at 6 o'clock in the evening. Capricorn and the rising sun stand for the rising spirit. Since the individual soul is a replica of the sun, these rising times are especially suited to spiritual activities that liberate us from the grip of matter. The dawn, as well as the sun in Capricorn, bestow very special rays with their light, the substance of which cannot be understood with the intellectual mind. In the eastern Scriptures these rays are referred to as the Celestial Beings of the fifth group. They represent *Manas*, the mind, and in us, the fifth principle. They help us in making the mind clear and transparent. Through them, we can more easily loosen the veils which have settled around and obscured the inner self.

Every evening when we go to sleep, we withdraw to the inside from an active state. During this time, while we are in deep sleep and not aware that we exist, the soul finds its way back its source. In order to unite with the soul, we should consciously relinquish the veil of name, thought, and body before sleep. Then, slowly, the inner light grows. Then the first thing we will remember upon waking will be that we are individual souls re-entering the sheaths. When the light shines day and night, one has become an initiate. Initiates aren't conditioned by their own convictions. They work with the mind, but they also shed it after a work is complete. It is just as if they were working with gloves to which nothing can stick. They are in the world, but not of it. Capricorn is therefore also referred to as the entrance to the temple of higher initiation.

Making an new Approach to Discipline

We cannot expect to gain in light while remaining unchanged. Master Morya says that people like to the idea of being saved, but don't want to be bothered. As long as the personality with its habits prevails, it, in order to derail our aspiring to the soul, presents things to us very logically. It whispers to us, "You did so much yesterday. It would be better to sleep in this morning and to forget about your morning meditation". If we were asked if we would like to fly to the moon, we would say, "Yes of course". But before and astronaut can fly to the moon, he submits to intense training for many years. The personality needs intensive training in order to become the instrument of the soul. To produce changes that express themselves in action, much determination is required. If we don't introduce change into our lives, the decision to follow the path of Truth and of Light is not a firm one and life remains monotonous. Spiritual discipline demands a persevering effort and a gradual shift of one's way of life. The month of Capricorn offers a special occasion to rearrange our attitudes and work and to take a new approach to discipline. Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn, plays a supporting role: *"Each discipline of the spirit produces striving. Each applied thought will afford growth to the spirit."* (Hierarchy, 28)

The Four Crocodiles

The ancient Scriptures tell us of four crocodiles in Capricorn. In Sanskrit they are referred to as *Makara*, which means dragon, as well as the hand with five fingers, which can grip. Crocodiles have a firm grip even in water and don't let their victims go. The first crocodile is brown, the second grey, and the third reddish brown. The brown crocodile represents the physical plane and holding on to my property. The grey crocodile stands for impure emotional waters, and for the holding on to emotions and sensory experiences: We are hungry for experiences, but the happiness they

provide doesn't satisfy our hunger. The third crocodile, of dirty-orange colour, represents the mind and its ideas and convictions. These keep us firmly in their grip, preventing us from reaching the centre. When we also shed the mental robe, we reach the white robe made of the light of wisdom, which Jesus called "my glorious robe of strength". This is the white dragon, which is in truth a blue dragon. It represents the over-soul, also represented by a white five-pointed star. When the over-soul descends into the form, the Christ-consciousness is born in a pure vessel through "immaculate conception". Each year at the beginning of Capricorn, we celebrate the birth of the Saviour. According to the law of correspondences, this birth occurs in us in the higher heart centre related to Capricorn as well.

More Giving Than Taking

Today Christmas is everywhere a festival of businessmen and of sumptuous meals. However, it is actually meant as a festival for the soul. In many cultures there are rituals involving gifts, especially on astrologically significant days. When we give presents at the right time, at the right place, to the right persons, and with the right inner attitude, it provides joy, as well as an important harmonising influence. *"With the person to whom you offer, you should not have a remunerative motive. The poised ones practise it,"* says the Bhagavad Gita. Distributing time, money and energy in order to support others and in a wise manner is an effective method to dissolve our crystallisations and blockages, so that the energies can flow more freely. Therefore, in our lives, we should be givers more than takers.

2003. Sources used: K. P. Kumar: *Hercules: The Man and the Symbol / seminar notes / E. Krishnamacharya: Spiritual Astrology / The Mandra Gita. The World Teacher Trust - Dhanishta, Visakhapatnam, India (www.worldteachertrust.org) - A. A. Bailey: Esoteric Astrology, Lucis-Trust, London. (www.netnews.org / www.lucistrust.org). Hierarchy. Agni Yoga Society, New York (www.agniyoga.org).*



Synthesis

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