

The Religion of the Stars
The Harp of Heaven, the Eagle, The Sea Goat and The Dolphin Savior.
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Part XII. The Harp of Heaven, the Eagle, Sea Goat, and Dolphin Savior.
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To a great extent, the sign Sagittarius rules the benevolent impulses of man, and hence is said to govern the Higher Mind. Being natural ruler of the ninth house, it also signifies books, publications, and teachings. In Revelation, the four quadrants of the zodiac are described thus-"And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast was like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle", these being the pictured constellations ruling the quadrants thru the fixed signs. As it takes six hours for each quadrant to fly by on the wings of time, due to the diurnal rotation of the earth, and as each quadrant is full of stars that look like eyes, and as it takes twenty-four hours for the four heavenly beasts to pass by, and hours representing time can well be called elders, the next verse relates-"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within; and they rest not day and night, saying Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come". In other words, they operate under immutable Law. Following after this description of the zodiac, and that where the 24 elders cast themselves before the throne, we have another description-"And I saw, in the right hand of him that sat on the throne, a book written within, and, on the back side, sealed with seven seals". Later, when one was found worthy to open the book-"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and nation".

The vials full of odors, signifying the Cup of Leo, the blood of sacrifice signifying the Wine of the husbandman Bootes in Virgo, the slaying itself represented by the cross formed by the scales of Libra, and the altar on which the sacrifice is offered by the Altar in Scorpio, the Crown being that of the last decanate of Scorpio, and the Harp being Lyra, belonging to the first decanate of Sagittarius; all are plainly astrological. Sagittarius, ruling publications and the higher mind, is represented by a Book, a Book of Religion and Philosophy concerning Natural Law, which is sealed with the seal of Seven Planets; for all nature is sealed with these planetary signatures. Lyra, the Harp of Orpheus, Ovid is most careful to relate, has Seven strings. This is the harp of Mercury, god of mind who thru Gemini rules kindred and the tongue, given to the Savior, Orpheus. Orpheus descended into the infernal regions, and charmed Pluto, king of darkness and Hell, to such an extent that he regained his lost bride, Eurydice. This is the Harp with which David soothed Saul, in Bohemia called the Fiddle in the Sky, and among the ancient Britons King Arthur's Harp. It is also the Harp of Arion.

Arion was a musician at the court of Periander, King of Corinth. Returning from Sicily, he was about to be thrown overboard like Jonah, but requested to be permitted to play on his harp, whereupon Dolphins appeared enchanted by the music, and when Arion plunged into the sea, they carried him safely to land. The Dolphin belongs to the physical decanate of Capricorn. The Lyre, or Harp, symbolizes perfect harmony with natural law which expresses as Cosmic Consciousness. All things, even material possessions and the forces of darkness, seem obedient servants to one who attains to this perfect harmony with nature. Orpheus recovered his bride, his true soul-mate, thru this higher knowledge and state of consciousness. In leaving Hades he was forbidden to look back, forbidden to return to the lower states of consciousness, but disobeying, lost his bride again, even as Lot's wife looked back to her sorrow.

It is from Lyra and the Crown which is next to it, and the fact that the Sun rules gold, that has given rise to the popular conception of heaven as a place where there is a golden throne and the principal occupation of the blest is to gather about this throne and play on harps. Lyra belongs to the Jupiter decanate of Jupiter's home sign. Students of the Tarot will recall that the 5th Major Arcanum, depicting Jupiter, is read Inspiration. We are fortunate in being able to give the nature of Lyra in the words of the author's Master's Inspiration! that harp divine, whose strings the angels tune, and sets in motion sweet waves of music that vibrate around the spheres, that bring to man the tidings of his once Celestial State, and says in tones of heavenly sweetness to faint and struggling souls; Look up and onward, thy spirit calls thee home. God Jehovah is, and thou must be.

The middle decanate of Sagittarius is sub-ruled by Mars is pictured as an Eagle, Aquilla. In later charts, it is represented as bearing the youth Antinous aloft, this youth holding a bow and arrow in one hand. In the older charts the eagle alone is pictured, the youth being present in tradition only. The Greek version of the story is that Jupiter, wishing the youth Ganymede as a cup-bearer, sent the eagle to seize and carry him up to heaven. It is also mentioned in the Rig-Veda as the bird that bore the Soma to India, rushing impetuously to the vase or pitcher. It is mentioned frequently in the Bible, as for instance, Job 39:27, Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? The Eagle is a symbol universally used for the spiritual aspect of sex, of spiritual regeneration. Scorpio was represented in its destructive aspect as a Scorpion, in its generative aspect as a Serpent, and in its regenerate aspect as an Eagle. The middle, or spiritual, decanate of Sagittarius represents the soul carried aloft by the wings of spiritualized sex Scorpio transmuted by the Higher Mind. This is clearly shown by the traditions of the Eagle being sent to bring the Cup, Crater, or passion, and carry it thru the air, or on high.

The third, or physical, decanate of Sagittarius is pictured by Sagitta, the Arrow. The inner meaning of this arrow related to the Higher Mind. It symbolizes the Soul penetrating the illusions of matter. It is pointed toward the earthy sign Capricorn, and on old monuments it is represented as an arrow sent from the bow of Mithra, from which, striking a rock, water gushes forth. The picture of Capricorn represents a goat with a fish's tail, and two of the Decans are pictured by fish. Arrows are pictured in the representations of Gemini and Sagittarius, because these signs rule the houses of Science and Philosophy. The arrow, by its speed, well symbolizes thought; and striking the problems of physical environment gives them emotional life, and endows them with an intense interest that quenches the thirst of the soul for knowledge. This is the arrow with which Apollo exterminates the Cyclops the

opposite Decan from which is the Great Bear of Gemini, for the Objective Mind which it represents has but the single eye, Reason. The religious convictions are vitalized with the emotion of a transferred personal love, love of Deity being but an abstraction of more concrete love. Hence, Sagitta is also the Arrow of Cupid.

The Armenians, Persians, Arabians and Hebrews all knew the constellation as an Arrow, and we have references to it in the Bible. Sagitta is the last Decan of Sagittarius, where the Sun finally reaches its lowest power as it passes over into the Tomb of Capricorn completely dead. In 2 Kings 13, we have an account of the Sun, under the name of Elisha, dying and commanding Joash to open the window and shoot this arrow toward the East. He then commanded Joash to take arrows and smite the ground, even as Mithra is represented smiting the rock with an arrow. The Sun is stationary, moving neither North nor South for a period of three days when it passes the Winter Solstice or Grave, and Joash smites the ground three times with an arrow, recalling the three days the Savior lay in the tomb. Elisha over whom Joash wept and said-*O my father, my father; the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!* is now dead. Yet immediately after Elisha's death (by way of the horseman Sagittarius) it is related that a dead man was cast into Elisha's grave, and when the man was let down, and he touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood up on his feet. In this manner the story of the Sun's death and resurrection from the tomb of Saturn is related in the Old Testament as well as in the New.

The tenth sign of the zodiac is Capricorn, the Sea Goat, pictured with the head and body of a goat and the tail of a fish. Capricorn is to be seen in the same form as today on the ancient Babylonian boundary stones, and was called by the Chaldeans, *the Wild Goat*. The wild goat in feeding always ascends the hills and is a climbing animal. The Sun when it enters Capricorn having reached its lowest Declination starts climbing again. Capricorn is the natural ruler of the house of business in a horoscope, and those born under that sign are noted for their diplomacy. The ability of Capricorn to use any element in which it finds itself is pictured by giving it a form in which it seems equally at home on land or sea. The Greeks called Capricorn Pan, from which we derive the word Panic. Pan, or Capricorn, being the home of Saturn, is much given to fears arising from the imagination. Pan was said to terrorize people by the mere thought of his presence, and a Panic was a fear born of the imagination. The diplomatic feature of the sign is clearly shown by the Greek tradition. Pan and some of the other gods were one day feasting on the bank of the Nile when Typhon put in an appearance. To escape they all assumed some unusual shape. Pan took the lead and dashed into the river. The part of his body that was submerged became like a fish, and the part above water changed into the form of a goat. At the time of the periodic deluge it is the dividing line between Capricorn and Aquarius rising at Sunset at the beginning of the year that announces the flood; the Autumnal Equinox passing from Aquarius into the last of Capricorn, pictured by the fish's tail. Hence, the continent that was submerged in the Pacific Ocean thru the last of Capricorn having risen at the commencement of the year, is called Pan, in honor of Capricorn.

The chief interest centering around Capricorn is due to its being the place of birth of the Sun each year. Just as the Sun begins to decline and lose strength at the Summer Solstice when it enters Cancer, so it starts to climb again and gain power when it passes into Capricorn. The Winter Solstice was called by Oriental nations *the Southern Gate of the Sun*. By the Greeks it was called *the Gate of the Gods*, thru which the souls of men released at death were supposed to pass into the next world the opposite Solstice being the *gate of Hades*.

The Akkadians, who symbolized the highest elevation of the Sun by the Tower of Babel, called the opposite solstice where it was lowest the cave of the rising. As the sign in which the Male, or Solar Deity, is born, the beard of Capricorn is always accentuated, even as Samson's hair was the source of his strength. One pronounced characteristic of a goat is his beard. The ancient Peruvians called Capricorn, Nuca, meaning, the beard, and began their year when the Sun was born at the Solstice, on Christmas, although in their case, the Sun was then really at its highest power, they viewing it from the Southern Hemisphere. Nevertheless they began the year then, the participants in the dances and festivals wearing masks with long beards, much as our Santa Claus is wont to do. And in view of the indications that the Vernal Equinox passes into Capricorn from the sign Aquarius at the period of the cataclysm by fire, it is worth mentioning that Flammarion states there are Chinese records of 2,449 B.C. (which was an important time in Egypt as well as in China) of a conjunction of planets in Capricorn; and early predictions that when all the planets met in Capricorn the world would be destroyed by fire.

Mithraic monuments show Mithra, who was born in a cave, as a new-born babe adorned by shepherds who offered first fruits. Early Christian writers such as Origen and Justin Martyr state that Jesus was born in a cave. In fact, in early Christian times, the very cave at Bethlehem where Jesus was born was pointed out and St. Jerome complained bitterly that in his day the Pagans celebrated the worship of Tammuz, another name for the Sun God, on Christmas day at Bethlehem at the cave where Jesus was supposed to have been born. Among the Chinese it is a strict point of faith that their Sun and Savior, Zas, enters the world at midnight of the 24th of December. On that occasion, it is said a golden cock which is seated on the topmost branch of the Tree of Life starts crowing and crows all night long, waking all the other cocks in the world, and they also crow. We do not offer these facts to disprove the existence of a Jewish Reformer called Jesus who lived presumably somewhere about the beginning of the present era. We offer them merely as evidence that the lives of the religious teachers and reformers who attain a wide following are made to conform by their adherents to world-old traditions of a Sun God born at midnight when the Sun starts back from the Winter Solstice.

As to the historical existence of Mohammed, Plato, and Apollonius of Tyana, there can not be the slightest doubt. Philostratus writing in the 3rd Century says Apollonius was a devout Pythagorean, a vegetarian, an ascetic, a student of medicine and astrology, a universalist in creed, and a believer in immortality. Yet the followers of Apollonius, contemporaneous with the early Christians, held that the birth of Apollonius was announced beforehand by an angel, that he was born under supernatural circumstances, and after performing many miracles and descending to Hades he finally ascended to heaven. Later followers of Plato were equally convinced of his supernatural birth, and that it had been announced beforehand by the Oracle. Marvelous tales are told concerning the birth and infancy of Confucius also, ever tending to adapt themselves to the Solar tradition. Of all the Messiahs of whom we have even traditional accounts, the most successful in obtaining speedily an immense following was Mohammed. Other religions, including Christianity, have taken centuries to gain a strong foothold, but Mohammedism overran the world almost immediately. And being so recent in point of time, one would think reliable records of his birth and early life would be forthcoming. But these, to his followers, have tended to become quite as miraculous as the birth of Jesus' wonderful reports being current as to his birth and infancy.

We have no doubt there was a reformer named Jesus who ministered among the

Jewish people, and that there was a Buddha who performed a like service for the peoples of India. But our opinion is based upon astrological considerations rather than upon any historical evidence. So far as historical records are concerned the only mention of Jesus by a contemporaneous writer seems to be in the passage of Josephus, over which there has been so much contention, and which critical scholars have unanimously decided was interpolated long after Josephus's death. The earliest mention of Jesus is a few statements preserved in an apocryphal work—the Gospel According to the Hebrews. The earliest of these passages contains references showing it to have been written shortly before or after the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70 A.D., about 40 years after the death of Jesus. These and later works were written in Greek, while the sayings of Jesus were uttered in Aramaic. It is thought that the Gospel According to the Hebrews is the source of Mark's Gospel; Mark being earlier, and the main source of the statements of Matthew and Luke. Critical analysis has revealed that Matthew, Mark and Luke, called the synoptic Gospels, are interdependent; but that John is a still later account, drawing still more from current tradition.

The synoptic gospels as we have the account, it seems certain, could not have been written before 150 A.D. It seems a strange thing that Paul knew absolutely nothing of the life of Jesus as described in the four gospels. There seem but two passages that even remotely could be construed to show such knowledge. One is the mention of the Eucharist—1 Cor. 11:23—and this passage is so clearly broken—for I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, (space) the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread—that it has been considered an interpolation. But if genuine, we have shown that the Eucharist was a common feature of Mithraic worship at that day. The other passage that might be construed to indicate some knowledge of the Life of Christ is 1 Cor 15:3-9. But in this account Paul follows not the account given in the gospels, but the older tradition of a Savior dying for the sins of the people and rising after three days; for he distinctly states—And he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; after that he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present; but some are fallen asleep. After that he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

He mentions him being seen of Cephas, or Cepheus, the first Decan of Pisces through which the Sun must pass immediately after it leaves Capricorn and before ascending to its heavenly home in the Summer half of the zodiac; but neglects to mention him being seen by the two women, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary—Andromeda and Cassiopea of the other two decanates of Pisces—as mentioned by Matthew. Mark relates that Mary Magdalene out of whom he had cast seven devils—Andromeda whom Perseus released—saw him first, and afterwards he was seen by the other two (decanates of Pisces). It is significant also that the secret sign by which the early Christians recognized each other was to draw a fish in the dust or sand. It was the religion of the Piscean age, and its main tenet was love and sacrifice, such as Pisces rules. It is evident that Paul had no knowledge of the four gospels as they now stand; for he relates that the risen Christ was seen of the twelve (signs), and also by above five hundred brethren. The four gospels state distinctly that he was seen by eleven, and make no mention of the five hundred. Mark 16:14. —Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

It is evident that the story of Judas and the betrayal was added to the gospels since the time of Paul, also that Paul knew practically nothing of the teachings and

miracles of Jesus, since he is so silent about them. The Judas tradition is but another version of the story of the deceiving Serpent at the beginning of Libra; the thirty pieces of Silver for which the Sun was betrayed into the hands of the enemy, Scorpio; Libra, being the 30 degrees between the first of Libra and the first of Scorpio. Libra is the sign of enemies (the 7th house), and the Greeks and others, as we have mentioned, removed constellated Libra, took out the 30 degrees or pieces of silver, and left a zodiac of 11 constellations, or disciples. Matthew states that Judas repented and hanged himself after the betrayal. The sacrificial altar is in Scorpio; the final house of self-undoing being ruled by Pisces, which certainly rules the potter's field which was purchased with the blood money; for Pisces rules all charitable institutions. Judas is the deceiving serpent which introduces winter; and the Serpent is actually pictured in the sky in the act of kissing the Northern Crown of the last decanate of Virgo, even as Jesus is betrayed into the sign of his enemies (Libra) with a kiss. When winter is past and the Sun passes from Pisces into the sign of the Sheep, the Sun would rise as the Serpent or Judas set, and the latter's power would be dead. Paul's account is that twelve saw him, which fits with the Roman account of Mithra. Mithraism with its rock-born infant was the most widely spread Roman Religion, and according to Porphyry the trials of initiation of Mithra were twelve in number.

John, being the latest version, goes more into details. From first of Capricorn where the Sun is buried at its lowest declination until it reaches the Vernal Equinox at the sign of the Lamb, it must pass thru three signs; This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples after he was risen from the dead. Then asking Peter (Cepheus) if he loved him, and being answered in the affirmative, to indicate the sign Aries into which he must ascend; Jesus saith unto him, feed my sheep. And lest this mystical language be misunderstood, John just previously gives an account of the Fishes of Pisces in which sign Peter, as Cepheus, is pictured; Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three; and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. Pisces as the sign of imprisonment is often associated with a net as well as with the pictured fish.

It may be surprising to some to learn that the existence of Zarathustra, or Zoroaster, as an individual can not be proven by historical documents. The existence of Manes who set up Manicheanism, a religion that flourished in Persia for a long time, can not be historically established more clearly than Mithra; both being shrouded in tradition. And still more astonishing it may seem to some who look to the Orient for wisdom to learn that Buddha can not be proved as a historical person. Neither Buddha nor Jesus left a written word; and critical scholars claim that the immediate associates of neither have left written accounts. Many sayings are falsely ascribed to Gotama Buddha, and some of the documents nearest in time to him, such as the Dialogues, are pronounced untrustworthy; while others are clearly literary creations, for they give the extemporaneous sayings of Buddha the form of verse of a highly finished literary quality. Many of his teachings, as is always the case, are old teachings presented in a slightly new dress. Buddha Sakiya is said to mean kinsmen of Buddha; the Sakyas being the tribe from which Buddha sprung; yet research fails to find record of his family. Among some Buddhist sects Gotama is said to be the last reincarnation of Buddha, he having appeared as Buddha several times before. The recent attempts to establish the historicity of Buddha by excavating tombs have so far failed. There is no more evidence that Buddha actually uttered the sayings attributed to him than that Krishna uttered the discourses the Brahmans ascribe to him.

Still more startling it may appear to most when they are informed that a party of British scientists making researches since the end of the Great War in the land now called Mingrelia, but anciently known as Colchis, assert they have discovered the magnificent palace which King Aetes built, and where lived his daughter Medea the sorceress, who is reputed to have been the assistant of Jason in recovering the Golden Fleece from her father. The miracles performed by other real or legendary characters can hardly be more wonderful than the charm Medea prepared to protect her lover from the fire-breathing bulls and from the armed Dragonmen; or the brew with which she restored Aeson, the father of Jason, to youth. Medea, heretofore considered but a myth, is now a historical fact. Her reputed adventures like those of Heroes and Saviors the world over are largely astrological traditions revealing vital principles of Natural Law, and may or may not have much foundation in fact.

As that which is above is as that which is below; and as the Naronic Cycle gives astrological positions under which it is possible for great teachers to be born; but, following cyclic law, to a different race each time; about every 600 years, the author has no doubt there was actually a Zarathustra, a Gotama Buddha, and a Jesus; just as later there was a Mohammed, a Martin Luther, and an unknown teacher. The later about 1881, now passed to the higher world, whose teachings were Life, Light, and Love; which will be more widely recognized and accepted as the Aquarian Age advances. To what extent the utterances of any of these reformers were actually voiced by them, and to what extent the actual birth and life as related is accurate, it is difficult to say. But we may be sure that in proportion to the influence they exerted in the world, their lives were shrouded in the Race-old traditions that once formed a portion of The Religion of The Stars.

The first and spiritual decanate of Capricorn is pictured by Cygnus, The Swan. The Sun's entrance into Cancer is pictured by a disreputable and perfidious cur, for the Sun then begins to lose power. The Sun's entrance into Capricorn, where it is brought to light from the rock cave of Saturn (or Satan) and begins to gain in power, is pictured by the most graceful of all creatures; the Swan. According to the first chapter of Luke, John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus, and as Jesus was born at the Winter Solstice we are left to infer that John the Baptist was born six months previously, at the Summer Solstice. This is confirmed by the statement of John the Baptist when speaking of Christ as recorded in John 3:30; He must increase, but I must decrease; which the Sun certainly does at these two opposing points. A Swan is a migratory bird, travelling to the far North in Summer, and again South in Winter, like the Sun.

The Greek tradition relates that Orpheus, the wonderful musician and hero who won Eurydice for his bride, was foully slain by the cruel priestess of Bacchus. Like other slain redeemers he was translated to Heaven; but in his case in the form of Cygnus. The dying Sun entering Capricorn lies in this rocky cavern three days without changing its declination, but at the end of that time, it starts north again and the days begin to lengthen, and it finally emerges from the tomb of winter. The brightest stars of the constellated Swan form what is popularly called the Northern Cross, a very beautiful and quite perfect figure of a cross, that well pictures the zodiacal point where the Sun crosses the Solstitial colure. The whole swan in its grace and power of flight better symbolizes the immortal soul passing thru the gate of the gods to a more perfect realm and a more perfect form; like Orpheus, who was translated to heaven after his death that he might be near his beloved harp, Lyra, and so add his accompaniment to the music of the spheres.

The Swan in its migratory flight is a prophet of the coming seasons, a messenger from heaven clothed in garments of eternal white. It is born and reared in the icy Capricorn regions of the North, even as man is born on earth and there matures. But reaching full plumage, as man reaches his estate, and the dead pall of winter approaching it wings its way to Sunnier regions in the South, to be seen no more for a time. Man, likewise passing thru the silent corridors of death, wings his way beyond this little sphere, to regions of a higher good. But like the Swan returning in the Spring as a messenger of approaching brighter days; so those who have passed beyond the ken of common mortal sight, again return from time to time to give us messages of love and cheer to announce the coming of a brighter life when death shall have claimed its own to inspire our efforts, to instruct us, and to impress upon our minds immortal Truth.

The second and physical decanate of Capricorn is pictured by Dolphin, the Dolphin. It is widely known at the present day under the popular title of Job's Coffin. The tribulations of the Sun during the dark days of winter are likened to Job's afflictions. Capricorn being the earthy sign in which the Sun is imprisoned after death on the cross is completed by passing thru the 9th hour or sign, it is well referred to as a Coffin. However, the Dolphin is associated traditionally with rescuing from death rather than with the tomb itself. In the New Testament, angels rolled away the stone that blocked the entrance of the tomb and the Savior emerges. His appearance is celebrated by Epiphany on the 6th of January when the Sun reaches the middle of the decanate pictured by the Dolphin. As the Moon is a watery planet, and the Sun is raised from the grave of Saturn only thru the co-operation of the Moon when the Sun reaches the Taurus decanate of Capricorn; it being exalted in Taurus and ruling the opposing sign Cancer to which the Sun ascends, on Jan. 1st the civil year commences the decanate it enters at that time being pictured by a creature ruled by the Moon: a Dolphin.

Earlier in this lesson we briefly related the fable of Arion who was rescued by a Dolphin. It is also said that Hesiod the famous poet, having been killed and his body thrown into the sea, it was recovered by Dolphins and brought ashore where it was found by his friends, who, aided by Hesiod's dogs, hunted down the assassins and drowned them in the sea. A Dolphin acted as life-saver in the case of Taras, the founder of Tarentum, in Italy; and the inhabitants of that city had a coin struck to commemorate the deed. Greek tradition relates that Neptune was very desirous of marrying the goddess Amphitrite, who had made a vow of perpetual celibacy. A Dolphin succeeded in persuading her to marry Neptune, and as a reward was given a place among the constellations. The Dolphin, thru its association with rescues from a watery grave, and in the case of Neptune from unrequited love, and with the biblical appearance of the Savior to his disciples is plainly a symbol of that pure love that lives beyond the Tomb. It indicates not only the power of the higher affections to save from base endeavors, but that it is possible to know and commune with loved ones who have passed beyond the grave. Where love is strong, we will be united to them when we also have passed thru the gate of the gods.

The third and intellectual decanate of Capricorn is pictured by Pisces Australis, the Southern Fish. This fish appears immediately beneath the feet of the Waterman, Aquarius, and seems to be drinking the water that flows from his urn. Maunder, referring to this constellation, says: "Strangely enough, thru all the long centuries that the starry symbols have come down to us, Aquarius has always been shown as pouring forth a stream of water into the mouth of a fish, surely the strangest and most bizarre of symbols." As the pictured Southern Fish lives in

the water poured from the urn of Aquarius, it is necessary to consider the sign Aquarius, the 11th sign of the zodiac, in connection with it, so that its import may be fully understood.

Aquarius is pictured as a man bearing on his right arm an urn which he turns bottom up, permitting its water to flow in a constant stream down upon the earth. His left hand, stretched back and upward, holds a gauge, supposed to be the original of the 12 inch gauge of Masonry. This gauge is held perpendicularly above the sign Capricorn, as if to measure the distance, or relation, between heaven and earth. In experimental astrology the sign Aquarius is found to rule the house of Friends, and to be the most progressive sign of the zodiac. Aquarius people are keenly interested in education, incline strongly to the study of the occult sciences, astrology in particular, tend to become humanitarians, and believe and teach altruism. The key to the sign's influence is Wisdom, and the next strongest influence is Altruism. The two wavy lines by which it is commonly denoted were once two serpents traveling in opposite directions, and symbolize creative cooperation and the balance of Reason and Intuition. Aquarius represents wisdom gained thru partaking of the fruit of the Tree of Good and Evil.

In Lesson #78, we have fully explained the relation of the point between the last decanate of Capricorn, pictured by the Southern Fish, and the first of Aquarius in connection with the cataclysms that occur during each Great Solar Cycle. We mentioned that the time of the Deluge, or immersion of the earth in water, the baptism in the stream flowing from Aquarius's Urn, is determined by the heavenly doves, the Pleiades being on the Mid-Heaven at the commencement of the astronomical year just as the Sun sets in the West as Aquarius starts to rise in the East. It has also been pointed out that the Solstice of Cancer corresponds to John the Baptist, and that this Solstice is opposite the Doves at the time of the baptism of the world by water, and coincides with the Doves at its baptism by fire.

Matthew 3:11. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes (understanding) I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. Mark 1. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him; And there came a voice from heaven saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

After the baptism Jesus was driven into the wilderness 40 days, much as Noah was cast about during 40 days rain, and the people were dispersed at the Tower of Babel. The doves, or Pleiades, not only determine the period of cataclysm, but it will be found that each year when the Sun enters Aquarius, the first decanate of Taurus, pictured by the Pleiades, will culminate on the Mid-Heaven as the sign of Man, Aquarius, sinks below the waters in the west on the Equator exactly at sunset; and immediately after moves further North. The three decanates thru which the Sun must next pass are all pictured by animals, hence may be called a wilderness. The first decanate is pictured by a Horse, the second by a Winged Horse, and the third by a Monster Whale. The co-ruler of Aquarius is Saturn, or Satan, who tempted him. The winged horse is the angel that ministered unto him. Forty days carries the Sun thru these three decanates and thru the first decanate of Pisces pictured by Cepheus (meaning a stone) And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he

was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. These forty days after the baptism of the Sun by entering Aquarius takes it to the middle decanate of Pisces, pictured by Andromeda in Greek tradition, Prometheus who, thru love of mankind, sacrificed his life and underwent perpetual torment that they might prosper. Lent in Old English means to lengthen, the days rapidly lengthening during the 40 days before Easter.

The Southern Fish is the fish Peter (Cepheus) took with a coin (token of reward for effort) in its mouth. Being the Virgo decanate of Capricorn, it represents partaking of the harvest of Love and Wisdom poured upon earth from the Urn of Aquarius. Aquarius measures the heavens and the earth with one hand, lifting the hand to receive from higher sources. With the other hand he pours the accumulated wisdom of ages down upon those below, represented by the Southern Fish. Men vainly think they originate ideas, that they propound new theories and discover new facts. But all ideas worthy of the name, all important discoveries, all real wisdom, comes from minds no longer incarnated on earth.

All the ideas ever thought on earth have left their records in the astral substance surrounding earth. The great minds who once lived on earth, and those that never were of earth, continue to search the laboratories of nature for new facts. In the spirit world there are great schools of science, music, art, and invention, corresponding to such schools here, but with greater facilities for discerning facts. Those who think intently along some line, who love some special knowledge, thru the intensity of their desire raise their vibrations to a pitch where they contact streams of knowledge. The Holy Ghost descends upon them. They drink in knowledge from higher planes as the Southern Fish drinks water. They are immersed in astral currents of Wisdom. Jesus acknowledged that his power came from a higher source. All real Adepts acknowledge that their wisdom comes from those still wiser who occupy the inner planes. Only the ignorant or materially minded, or mere pretenders to occult knowledge, deny that their information flows like the water of Aquarius' Urn from a higher source.

The first and physical decanate of Aquarius is pictured by Equuleus, the horse's head. A horse, because of speed and ability to carry the rider to the desired destination, is a symbol of thought. In Greek mythology this is the horse Celeris, the brother of Pegasus, given by Mercury to Castor, one of the Twins. It is known to the Hindus as one of the horses that carry the Twins' Pegasus, the Flying horse of the second decanate of Aquarius being the other.

Equuleus is the horse that Haman desired as related in Esther: "And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honor, and bring him on horseback thru the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor." It is also the horse mentioned in Psalms 33:17: "An horse is a vain thing for safety; neither shall he deliver any by his great strength." The thoughts represented by Equuleus, the horse's head, are those derived solely from physical experience. Belonging to the physical decanate of the sign of Wisdom, it symbolizes Worldly Wisdom: a very useful steed, but not to be compared, either in speed or reliability, to Pegasus, the Winged Horse, belonging to the intellectual decanate of the same heavenly Sign.

The Brotherhood of Light.
Box 1525, Los Angeles, Calif.

Branch Letter 1/2 L.
Serial 82.
Course VII.

Branch of Science 1/2 Spiritual Astrology
The Religion of the Stars
Part XII.

The Harp of Heaven, the Eagle, Sea Goat and Dolphin Savior
Examination Questions.

1. What historical evidence is there that Jesus ever lived?
2. What was St. Jerome's complaint regarding the worship of Tammuz at Bethlehem?
3. What resemblance is there between the movements of a wild goat and the Sun when it enters Capricorn?
4. What is symbolized by Sagitta?
5. Where in the sky is the golden vials full of odors, the blood of sacrifice, the crown, harp, and book sealed with Seven Seals?
6. What does the constellation Equuleus symbolize?
7. What is meant by the Holy Ghost descending upon a person?
8. Where in the sky is located the Angel that ministered to Jesus in the wilderness?
9. What is signified by the gauge held in the grasp of the upraised hand of Aquarius?
10. In what way does Dolphin act as a life-saver in ancient tradition?
11. What is signified by the statement of John the Baptist: "He must increase, but I must decrease"?
12. Upon what testimony may we conclude there were actually teachers by the names of Zarathustra, Buddha, and Jesus?
13. What documentary proof is there that Buddha, Zoroaster, and Manes ever lived?
14. Were Apollonius, Mohammed, and Plato held by their followers to have been born by natural means?
15. What is the fable of Pan that explains the derivation and meaning of the word Panic?
16. What is symbolized by the dead man being resurrected when thrown into Elisha's grave?
17. What does the Lyre symbolize?
18. In Revelation, what is signified by the four beasts with six wings and full of eyes within?
19. Why is a horse a universal symbol of thought?
20. What represents the wilderness into which Jesus was driven immediately after his baptism?
21. Why at the baptism of Jesus is the descent of the Holy Ghost represented in the form of a dove?
22. What is symbolized by the stream of water from the urn of Aquarius which is poured into the mouth of the Southern Fish?
23. Why does the civil year begin on the 1st of January instead of at the Winter Solstice?
24. Why is the Swan a messenger of a brighter life?
25. What evidence is there that the mythological character, Medea, really lived?

26. Where is the Greek $\tau\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\iota\sigma\tau\alpha$ gate of the Gods $\tau\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\iota\sigma\tau\alpha$, and the Akkadian $\tau\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\iota\sigma\tau\alpha$ the cave of the rising $\tau\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\iota\sigma\tau\alpha$?

27. What is symbolized by Aquilla?