

The Religion of the Stars
Moses, Orion, Jason and the Bull Serial 75
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Issued under the auspices of The Brotherhood of Light
Serial No.75 Course VII-E
Box 1525, Los Angeles, Calif. February 1920.
The Religion of The Stars.
Part V. Moses, Orion, Jason and The Bull.
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Before proceeding further in our studies it may be well to give a concrete example showing how every widely spread Myth has a basis in physical fact, as well as presenting a Spiritual Truth in the garments of Universal Symbolism. The tradition of the existence and destruction of Atlantis, long considered but a myth, has found scientific verification, as elsewhere explained. In many countries, and among widely spread peoples, there are myths about two fabled creatures--the Dragon and the Unicorn. It has been the fashion of scientific men to consider these two animals nothing more than creations of fancy. The general consensus of public opinion, reflecting the beliefs of the learned, is that no such creatures as dragons and unicorns ever existed. They are popularly supposed to be merely bug-bears formed by the fears of superstitious minds. Nothing could be farther from the Truth. Gigantic flying lizards, such as the dragon is represented to be, really existed on the earth. and their fossil remains have been discovered.

Lately scientists have passed the opinion that some of these huge flying lizards existed even down to Pleistocene times, the period in which man's bones have been found abundantly. The Dragon, therefore, is not merely a fabled monster, but a creature that actually lived upon the earth at no very distant epoch, This is used as a Universal Symbol to portray a Spiritual Idea. This Universal Symbol was placed in the sky as the constellation Draco. To perpetuate the Spiritual Concept and to further exemplify it in detail, allegorical stories were related about it.

Of the Unicorn, Pliny, the Roman naturalist said--"a very ferocious beast, similar in the rest of its body to a horse, with the head of a deer, the feet of an elephant, the tail of a boar, a deep bellowing voice and a single black horn, two cubits in length, standing out in the middle of its forehead". Notwithstanding Pliny's record and the fact that the Unicorn is mentioned no less than eight times in the Bible, as well as being a figure common to English Heraldry, it has been customary to consider Unicorn as purely an imaginary animal. Recently there has been found in northwestern Montana a single-horned dinosaur of comparatively recent date. Its horn and feet correspond well with Pliny's description. And as other fossils found in this region have had their counterparts in both Europe and Asia there is no valid reason for not thinking some such creature as the Unicorn may actually have lived within the memory of primitive man. The Unicorn was not pictured among the ancient constellations, being represented by Centaurus, the horseman, carrying a single spear. The fables concerning both the Dragon and the Unicorn will be explained later. They are mentioned here to draw the attention of the student to the tendency of modern science to scoff at everything it fails to understand.

In Course V. covering Esoteric Psychology, we pointed out that it is impossible for man to think of any name or number at random, without under close analysis the one thought of showing a deep significance to the Subliminal life of that person. The same psychology applies to the race.

The imaginary creations of mankind, the Phantasies; while seldom on the surface being fact, yet have a deep significance to the Subliminal Mind of the Race. And this significant fact may be revealed by the same methods of analysis and Free Association. that are applied in Psycho-Analysis to individuals. As but two of innumerable illustrations bearing upon this point let the student recall the works of those greatest writers of extravagant fiction-- Jules Verne and Dean Jonathan Swift.

"Eighty Days Around the World" and "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" were works of fiction; but the Subliminal Mind of the author had apprehended speed in travel, and the submarine. The details of the narratives are fiction, but the possibility of rapid transit and underseas travel have been more than realized in fact. Swift, in his satire published in 1726, "Gulliver's Travels", has a hero relate of the astronomers of the Flying Island of Laputa, that they had discovered two Moons circling around Mars, one of which went round the planet in ten hours. At that time no moon was known that revolved about a planet in less time than it takes the planet to turn on its axis. Nevertheless, in 1877 an astronomer at the Naval Observatory, Washington, discovered that Mars actually has two Moons, and that one of them revolves even faster than Mr. Gulliver said. taking but seven hours and thirtynine minutes to make the circuit. The prevalence of such coincidence demonstrates the Subliminal Mind of man to be in close touch with a wider range of facts than he is objectively aware. And the pith of all widely recognized myths is retained thru a contact with such higher sources of information-- the significant part of the tradition seldom being greatly altered, even tho the details undergo complete transformation.

There is an adequate astrological reason why the calendar year may begin the 1st. of January, but so far as the seasons are concerned the year always commences when the trees begin to bud, the grass and flowers to grow, and the earth to awaken from her long wintry sleep. To commence the year at the Vernal Equinox was not only common to ancient nations, but was also an old English custom abandoned only since the middle of the 18th. century. The sign Aries not only commences the new astronomical year, but also corresponds to the birth house of any Horoscope. It is a fiery sign, and in experimental astrology has been found to rule the Head. The second sign of the zodiac is Taurus, the Bull. It is the first Earth sign of the zodiac, and corresponds to the money house in any horoscope, ruling the neck, throat, and ears in human anatomy. Fire, represented by Aries, the Ram, is the Creative. attribute. That the creative attribute may express itself there must be a matrix in which to exercise its formative powers.

Fire is the most active. and earth the least active of the ancient elements. Thought can find no expression except thru substance. The intense activity of Aries implies a reaction such as is symbolized by Taurus. The rays of the Sun search out the Earth that it may bring forth . While Aries looks back among the constellations at Taurus, nevertheless while observing the earth yet it rises in such a manner that its head comes to view first, the rest of its body rises later. Taurus, the Bull, however, entirely faces the constellations that follow, his rear rising above the horizon first and his head last.

As the constellations rise the Ram is headed for Heaven, and the Bull is headed for

Earth. In experimental astrology people born under Aries are pioneers, ever seeking new fields of endeavor; while Taurus people are given to developing the details of enterprises already established. Aries people are more interested in Life, and Taurus people in Money; for the Bull corresponds to the money house of any chart. Gold is the metal ruled by the Sun, and in the beginning of the sign of the Bull, being not yet matured in that sign, is spoken of as a Calf. The Golden Calf that Aaron made signifies the Sun's influence in the first decanate of Taurus, and it is spoken of as a moulton calf because this beginning of Taurus touches the fiery sign Aries. In Exodus 32. Aaron took the gold earrings of the people with which to make the Calf because personal property is ruled by Taurus, and because the ears are ruled by this Sign. The tables which Moses brought down from the mount were two stones written on both sides by God. No doubt they were Tau stones such as may be soon today standing in some places, remnants of prehistoric knowledge. Moses on approaching the camp heard much singing. The great singers of the world are born under either Taurus or Scorpio-- Taurus ruling the Throat. Whatever these laws were, from the fact they were written on stone, they were earthly laws. The chief law of physical life is that of survival. But there is another law, pertaining to procreation, which is emphasized by the T or Tau. With the point down the Tau signifies creative energies devoted to physical ends, and with the point up, to spiritual ends- Moses broke the tablets of the physical law--he broke the ten commandments.

"And he took the calf which they had made and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strewed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it." He did not destroy the great fecundating powers of the Calf, he did not deny the physical, but worked upon it alchemically. He sublimated physical experiences in the fire of spiritual aspiration, represented as the Sun in Taurus, then reduced it to small parts and strewed it upon the water. As the Sun is a fiery planet, so the Moon is a watery planet, and not only is Exalted in Taurus, but is a necessary assistant to the Sun in all processes of transmutation. In taking their earrings and making them up into a golden calf Aaron is said to have made the people naked. In other words, the devotion to material things had not led them to build bodies in which they could function after passing from the physical.

And Moses said-- "Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate thruout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor." Gemini, the Twins, is the third sign of the zodiac. Gemini corresponds to the third house in any chart, which governs brethren, companions and neighbors, Gemini also rules thought and study, as well as short journeys, The command to go from gate to gate means the search for knowledge by which the man who has sinned thru devoting his energies solely to physical ends may reclothe himself to function on a higher plane than that of earth. The constellated Bull is represented in an attitude of belligerence toward the Twins, hence the reference to warfare, and one of the Twins is armed with a bow and arrow and the other with a club. This constellated warfare represents the struggle between physical attractions and spiritual aspirations; between physical necessity and the desire to live on earth the life of Universal Brotherhood.

May Day, the day sacred to Ma(y), the Earth, the dog days do not take place immediately upon the Sun's entrance into the first Earth sign, Taurus. The first ten days the Sun is in Taurus it passes thru the Taurus, or Calf, decanate, corresponding to the constellated Decan Lepus, the Hare. The Hare is noted for its fleetness, timidity, and especially for its fruitfulness. Both Eggs and Rabbits are associated with Easter, not only in Christian Countries, but also in Pagan. The

Saxon Eoster, now called Easter, is Astarte, the ancient name for the Moon. Easter is the time of the resurrection of the Sun God thru marriage with the Moon, the Moon at Easter being in Libra, the zodiacal sign ruling both the marriage and eggs. Venus, the planet ruling Libra, the marriage sign, also rules Taurus, the Bull. The Cross which is the symbol of Earth, and from which is derived the Tau, or phallic T, is the marriage of two lines. Taurus, being the Exaltation of the Moon, or Easter, undergoes a transformation when the Sun sheds his fiery rays thru that sign. The seeds within the soil germinate and the Earth prepares to bring forth abundantly. The purely physical, and possibly disintegrative, aspect of this union of Sun and Earth, in the Exaltation of the Moon, is the moulted Calf, the decanate corresponding to constellated Lepus. The higher, more constructive, aspect of this union of Sun and Earth is represented by the second, or Virgo, decanate, which the Sun enters May 1st. Virgo is a mental sign, and the Virgin decanate of Taurus, symbolizes Mental Fecundity. For the reason the Sun must pass into the Virgin decanate of Taurus before ascending to its heavenly home, or highest declination, Ascension Day is observed 40 days after Easter. The Virgo decanate of Taurus is pictured by the constellation Orion, the greatest hunter in the world. We have already mentioned the fable of the Scorpion springing from the ground and causing the death of Orion. Orion is pictured in deadly conflict with the Bull, having for weapon a mighty club, and for shield the skin of the Solar Lion. He has a sword at his side, even as Moses commanded, and his foot rests on the youth-giving waters of the River Eridanus.

Considering the constellated Bull as representing the moulted Calf, we see Orion in the act of using his club to grind it to powder, even as Moses did. The lion-skin on the arm of Orion represents the fire with which the calf was burnt; for Leo, the Lion, is the fixed fiery sign of the zodiac. And under the foot of Orion is the waters upon which Moses strewed the powdered calf. And the significance of causing the children of Israel to drink water upon which has been sprinkled the powdered remains of a burnt moulted calf is very apparent when we note that these waters are those of the River Eridanus; the life-giving waters of regeneration. Orion, being pictured to represent the mental decanate of Taurus, mental wealth as it were, becomes Moses in the Bible. The allegory depicts the transmutation of physical forces into mental fruitfulness. The failure to accomplish this transmutation is related in the fable of the death of Orion thru the sting of the Scorpion-- the scorpion being the symbol of sex in its destructive aspect.

The third, or Capricorn decanate of Taurus, is pictured by Auriga. He controls the solar energy and holds in his arms a mother goat and two kids. These kids are Twins, indicating the proximity to Gemini; and this goat family indicates that the Solar energies have been utilized, for the key word for Capricorn is utilization. Auriga affords them shelter and protection, indicating unselfish devotion to the welfare of others. And Moses after breaking the law again wrote laws on tables of stone; placing them, no doubt with the point of the Tau stones upward.

Jason, the leader of the famous Argonautic Expedition, plays the same part in Greek Mythology as Moses among the Jews. Jason, or constellated Orion, was called upon to conquer the brazen footed bulls that breathed forth flames, in his quest of the Golden Fleece of rejuvenescence. And it is significant in the Greek tradition that Jason was aided by Media in conquering the bulls; and that Media restores Jason to youth by drugs, and changes a Ram into a Lamb. The partner of Moses in his works is Aaron.

It should not be thought that the constellation Taurus was known only on the

Eastern Hemisphere in ancient times. Goguet states that at the time of discovery of the Amazon river a group of stars in Taurus was called the Jaw of the Ox by the natives. Taurus was the Mithraic Bull, it was Apis of Egyptian fame, and was called the Bull of Light by the Akkadians. Taurus was held sacred by the Druids, who held their great religious festival, the Tauric, on May 1st. These Druids, ruled astrologically by Taurus, as Ireland is at the present day, passed their ruling sign on to their conquerors. England is essentially ruled by Aries, but with Taurus as a secondary ruler even as an individual usually is strongly influenced by both rising sign and Sun-sign. The familiar title of John Bull is derived from this secondary influence in English character and was appropriated from the Druids. The Scotch, also, retain traditions about the ancient sacred Bull, relating that on New Year's Eve the Candlemas Bull is seen rising in the twilight and sailing across the sky. It is literally a fact which anyone may verify that the constellated Bull does rise in the twilight and sail across the sky on January first. But the significant point is that the opening of the year should be associated not alone with the Sun, or with the sign of its greatest strength; but is associated with the sign of the Moon's greatest influence; the Moon being a partner to opening the year. The Sun passes into the Taurus decanate of Capricorn on Jan 1st. and as the Scotch say, the Bull rises into heaven as the evening advances. Or as Virgil wrote in the Century before the Christian Era-- "The Milk-White Bull with golden horns, Leads on the new born year".

Bearing in mind that the decanate of Aries touching Taurus is the Sagittarius, or Perseus Decan having sub influence of Jupiter, and the Greek fable of Europa becomes clear. Europa was the daughter of Agenor, King of Crete, and of such great beauty that Jupiter fell in love with her. She represents the Moon in this fable as will be seen by reference to the Bull, exaltation of the Moon. Jupiter (last decanate of Aries) became a snow-white Bull (Taurus) and approaches her while she was gathering flowers. Europa, charmed at the tameness of the Bull caressed him and finally mounted his back. The Bull taking advantage of the situation plunged into the sea and swam to the distant shore of Crete in safety. In this fable we again have the Bull by means of water bringing about a deliverance-- Europe being named after the fair heroine. The Bull being white, brings to mind the white garments worn in Ireland and by the Mayas during their May-Pole dance, to symbolize the Immaculate conception which occurs when the Sun enters the second or Virgin, decanate of Taurus. Thru this conception on the first of May the seeds that have been planted in the dark soil are fructified to bring forth abundantly; and the purified man, thru the regenerate waters of Eridanus, is carried to the shores of an immortal life.

That the Bull is a symbol of higher fusion the XIVth- Major Arcanum of the Tarot to which it corresponds clearly depicts. That the union represented by the constellated Bull is Immaculate was depicted by the ancients thru having only the fore parts of the Bull pictured, the after parts of Taurus being lacking. That part of the Constellated Bull corresponding to the first decanate of the sign, and to the Decan Lepus, being the symbol of more physical gratification, is omitted. That this omission is not merely accidental, but is of prime significance, may be deducted from the fact that the Jews, clinging to ancient tradition, look upon the hinder parts of beef as unclean.. To this day the orthodox Jew will not eat of the hind quarters of beef, and it will not be found in Kosher markets; they have no hesitancy about eating the front quarters. And further, they will not eat both meat and butter or milk at the same meal; and any restaurant where these products are found upon the table at the same time is not Kosher in the orthodox sense. The physical mixing of beef, the male Taurus, and the product of the Cow, or female Taurus, is a

symbolical violation of the import of the conquered Bull; almost as much so as to partake of the hind quarters.

In the Vedas there are references to Taurus such as --"A tawny colored bull should he lead round"- Also in the Avesta, as where speaking of Fravashis-- "who ..was the first Plougher of the ground; who first knew and first taught; who first possessed and first took possession of the Bull of Holiness". But as we will have occasion to refer to a still older extant written record, it may be well at this place to speak of the cuneiform writings of the Babylonians and Assyrians that have been recovered and translated, and what they have to say about the heavenly Bull.

Briefly stated, the oldest inhabitants of the region bounded by the Tigris and Euphrates known to moderns were the Akkadians, also called Sumerians. The characters and alphabet known as cuneiform were those employed by the ancient Akkadians, or Sumerians. When the Semites, who became the Assyrians and Babylonians, invaded the country they adopted the religion and culture, traditions and manner of writing, employed by the native Sumerians. These Sumerian traditions and culture originally came from Atlantis. There are indications that these Babylonian conquerors, and also the Semites that entered Egypt, come from Arabia. Those of the Conquerors that settled in the Northern and more mountainous regions became the Assyrians, and those that settled in the low-lying lands to the South became the Babylonians. The great Babylonian Conqueror and leader, who played the same part for those Semites that Moses did for the Semites who went down into Egypt, was Sargon of Akkad. Mystery surrounds the birth of Sargon, even as it does that of Moses. Recorded tradition asserts he was born in concealment-- the part of Taurus nearest the birth-sign Aries is missing-- and was placed in an Ark of Bull-rushes on the water of the Euphrates, as was Moses on the Nile, from whence he was rescued by Akki, a husbandman, and brought up. This ark, or egg, corresponds to the constellation Lepus, to the missing portion of the Bull, and to the first decanate of the sign Taurus. Sargon, the Babylonian conqueror, like Moses the Egyptian conqueror; is identical with Orion, who has his foot in the river Eridanus, called variously Euphrates and Nile.

Sargon was founder of the first Babylonian library, among the works of this library being "The observations of Bel" treating of astronomy, and another famous work on Omens and Divination. Other Babylonian monarchs followed the example of Sargon, and the traditions and scientific knowledge obtained by contact with the Sumerians thus in part found its way in cuneiform writing to the clay tablets that formed the works of the great libraries. The Assyrian, Assur-bani-pal, seeing the great learning in Babylonia erected a great library at Ninevah, and sent scribes to the South with instructions to copy the legends, hymns, rituals, medical and scientific works there to be found. And it is to this library at Ninevah that moderns owe most of their knowledge of the literature of Babylonia. Nearly 20,000 fragments of bricks bearing inscriptions, representing but a portion of the original library, are now in the British Museum, and have largely been translated. Along with the Babylonian story of creation was found a great epic poem belonging to the earliest works. This epic poem, there is evidence to believe, existed as oral tradition in the remote Sumerian period, and at least is the oldest written work known.

This most ancient known written work, called The Gilgamesh, is written after the manner of the great Greek, Hindu, and other epic poems. Gilgamesh is the hero of the Babylonian Epic, and like Moses and Jason and other heroes, his adventures portray in allegorical language astrological facts that have a correspondence within the human soul. As the chief orb of heaven is the Sun, corresponding to the inmost

part of man, the Ego, so Gilgamesh, like the heroes of all sacred works, usually portrays the influence of the Sun in different phases of its apparent annual orbit, corresponding to different phases of man's physical, intellectual and moral development. In fact, the legendary heroes of all times and races have but portrayed the weaknesses, the struggles, the triumphs and apparent failures of the human soul in its cyclic pilgrimage, as corresponding strictly to phenomena observed and recorded in the sky.

The Moon in Babylonia was called in her feminine aspect Ishtar, which in Phoenician became the more familiar word Ashtoreth, or Astarte, the Saxon Eoster, and English Easter-- being identical with Esther, to whom a whole book in the Bible is devoted. The sign Taurus, the Bull, is the exaltation of the Moon, Ishtar. Taurus, astrologically rules material possessions, cash in particular- The first 10 degrees, or decanate, of Taurus is pictured in the sky by Lepus, the Hare. This hare flees before the hound belonging to the Libra, or marriage Decan of Gemini. Of all the creatures pictured in the sky the hare is the least courageous, and the most timid and negative. Orion, corresponding to the second, or Virgo Decanate, ruled by Mercury, the planet of mentality, is a conqueror, even as was Moses, Jason, Sargon, and other heroes. But Lepus, corresponding to the first, or Taurus, decanate, ruled by Venus, the planet of least resistance, is a subservient creature of fear and trembling. The hare lives in warrens beneath the ground, and typifies these submerged in materialism who live in constant dread of death. It also represents those who are mastered by the physical desires and are subservient to the fear of poverty, for the sign Taurus rules money. Lepus represents physical fertility devoted exclusively to material ends; and in the vegetable world it signifies the seed planted within the dark soil of earth before it has triumphed over its enclosing prison and emerged into the light of day. The paranatellon that sets is Ophiuchus-- that is, when the Hare rises upon the Eastern Horizon Ophiuchus, the man who wrestles with the creative serpent sinks below the Western horizon completely vanquished.

The Gilgamesh Epic is divided into twelve tablets, each meant to correspond with one of the signs of the zodiac. Gilgamesh, the hero, like Perseus, is sent to do battle with a monster. This monster is named Khumbaba. This creature is of such a terrifying aspect as to make those who enter the forest where it resides grow weak. But even as Perseus conquered the hideous Medusa, so Gilgamesh conquered the monster Khumbaba, both heroes representing in this aspect the last decanate of Aries. Ishtar, the Moon, exalted in Taurus, and the place to which the Sun or any planet moves from the last decanate of Aries, beholding Gilgamesh returning in royal splendor from the conquest of Khumbaba, the flowers of victory still fresh on his brow (Aries), falls in love with him. In the tenderest and most seductive terms she beseeches him to become her bridegroom. She tells him that if he will but enter her house "in the gloom of the cedar" he shall have many gifts, that his flocks and herds will greatly increase and his horses and oxen be without rival, and that the river Euphrates(Eridanus) will kiss his feet, and kings and princes bow down before him. But this appeal to his love of wealth and earthly power is of no avail. Gilgamesh taunts Ishtar of slaying Tammuz the shepherd (Aries) the bridegroom of her youth, of her ill treatment of Alalu the Eagle (Aquila), of her mockery of the Lion (Leo), and her revilement of the horse glorious in battle(Sagittarius), all of whom were former lovers.

Ishtar, in her anger and humiliation at being scorned in love pleads with her father and mother to punish Gilgamesh. Finally her father, Anu, yields and sends a mighty Bull to do battle with Gilgamesh in spite of the fact that by so doing he causes seven years sterility on the earth. And here it may be well to note that the seven fat

kine and the seven lean kine of Pharaoh's dream which Joseph interpreted, as related in Genesis, were not arbitrary symbols for kine, or Taurus, corresponding to the house of money in any horoscope, is a universal symbol of material possessions. And in this earliest known writing, the Gilgamesh, we have reference to the seven barren years, even as related in the Bible. Gilgamesh, however, like Moses, Orion and Jason, slays the mighty Bull; and even as these other heroes are assisted in the conquest by a partner, so is Gilgamesh assisted by Eabani.

When Gilgamesh has slain the mighty bull of heaven, representing the lust for earthly things, Ishtar goes upon the top of a high wall and pronounces a curse upon Gilgamesh. When Eabani, the partner of Gilgamesh hears this curse he tore out the entrails of the bull and cast them before her saying --"As for thee, I will conquer thee, and I will do to thee even as I have done to him". Then Gilgamesh and his partner dedicate the great horns of the Bull to the sun-god and wash their hands in the river Euphrates-(Eridanus).

It should be borne in mind that Ishtar, the great mother, was highly honored by the Babylonians and Assyrians, and the episode related above portrays but the symbolical significance of the first decanate of Taurus, being separated from the rest of the sign by the high wall. And the curse she placed upon Gilgamesh is the curse placed by nature upon those who worship, Mammon, the god of money. This curse, which applies also to those who use their energies only for worldly gain or for physical pleasure, is brought to us traditionally in a singular manner. Among all peoples, as will be related in detail later, Halloween, the festival to the dead, occurs on Oct. 31st. at the time the Sun is in the first decanate of Scorpio, directly in opposition to the first decanate of Taurus. On Halloween, the night of the great cataclysm that sunk Atlantis, and which destroyed many of the earth's inhabitants; when the Sun sets in the west, the first decanate of Taurus rises; the curse of Lupus results in the sinking out of sight, or death of Ophiuchus.

To prevent "Evil Eye" which is supposed to be a curse placed upon one by a malignant person's look, it is customary to this day among Latin speaking races to make the sign of the horns. This is done by closing the hand in such a manner that the first and little finger stand out like horns on a Bull, and then gouging in the direction of the person supposed to have the power of "Evil Eye" as if to hook out his eyes. This power of the "½horns" to ward off the curse is thought to be quite as infallible now as it was when Gilgamesh dedicated the great horns of the Bull to the Sun-god to frustrate the curse placed upon him by Ishtar. And those who have studied experimental astrology will recall the rule handed down by Ptolmey that when the Moon is with the Pleiades, a cluster of stars in the shoulder of the Bull, and afflicted by Mars, in a chart of birth, that person will become blind. The curse of Ishtar, the Moon, is then upon him.

The negroes inhabiting the U.S.A. whose traditions are more difficult to trace, still retain a remembrance of the curse of Ishtar. They are firm believers in Voodoo, or black magic, and attribute many of their ills to this source. Nor is the association between the first decanate of Taurus and possibilities of black magical practices without warrant. Magical practices either by the negro Voodoo Doctor, or the ancient Babylonian, or more ancient Akkadian, were regulated chiefly by the Moon. The Moon in Taurus exerts a magnetic condition particularly favorable for magical ceremonies conducted for the purpose of material gain, and if the Sun be also in Scorpio, for purposes of vengeance and enmity. Tradition asserts that Atlantis was sunk because of her leaning toward black magic. The Flood of Noah, as related in the Bible, was due to the iniquities of the human race--"and God looked upon earth,

and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth". Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire because of their sinfulness, and before the destruction some were made blind--Gen. 19:11 "And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great; so that they wearied themselves to find the door". None are so blind as those who can see naught but material ends and the gratification of physical desires. Some of the Atlanteans escaped by flight, Noah made away from his sinfull companions in an Ark, and Lot left Sodom and Gomorrah in great haste- Lepus, the hare, signifies speed in flight, and the Negro retaining a race memory of flight from evil, carries in his pocket a Rabbit's Foot to protect him from Voodoo and avert all manner of misfortune, even to this day.

The Buddhists have a tradition that once upon a time the god Indra was walking thru the woods in disguise. He met a monkey, a fox and a hare travelling together. He pretended to be very hungry and asked them for food, whereupon all three went looking for something to give him. The fox succeeded in stealing a pot of milk (Auriga sits on the milkyway), and the monkey brought back a bunch of mangoes; but the hare returned unsuccessful. The hare being greatly disappointed said to Indra, who occupied the form of a Brahman--"If you are very, very hungry, light a fire and roast and eat me". So, Indra built a fire at the foot of a rock and told the hare to jump from the rock into the fire. The hare did so and was snatched from the fire by Indra, and as a reward for self-sacrifice was placed in the Moon; where they say it can be seen to this day. In this legend the necessity for sacrificing the lower, or Lupus, nature for the higher, or Auriga, nature; the fiery purification and the transmutation of the gross into the refined, are plainly to be recognized.

The first decanate of Taurus, ruled by Venus, relates to physical pleasures, to material gain, to timidity, to the line of least resistance and negative conditions. The second decanate, ruled by Mercury relates to the struggle of mind to overcome and subdue matter, the conquering of impulse by reason, the attempt to subjugate the animal nature in man by the transmuting powers of the purified soul. The third decanate, the Capricorn decanate, is ruled by Saturn. It corresponds to the constellated Decan Auriga. Auriga is pictured in the sky as a man seated on the Milky way, one foot resting on the right horn of the conquered Bull, a goat on his shoulder and her two kids in his right hand, and his left hand holding a bridle. Manilius refers to Auriga thus-

"Close by the kneeling Bull behold The Charioteer. who gained by skill of old His name and heaven, as first his steeds he drove With flying, wheels, seen and installed by Jove".

Auriga is Phoebus Apollo in Greek mythology, whose duty it was each day to drive the chariot of the Sun across the heavens. Phaeton tried to drive this chariot for his father Phoebus, but being inexperienced the horses ran away with him, and on approaching the Scorpion with its immense tail and horrible sting upraised to strike, Phaeton in terror dropped the reins, and the horses stung by the scorpion almost burnt up the earth by passing too close to it. Elijah, as related in 2 Kings 2, of the Bible, had better success--"and it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." Pharoah, however, as related in Ex.14 had no better success than the reckless Phaeton; for with his chariots he attempted to follow Moses and the children of Israel thru the red sea--"And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharoah that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as

one of them."

The connection between the last Decan of Taurus and the sign Capricorn is clearly shown by the goat pictured on the shoulder of Auriga. The strongest attribute of the sign Capricorn is Utilization. Phoebus Apollo, the Greek type of Auriga, is no longer a young man, but nevertheless he is master of the Solar Fire, and controls his mental steeds. Elijah, also, no longer young, but a master, passes to the realms above by means of the fiery chariot. The hare of the Buddhist tradition, thru sacrifice of the physical in the fire, was transposed to a home on high without passing thru the process of death.

The student of the Bhagavad Gita and other Eastern literature will find no difficulty in picking out the characters that represent the essential doctrines surrounding the constellated Bull and its three Decans. In Lepus, the hare, we have the soul submerged in material pursuits, and overcome by physical limitations, breaking the laws of nature, even as Moses did, thus incurring dire penalties and afflictions. In Orion battling with the mighty Bull, breaking it to bits, and casting its powdered remains on the waters, is depicted the struggle of the soul to overcome its physical limitations, and to triumph over its animal nature. Nimrod was a mighty hunter, and the soul must search out and overcome the weaknesses he has inherited from his past evolution thru animal forms.

In Auriga we see the result of Mastership obtained. The strength to harness and control the forces of nature is shown by the bridle held in the left hand. The compassion to protect and minister unto the weak is shown by the goat and her kids in his left hand. And because they are goats, types of earthly ambition, it evinces the determination of the Master not to neglect his physical duties thru absorption in spiritual idea's. The horns of the earthy Bull serve as a stepping-stone to Auriga, and in each fable the conqueror is assisted by a companion, pointing to the immutable truth that Man and Woman are inter-dependent, and that in the eyes of nature they are equally important and both essential.