

*Chapter 8* \_\_\_\_\_

## **Development of Knowledge**

**T**HE first record of the modern type of man is the Cro-Magnon. He appeared in Europe about 30,000 years ago. From whence he came, or where he developed his culture no one knows, nor from whence came either the Dark Whites or the Light Whites that much later followed him with a fully developed and highly complex heliolithic culture.

But the drawings of pictures of objects, such as the Cro-Magnons drew on the walls of their caves, is the commencement of writing. The American Indians drew the picture of a man shooting an arrow at an animal to convey the idea of a man hunting. To show that a river was crossed the crude picture of a man crossing a river was used. This form of writing, which may be seen on rocks and cliffs east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains along the trails and at the water holes all the way from Mexico to Canada, is called pictograph writing.

In Inyo County, California, the desert heat makes it imperative that the traveler find a water hole at the end of his day's journey. The Indian routes across the Inyo Range, several of which this writer followed on foot (as these were too difficult for a horse) in 1911 and 1912, would be unnoticed by one unfamiliar with Indian methods. But from the start, if one looks ahead as far as he can see he will discern a little rock perched on a larger rock. When he reaches this place, if he looks ahead about as far as he can see he will discern another small rock perched on a larger rock. These mark the route, and by following them one is not led into a box canyon or to an impassable declivity. On the top of the Inyo Mountains big horn sheep abound even to this day. The trails on the pictograph reproduced on page 110, chapter 7, show where big horn sheep may be found, and the water holes (which are far apart in this region) where those hunting them can camp.

In true pictograph it is very difficult to convey abstract ideas of any kind. Its use, therefore, is quite limited. But where there is also a spoken language it is but a step, though a long step and an exceedingly important one, to unite the picture of something having the same name as an abstract idea with the abstract idea, using the picture of the object to represent the more general conception. Thus the sound of not, and knot, is identical. It is impossible to draw a picture of the general conception "not." But it is easy to draw a picture of a knot in a rope. This picture then, because the words sound the same, becomes the symbol of "not" as well as of knot. The picture of the knot is then said to be a phonetic sign.

Likewise, as James Henry Breasted points out, the picture of a "bee" may be phonetically used to stand for "be", and the picture of a "leaf" may be used to stand phonetically for the syllable "lief." The picture of a bee followed immediately by the picture of a leaf then becomes the phonetic sign for "belief." These phonetic signs so used become real writing, such as the Egyptians employed. Professor Breasted holds that such writing arose in Egypt earlier than anywhere else in the world. But the Sumerians also possessed writing as far back as we have records of them, so it is difficult to decide which developed writing first. And there is much to indicate that both derived the general idea from a common source.

However, the writing of the Sumerians, while developed along the lines above illustrated, was very different from the Egyptian system, so different that it seem certain one system was not derived from the other. The Egyptians used pictures, called hieroglyphics. They also developed at a very early date a true alphabet in which a sign signifies a single letter instead of a syllable. This true alphabet contained 24 letters, being the earliest known alphabet, and the one from which our own has descended. At a much later date there was another alphabet developed of 22 letters, each letter being an abbreviated and conventionalized symbol for one of the 12 zodiacal signs or one of the 10 planets. The religious works and other important doctrines, however, were mostly written in hieroglyphics, which was the phonetic writing employed even at a late date by the priesthood.

Another method of primitive writing, usually employed in association with hieroglyphics or pictographs, is the use of ideographs. An ideograph is the use of a picture which is not that of the object but which symbolizes the object. Thus a feather may be used as an ideograph for a bird, a crescent as an ideograph for the moon, or a hawk as an ideograph for the sun god. Ideographs were employed both by Egyptians and Sumerians, as well as by the early people of other lands, but their method of using ideographs, as well as their method of writing in general, was very different. The Egyptians cut the pictures of their hieroglyphics into stone, and wrote them in black ink, and painted them in colors upon papyrus. The Sumerians did not have papyrus, but wrote upon thin tablets of clay.

Their method of writing was to use a clay tablet while it was yet soft. They wrote with a square tipped reed, or stylus, pressing a corner of this square tip into the soft clay for each line of the picture sign. Lines produced in this manner were broad at one end and pointed at the other, tending to be wedge-shaped. Each picture was thus a group of wedges. Hence the writing is called "cuneiform", meaning wedge-shaped.

This cuneiform writing of the Sumerians evidently developed from pictographs to the use of hieroglyphics and ideographs. These became so conventionalized that their meaning seems quite arbitrary. They even verge closely to an alphabet. But the Sumerians never attained a true alphabet. In this way they were surpassed by the Egyptians. Yet even though the writings of the Sumerians and the Egyptians passed through parallel stages of development, in the end the characters of the writing, as well as the materials used, were so different that it is difficult to imagine that one system influenced the other.

The Egyptians made no use of clay as a writing material. Instead, they made use of a tall rush-like plant, the papyrus plant, which they cut into thin longitudinal slices and gummed together and pressed to form a sheet called papyrus. From this comes our word "paper." This papyrus, when prepared, formed a thin sheet which was usually something over twelve inches in width

and from a few feet to over a hundred feet long. It was kept in the form of a scroll, and as written upon the part containing the writing was rolled up and the blank part unrolled. It constituted very convenient and durable writing material, papyri that was written on several thousand years B.C. still being in a good state of preservation.

In whatever region the existing species of man developed, whether from Australopithecus or some other ancient strain, it seems certain that there were succeeding waves of migration from this early home at widely separated intervals. A great wave of this primitive population left the parent group not less than 700,000 years ago and gradually filtered around the world south of the equator developing ultimately those characteristics which we recognize in the Negroid races. Then sometime later, possibly about 600,000 years ago, another great wave left the parent group and gradually spread around the world along the northern coastal lines, finally developing those characteristics that we recognize in the Mongolian-Amerindian races. Still later a third wave left the parental stock and in time encircled the globe somewhat north of the equator. This people developed the characteristics that came to mark the White race.

The physical and mental differences we observe in the races of man on earth today imply no unusual pressure from the outer-plane environment or the inner-plane environment. Although Australopithecus was a pigmy only four feet tall, and we may assume black of skin, a change in environment, including his food and factors of heat and cold and astrological energies might very well, in the course of time act upon his endocrine glands sufficiently to develop the characteristics of all people existing today. While psychokinetic energies may have played their part, no mutation need to have taken place.

The thyroid gland controls the development of the skin, the amount of hair, the moisture in the skin, and the development of the bones of the skull and extremities. It is well known that giants are due to an excess of the hormone of the front pituitary gland that responds to Saturn. The pigmies, if their front pituitary hormone was stimulated would have grown to larger size. On the other hand, pigmies commonly result from over activity of the pineal gland. Thyroid deficiency leads to obesity. Cortin, the hormone of the adrenal cortex, acts upon the pigment cells of the skin, blunting their sensitiveness to light. When there is deficiency of this secretion in a white person, the skin becomes increasingly sensitive to light, bronzing until, if the deficiency is marked, there is the characteristics of negroid skin. Furthermore, when there is a certain deficiency of the thyroid gland, it produces in a white person decidedly mongoloid features.

For the past 30 years my home has been within four city blocks of the Lincoln High school in Los Angeles. Attending this school on equal terms, and mingling freely with each other are White, Chinese, Japanese, Mexican and Negro youths. The parents of the Chinese and Japanese youths, mostly working in markets not far away, usually are small in comparison to White Americans. But their children are not small. In size, scholarship and athletic ability they compare favorably with the Whites. And most of them are very much better looking than their parents. Furthermore, White children raised in this region commonly grow to larger size than their cousins who are raised in the colder states to the east. The sunshine, the mild climate, and the accessibility to vegetables and fruits the year round from which essential vitamins are obtained, are modifying both the size and the features of children whose

## Early Man

Oriental parents probably before coming to America lived on a quite inadequate diet.

I have already mentioned that the three chief types of the White group of humanity finally settled in Europe. Along the Mediterranean coast of Africa was another race of Dark Whites, called Berbers; still other Dark Whites were the aborigines of Egypt, while to the south of these were the Ethiopians, also Dark Whites. Crossing the Red Sea to the east of Africa into Arabia there were other Dark Whites, the Semites, typified by the Arabs and the Hebrews. Still further east in India were still other aborigines, the original Dark White population, called Dravidians. And still further to the east of these, at least at a later date, and spreading across the islands of the Pacific, were still other Dark Whites, the Polynesians. All this great group of white people possessed, when first we find records of them, religious ideas evidently derived from some common source.

They came from some locality where they had the opportunity of developing much above the culture of the old stone age. There are three chief theories as to the locality in which they developed their culture. It is believed, on geological and other evidence, that the Mediterranean Sea, before the ice cap of the last glacial period receded, was not connected with the ocean, but was merely two fresh water lakes fed by the rivers of Europe and Africa. Much of what is now the Mediterranean Sea was then a fertile valley. Some think it was in this now submerged Mediterranean Valley that the White people gained their early culture. With the melting of the vast glacial ice cap, the level of the ocean rose and cut a channel through the Straights of Gibraltar, submerging this valley and connecting it with the Atlantic.

Another theory is that the early culture of the White people was developed in Egypt. But the preponderance of the evidence goes to indicate, I believe, that culture was brought to Egypt from some other region.

The third theory is based upon the tradition of lost Atlantis. Tradition has it that when darkness settled over Atlantis and Mu colonists were sent to what later became the seven centers of ancient civilization. Deep sea divers have done some exploring on the ridge where Atlantis is supposed to have been located without finding evidence of any people having lived there. Yet there is considerable concrete evidence that both Atlantis and Mu had existence and civilization. Atlantis, by Ignatius Donnelly, *The History of Atlantis*, by Lewis Spence, and *The Problem of Lemuria*, by Lewis Spence, present this evidence in detail.

But wherever it developed, the very first records of Egypt, India, Crete, Peru, Mexico, China and Mesopotamia show a high degree of knowledge, and a culture similar enough to make it certain it was developed at a time when there was close communication between those who developed it, and dissimilar enough to make it equally certain that those whose earliest records are uncovered had been isolated from each of the other six centers of civilization for a long time. Even as the same species of animal when members move to a different environment and are isolated from each other over a long period of time develop quite distinct subspecies, so isolated cultures, although retaining their main features, after a time take on quite different minor characteristics.

### Extrasensory Communication

While there is similarity enough between the seven ancient centers of civilization to make it certain their cultures and their religious beliefs were developed from a common source, it is difficult to appraise the extent to which each had actual physical contact with that source. The tradition is that, as

mentioned, the astrologers of Atlantis foreseeing the probable destruction of that land, were instrumental in having a colony set up in each of the regions which later became one of the seven ancient centers of civilization; even as precautionary actions are being taken in this year of 1949, that The Brotherhood of Light lessons shall survive for future generations in the event that much of the population of the globe is exterminated in a possible atomic war.

But there are many recorded instances in modern times of important new discoveries in science, important theories, and important inventions which have been made almost simultaneously by those, often in different countries, who have been quite unaware of the work being done along the same line by others. All of us who have been interested in science have read announcements of the same discovery made almost at the same time by scientists who have had no outer-plane contact with each other. Practically the same theory about some phenomenon often is published in different countries by people who do not even know of each other's existence. And the same invention is so frequently sent to the patent office by those who live long distances apart that this is one of the big problems faced by those in this government service.

There can be no doubt that extrasensory perception often plays a considerable part in causing inventions to be almost identical in detail. But that both should be working on the same problem at the same time in these cases is probable chiefly due to the general astrological weather.

In chapter 6 it was mentioned that the similar way in which marsupial mammals developed characteristics parallel with those of the various species of placental mammals from which they were isolated was probably due in about equal degree to the outer-plane environment and the inner-plane environment. Confronted with the problem of adapting to a similar kind of external condition, the creatures in both areas would struggle to find a solution. That they found a solution, and were able to adapt themselves successfully to the similar conditions is not surprising. But that the animals thus isolated from each other should solve the problem in an almost identical manner certainly was not due to chance. Nor, in many instances was the method used the only one which could have been made successfully to adapt to the condition.

And while, even as the marsupials and the placental mammals had a common ancestor, the heliolithic culture undoubtedly was the ancestor of all later civilizations, it must not be overlooked that even by peoples quite isolated from each other, developments from this culture along parallel lines probably was strongly influenced both by the extrasensory impressions each received from the other, and by the astrological weather stimulating the thoughts of each to follow a similar pattern.

The environment most favorable for inclining towards civilized pursuits is one in which there is a fertile land with an available water supply. For this reason the Valley of the Tigris and Euphrates became the seat of civilization in Mesopotamia, the Valley of the Nile became the seat of civilization in Egypt, the Valley of the Ganges the seat of civilization in India, and the Valleys of the Hwang-ho and Yangtse-kiang the seats of civilization in China.

Civilization not only requires a stable and never failing food supply that can be obtained close to the home, but it also requires some available building material out of which homes can be constructed. In the lower valley of the Euphrates-Tigris was a clay which was suitable for drying into brick. Of this brick the earliest known inhabitants, the Sumerians, who were a dark white people, built their homes, made pottery, and upon thin sections made records and wrote communications.

**Mesopotamia**

It is still a matter of surmise which is the older, the civilization of Egypt or Mesopotamia. At Nippur, in Mesopotamia, an American expedition unearthed evidence of a city dated not later than 5,000 B.C. and thought by some to date as early as 6,000 B.C. This is earlier than anything of a similar nature found in Egypt. An inscription at Nippur says that the empire extended from what is now the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. This is the first of all known empires, and its temples and its priest-rulers are the oldest of which we have indisputable records.

In 1930, at Tepe Gawra excavations uncovered various occupation levels. Level 6 down is contemporaneous with the first Dynasty of Ur and mentions temples and astrological emblems. At Level 13 down, which dates more than 6,000 years ago, was unearthed the oldest temple now known. It is of advanced architecture, and the pottery motives and engraved seal stamps show not merely skill, but true artistic talent.

What astounded the University of Pennsylvania professors in charge of the work was that at such antiquity there were neither mud huts nor crude methods of life. As they stated it: "Those inhabitants of Level 13 were neither primitive nor normal; they were an abnormally gifted and wonderfully balanced people. And they left evidence of their achievements in more than one aspect of common life."

The oldest recorded religious beliefs are those of the Sumerians, written in cuneiform. These earliest religious records reveal that the people of the Tigris-Euphrates Valley believed in five chief deities: Sun, Moon, Storm-god, Vegetation deity, and deity of the Water. Each city had its patron deity, but although the names given to these patron deities differed, in attributes they were identical with these mentioned. At a very early date also, there was a deific trinity: Anu, the Heavens; Enlil, the Earth; and Ea, the Sea. At the same time, however, Anu was also considered the Sun-god, and Enlil the Storm-god corresponding to Jupiter. As the years rolled on the names of the gods changed. Thus the Sun-god in the north was called Ashur, the patron of the city of that name. Ninib was the Sun-god of Nippur, and Shamash was the Sun-god of another region. In Babylon, Marduk was the chief deity. He was originally the Sun-god, but gradually absorbed the qualities of all the various other deities of the surrounding territories. Later still he became identified with the planet Jupiter.

The Babylonians and Assyrians, nor the Sumerians and Akkadians before them, did not possess the scientific knowledge sometimes accredited to them. They had little ability to predict in advance the precise time when eclipses and other celestial phenomena would take place. According to A. T. Olmstead, Professor of History in the University of Illinois, who has been over the ground in person, they did have, however, great precision in observing and recording such phenomena. Speaking of fragments quite ancient he says that the fixed stars were mapped in three concentric circles belonging to Anu, Enlil and Ea, respectively. He assumes they possessed several machines for close reckoning of the stars, as star positions are given exact, and the circle is divided into 360°. A later fragmentary tablet has been found picturing a number of the zodiacal signs, each showing 30 vertical lines, corresponding to the 30 degrees of a sign. The position of a star is marked by a horizontal line over the vertical line, and on this tablet the position of the chief star in Libra is shown where it was in 800 B.C.

Other fragments are known from Assurbanipal's library, being copies of older originals collected by this literary monarch, showing the position of

the equinox in Assyrian times when it was in Aries, showing it in the early Babylonian Dynasty when it was in Taurus, and one, called the Astrolabe, showing it in Gemini with the star positions as they were about the year 4,864 B.C.

All authorities agree that both the astrological positions and the important events coincident with them, as well as the astrological predictions made from such positions, were carefully recorded dating back to before the conquest by Sargon, about 2,750 B.C. This vast series of observations of the actual events which were coincident with certain astrological positions, were finally collected not later than 1,500 B.C. into what is known as the Anu-Enlil Series. This astrological handbook became the standard reference throughout Babylonia and Assyria, and as Jastrow says:

It appears, therefore, that when an inquiry was put to an astrologer as to the meaning of a particular sign in the heavens, the Anu-Enlil Series was forthwith consulted, the sign in question hunted up, and copied verbatim, together with the interpretation or the alternative interpretations, and forwarded to the king with any needful explanation.

No less painstaking and thorough were the comparisons with actual events that transpired, or predictions made by liver divination. The forms shown by the liver that gave rise to the prediction were recorded, together later with the extent to which the prediction was fulfilled. What might be predicted from a given condition, both in astrology and by other methods of divination, was based upon what similar conditions in numerous instances in the past had presaged. These careful experimental methods were followed over vast periods of time.

The Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians believed the universe to be peopled with both good spirits and bad spirits. They also believed in sorcery, the power of one person to injure another by what is now called psychokinesis. There is a vast literature given to incantations to secure the help of good spirits, to avert the influence of malevolent spirits, and to annul the influence of sorcerers.

They universally believed in a life after death. There was no hell, but ordinary persons continued in a conscious or semi-conscious state after this life; a rather dour and inactive sort of existence in the dark, gloomy bowels of the earth. Those who won the favor of the gods went to the "Island of the Blest."

As far back as we have any record of their laws, and the complete legal code of Hammurabi, 2,200 B.C., has been recovered and translated (@fix picture page 130, Chapter 4, Course 12-2, *Evolution of Religion*), they indicate that the aim was toward strict justice, being quite as fair and humanitarian as those of the present day. The kings prided themselves upon being just and benefiting their people, and the legal decisions show a full conscientious weighing of all evidence. The ancient Sumerians, Akkadians, and later the Babylonians and Assyrians, so far as there is evidence to show, were no more moral and no less so than the people of today.

History records that at the time of the early Sumerian kings in Chaldea the first dynasty of Lower Egypt was established, dated according to the Turin MS., 5,507 B.C. At this time no suitable calendar was in use and the Egyptian system of writing had not been evolved. Fifty kings were to reign before Menes,

**Egypt**

who commonly is considered the first historical ruler because, seven years after he came to the throne he established a calendar by which succeeding events could be, and were, recorded.

Menes, who thus established the First Dynasty, came to the throne 3,407 B.C. Khufu, whom the Greeks called Cheops, was the first king of the Fourth Dynasty. He ruled 2789—2767 B.C., up to within a few years of the date Sargon the Great founded his empire in Chaldea. According to our traditions, in the year 2,440 B.C. a group separated from the Theocracy of Egypt, and throughout all subsequent times, as a secret order, the name of which translated into English means, The Brotherhood of Light, has been perpetuated.

Amenhotep IV who ascended the throne in 1,375 B. C. through the death of his father, was born 1,388 B.C. At the age of 19 he contacted the same spiritual source from which now emanates The Brotherhood of Light lessons. This led him to perceive that the orthodox religion of Amen kept the minds of the people confused as to reality, steeped in fear, servile to the priests, and shut them from the knowledge which would lead to true spirituality, progress and happiness.

When the king became one of the Brethren of Light, he was determined to spread the gospel of The Religion of the Stars even as The Church of Light has determined to spread it throughout the world today. But having allied himself with the Legions of Light, he could no longer bear the name of Amen, a name which was associated with orthodox religion; for orthodoxy then, as now, kept people in spiritual darkness. He therefore renounced the name Amenhotep, and took the name Akhenaten, which means living in the Light. The details of his life and teachings, during the ten or eleven years he disseminated The Stellarian Religion before orthodoxy succeeded in bringing about his death, are set forth in the reference book, *Astrological Lore of All Ages*.

The orthodox religion of Egypt was no such simple system as that found in Mesopotamia. The Egyptian populace seem to have been cursed with the inability to forget or discard any- belief once held. From time to time new gods and beliefs were adopted, but the old ones were not discarded.

Egypt in ancient times was divided into more than forty little principalities, called "nomes." Each nome, in addition to whatever gods it absorbed from without, had its own special god. This god frequently was worshipped in the form of some animal.

In so brief a space no attempt can be made to enumerate the gods of ancient Egypt. For this see, *A Handbook of Egyptian Religion*, by Adolf Erman; and the works of Wallace Budge on *The Gods of Ancient Egypt*. These gods, for the most part, seem to be secondary deities; for as far back as we have records we find in Egypt the grand idea of Divine Unity. Thus Herodotus states that the Egyptians of Thebes recognized a single god, who had no beginning, and who was to have no end of days; a statement confirmed by the sacred texts. Corresponding to the mother-god, Ishtar, of the Chaldeans, was Isis of Egypt. Osiris seems to have been the father-god, the creator. And the son, the god of light, was Horus. In Chaldea, Tiamant was the god of darkness and evil, and the Chaldean mythology largely revolves around encounters in which Marduk, the god of light, vanquishes Tiamant. And in like manner Egyptian mythology largely revolves around encounters in which Horus, god of light, in the end defeats Set, the god of darkness.

Due to the continuous fluctuating names given the deities, sometimes it is Osiris, as god of light, who is pitted against Set. Osiris, again, was the sun of

the lower hemisphere, Horus being the rising sun, Ra the sun at noon, and Kheper the sun when it produces and nourishes life. The sun thus became the symbol of the one supreme deity, and its journey about the earth typified the journey of the human soul. The soul, like the immortal Ra, the sun, when it descends into the tomb, is resurrected to lead a new life.

The outstanding feature of the religions of ancient Egypt is the universality of the belief that the soul lives in another region after the death of the physical body. In this after life the soul encounters certain obstacles to its progress, which may be overcome by adhering to a specific line of conduct and reciting appropriate hymns, prayers, and orations. The whole body of Egyptian religious literature has for its primary object the care of the soul after death. This literature is chiefly embodied in the Egyptian Book of the Dead.

Relative to these beliefs I will quote two paragraphs from E. A. Wallace Budge's, *The Book of the Dead*, a volume which may be consulted for further particulars:

Osiris was the God-man through whose suffering and death the Egyptian hoped that he might rise again in a glorified Spirit-body, and to him who had conquered death and had become the king of the other world the Egyptian appealed in prayer for eternal life through his victory and power. In every funeral inscription known to us, from the Pyramid Texts down to the roughly written prayers upon coffins of the Roman period, what is done for Osiris is done for the deceased, the state and condition of Osiris are the state and condition of the deceased; in a word the deceased is identified with Osiris.

The preservation of the body was of vital importance, because the dogma of Osiris taught that from it would spring the translucent, transparent, immaterial, refulgent and glorious envelope in which the Spirit-soul of the deceased would take up its abode with all his mental and spiritual attributes." In this after life the good deeds done in the flesh are weighed against the evil deeds, and the soul is judged accordingly. Only the extremely wicked were supposed to be condemned, after much suffering, to final extinction.

The Egyptians also believed in, and practiced, what is now called psychokinesis, and was then known as magic.

In later times astrology was extensively practiced. At this date it is difficult to determine how early and how widely the priests were devoted to astrology. It is highly probable that only those who belonged to certain secret organizations were initiated into astrological lore. We do, however, have positive evidence of very early and very comprehensive astronomical knowledge, and in those days astronomy seems to have been studied only in behalf of astrology. Thus the Solar Calendar was introduced into Egypt in 4,241 B.C., and is the earliest dated event in history. The earliest year-list, dated from some event as we date from A.D., is the Palermo Stone of Egypt, beginning 3,400 B.C. and continuing without a break for 700 years.

The workmanship of the temple of Denderah seems to be of rather a late period, but also appears to be built upon a succession of older buildings dating back to very early times. Upon the ceiling of this temple is pictured a great zodiac showing the vernal equinox in the sign Virgo, where it was about 13,000 years ago. The Great Pyramid of Gizeh was built by Cheops, requiring

the full period of his reign, 2789 - 2767 for its construction. Embodied in its measurements are as precise and as great a knowledge of astronomy as possessed by modern astronomers, and also in its symbolism is embodied the ancient Hermetic Doctrines.

### Crete

We are apt to consider the Greece of Homer's time as ancient; but recent excavations in Crete show there was an Aegean civilization extending into Crete, Cyprus, Greece, Asia Minor, Sicily and South Italy. This is not far from Egypt geographically, and it is apparent that some time in the past this culture developed from the same heliolithic ideas as that of Egypt, Mesopotamia and the other ancient centers of civilizations. And H. G. Wells holds that it is equally as old as that of Egypt, and that its inhabitants had become a people of sea commerce as far back as 4,000 B.C.

Although their writing has not yet been deciphered, it seems quite certain that Crete was united under one ruler, who was called Minos, about 2,500 B.C. From this time on until the disruption of the Empire about 1,400 B.C., there was a very high degree of civilization, including water-pipes, bathrooms, pottery, textiles, ivory and metal inlaid work that has not been surpassed in quality, and female styles that include corsets and flounced dresses.

### Peru

Somewhat paralleling the civilizations of Egypt in Africa, Crete in the Mediterranean, Sumeria in Mesopotamia, and that of China and India in Asia, though never rising to so great a height, and probably being of much later date, there developed in America two apparently independent centers of culture. These were the Peruvians in South America and the Maya in Mexico.

Both of these people were of the Mongolian-American group, and both show indisputable evidence of rising directly from the heliolithic culture. From picture writing the Maya developed a hieroglyphic script. But this was used chiefly in keeping records in connection with the calendar system. The Peruvians seem not to have gone farther than crude picture writing, but developed a system of keeping records by means of knots tied on variously colored and variously shaped strings.

It would seem that at least for a very long time there had been no more intercourse between Peru and Mexico than there had been at the beginning of their civilizations between Egypt and Sumeria. The potato, for instance, was one of the chief agricultural products of Peru, yet the Mexicans had never heard of it. Both people, however, worked in bronze and copper and in silver and gold. They were skilled in stone construction, made excellent pottery, did weaving, and were skilled in the use of dyes. Their architecture was of a very high order.

Among the Pre-Incas knowledge of the stars and the spiritual teachings were in the custody of the Stellar Priests. Seven hundred years before the coming of the first Spaniards this people had a white-granite city some distance down from the 14,000 foot Continental Divide of the Andes toward the Amazon. It consisted of 400 hewn-stone houses. The temple was built of irregular, dissimilar, many joined stones of gigantic size fitted with Pre-Inca nicety. One block in it is 14 feet long and 8 feet high. The city is called Manchu Picchu. Further details are given in the reference book, *Astrological Lore of All Ages*.

In America, among the Maya in Mexico and the Peruvians in South America, much the same beliefs prevailed in regard to magic, spirit communion, astrology, and the reward for righteousness, that we find among the Chi-

nese. Each of these three peoples had great veneration for the movements of the heavenly bodies and ordered their lives largely through astrological considerations. When the first White men reached Peru they found at Curzco a great temple of the sun, in which was a huge sun of gold representing the figure of a human face surrounded by golden rays, so placed as to receive the first beams of the rising sun. The sun was the chief deity, the moon and stars were subordinate deities, and there was an order of Vestal Virgins. They were set apart at an early age for duty in the temple and to preserve the sacred fire there kept burning.

The religious ceremonies were numerous and elaborate and associated with festivals which were held at those times when the heavenly bodies were properly situated. They were for the purpose of securing rain, averting evil, producing abundant harvest, and other ends too numerous to mention. The burning of incense and offering of sacrifice to the various gods formed a part of these ceremonies, on very rare occasions human sacrifices being offered.

More is known of the religion of the early inhabitants of Mexico and Central America, because the string records of the Peruvians are not so well understood as the hieroglyphics of the Maya. With the latter the calendar is by far the most important religious feature. Not only were all religious observances according to the calendar, but an elaborate system of divination was worked out by the priests, whose duty it was to note the movements of the planets. They had also observed that Venus disappears for eight days between the last glimpse of her in the West and the first glimpse of her as a morning star in the East, and that the same phases of Venus come back in about 548 days, so that five Venus years are equal to practically eight ordinary years. From this, in addition to an annual calendar, they had computed a Venus calendar.

Dr. Spinden, of Harvard, announced in December, 1925, that he had deciphered this Venus calendar, and that it was finally put in working order between two risings of Venus as morning star in conjunction with the summer solstices of 538 and 530 B.C. He has also proved that the first date on which the Maya gave each day its consecutive number, so that the records subsequently are complete, was August 6, 613 B.C., and that the perfected annual calendar was inaugurated on the winter solstice 580 B.C. Back of these perfected calendars must lie age long astronomical observations.

The sun was the chief deity of the Maya. He ruled the East. The god of storm ruled the North, the god of maize ruled the West, and the death-god ruled the South. There was a bat-god of the under world, and each day was ruled over by a special spirit. The unseen universe was peopled with such spirits, to whom sacrifices were made for special purposes. And to facilitate matters, images were made of stone, pottery, and other substances, of these spiritual entities, and the sacrifices made before the image. Such images, of course, are mere symbols of unseen presences and powers; therefore let no one who has ever knelt before a cross, or bowed his head in the presence of the image of a saint scoff at such modes of worship. There was also a system of confession by which through gifts and offering of some of his own blood obtained by pricking his veins, the penitent might obtain, through priestly intercession, absolution for sins. Sacrifices were made at time of planting, for harvest, for rain, and for many other boons. In time of national crisis, prisoners of war were offered as human sacrifices. As time passed human sacrifices became more numerous. Later, among the Aztecs, thousands of human beings were sacrificed to appease the angry gods, their hearts being torn out of

## Mexico

the living bodies of the victims and held quivering aloft. Thus in the New World a priesthood developed which drenched the country with the blood of the innocent, even as in the Old World countless innocents were sacrificed by no less cruel means for heresy, all in the name of religion, but of religion gone to seed. Further details of the astrology of the Maya and the astrology of the Aztecs is given in the reference book, *Astrological Lore of All Ages*.

## China

Our first view of China is as a great empire, or group of principalities, about 2,700 B.C. to 2,400 B.C., ruled over successively by five emperors. The people are of the Mongolian-American group. They spread from the ten fertile valleys of the Tarim down into the valley of the Hwang-ho and later to the valley of the Yangtse-kiang. They also spread from the south, where they mingled with the heliolithic culture people of Siam and Burma. Furthermore, as far back as we are able to trace them, they were in possession of writing.

This writing, from its form, evidently developed from pictographs through ideographs and phonograms. But when it reached the phonetic stage, due to the fact that the Chinese language consists of a very few simple monosyllabic sounds, it necessarily departed quite markedly from the writing developed in other lands. Thus in Chinese, there being no grammar, the same word when spoken is used to denote a large number of things. The particular picture of some object signified by the spoken word- usually a picture easily drawn- was used to signify any one of the numerous things denoted by the spoken word. In addition to this picture, representing the sound of the word, there was also necessary another picture to signify which of the various ideas was meant. It was thus possible to express practically any idea.

The second sign which gives precision to the first picture is called a determinative. Determinatives were also used in the Egyptian hieroglyphics. But the Egyptian language did not need such a complicated system of signs to express itself phonetically.

Because of the peculiar makeup of the Chinese spoken language it became necessary to use an almost unlimited number of written characters to express it. And for convenience in writing them with a brush, the pictures were abbreviated and conventionalized and represented by groups of marks each of which it was possible to make by a stroke of the brush. Such groups of brush marks gradually lost semblance to the original pictures, and it became necessary for anyone desiring to read or write Chinese to memorize a vast number of complex signs. This, because it required so much time and effort, developed a special literary class, the mandarins, who also became the rulers. And even among these it took so long to learn to read and write that it would seem they had little time left for other lines of thought. Furthermore, in learning the Chinese characters they spent so much time with the traditional literature of the country that these ideas gained a firm hold upon their minds. To such an extent is this true that it is with the utmost difficulty that they are replaced by more up to date notions.

That which is of more interest to us here, however, is that at the very commencement of authentic knowledge about the Chinese we find them with a knowledge of medicine, with a knowledge of astronomy, and in possession of the civilized arts and industries. Neither their writing nor their culture was obtained from, nor in any appreciable degree influenced by, Egypt or Mesopotamia. It seems to have been derived with them from a common source, but so far in the past that its subsequent development made of it a great contrast in every way to that developed in any other part of the world.

*Appendix* 

---

**Study Questions****Origin Of The Earth (Serial No. 125)**

1. Why is religion so important to any individual?
2. Upon what depends a perfect religion?
3. To be adequate, upon what must religion be based?
4. To what extent is man influenced by his inner-plane environment?
5. Indicate how the iron curtain of orthodoxy retarded the acquisition of knowledge of the physical world.
6. Explain how the spontaneous disintegration of radioactive minerals enables the age of rocks containing them to be determined.
7. About how old are the oldest rocks on earth?
8. What is the present most plausible theory as to the formation of the solar system?
9. Under the Carnot-Clausius law, in what direction is all inorganic evolution moving?
10. Is it consistent with probability calculations to believe that the first living cell was due to a chance combination of inorganic molecules?
11. What have psychical researchers found whenever physical conditions are present that permit the manifestation of intelligence?
12. Is there any evidence of the existence of a God who has human frailties?
13. Is there much indication that there is an all-pervading Super Intelligence?
14. How is the psychokinetic power of the mind demonstrated in university laboratories?
15. How large is the Milky Way, and how many stars does it contain?
16. How many extra-galactic nebulae are within the range of the 100-inch telescope?
17. Of what are the extra-galactic nebulae composed?
18. What type of stars are the largest, and how big is Antares?
19. What type of star is our sun?
20. What is a White Dwarf?
21. Explain the behavior of variable stars.
22. Of what are galactic nebulae chiefly composed?
23. Of what are comets composed?
24. Is the tail of a comet dangerous to the inhabitants of earth?
25. What is the cause of the slowing down of the earth's rotation?

### Origin & Development Of Plants (Serial No. 126)

1. Is it believed that the earth has a molten interior?
2. What gave rise to the great mountain chains such as the Rocky Mountains and the Andes?
3. What kind of an atmosphere had the earth at the commencement of geologic time?
4. What is the effect upon the climate of elevating land areas?
5. In what direction, following the second law of thermodynamics, does inorganic evolution move?
6. In what direction does the evolution of life move?
7. What calculations show the inconsistency of believing the appearance of the first living cell was due to a chance combination of inorganic molecules?
8. What have psychical researchers found whenever physical conditions are present that would permit the manifestation of intelligence?
9. What makes it probable that it was due to psychokinesis that the necessary molecules were combined to permit intelligence to manifest through a primitive single-celled organism?
10. Through what power does a soul attach itself to and manifest through a physical form?
11. Upon what are plants dependent for the assimilation of carbon dioxide from the air?
12. With what substance is all life on earth associated?
13. What type of life was probably the first to get a foothold on earth?
14. What are the three hereditary drives of all life?
15. In what way are animals dependent upon plants?
16. What primitive organism has the characteristics of both plants and animals?
17. Through what process does growth in both animals and plants take place?
18. What advantage was gained by the close cooperation of a colony of cells?
19. What is the anchoring device by which kelp keeps from being washed out to sea?
20. What was the condition which developed the first roots?
21. What was the desire which caused plants to build stems?
22. By what means do ferns reproduce?
23. What advantage have seed plants over those which produce no seeds?
24. Of what are the conifers supposed to be modifications?
25. In what way do fire-type pines take effective precautionary actions?

### Progress Of Invertebrate Life (Serial No. 127)

1. What must life-forms do when the environment radically changes?
2. What evidence is there that inner-plane weather affects animals in the same manner it affects men?
3. To survive is it enough that a life-form adapt itself to the outerplane weather?
4. What is the basic form of all organs of higher plants?
5. What evidence is there that plants have memory?
6. What was the urge that brought psychokinetic power into play to provide animals with locomotion?
7. Does subjective intelligence make mistakes?

8. What were the first animals on earth?
9. How does the protozoa obtain its food?
10. What is chitin?
11. What significance has it that early plants and animals were able to secrete substances that were not protoplasm?
12. How do protozoa reproduce?
13. What advance over more primitive colonial animals was made by the volvox?
14. What advantage derives from the exchange of chromosomes?
15. How do the sponges obtain their food?
16. What advance over the sponges has been made by the jellyfishes?
17. What animals were the first to have a right and left side and a front end?
18. What advantage have the round-worms over the flat worms?
19. What advance was made by the wheel-worms over the flat-worms and the round-worms?
20. What advance have the Bryozoa made over the wheel-worms?
21. In what way are the star-fishes superior to the Bryozoa?
22. What in the common earth-worm foreshadows a brain?
23. How does the digger wasp provide fresh meat for her young?
24. What kind of a heart do mollusks have?
25. What is the main advance over other forms made by the Chordata, which embraces the vertebrate animals?

#### **Fishes And Amphibians (Serial No. 128)**

1. What significance relative to progress has the inner-plane weather at the time a life-form is born?
2. What insurance is given by doubling the reproductive genes?
3. What is a mutation?
4. What effect on mutations have radioactive materials?
5. Can acquired characteristics be inherited?
6. Does the inner-plane weather markedly affect endocrine secretions?
7. Do endocrine secretions markedly influence the physical form?
8. Have the changes in form and function made by animals in their efforts to adapt themselves to a new environment always been beneficial?
9. How do insects use plants and plants use insects?
10. Upon what do all those plants depend for pollination that have small greenish inconspicuous flowers?
11. Do bees seeking nectar indiscriminately visit different kinds of flowers?
12. What insects makes biscuits and bakes them in the sun?
13. What were the first truly vertebrate animals?
14. What kind of supporting tissue would prevent the shortening of the form by the water of a stream flowing against the head?
15. What is the most outstanding characteristic of truly vertebrate animals?
16. What is the second characteristic of all vertebrate animals?
17. Why is it believed that such fish today as the shad, sturgeon and salmon leave the sea and ascend rivers to spawn?
18. How does the sea-horse carry its eggs?
19. What makes a nest of leaves and stems in which the female lays her eggs?
20. What peculiar habit has the "climbing perch" which abounds in fresh water throughout the Malaya countries?

21. Psychokinesis would try to bring about what change in form to adapt to the environment in which African mudfish live?
22. In what geologic period are the first fossil fish found?
23. What is the oldest fossil amphibian?
24. In what environment must amphibians lay their eggs?
25. What environmental condition caused psychokinesis to work to develop amphibians from fish?

#### **Reptiles And Birds (Serial No. 129)**

1. Upon what principle is natural selection based?
2. At the present time how much land is required to raise enough food for one person?
3. How many acres of land are there in the world per person that can be used for food production?
4. Illustrate competition for food between different species of animals.
5. Illustrate competition for food between individuals of a single species.
6. What is a third form of competition?
7. Does the gradual development of some organ which is advantageous when perfected always give an advantage in its earlier stages of development?
8. What does changing inner-plane weather insure?
9. Toward what type of form, generally speaking, has all life on earth been evolving?
10. What are the two periods following the Devonian considered together called?
11. What kind of conditions in the Lower Carboniferous Period favored the formation of coal?
12. What were the conditions and the life of the Upper Carboniferous period?
13. What climatic change took place at the end of the Upper Carboniferous period?
14. What was the advantage of an egg having a more ample yolk?
15. What was the advantage of an egg having a shell?
16. How did the insects adapt themselves to the cold of the ice age of the early Permian times?
17. How does the Yucca Moth insure food for her young and for her future generations?
18. What kind of climate was prevalent during the Age of Reptiles?
19. How did aridity affect reptile habits?
20. Why is it more difficult for fish and reptiles than for mammals to adapt themselves to heat and cold?
21. How did creatures, when the cold shut down, solve the problem of keeping warm?
22. What habit of certain dinosaurs may have assisted in developing the power of flight?
23. An adaptation of what earlier covering are the feathers of birds?
24. Were birds the first creatures to solve the problem of flight?
25. What were the two divergent races of dinosaurs that developed before they became extinct?

#### **Development Among Mammals (Serial No. 130)**

1. What kind of mammals existed before the Cenozoic era?

2. How long before the Cenozoic era had mammals remained sly little creatures always on the dodge?
3. Are most mammals of today of the marsupial or the placental type?
4. Name a mammal that lays an egg?
5. How is the milk of the duckmole obtained by its young?
6. What is the most familiar marsupial mammal of today?
7. Of what advantage is the placenta in mammals of the type possessing it?
8. Why is it believed that in the Cretaceous period all of the world were connected by land?
9. How large were the mammals of 50 million years ago?
10. Were there members of the dog or cat families in Basal Eocene times?
11. Where did the horse have its origin and most of its development?
12. How large was Eohippus?
13. How many toes on each foot had Eohippus?
14. From what kind of creatures of the Cretaceous period did the Primate mammals develop?
15. Why during the Oligocene period could mammals migrate both ways between America and Europe?
16. In what period did the dog group separate from the cat group?
17. What was the period of greatest mammalian abundance?
18. Why did the aridity of the Miocene period affect the teeth of horses then living?
19. About when did the Orangutan branch off from the common primate stem?
20. About when did the Chimpanzee and the Gorilla branch from the common primate stem?
21. Since it branched off has the Chimpanzee become more, or less, human?
22. Since it branched off has the Gorilla become more, or less, human?
23. Since the Middle Miocene have the living apes developed along lines similar to that of man?
24. During what period is the first of modern horses found?
25. About how many years ago did the Age of Ice of the Pleistocene period develop, and how thick was the ultimate ice sheet that covered what is now New York?

#### **Development Of Man (Serial No. 131)**

1. To what group of mammals, does man belong?
2. In formation, about how old are the first Primate fossils found?
3. For about how long has there been a constant widening of the structural breach between man and the living apes?
4. What is the earliest man whose fossils have as yet been discovered?
5. What is supposed to have been the environmental condition which influenced this earliest man to develop the erect posture?
6. What is supposed to have been the environmental condition that is one of the reasons the gorilla has remained in development where he was 15 million years ago?
7. Is there any evidence man lived on earth prior to the Pliocene period which commenced about 7 million years ago?
8. Cite proof that animals have extrasensory perception.
9. Within man's anatomy are about how many vestigial structures?

10. What do those vestigial structures indicate?
11. What is indicated by the human embryo being first like an invertebrate, then like a fish, then partly reptile-like and partly bird-like, then like a mammal, and finally like a man?
12. How does blood transfusion afford proof as to man's nearest kin among the animals?
13. What is indicated as to man's nearest kin by the precipitin test?
14. About how long ago did the Ape-Man of Java live?
15. About how long ago did the Peking Man live?
16. When and where did the Heidelberg Man live?
17. When and where did the Piltdown Man live?
18. Up to how long ago did the Neanderthal Man live?
19. Which of these men is called the Cave Man?
20. Does modern man belong to the same species as any of the men thus far mentioned?
21. How many species of men are there on earth today?
22. What are the three subspecies of man living on earth today?
23. What was the first of the modern type of man to appear, and when did he appear?
24. What type of people migrated into Europe about 12,000 years ago?
25. Did the Nordics come later or earlier, and where did they come from?

#### **Development Of Knowledge (Serial No. 132)**

1. Did the Cro-Magnon possess any form of writing?
2. What kind of writing did the early American Indians use?
3. Illustrate the use of phonetic signs.
4. Was the system of writing used by Early Egyptians and Early Sumerians similar?
5. What is an ideograph?
6. On what did the Egyptians write with black ink and in color?
7. How did the Sumerians proceed in cuneiform writing?
8. About how long ago did the Negroid races filter around the world south of the equator?
9. About how long ago did the Mongolian-Amerindian races spread around the world along the northern coastlines?
10. Illustrate how certain glands influence size, structure and complexion.
11. Illustrate how food and climate influences the size and appearance of people.
12. What kind of culture did the white people of the world possess when we find first records of them?
13. Name the seven ancient centers of civilization.
14. How does extrasensory perception probably often play a part in simultaneous invention?
15. How far back were careful records made of astrological positions, the predictions made from them, and the events that actually happened coincident with them?
16. At about what date were those observations collected into the astrological handbook known as the Anu-Enlil Series?
17. How does the legal code of Hammurabi, of about 2,200 B.C., compare with that of the present day?
18. About when was the first dynasty of Lower Egypt established?
19. What did Akhenaten attempt to do?

20. What is the outstanding feature of the religious of ancient Egypt?
21. How much civilization had ancient Crete?
22. What was the chief deity of the ancient Peruvians?
23. About when was the Venus calendar of the Maya put in working order?
24. When was the perfected annual calendar of the Maya inaugurated?
25. What kind of a nation was China about 2,700 B.C.?



*Appendix* \_\_\_\_\_

## **History of The Brotherhood of Light**

**T**o trace the origin of The Religion of the Stars, recourse must be made to tradition. Pseudo occultists and charlatans are only too ready to appropriate a name and use it to deceive the unwary. Hence a name and boasted lineage mean nothing in such matters. When genuine they rest upon secret tradition. And such documentary evidence as can be submitted for the genuine may easily be imitated by the spurious.

The only safe criterion of the genuineness of any esoteric teaching is the amount and accuracy of the information contained therein. The Brotherhood of Light lessons are now accessible to all. We welcome investigation with a view to proving their value. The lineage here given is not to claim infallibility or to prove authority, but to disclaim any originality in the ideas set forth beyond their method of presentation. Upon the prima facie evidence these lessons contain as expositors of THE RELIGION OF THE STARS, The Church of Light is well content to rest all its claims.

According to tradition, in the year 2,440 B.C., a group separated from the theocracy of Egypt, and through subsequent times, as a secret order, the name of which translated into English means The Brotherhood of Light, has been perpetuated, and has exerted a beneficial influence upon western civilization.

During only one period of Egyptian history did the teachings of The Religion of the Stars have a great influence on Egyptian civilization. This was during the reign of Akhenaten. This king was influenced by The Brotherhood of Light and broke completely with the corrupt priesthood of Amen. He moved to his City of the Horizon and spread stellar art and wisdom throughout Egypt. He died before the establishing of a new civilization could be completed; so the priests of Amen did the best they could to destroy his city and philosophy.

With the ascension of the Greek civilization, the influence of The Brotherhood of Light is seen in the astrology and mythology of Greece. Many of the Greek Mysteries take their basic rites from the ancient Egyptians.

The Greek philosophers, Thales, Pythagoras, Plato, Euxodus, and a score of others famed for learning that might be mentioned, received initiation directly at the hands of the Egyptian members of the fraternity.

At a later date this venerable order gave the impetus to learning in Alexandria, which made the city so justly famous. One of The Brotherhood of Light, the noble Hypatia, who, after the decline of the colleges in that city,

was the last to withstand the onslaughts of superstitious ignorance, and died endeavoring to spread the light of ancient wisdom.

It was The Brotherhood of Light that preserved the taper of learning from complete extinction during the dark ages, and that was responsible for kindling with it the fires of science and philosophy in Europe, even in the face of ruthless persecution.

The Brotherhood of Light not only has persisted as such on the innerplanes, but the line of succession has been kept alive, although at times it became exceedingly thin, also on the physical plane.

Much of our written history is lost in the mist of time. The thread of modern day existence on the physical plane picks up with the following.

M. Theon, for years, was the head of The Brotherhood of Light in Europe. The teachings came to America and were published in two books translated and edited by Emma Harding Britten, *Art Magic* and *Ghost Land*. The original edition of *Art Magic* bears this legend at the bottom of the title page, "Published by the author, at New York, America, 1876."

T.H. Burgoyne was the son of a physician in Scotland. He roamed the moors during his boyhood and became conversant with the birds and flowers. He was an amateur naturalist. He was also a natural seer. Through his seership he contacted The Brotherhood of Light on the innerplane, and later contacted M. Theon in person. Still later he came to America, where he taught and wrote on occult subjects. We find articles on the tarot, written by him, for instance, during 1887 and 1888, in *The Platonist*, published by Thomas M. Johnson at Osceola, Missouri. This was more than a dozen years before Genevieve Stebbins translated the work of P. Christian.

Captain Norman Astley, an officer in the British Army, had traveled extensively. In the performance of his duties he had lived in India and there had pursued occult studies. He also resided a short time in Australia. Later he returned to England to meet M. Theon, having previously contacted The Brotherhood of Light in his travels.

Astley was also a surveyor. Retired from the British Army he surveyed, among other places, what is now Carmel, California. It was such a beautiful region that when he married Genevieve Stebbins, a member of The Brotherhood of Light and a Delsarte teacher in New York, they decided to build their home in Carmel. That was in the 1860's.

As T.H. Burgoyne was a member of the same organization, it was natural he should pay them a visit. Captain and Mrs. Astley, who had contacted a number of earnest students suggested to Burgoyne that he write the basic Brotherhood of Light teachings as a series of lessons. This he agreed to do provided the students would enable him to live while he did this work. The Astleys made contact with students he knew and 12 were found who were willing to donate \$5 per month to this purpose.

Burgoyne lived in the home of the Astleys while he wrote *Light of Egypt*, Volume I. He wrote and issued as a manuscript lesson, which the 12 students were permitted to copy, one chapter each month. He had a white pony which would come at his whistle and follow him as if it were a dog. Each morning the weather was clement, he and his pony would leave the Astley domicile and go to a certain wild spot on Point Lobos to commune with the Monterey pines, to listen to the birds, to caress the flowers, and to hear the noisy surf boil into a little rocky cove above which in spring wild asters grew in profusion. Overlooking the charging and retreating waters, always sitting at the same spot, he wrote the whole of *Light of Egypt*, Volume I.

For reasons set forth in the preface to *Light of Egypt, Volume I*, it was later decided to publish these private lessons in book form. That this might be done it became necessary to finance the venture, and to have some kind of an organization which would resist the attacks it was anticipated would be made by those opposed to the purpose of the book.

Dr. Henry Wagner and Mrs. Belle M. Wagner (both with Jupiter in the tenth house of their birthcharts) agreed to finance the venture, and did so to the extent of \$100,000. And a branch of The Brotherhood of Light called the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, was formed for the express purpose of seeing to it that the *Light of Egypt* and its teachings should receive wide distribution.

The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor was governed in all its affairs by a council of three members consisting of a scribe, or secretary, an astrologer and a seer. Burgoyne was the original secretary. He passed to the next plane in March 1894, while residing in Humboldt County, California. Belle Wagner, Sun in Pisces, Aquarius rising and the Moon in the first house in Aquarius, was elected to take his place on the council. Minnie Higgins, Sun in Gemini, was the astrologer. Mrs. Anderson, Sun in Sagittarius, Moon in Cancer, Libra rising, was the seer. Meetings to decide issues were held on the second floor of Mrs. Anderson's large home in Denver, Colorado.

The bylaws of The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor made it impossible for any person under 21 years of age to join; made it impossible for a married person to join unless the spouse also joined, and made membership possible only after the individual's record had been thoroughly investigated.

Early in 1909 Minnie Higgins passed to the next plane, and in the spring of that year Elbert Benjamin was called to Denver and elected to take her place on the Council as the astrologer. At this meeting on the second floor of Mrs. Anderson's home, the other two members of the Council did their utmost, as the official minutes of the meeting show, to convince Elbert Benjamin that he should undertake the job of preparing a complete system of education that would enable a wide public to become conversant with The Religion of the Stars. But it was not until April of the following year that he consented to do this work.

Meanwhile he had contacted personally and through correspondence not only members of the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, but members of The Brotherhood of Light who had remained aloof from the organization with headquarters at Denver. But it was chiefly by his becoming more closely associated with The Brotherhood of Light on the innerplane that he overcame his reluctance to take over so imposing a task.

In 1913 the three members of the Council of The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, after due deliberation, voted unanimously to close The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor, and since then no members have been accepted.

During the period, 1914 to 1934 that The Brotherhood of Light lessons were being written, there was never any spirit other than that of helpfulness shown toward this work by any member of The Brotherhood of Light or by any person who had been a member of The Brotherhood of Luxor. And, in particular, Captain and Mrs. Astley were helpful. Elbert Benjamin visited them in their home on various occasions, and some of the extensive and encouraging correspondence he received from them helped him in this work.

In 1918 classes were first opened to the public. In order to carry out its objective of reestablishing The Religion of the Stars on earth, The Brotherhood of Light was incorporated as The Church of Light, on November 2,

1932, 9:55 a.m. PST at Los Angeles. The three founders of The Church of Light were Elbert Benjamine (C.C. Zain), who served as President until his demise November 18, 1951; Elizabeth Benjamine, who served as Secretary Treasurer until her passing in 1942; and Fred Skinner, who served as Vice President until his demise in 1940. From the 1920's through the 1940's much astrological research was carried on which has become standard reference for many astrologers.

Much of the history of The Church of Light in years between 1915 and 1951 involve the history of Mr. Benjamine's efforts. His mission on earth being completed through the writing, rewriting and printing of The Brotherhood of Light lessons, he felt that his physical form was worn beyond repair and that he could better serve the cause of Universal Welfare by leaving that body behind and moving to the next phase of his work in God's Great Plan.

In accordance with Mr. Benjamine's instructions, there was no public funeral, and his body was cremated. Because of his desire to be free from thoughts and emotions of grief so he might make a speedy adjustment in his new life, the announcement of his passing was withheld until the Response Day dinner in Los Angeles on December 18, 1951.

He left a priceless heritage in The Brotherhood of Light lessons, which must be preserved and passed on unchanged to succeeding generations.

The Light of Egypt is a consortium of advanced students and Hermiticians who seek to carry on the high traditions of the Brotherhood of Light by contributing our utmost to Universal Welfare without thought of personal gain or recompense.

It continues to work toward fulfilling these purpose by meeting the needs of a new world order with its progressive philosophy of soul development. As always there is a determination that each individual should have the opportunity to Contribute his or her Utmost to Universal Welfare to the end that all people may live with freedom from fear; freedom from want; freedom of speech; freedom of religion, and to be enlightened to the extent they wish by the soul uplifting teachings of The Religion of the Stars.

*Appendix* \_\_\_\_\_

## **Declaration of Principles**

**W**e are a Religious altruistic association. We consider all humanity as equal in the higher sense, and utilize our resources for the purpose of assisting each individual to fulfill their part in the Divine Plan. Our Hermetic Philosophy indicates that each soul is responsible for its spiritual progress; and our lessons provide the best information possible for the attainment of true spirituality and happiness on the physical plane and on each higher plane of progress.

There cannot be Two Orders of Truth in the Universe. Therefore, we deny that there is any antagonism between true Science and true Religion. We accept but one book as infallible in interpreting the Will of Deity. That is the Book of Nature. We worship but one Religion, which is also a Science: Nature's laws.

Students are under no obligation to accept our teachings. We encourage them to investigate all existing religious and occult organizations, and our course on *Evolution of Religion* gives details on how our philosophy relates to many of the religions of the world today.

We teach that the family and the marriage relationship are the most powerful aid in building the spiritual body. It is through the sacrifices of the parents for the children that they give up selfishness and then transfer that love to higher planes of work. Our course, *Ancient Masonry*, gives more detail about this process, as well as the course on Spiritual Alchemy and the one on *Occultism Applied to Daily Life*.

Our view of the reason for existence upon the earth is discussed in the book, *Astrological Signatures*, and the book *Organic Alchemy*. We know from tradition and scientific experiments that the soul and personality survive the transition called death and live on higher planes of existence. This is outlined in the book *The Next Life*. We also have lessons on healing and alchemy (psychology) both from the spiritual and physical plane.

Our philosophy is grounded in two basic studies: The Golden Key of Astrology and the Silver Key of the Sacred Tarot. Only with a thorough knowledge of these two keys may the sanctuary of Nature's Temple be opened. Astrology is the science of finding and utilizing the natural potentialities as indicated by the planetary chart of birth. It becomes a religion when it shows the individual how these natural tendencies can be utilized for the benefit of all humanity and furtherance of the purposes of Deity. This is why we are called The Religion of the Stars.

The *Sacred Tarot* is the pictorial form of the spiritual ideas of our world as viewed by the spiritual giants of the past and checked by subsequent illuminated ones as to accuracy. Initiates of all ages have added their contributions. It is the esoteric presentation of the Hermetic Philosophy, and provides each Neophyte with many sources of meditations and inspiration. Our courses on *The Sacred Tarot* and *Spiritual Astrology* give much insight on these two foundations of Knowledge.

The Religion of the Stars is dedicated to the unfoldment of the Universal Plan for this Aquarian Age. A Nine Point Plan provides the framework for this work. The Nine Point Plan is:

That everyone should have:

**Freedom from Want  
Freedom of Expression  
Freedom from Fear  
Freedom of Religion**

That to obtain these in proper measure, people must have the freedom to become familiar with:

**Facts of Astrology  
Facts of Induced Emotion  
Facts of Extrasensory Perception  
Facts of Directed Thinking**

And, that instead of working to take all that he can for himself, each must learn to find pleasure in

#### **Contributing His or Her Utmost to Universal Welfare**

The Brotherhood of Light teachings are presented in 21 courses covering 21 Branches of Occult Science. The courses have study questions in the back of each book for every lesson. If you request them, you will receive a final exam for each course. Upon passing the final exam, the Award Manuscript will be sent to you. These give information on the safest method of developing higher states of consciousness and other information of value to the neophyte.

## *Appendix*

---

# Home Study Program

### **About The Home Study Program...**

The Brotherhood of Light lessons offer the safest and most reliable information concerning occult studies found anywhere! Many are interested in investigating the occult sciences but cannot find a suitable teacher or are unable to find a practical approach to such matters. To meet this challenge the Home Study Program was designed.

Much information about the outerplane environment can be had in public schools and universities. Of equal importance is knowledge of the innerplane. Since this information is not yet available in our public institutions, The Brotherhood of Light lessons are published.

With the dawning Aquarian Age, our planet is undergoing a new dispensation of knowledge. Manifestations of this knowledge are evident in the scientific and technological growth experienced since 1881. So that development may be along the most constructive channels, it is important that we work to align personal and community intention to the Will of Deity. It is the role of religion to facilitate this alignment.

The Religion of the Stars teaches that the most reliable evidence of God's intention is obtained by observing Nature. To do this requires not only effort, but the process of trial and error. Sometimes standing on the shoulders of those who precede us can be helpful. May we suggest that you will find The Brotherhood of Light lessons to be a reliable guide, as well as some of the most uplifting material you will ever encounter.

### **Who can enroll in the Home Study Program...**

Anyone can study the 21 Courses by reading the material contained therein, and may submit examinations for correction. Upon receiving a passing grade, members will receive the "NotSold Manuscripts." They contain information which we believe to be safest and most reliable methods for psychic unfoldment.

While the reason for each person's study is highly personal, there can also be an organization goal. That is, to become a Hermetician. A Hermetician is a person who has passed final exams on all 21 Courses and thereby demonstrated physical knowledge of all branches of the Hermetic Sciences (Astrology, Alchemy and Magic). As a Hermetician one is eligible to participate more fully in the religious and educational aspects of the organization.

**How does the program work...**

Recognizing that each person begins his/her course of study with a particular area of interest we have structured the program so you may pass courses in any order you wish. We strongly encourage you to undertake the passing of examinations in sequence from Course 1 to 21.

You can request that we send you an a Course 1 (Laws of Occultism) examination.

After receiving a passing score (exams are open book) we will send you the "Not Sold Manuscript." This process is repeated until you reach the Hermetician level by passing exams for all 21 courses.

*Appendix* 

---

## **Other Brotherhood of Light Courses**

### **Other Brotherhood of Light Courses in the Alchemy Branch**

#### *Course 3, Spiritual Alchemy*

Every person, as well as every object, has an astral body-but a truly 4, spiritual body is only built through living a spiritual life. The spiritual body is not attained vicariously; each must earn it for himself. Every event of life affords the opportunity for the creation of spiritual values, for building up the spiritual body. Making use of the opportunity requires the proper attitude toward the event. Spiritual Alchemy differs from material alchemy in that the metals used by the spiritual alchemist are the experiences of his life; in light of this, the "Seven Spiritual Metals" are explained so the reader may recognize his opportunities for spiritual growth. Also explained from the spiritual alchemist's standpoint: Transmutation, the Philosopher's Stone, the Great Work and the "Elixir of Life."

#### *Course 9, Mental Alchemy*

What we have within us, we attract from without. To change a diseased condition of the body, or an undesirable condition in any department of life, including the financial, the discord within the astral body must be transformed to a harmonious center. A condition of our environment is but an external manifestation of a condition within our astral body. As "Esoteric Psychology" explains, no power to influence is greater than our own thoughts; thus, by reconditioning our thinking, we can recondition our astral body. The author elucidates, in simple terms, the scientifically accepted methods of Free Association and Self-Psychoanalysis as ways to fill your own life and others with health, success and happiness.

#### *Course 12-2, Natural Alchemy, Evolution of Religion*

This second part of Natural Alchemy provides an account of the evolution of those ideas which constitute man's many religions and the processes by which both primitive and modern religions have developed. A very logical and enlightening, step-by-step portrayal of the evolution from simple Naturism to Hero Worship is the basis of "The Foundations of Religion." In this course will also be found information concerning all significant religions throughout history, including the Religion of the Stars; an excellent groundwork for further study. This book provides a comparative thesis of information on the

present-day Stellar Religion and is invaluable for those who desire to disseminate today's Religion of the Stars.

#### *Course 14, Occultism Applied*

This book is a distillation of the most practical aspects of the Religion of the Stars. All that physical science can contribute, that psychology can aid, and everything of an occult nature that may be used to make your practical endeavors more successful are here explained. All the knowledge you can acquire, including occult knowledge and even the information contained in the Religion of the Stars, won't help you nor anyone else if you don't apply it. This course doesn't require that the reader already possess any occult knowledge; it is a straightforward, common sense approach to overcoming life's practical, day-to-day problems, based on the author's intimate knowledge of Natural Law.

#### *Course 17, Cosmic Alchemy*

In the complex, ever-changing world in which we live, it's often difficult to discern right from wrong, true from false and what may be "spiritual" from what is not, especially in terms of national policy and world events. Cosmic Alchemy differs from other branches of alchemy in that it seeks to transform the energies of society as a whole into channels most beneficial for all—and, as such, is an absolutely tremendous aid to anyone desiring to "get involved" and be of service to the community and the world. As timely today in this era of high technology and the danger of nuclear war as it was when first published in 1946 because it is not merely a treatise on being a citizen of a nation, but on being a citizen of the Cosmos.

#### *Course 19, Organic Alchemy*

The author, recognized as a naturalist, having led Nature-study field trips for nearly twenty years, is in a unique position to describe the laws of Nature by which all souls progress. Humans are not unique in that they are set apart from other intelligences, be they animal, vegetable or mineral. All souls progress by the same general process and each is being fitted for a higher function in more active realms through the operation of cosmic forces that direct its special training. This course amply illustrates these laws through examples of their action in lower realms of nature and their correspondence in Human affairs.

#### *Course 21, Personal Alchemy*

Personal Alchemy embraces the various changes which the devotee of the Religion of the Stars must make in his manner of living as he ascends in his effort to become an adept. Just what steps to take, and in what order, are set forth in this final course to assist the adherent in developing his own powers and possibilities in the quickest and most effective manner, to the end that he can be of greatest benefit to others. The last five Lessons of this course are often of special concern to healers, health-seekers and astrologers, being devoted to a most effective method of illness prevention: Stellar Dietetics.

**21 volume Brotherhood of Light series  
on the occult sciences by C.C. Zain includes:  
3 Branches of Study**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Serial Number</b>
<b>Astrology</b>		
Cs. 2	Astrological Signatures	1-5, 20, 21, 46 & 47
Cs. 7	Spiritual Astrology	71-83
Cs. 8	Horary Astrology	36, 86-92
Cs. 10	Natal Astrology	19, 103-117
Cs. 13	Mundane Astrology	141-150
Cs. 15	Weather Predicting	190-196
Cs. 16	Stellar Healing	197-208
<b>Alchemy</b>		
Cs. 3	Spiritual Alchemy	49-54
Cs. 9	Mental Alchemy	95-101
Cs. 12	Natural Alchemy	125-140
Cs. 14	Occultism Applied	151-162
Cs. 17	Cosmic Alchemy	164-172
Cs. 19	Organic Alchemy	209-215
Cs. 21	Personal Alchemy	216-225
<b>Magic</b>		
Cs. 1	Laws of Occultism	39-45
Cs. 4	Ancient Masonry	6-18
Cs. 5	Esoteric Psychology	56-67
Cs. 6	The Sacred Tarot	22-33, & 48
Cs. 11	Divination & Character Reading	118-124
Cs. 18	Imponderable Forces	183-189
Cs. 20	The Next Life	173-182
<b>Award Manuscripts</b>		
1	The Safest and Most Effective Method of Psychic Development	226
2	How to Become Conscious on the Inner Plane	227
3	How to Contact Desired Information on the Inner Plane	228
4	How to Hold the Consciousness on the Selected Level of the Inner Plane	229
5	Breathing to Acquire Proper Electrification	54
6	How to Become Objectively Aware of Information Acquired from the Inner Plane	230

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Serial Number</b>
7	How to Use the Transition Technique of ESP	231
8	How to Control Inner Plane Activities	232
9	How to Develop Soul Activity	34
10	How to Direct Soul Activity	35
11	How to Travel in the Astral	94
12	Soul Mates	69
13	How to Use Personal Cycles For Soul Unfoldment	93
14	How to Use Talismans For Special Purposes	84
15	Customs and Habits of Elementals	68
16	Value of Totems	85
17	Contacting the Masters	163
18	Great Pyramid Interpreted	55
19	Symbol Reading Made Easy	70
20	Initiation	38
21	Practice of White Magic	37