

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.

Sagittarius

The Law of Correspondences

Humanity is one of the kingdoms of nature on this planet, of which each person is a part. The planet itself is also merely a piece of a greater system. According to the wisdom of correspondences, every person is a future solar system. The solar system is like a tree with flowers and fruits, and we are akin to seeds. All that a tree carries within itself is contained in its seed. It holds within itself the principle, and the tree is its manifest aspect. Likewise, all that exists in the solar system is also present within us. There are seven main principles working through the sun and the planets, which are responsible for creation. These are also active within us. The Sun corresponds to our consciousness, and the Moon to the mind. Mercury stands for the discriminating principle, and Venus for our ability to experience the beauty of nature. Mars represents power and strength, Jupiter wisdom. Saturn causes us to understand our own limitations, so that we may develop a program to overcome them.

Through meditation in accord with the law of correspondences, we open up to the cosmos within. By adjusting to the macrocosmic system, we slowly bring the qualities of the zodiac and the vibrations of the planets within into accord. We learn to understand the energies conveyed through the planetary principles. Our microcosmic system expands, becomes pervasive and loses its limitation: Gradually the feeling of being separate disappears, and we realize that we are brothers and sisters with one father.

We can visualize the entire cosmos within us and meditate upon it with the help of the law of corre-

spondences. Similarly, there are places within for the 12 sun signs, the Pleiades, the Great Bear. The Pole Star is seen on the head, the Great Bear with its seven stars on the forehead above the eyebrows; the scull is its cave. The seven stars also form the spinal column. In the centres, we can contemplate our birth planets, or the planets in transit. While engaged in this, the mind is filled with thoughts of the universe instead of what our neighbour or the colleagues at work might have said. We are then completely detached from local limitations, and our surroundings don't exist any more.

For spiritual purposes, the signs of zodiac from Sagittarius onward are linked with their higher correspondences. Therefore, Capricorn is contemplated in the higher heart centre, Aquarius on the forehead and Pisces at the highest point of the head. Pluto in Sagittarius is thus viewed at the higher muladhara or base centre, which structures the dense matter. Pluto causes profound changes, even in the thinking of the leader-personalities on Earth. It takes time to transform changes of mind into action. Slowly, the whole terrorist activity begins to be examined in relationship to its real causes. Attacks and aggression cause people go more deeply into the problems: You cannot use power to control people for an extended period of time without producing tremendous tension. The proper solution is to improve the living conditions of all those in our sphere of influence. Even through bitter events, Nature intends to teach us.

The Archer

Sagittarius is a fiery sign on the mutable cross and stands for fiery aspiration. In order to be able to realize our ideals and aims, we must focus our energy like an archer on his target. Many spiritual aspirants are occupied with insignificant matters, thereby dissipating their forces. Their aspiration wavers and they don't have enough fire to sustain the path. Spiritual aspiration is not a part-time job; it must permeate all of our activities. Whenever we work and whatever we do, our attitude can always be spiritual - at the breakfast table, in the professional realm, and at leisure. Sagittarius helps us to bring rhythm and structure into our lives, and to centre our forces and our lives. In meditation, we can see ourselves as an archer who tries to shoot upwardly with his five arrows. Here, the bow and the five arrows represent our striving towards ideals, which the five senses and sense organs are concentrated upon. The arrows also represent swiftness and the abilities of our personality.

Arjuna, the heroic archer of the Mahabharata epos, is the archer's archetype. The Bhagavad Gita describes how he, in the midst of the battlefield and prior the beginning of a murderous battle, receives the teaching of right action from Krishna. Jupiter, the ruler of Sagittarius, represents the teacher and the sage. The teacher impresses the student through the word of wisdom; he uplifts him in his consciousness and thus leads him beyond conflicts and contradictions. When we follow wisdom, Jupiter brings us expansion. If we use this expansion on the personal level, we work but for ourselves: We see to it that we have good food, comforts and luxury at our disposal, and that we become well known and famous. But Jupiter's work with us can only begin when we have calmed down our personalities and have become receptive to the voice of the soul. Jupiter and Sagittarius are related to the principle of sound. Through harmonic vibrations, we replace everyday life's internal noise with holy sounds.

Working with OM

The Wisdom Teachings call the Holy Word OM the bow, with which the disciple as the arrow reaches

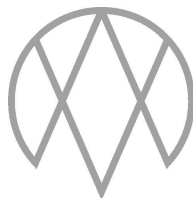
ever-higher realms, enabling the fire of kundalini to shoot up from the base centre to the head and beyond. When we sound the OM, we should listen to the sound as well as the silent OM that follows. By regularly sounding and listening, we lose the appetite for impure and insignificant speech. The ears are also purified, so that we may hear correctly. If we don't receive properly, words are misunderstood and represented inaccurately in the retelling. We end up talking past each other. It takes much preparation through the work with sounds, in order to naturally transform our receiving instrument and become receptive to the voice of silence. It is good practice to intone the OM in group formation, which projects a cone within the space and facilitates the descent of energy.

Hitting the Fishes

Sagittarius teaches us to maintain inner silence in the midst of life's noise, to maintain our heads in the light, and to stay involved in service to the world. This is illustrated by the story of Arjuna in a fabulous picture. He had to solve a task, in which he had to shoot at two fish with an arrow. The fish were attached to a rotating wheel above him. Arjuna had to look down, as the target was reflected in the water of a lake. With full concentration, he hit the fish. The water is akin to life, the reflection to understanding and the object above to liberation. We have five arrows at our disposal and those are the five senses, which work through us.

A seed thought of Spiritual Psychology says: "*The goal is the pole*" - the centre related to Pisces located on the head. The Sagittarian is expected to forge ahead along the path of the zodiac with determination, to return to Pisces, the very beginning, and to reach the bliss of synthesis in cosmic consciousness.

2003. Sources used: K. P. Kumar: *Hercules: The Man and the Symbol / seminar notes / E. Krishnamacharya: Spiritual Astrology / Spiritual Psychology. 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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