

EVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

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Introduction

Deep understanding of the signs of the zodiac becomes essential for any way of looking at astrology that attempts to offer evolutionary keys to the consciousness development of the human being. Esoteric astrology affords a vision of necessary depth, being a discipline that brings into view spaces and times vaster than those contained on the human scale.

In broad outline it may be said that the individual's response to the qualities and processes of the signs depends on his stage of development and on his cultivated sensitivity to the capacities and functions indicated by the planets. In their turn, signs and planets receive and emit energies coming in from distant sources – rays or departments – and that they are the basis of all psychological types found within the solar system in general and within the human kingdom in particular.

In the hypothesis put forward by esoterics and esoteric astrology, we must assume the existence of kinds of matter, consciousness, and dynamism far above that which we mean by human mentality and emotionality, reflecting such timeless axioms as “energy follows thought”, “thoughts are things”, and “ideas rule the world”.

It is thought that the prototypes for the energies of the seven rays originate from the seven principal stars of Ursa Major, and that each ray, having passed through three zodiacal constellations, arrives at the centre of the solar system, whence they are distributed to the planets that are akin to those ray energies, being therefore capable of assimilating and transmitting them. After being emitted from the planets, those energies circulate through the entire system, reaching the sphere of our Earth after having traversed the twelve sectors of space or signs of the zodiac and influencing and qualifying the whole planetary life.

Thus each sign transmits between one and three known ray energies, and of each planet we know the principal ray which it transmits among other less relevant ones.

The relations between planets and signs called “rulerships” make up the central framework for understanding the zodiac. Rulership should be understood as the capacity for ruling or directing the energy of some definite sign with a definite understanding and towards a more or less conscious objective; and in its turn, each sign could be referred to by three generic states of consciousness, so that each of these states of consciousness is ruled by some planet.

These three stages of evolution or states of evolved consciousness are thus reflected in the exoteric ruler, the esoteric ruler, and the initiatic or hierarchic ruler. Expressed differently: 1) human collective consciousness, still without individualized thought; 2) consciousness of the more advanced human being who tries to take responsibility for his feelings, thoughts, and actions; and finally 3) consciousness and capacity for realization of that individual who has assumed responsibility for the collective on a planetary scale.

In the present brief essay we shall try to synthesize, broaden, our way of looking at the process of development, and introduce new keys to understanding it.

The Seven Rays

First Ray, I	Purpose, Will, Power	Politics, sociology. Large-scale changes. Synthesis.
Second Ray, II	Love, Wisdom.	Education, consciousness development. Unity.
Third Ray, III	Intelligent activity.	Economy. Development of civilization. Plans and theories.
Fourth Ray, IV	Harmony through conflict.	Culture, art. Ennoblement Processes of reconciliation.
Fifth ray, V	Concrete knowledge.	Science, technology. Psychology. Formulas and programmes.
Sixth Ray, VI	Devotion and idealism.	Religion. Uplift, betterment, urge towards the ideal.
Seventh Ray, VII	Magic and ritual order.	Organization, materialization, administration.

Rays and Signs

First Ray, I	Aries, Leo, Capricorn	Aries	I, VII
		Taurus	IV
Second Ray, II	Gemini, Virgo, Pisces	Gemini	II
		Cancer	III, VII
Third Ray, III	Cancer, Libra, Capricorn	Leo	I, V
		Virgo	II, VI
Fourth Ray, IV	Taurus, Scorpio, Sagittarius	Libra	III
		Scorpio	IV
Fifth Ray, V	Leo, Sagittarius, Aquarius	Sagittarius	IV, V, VI
		Capricorn	I, III, VII
Sixth Ray, VI	Virgo, Pisces, Sagittarius	Aquarius	V
Seventh Ray, VII	Aries, Cancer, Capricorn	Pisces	II, VI

Rays and Planets

Vulcan	I – (5, 1)	Pluto	(6) I (5)
Jupiter	II – (7, 2)		
Saturn	III – (1, 5)	Earth	(2) III (4)
Mercury	IV – (3,5)		
Venus	V – (2,4)		
Neptune	VI – (4, 2)	Mars	(1) VI (5)
Uranus	VII – (3, 5)		

The Roman figures indicate the given ray, the others are speculations supported by more or less consensus. The fields indicated correspond broadly to “soul”, “personality”, and mind. In the left column (“sacred planets”), the given ray corresponds to its higher aspect. The three planets in the right column influence more the personality. All planets have a higher and a lower expression which are activated according to their rulerships.

Rulers of the Signs

	Exoteric Ruler	Esoteric Ruler	Initiatic Ruler
Aries	Mars	Mercury	Uranus
Taurus	Venus	Vulcan	Vulcan
Gemini	Mercury	Venus	Earth
Cancer	Moon (Neptune)	Neptune	Neptune
Leo	Sun (Jupiter)	Neptune	Uranus
Virgo	Mercury	Moon (Vulcan)	Jupiter
Libra	Venus	Uranus	Saturn
Scorpio	Mars	Mars	Mercury
Sagittarius	Jupiter	Earth	Mars
Capricorn	Saturn	Saturn	Venus
Aquarius	Uranus	Jupiter	Moon (Uranus)
Pisces	Jupiter	Pluto	Pluto

Aries

The basic characteristic of Aries is the capacity for setting in motion and initiating new cycles of development through the dynamic energy of the purpose, which finds psychological expression as will. As a consequence of the right direction of this energy, the Aries individual obtains the capacity to manifest and precipitate effects in the physical world.

The only forces which the human being knows to be capable of persistently containing the will to realization and manifestation are found in the mental world. It is in the mind that the designs and drafts of all that is must be created, whether it be in the cosmic mind or in the human mind. The first ray flowing through Aries guarantees the unwavering fixity of the design, and the seventh ray affords the capacity for making it appear in the light of day. The birthplace of the ideas is the place where what is new makes its way with will to impose itself and persist. Great ability is necessary to lead the power of ideas without causing undue or unnecessary destruction.

Will to be. Power to manifest. Fight for an ideal.

Blind, not directed experience. Instinctive reaction. Impetus.

Let the form be sought anew.

The beginning makes reference to that creative impulse which cyclically gives rise to new and better forms, whether they be envelopes of incarnation, peoples, cultures, religions, races, civilizations, or forms of much longer cycles.

Mars rules the first phases of development as purely instinctive reaction of self-assertion and survival. It signifies the primary instinct of all organic and psychological forms to persist, struggling with all its powers against all adverse factors and hindrances. This is initially carried out blindly and instinctively, without premeditation or calculation of consequences. As a result, harmony is often upset, and the subject of Aries as often meets with unexpected opposition in his dynamic spontaneity. His fresh and seemingly exhaustless energy of making himself felt is often curbed by the limitations imposed by the law emerging from the opposite sign, Libra, which guarantees the rights of all. Later the pioneering drive of Aries and its ability to clear the way in new fields of expression is aligned more efficiently with super-human forces to achieve outstanding results.

Effort directed by the personality. Impelling force.

Mercury begins to regulate Mars, so that instinct gradually yields to reflection and an organized search for results, which secures the attainment of the aims. This effort to direct the mental, emotional, and physical energies of the personality is subject to swings, however, and takes place within a general situation of imbalance, lack of control, and need for rationally solving the conflicts that arise.

The initial successes make the inexperienced man feel euphoria, relaxation, and an excess of confidence, often with disastrous results. The energies that the subject of Aries must learn to control are pre-eminently of a mental nature. The energies of autonomous mental forms may cause destruction, like the man-eating mares of Diomedes, and that native of Aries who does not learn how to hold the reins of his thought life in a firm grip will be subject to unrestrainable fluctuations of little known kinds of electricity, resulting in idées fixes and obsessions.

The Aries individual makes constant efforts to reach the balance of the opposite sign, Libra, in order to learn the rudiments of building those forms of which he feels the impulse to make possible. Balance comes from knowing the laws and the limits, the numbers and the harmonious proportions and the correct relations.

In the understanding and attainment of balance, the energy of the fourth ray (harmony through conflict) of Mercury is instrumental. In the first place, the new ideas always confront the

inertia of old patterns, and the contact between the new and the old is made in the midst of a consuming fire. On the other hand, the vision of possibilities and of expanses of greater freedom is hindered by the fictions called “the jungles of illusion”, which have to be burned down for the way to be cleared. This is the process ruled by Mercury, a sustained elimination of the contradictions of thought for the unanimity of harmony to burst in and overcome all hindrances, doubts, and waverings. It is about perspective thinking beyond polarity capable of integrating multiple factors in a synthetic and coherent picture.

Recognition of and work with the Plan. Will

I rise and from the mental world I rule.

In this way new levels of abstraction are reached where it is possible to contact evolutionary designs and plans that are far-reaching and projected into the future. This makes the Aries individual a true pioneer and herald of the new under the dynamic weight of Uranus and the seventh ray, which secure their realization and precipitation in the physical world. The perfect Aries individual is the true magician and initiator of forms, knower of the laws of building of thought forms consistent with divine ideas. This is possible only after a perfect alignment with the superindividual energies that rule evolution, after they have overcome any tendency to egoism and having replaced it with a vision of the common good of the higher collective. That will to good which emanates from higher worlds makes the ideas that Aries brings into manifestation irresistible. The Aries individual rules without opposition, because he carries the banner of the greater good.

Taurus

In Taurus we see the great force of the emotional world set in motion towards that which is considered desirable. We have here the directing aspect of the will, the ability to attract and set in motion in a definite direction through the illumination of the way. This relation between illumination or understanding of the beauty of the final goal, and the driving power of desire, is the basis of the subjective values of the human being, of that which he considers valuable. The shift of values goes from momentary and transitory gratification to that imperishable bliss which begins with the insight of one's own divinity. In this consists the indelible relation of the Buddha with this sign.

This process of clarifying the nature of desire is arduous and laborious, characterized by the conflict that rages in the battlefield of the emotional world, where the forces of aggression and psychological discomfort war against psychological principles of harmonization. Taurus transmits basically the energy of harmony thought conflict.

Desire. Aspiration. Will. Illumination.

Selfish desire. The Light of the Earth.

Let struggle be undismayed.

In the lower regions of the emotional world the forces of repulsion dominate, in which the dominance of one force over another produces pleasure. The taste for material possessions (the Light of the Earth) is the source of sensuous pleasure is strengthened and increased at lower stages if in addition there is dispute about them. Every individual's search for his exclusive benefit comes into conflict with the desire of all the others. This expression of lower Venus, however, prepares the way towards a more rational and harmonious view of existence. The way goes through the breakdown of certainties unquestioned during ages, which give the Taurus individual a monolithic and obstinate simplicity that enables him to rush forward blindly, sometimes furiously, against all rational evidence. The eye is closed.

Aspiration. The Light of Love.

When the higher expression of Venus begins to emerge with its fifth-ray energy, the Taurus individual begins to glimpse possibilities of a much more shining beauty, and learns how to appreciate ever more sophisticated things, until he arrives at the higher stage of culture where the individual values the arts and the expressions of higher emotionality. Tired of conflict, he aspires to inner and outer harmony and to a state of peace which can come only from the light that the mind sheds while emphasizing, through its rationality, that the right proportions of beautiful forms contain the keys to the right relations between human beings (harmonious societal forms) and within man (health and psychological wisdom).

The insight dawns that life is harmony and that the nature of irrational desire for what is transient is the cause of everlasting dissatisfaction and suffering, as the Buddha indicated. It does not emerge, however, until it has delivered a tremendous battle in the opposite sign, Scorpio, against the serpent of illusion, and succumbed to the elemental forces which possess, stifle, and crush the human spirit. The possessions that man longs for end by burying the Phoenix in the tomb of matter, only to make him rise time and again triumphant. The dark night gives way to the shining sun.

Higher Venus constantly directs man towards higher values, towards a vision of relations of harmonious cooperation in the world of unity ("the Light of Love"). This force of aspiration, of longing for higher energy and matter, is a mighty energy for individual uplift and triumph, without which all further progress is impossible. Aspiration towards the higher enables the individual to begin to acquire noble qualities (affection, sympathy, admiration), the door through which it is possible to see the illumined path. Only then can Vulcan take charge of the process of form-building that was begun in Aries.

To live illuminated. The Light of Life.

I see, and when the eye is opened, all is illuminated.

Vulcan and the Sun are one. Vulcan is the planet that knows and most closely represents the solar purpose through the first ray of will and power. When this will bursts into the mind like a flash of understanding, we are blinded and everything lower disappears. In the inverse situation where mankind is found, blind to what is higher, it does not detect Vulcan, nor discerns it as it is wrapped in the Sun's light. Vulcan is found inside the orbit of Mercury.

Through Vulcan we acquire indispensable qualities in the evolutionary process, above all trust in self, which arises through the understanding of the nature of the self, and persistence, that quality which leads to success. Both are related to the will and are the culmination of that process which began by a setting in motion in the emotional world as desire, the redirection of the force of the bull towards the higher as aspiration through the intervention of the mind (Nandi, the white bull of desire which is mounted by Shiva and which blocks the energies from the lower worlds), and finally reaches the origin of the driving force of evolution grasped through the mind.

It is possible to understand the self only as the smallest individual and indivisible point that makes an act of will possible. No act of will, no decision, is separated from the self issuing it. The self makes its way through the mind and is grasped by it as a source of consciousness and will different from thoughts, feelings, and the body. Venus represents, among other things, the energy of the higher mind and of the fifth ray which enables the individual to define his separate and self-determined identity. Vulcan is the energy of the will comparable with the self capable of organizing and directing the energies of the human personality (mental, emotional, and physical) and integrating them freely within a greater whole. This understanding of the autonomy and capacity of individual will for coordination above and integration below is the final result of that process of illumination which the rulers of this sign guarantee along the path of human development.

As a method, the energy of Vulcan expresses itself as the unremitting forging of qualities and abilities once the light has revealed the beauty of the fixed design and the goal of human evolution. It works with the rhythmic impulse of time, changing unserviceable patterns, setting consciousness free, and forming new habits reaching down to the depths of man's physical nature. The one illuminated eye in the forehead of the bull, the centre in the middle of the forehead, is the instrument through which human perfection is visualized and realized.

Gemini

The creative process of the deity shifts in Gemini to the domain of the etheric, the physical world of subtle energies underlying the gross reality perceived by the senses, a domain where lines of communication and interaction encompass the whole planet, the whole solar system, all space. In this way unity is an inevitable fact, since all things are interconnected. It is because of this that Gemini basically conveys the energy of the second ray, which not only makes a unified vision possible but also makes the very essence of relationship, mutual recognition, and brotherhood take root.

Fluidity. Recognition of duality. Control by the soul.

Change of relation. "I serve myself."

Let instability do its work.

At its initial stage, evolution often starts from the immobility and obstinacy of the previous sign and then moves towards more fluid standpoints. The relations between individuals, nations, kingdoms, planets, solar systems, and constellations make it possible to convey necessary energies and matters from one point to another. Because of that, Mercury begins his work by inciting to commerce, communication, and interchange. What began as an unchangeable and solid value such as gold, changes and becomes more fluid. A change is made in the blind appropriation of matter, and the concept of service makes its way through the same experience of privation and dearth. The self looks on his brother with curiosity. A world of impressions in constant change overwhelms his senses, and the only way of survival is ongoing adaptation to those changes with chameleon-like agility, speed, versatility, and imitation. The Gemini individual ends knowing more about the environing world than about himself. Everything is relative, above all the truth. Everything is exchangeable, once its price is known, and everything has its quantitative price, which hides its quality. With his logic the Gemini sophist can convince anyone of anything.

Orientation towards "I serve my brother".

The amassing of information ends when the individual senses his incapacity to afford a meaning to everything and the impossibility of finding an important direction. Disorientation is complete, and just as in the myth, the individual explores all the cardinal points in search of a basic orientation. All views are equally valid, ending up in being equally false. The search for personal gain with its strategy of profiting intelligently from every opportunity fails in everything except in limiting the search on the surface and searching instead only in the depth, due to the influence of the opposite sign. Sagittarius, a sign of science and search, reveals the universal character of objective facts. Truth exists, is common to all, and can be determined by the aid of higher forces. Only after this centralized effort does Mercury finish his work and yields to Venus.

Information is transmuted into knowledge only under the influence of Venus and the fifth ray. A coherent system begins to give sense to reality, and by its objectivity and unanimity it opens the doors to higher understanding of relation, duality, interaction, communication, and service. Multiple dualities appear in his consciousness: what is outer, objective, and what is inner, subjective, what is higher and more inclusive and what is lower and more exclusive, the open circulation that conveys life, and the paralysing congestion that inhibits and gives pain, the need of having others participate, and the individual's ability to respond to that need; it is about those who are younger and need us, and those who are ahead of us and teach us. The circulation of vital electricity through the etheric web of relations depends on the recognition of the difference in potential. In this way it is possible to take and give, but everything begins by giving. This is the effect of Venus, which culminates with the insight of the most important duality.

Right relation. "I serve the One."

I recognize my other self and in the waning of that self I grow and glow.

The advanced subject of Gemini prepares to enter the dominions of vertical telepathy by the aid of the influence of Venus. He must acquire systematic knowledge of reality and adapt his mind to the reception of group vibrations coming from that with which his higher mentality can put him in touch. Through study, meditation, and service he comes under the law of group advance and of the schools of higher teaching. He must be able to begin to conceive of his self differently from what he had conceived himself and that with which he had been identified. He acts as if he were in possession of the greatest human abilities conceivable and, by identifying himself with them, he sees how his old identification with limitation diminishes to the point of disappearing, and only the vision of a task to be achieved by his new, radiant identity remains. He then has to rise to the world of ideas and perspective thinking, amass details, and initiate the work of transmuting knowledge into wisdom, the original impulse that made him set out on his voyage in search of the golden apples, the voyage that brought him to the feet of the deity and with the globe of the earth on his shoulders. We find here the last ruler of the sign, the very planet Earth, as the field of service and expression, where he through his multiple etheric channels distributes the ideas which he has contacted in the world of Platonic ideas through his higher mind, and which he now has the opportunity to formulate comprehensibly and communicate to others. In this way he helps create the all-comprehensive net of communications, conveying the appropriate facts which all can confirm and which promote unanimity with respect to the nature of reality, the destiny of man and of the other natural kingdoms, and the possibilities of action. Brotherhood is demonstrated in action.

Cancer

In Cancer we set out on a voyage across the heavens, on board the Ark or the ship of the Argonauts, from the waves of the common life to the heights of self-realization in Capricorn. Cancer reminds us constantly of our common origin, our collective nature which we share with all the kingdoms of nature, all that which has made our evolution easier, all those with whom we have shared the past and tied the bonds of unity.

The third ray and the seventh, which pass through this sign, indicate the eminently practical handling of its energies. In the animal kingdom it is a matter of efficient coordination of the instinct so that the intellect can develop from it. In the human kingdom it is the development of the intellect so that this may in due time be replaced with the widened insight afforded by the intuition, or the consciousness of unity. The handling of wholes, such as kingdoms, clans, nations, or cultures, requires intelligence of a high degree to respond to the collective needs, as does also the managing of an environment where groups of individuals can securely embark on their great adventure: the development of consciousness.

Mass consciousness. Collectivity. Instinct. Intelligent response.

Blind unity is lost. The masses.

Let isolation be the rule and yet the crowd exists.

Where consciousness sleeps, movement is not possible. When it begins to awaken, it makes the preparations for the great voyage. Incipient, passive, and receptive consciousness, which characterizes instinct, is the basic means for managing and moving large collectives in a coherent manner and induce identical responses to the same impulses. In this way, the great devas handle the numerous and swarming flocks and herds of the animal kingdom. This is the first beginning of consciousness development, and mankind shares still to a great extent this kind of consciousness with the animal kingdom. The consciousness of the animal species is in this undifferentiated manner based on a true mass psychosis to which human beings are not foreign. The aim is that the individual walks out of the matrix of the collective and begins to organize independently his own movements.

In the first phases, however, the individual is highly dependent on his family and tribe. He has lost part of that emotional sensitivity which connected him permanently with the collective and afforded him security and company. What he before experienced within, he now sees without. The inner codes which he had at his disposal as instinctive response he now has to learn and make habitual by repetition. Even in the midst of the masses, he feels alone and, above all, without protection.

Unity awakens to that which is around. The home.

Neptune rules supreme in the sign of collective sensitivity, but at the first stages its potency is veiled by the Moon, which buffers appropriately all those impacts which would cause premature disorganization of the psyche and relapse into the original mass psychosis. However, previous unity has disappeared, having ceded to many units struggling to survive. The herd impulse is still too strong to prevent wild flight, but the energy of the fourth ray representing the Moon will pass through many phases of conflict before incipient harmonization will be possible.

The group protects the Cancer individual in this phase, where the possibilities of self-determination hardly exist. Tribe and family govern the life of the individual who for the moment does not dare to question the norms and taboos, many times irrational. His identity is collective and heightened against other rival collective identities. The process of harmonization and fusion runs through many long ages until the first signs of national identity arise, all the time influenced by feelings of belonging.

The lunar process begins to deposit in the subconscious of the individual dregs of dissatisfaction, which become more noticeable as his intellect develops and, with that, the possibility of doing things differently from traditional ways. Unresolved conflicts in his past holds back the progress of the individual until he learns not to look back. From the opposite sign, Capricorn, he learns responsibility for his own feelings and emotions, and the necessity of becoming the master of his destiny by emancipating himself from the collective. Before that, he must be assured of the fact that life is well-intended and so establish contact with Neptune and its healing view of reality: he has never been alone, has never been left without attention or supervision in his development by the those responsible for evolution, his clan has done more for him than he can imagine. It is rather he who has separated himself from the stream of life behind protective barriers which he now must learn to pull down by becoming inclusive.

The whole seen as one. Mankind.

I build a lighted house and therein dwell.

In this way the individual's openness to the energy of unity eliminates fear of everything and enables the individual to give himself up to a widened view of reality which conveys to him the idea that only by being harmless will he be safe. This openness means first the activation of his higher emotions, which will strengthen his higher aspirations and make him withdraw from the remainders of his past immaturity and from the negativity of the collective subconscious, to make this fall into oblivion. With the constructive energies of his now opened heart centre he dedicates himself to putting his house, his surroundings, and his aura in order to make them a centre of shining radiation and himself a beneficial and healing influence. Neptune puts him in contact with the needs of the collective, with the effect that through his developed sense of responsibility for the whole he becomes a highly efficient individual who manages the law of economy like no one else and without leaving anyone outside. Master of his habitat, he now turns it into a home for all.

Leo

The emancipation from the collective achieves a first stable manifestation in Leo, and growing self-confidence and self-determination lead the Leo subject to make daring attempts and experiments which finally show him his ability to rule himself, then his environment, and to command in splendid isolation – apparently. In the world, the first personalities are appearing. In the course of history they are few. In our days, fewer than we believe. In the future, during the age of Aquarius, the number of dominant individuals will become a real problem.

Self-consciousness is the awareness of being a self with a unique, individual identity, endowed with autonomy and capacity for directing itself, and for planning and achieving its aims. The development of this kind of consciousness to its ultimate consequences is the goal of development for the human being. To be efficient, self-consciousness must be continuous, a capacity acquired by effort during many cycles until the individual can keep his attention constantly on himself as the one directing energies – projects and ideas. The Leo individual succeeds in advancing along this line thanks to the energy of the first ray, which conveys continuity of aim, continuity of direction, and continuity of self-consciousness. But not less thanks to intelligence, which is conveyed by the fifth ray. With this intelligence he can build a definite mental identity that knows what it wants to know and how to achieve it – a personality.

Individuality and true self-consciousness. Will to illuminate, rule, and dominate.

The lower self. The hidden point.

Let other forms exist. I rule because I am.

In the experiences that lead to the gradual acquisition of self-consciousness, there is more self-will than intelligence to begin with. The understanding of the fact that the free expression of one's own will must not violate the right of others to the same presupposes a certain level of intelligence which, generally speaking, is not there. On this lower level the Sun is said to rule as a symbol of this first synthesis of individual will blind to the wills of the others, especially if they are in a potential state only. In fact, this Sun veils an expansive and radiant Jupiter principle, inebriated by success and complacency, which needs only its force as justification for domination. The Nemean Lion defeated is the symbol of that perilousness which sooner or later is subdued for the peace of all. Arbitrariness and privilege are the antithesis of that law which governs all. It is fortunate that a lower principle can and should be controlled by a higher principle.

The higher self. The revealed point.

As it develops, consciousness expands in space and includes it at the same time. The point of self-consciousness, which takes the form of an individual identity, becomes sensitive to its surroundings, at first as a mere extension of its own personality and subject to its own will, later as a collective of lives some of which need guidance and many have their own autonomous direction. Leo's splendid isolation ends when these wills equal to its own are revealed, and his autocratic empire collapses before the reality of the collective of equals which he discovers through the opposite sign, Aquarius, perhaps when confronted with insurrection and exile. This is possible only when the Sun cedes its rulership to Neptune, which represents the activation of the heart centre, through which not only sensitivity to the surroundings grows and consciousness expands, but which also makes it possible to truly understand the solar function of Leo as the heart of the system, pumping tirelessly energy of concord and unity. In this way the Sun expresses and perfects its second-ray energy through Neptune, and becomes a "Lion Heart", warm and strong. From dictator he passes into the benevolent guarantor of the unity of all, whether it be a little group such as a family, or an

enterprise, or even a nation. Inspiring with his example and illuminating with his clear insight as to the aim, he wins the unanimous assent of the collective to the achievement of super-personal goals.

The One self. The rejected point.

I am That and That am I.

After the defeat of the Lion, only the hide remains, the mask that, separated from the actor, has no life of its own and is subordinated to the leadership of the higher principle. The lion's tail is all that is left of the personal principle in the symbol of Leo, after that impersonality has been conquered which gives access to worlds in which countless perfect individuals cooperate. Before that, the individual crosses that burning ground which is prepared through the electric intelligence of Uranus, blotting out every trace of separation without losing individuality and attaining the higher synthesis of collective consciousness and self-consciousness. The individual's aura widens and forms with precision the collective web, radiating and maintaining the circulation through it, and new and more dynamic forms of organization are precipitated into the physical world thanks to a unique form of leadership that rejects none. The individual's identity embraces all and the individual identifies himself with the all.

Virgo

When we arrive in Virgo we meet the female and receptive power of nature working within the dark, deep, and warm womb of time, where the veiled form is being shaped, the germ of divinity, the rule of conscious mind over matter with the aim of raising it. The physical matter we know has issued from a past cycle where it was endowed with the power of germination. In all religions this idea has found expression in thought forms of female deities (Eva, Isis, Maya/Mary), and in the idea that the Holy Spirit (etheric matter) overshadowed the Virgin (gross matter). This actualization of the potential of matter for germination and thus salvation from the inertia of a previous cycle is the reason why Virgo conveys in the current cycle energies of the second and sixth rays, consciousness of unity or Christ consciousness, and elevation. This makes Virgo in her higher expression eminently a sign of healing, right functioning, and restoration of physical and spiritual integrity.

Christ in you, the hope of glory. Matriarchy, gestation, glorification.

The energy of germination. The Mother.

Let matter reign.

During long eons, however, none of this silent activity is perceived. Slowly intelligence awakens, learns, and makes clear to itself how everything works. In the human being this process is ruled by Mercury, and mental development is in raised to its exaltation in this sign. The analysis of matter leads to increasingly finer discrimination in the world of thought, and upon the understanding of the natural world follows a faint glimpse of the intelligence of the creative mind behind manifestation, that glimpse which Mercury later will transform into intuition. But speaking in general terms it should be said that the male, dynamic factor is unknown, and the mother reigns supreme in the queendom of self-sufficient amazons. Time and again the analysis proves insufficient for the restoration of good functioning, and the subject of Virgo is one of the victims of that dejection, pessimism, and division which short-sighted and constant criticism breeds. When Hercules enters the scene and snatches Hippolyte's girdle and kills her, the man has finally not understood anything of the essence of life. And where there is no vision, the peoples perish.

Creative force. The Protector.

Mortifying asceticism and inhibitions of all kinds on the one hand and the total absence of regulation on the other are signs of a fragmented mind incapable of perceiving the wholeness of the profound design. The analytical mind is irrational since it is unable to see how all things are united and related, and in its desperate attempts at making it all work well, all is working badly. Only the deep insight into the unity of all things, which arises in the opposite sign, Pisces, can restore faith in the good intentions of life and in the beneficial and healing effects of unity. The Moon, symbol in Virgo of gross and devitalized matter, has hindered the individual hitherto from seeing the protecting dynamism of Vulcan as vital electricity capable of imposing different rhythms and habits oriented to achieving the unity of Neptune which the Moon also has veiled hitherto. Then begins a hopeful period of deep transmutation and transformation where not only the organism but also the mind and the heart become purified as a result of rational disciplines. Matter – mental, emotional, and physical – is finally raised, at least sufficiently to be able to connect and convey higher impulses with less distortion. A subtle discrimination between matters, feelings, and valid thought-forms makes it possible to acquire a valuable magnetic purity which turns the Virgo individual into an intelligent, able, and efficient server characterized by wisdom and attractive power.

The Christ activity. The Light.

I am the Mother and the Child. I God, I matter am.

The birth of Christ is a powerful symbol in the ancient presentations of the reality of consciousness evolution, the finale of a long process of ripening in the entrails of the earth, until the individual finally emerges in the light of day as an agent of liberation and elevation, fully conscious of his role. A man or woman of knowledge and action but, especially, a benefactor, a dynamic actualization of the power of Jupiter, the sphere of the second ray which animates the raised etheric matter of love in the solar system. The possibilities of matter are countless when we reach the understanding that we are a kind of matter exceedingly attractive and subtle, the capacities of which we can activate by rising laboriously along a great process of evolution, scaling ever higher material worlds.

Libra

Balance is the fundamental law, not only of nature, but also of the whole cosmos. The concept of law is one of the most important ones that the human being can manage to understand. All of his future evolution depends on this. His freedom to develop is guaranteed by the immutability of the law, just as is the freedom of all. The constancy of forms, whether natural or social, depends on constant relations, or laws. The human being learns everything under the law through his interaction with others and through his relations, and is attracted to relations and groupings of every kind, being driven by laws of which he is still ignorant.

The eternal law of harmony, of balance, of action and re-action, of cause and effect is set against the law of cyclic impulse, which periodically upsets the equilibrium only for it to be re-established at a higher turn of the spiral. In this way Aries and Libra shape the primordial forces of the law of evolution, the law of development. The impulse that initiated a new cycle in Aries comes to a pause and reaches a point of stability in this sign.

The knowledge and understanding of the law requires intelligent action, and Libra is one of the signs through which the energy of the third ray of active intelligence activates the planet. The perfect union and best harmony presuppose a high degree of creative intelligence, which the Libra individual strives to attain.

Harmony, justice, balance. Sex. Law. Money.

Unbalanced passion. Human love.

Let choice be made.

Creative intelligence begins to be activated through the principle of affinity and attraction that regulates relations, regulated in this sign by Venus. The urge to union begins as a blind and impassioned movement in search of complement and stability. Many trials make the Libra individual recognize what he needs and what he has to give, and human interaction becomes a wide field of experience where he learns the golden rule of reciprocity, and also to appreciate the creative power of sex as a lower reflection of the mental creativity of the future. The way is long, however, every choice may turn out to be unworkable and force the individual to retrace his steps when intelligence does not provide him with the desired thread of Ariadne to guide him out of the labyrinth. Without understanding of the law, he opens barrels of wine that should have been closed, and violates laws with effects that sooner or later have to be amended. Aggression and threats inflict wild boar wounds that heal with difficulty. With time he learns how to sail the sea of social interactions skilfully, becomes increasingly sophisticated, and through calculated strategy and astute diplomacy achieves what is best for others. But it is a fragile social success that shows how far he still is from understanding the golden rule. The individual is often caught in his own cobweb, being inhibited by superficial harmonies that perpetuate hidden patterns of dominance and submission.

Pondering of opposites. Devotion and aspiration.

Out of the prison of insubstantial beauty and false harmony of convention only he can escape who wields the Aries energy of decision, courage, and direct and honest spontaneity. Independence creates free associations and meetings for cooperation where the common good is the decisive arbiter and the right manner of calculation. Fears and threats are overcome and turned ridiculous, and all can laugh openly at the wild boar. Rationality makes peace possible – and non-aggression, freedom from fear and also from need. Uranus manages all of this, and mutual help without dependence becomes reality. Frank negotiations based on openly shown loyalties replace the cynicism of political correctness. The mathematics of harmony determine the golden proportion of right relations, and the faultless application of the law introduces hitherto undreamt-of possibilities of life in community. What began as sexual polarity between organisms is transformed into alchemical union in the mental world and in devotion

to manifested truth. The trade in goods is the outer manifestation of the law of service, and the money of human interchange is trust and compromise.

Balance achieved. Divine love. Understanding.

I choose the way that leads between two great lines of force.

After all that voyage which leads to final equilibrium, the engine pushing forward the development of rational mentality is favoured by Saturn, the concept of supreme law enthroned in Libra. Sooner or later along the way of evolution we are forced to face the results of our decisions. As long as they are the consequences of irrational impulses without due deliberation and pondering of their effects, it will be impossible to understand that incorruptible, implacable, infallible, and inevitable justice rules everything for the good of all. Reflection allows us to acquire and afterwards apply the knowledge of the law, and in this manner to be free. We are free when the divine book-keeping is perfectly balanced, compulsion in life comes to an end, and the sense of duty is replaced with voluntary and joyous participation in the gifts and tasks of life. This give and take is the intelligent and responsible manner in which the higher unity is achieved.

Scorpio

Stability once achieved, and after intensive deliberation, the need for decision-making disturbs anew the equilibrium attained. The balance inclines decidedly to one of the two sides. Either towards immersion in the material forces for a new cycle of action and re-action or towards a concentrated effort of liberation through conflict, as the balance inclines to the side of the actualization of the whole potential of the human spirit. In Scorpio the struggle is naked and neutrality is no longer possible.

Scorpio represents mankind itself and the fourth creative hierarchy of this planet through the energy of the fourth ray of harmony through conflict. During untold ages mankind has been on the side of conflict, and its history is the history of war and the never-ending chronicle of aggression, being the victim of its past and of the serpent of illusion. The two forms of manifestation of the god of war struggle against each other in this sign, which has left us the unforgettable battle scene of Kurukshetra in the Bhagavad-Gita, where Krishna teaches Arjuna on the nature of illusion and the triumph of reason.

Trial, experience, and triumph. Recapitulation and memory.

Unity of egoism. The Monster.

Let Maya flourish and let deception rule.

At the stage of barbarism, during eons, the subconscious is fed with aggression and robbery, death and meanness. Unanimity is total: hatred is the elixir of life, and there is nothing better than a first-class row with destruction abundant. At this stage man is a wolf unto man, and all feed their particular monstrous versions of the hydra. Illusion is complete, and without knowledge of reality and the laws of life, lower Mars is blind to all the consequences of his actions. With the intensity of the Plutonian serpent, the individual hypnotizes others and submits their wills to his without scruples. Money and sex, ambition and fear, cruelty and separation intoxicate the subconscious like a poison, leaving dregs infected with toxins and choking anyone who questions that it could be otherwise. And in his greatest satiety and inebriation he is overcome.

Conflict with duality. The fighter.

Much later man begins to feel tormented by his past. Regenerated and with his memory of defeat behind him, he embarks on the higher way, only to meet with a decisive opposition within himself at each step that he intends to make towards the illuminated life. He is torn between the opposites of his own nature in the midst of the violence of the emotional battle, is impotent before the apparent dominance of evil. Struggle is once more inevitable, and once more on life or death. Hercules, having now become a seasoned and experienced Mars, standing firm in his upholding of vital values, prepares for the battle. He must first wake up the hydra that is asleep in his subconscious, and remember. Often the environment turns into the scenario for a battle against the forces of disintegration within the psyche, the body, or society, and the Scorpio individual becomes a psychiatrist, a surgeon, or a detective. The analysis of motives has the effect that those factors which damage and defraud the common good, wolves in sheep's clothing, are unmasked in the light of day and are driven out. The reign of deception draws to an end thanks to illumination from Taurus by the aid of imperishable values. Confidence in what the self may give blots out envy. Desire is revealed as a traitor that can never afford peace and that ends in rebellious discontent before life and destructive impatience. The snake charmer becomes a healer and a therapist. The fragments of the psyche are united, and Osiris returns to life like the Phoenix.

Higher unity. The Disciple.

Warrior I am, and from the battle I emerge triumphant.

The victory of harmony over the discord that shatters forms is possible thanks to the higher energy of the fourth ray of Mercury. As in the mental, the synthesis emerges triumphant, when the forces of unity become irresistible. Life is beauty, the power of harmonious vibrations that form themselves faultlessly as ideas of reality, irrefutable truths that by their light clarify the common good. Mercury is the messenger of the will to good that makes the human warrior victorious. Therefore Buddha–Hermes presides over this fundamental idea of illumination, this fundamental idea which dispels the illusion of separateness and destructive irrationality, revealing the triumphant scheme of unity, the possession of the force that unifies, the force of reason. The disciple in Scorpio represents the perfect human being who overcomes chaos and disharmony between isolated forms that fight to impose themselves on one another, the maker of harmony and the messenger of that synthesis which transcends mankind.

Sagittarius

The serpent of matter exercises its power by holding people in trance. Liberation from this illusory trance in Scorpio leads to the avenues of research that Sagittarius pursues. But Sagittarius can also be viewed as the counterpoint of the passivity, fluidity, and meticulousness characterizing the other signs of the mutable cross. In any case we arrive in this sign at a powerful expression of that self-initiated advance in one single direction which a great vision in perspective grants.

By the aid of a powerful driving system the individual traverses great distances in his search for sensations, foresees that new possibilities exist far away, surmises the power of ideas to move the world: rays four, five, and six, expressing themselves through this sign, raises a particular problem of concentration and self-sufficiency. The freedom of movement and of thought acquired in evolution must be applied to the attainment of definite aims if it is not to exhaust itself in a meaningless movement. The great dreams must be realized some time or else dissolve and poison the psyche in the process. Everything begins by the control of speech and the understanding of the power of sound, that is to say, silence. The birds of Stymphalos must become silent, and thanks to their silence any possibility of hurting ceases. This is sufficient for anyone who will hit the mark with one well-aimed shot.

Freedom of movement and thought. One-pointedness. Intuition. Idealism.

Self-centredness. Experimental attitude.

Let food be sought.

Nothing is achieved without aims, and by setting aims Sagittarius moves with determination ever since the beginning of the evolutionary process in search of what he believes is necessary. Time will tell him how erringly he wandered in his appreciations, but in the beginning he follows all traces and takes all preys. From having been eaten, Sagittarius becomes a predator. He is a pirate at sea and a robber on land, as he advances without restraint, with an unquenchable longing for freedom. Not all experiments end well, however. Impasses abound, and the prison becomes as well-known as the flight, but not even in the cage will his song of freedom fall silent, nor his joy of living fade. Jupiter goes on exploring the limits in his free and easy manner and without restraint until he finds them, trusting to providence or chance to escape from tight corners. Finally, the truth and the knowledge of the law stand out as the genuine tricks of freedom, and the Sagittarius individual ruled by Jupiter comes to see that everything was foreseeable from the beginning. Truth is elusive, however, especially for the individualist, and is offset by dogma, imposition of a view not agreed upon.

Onepointeness. Directed attention.

Without knowledge of reality, the one-sided subjectivity of Sagittarius is the source of errors, sometimes many, when it assumes the form of beliefs without a basis in sufficient facts. Objectivity requires independence of individual view or opinion, and correct judgement is that at which anyone having common sense may arrive. It is necessary to acquire this common sense in the opposite sign of Gemini. Set free from the tyranny of public opinion and from the least common denominator of collective psychosis, the self-determination of thought should be combined with scientific unanimous and rational agreement on the irrefutable character of facts. Only then will the knowledge of what is possible become the dynamic power that leads to its realization, and only then will the truth set the individual free from his impotence.

Just as by magic art the Sagittarius individual moves with speed and agility along the roads of the Earth, and the planet is known in its entirety from a worm's-eye view as well as from a bird's-eye view, because the Earth and all that is happening on it becomes the soul of Sagittarius, his higher ruler. The ways of communication laid by Gemini are at his disposal,

and the individual acquires the perspective of the great systems and all-encompassing visions and of the vast plans of planetary extent.

The power of ideas becomes the capacity for realization, and the fires of Sagittarius burn as a driving force for transformation and rise, like a hot-air balloon filled with the heat of aspiration. The Sagittarius individual learns how to control that fire and to direct himself where his vision points to him, and he travels around the world in five weeks.

The Leader of men. The one who controls the door.

I see the goal. I reach the goal and see another.

Having finished erring about in his adventures through the noise and babble that consumes the fire in criticism and vanity, he now directs his attention to his higher voice, and its roar is so strong that everything falls silent. The good is perceived with such clarity that its realization is inevitable and indisputable, and the true meaning of obedience is attained. All forces are concentrated in a common goal and the aim is achieved. Finally, the contentious opposition of Mars is aimed in the right direction, and the conflict ceases. Emotional power is used, the horse is harnessed, and rider and mount disappear as fast as an arrow shot. The direction is excellent and exact, and leads to the gates of initiation. The explorer becomes the leader of those who are wandering on their own paths, a conveyor of wisdom and a teacher for souls less experienced.

Capricorn

Capricorn is a sign shrouded in mystery, and its rich iconography includes, besides the goat, the crocodile and the unicorn, and, in past ages long forgotten, the goat with a fish tail, which gave rise to the legend of the siren. The tenth sign is the culmination of the will aspect which, emerging from the waters as desire, crystallizes as ambition for what is tangible and ascent to the peak of achievement. The mountain in Capricorn is also a symbol for that achievement of control of consciousness which we call initiation.

The first, third, and seventh rays characterize the method of the striving applied in this sign. Forces bound up with matter and forces exhibiting mastery over matter converge in a sign of power, economy, and organization. Above all, a sign of practical intelligence and calculated efficiency. Saturn, as agent of limitation, realization, and discipline, rules during long periods in this sign, confronting the lower and higher aspects of the sign, until the mental potency of Venus illuminates the way that leads to the perfection of brotherhood and leads away from group egoism. In Capricorn, evil is not only overcome, but negated. Or not. Sometimes the lion avoids being gored by the Unicorn.

Crystallization. Conclusion, consummation. New cycle of effort.

The soul tied to the earth.

Let ambition rule and the door stand wide.

The goat periodically climbing to the top of the mountain and staying there symbolizes the urge to overcome, initially spurred by the ambition characterizing the human personality, separate and intelligent. Cycle upon cycle it climbs the mountains of human material creativity, building forms which it must pull down some time. In this way enterprises of all sorts are formed, rise, and fall. The Capricorn subject is often the one responsible for this intelligence urged to periodical upholding and as periodical fall. Its nature is due to the individual. All forms being built are attached to their builder, and it is true of all beginners in building that as long as they have not learnt the laws governing their art they remain attached to their creation – to begin anew in a later cycle. The human personality is one of those forms, a transient identity that must be built and dismantled unceasingly in each cycle. It is just that the Capricorn individual sometimes thinks he can outsmart the law, succeeds apparently in baffling it for some cycles, and becomes a crocodile with coarse skin and of cruel nature that can live with its equals only. The selfish personal identity thus being built is, sure enough, separated from the world of the ideas of the good, the beautiful, and the true, resists evolution, and prolongs its painful destiny for long ages.

The one who crosses the water. Flux.

The crystallization and aging of forms set in when they are unable to go on absorbing the vital energies that circulate everywhere and in so doing unite everything. Nourishment and absorption of vital substances take place in the beneficial environment of the community represented by the opposite sign of Cancer. The isolated and adamant individual stops being able to open up to the forces of life and dies as nothing flows from him to others. The essence of life is free circulation, and the Capricorn individual will progress to the sign of wave lines only when he has understood the secret of the law of offer and demand: the cycle always begins with a generous offer. Anyone who desires nothing for the separate self may manage the riches of life for the benefit of all. No interest stops his forward march, and the individual reaches far crossing the waters, dissolving everything that hinders service and health. Consummate master economist, dedicated white magician, and legislator unflinching before evil, Saturn multiplies a good that can never lessen: investment in the knowledge of the laws of life.

The one who overcomes death. The initiate.

Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.

The initiate is one since he has in solitude climbed up to where he trusts to his own forces only, making his way like an intruder in the spheres of light, and in the depths of his psyche having put to the test his power to resist everything that questions his potential godhood in the most adverse circumstances. He could never have overcome death without wielding the unifying logic from that higher intellect which Venus puts at his disposal. His awareness of immortality, of the fact that he has a permanent identity beyond personal appearances, strikes like a flash of transfiguration in solitude on the mountain top, but only after hard efforts, concentrated attention, and complete defeat of the concept of personal separateness. The connection with the higher becomes steady, and the Capricorn individual is now the Unicorn, the one who, as in the legend, hunts the lion and finally pierces it. The glory of Venus is then supreme, and mental matter shines with brilliance beyond words, illuminating everything that unites all with the all. He who is now an initiate has not finished his work, however; no, he has rather just begun it. He must climb down to the lower regions of the subconscious where the mistakes of the past keep the attention of the fallen heroes captivated on what is negative. Hercules, now himself free from every imperfection, sets Prometheus free from his torments by showing him the way out: the constant direction of attention to whatever is shining in the human being, his solar nature, his divine potential, and his connection with the whole.

Aquarius

The fundamental characteristic of Aquarius is the concept and function of service, the free circulation and distribution of life energies of all kinds, from ideas and knowledge of reality to that etheric vitality which is the basis of health in all kingdoms. The whole cosmos is a perfect organization destined to bring to all its parts the possibility of evolution by attaching all individuals in all kingdoms to collective forms which provide them with all that is necessary for life. In this way in Aquarius thus culminates that kind of group consciousness which began in Cancer as mass consciousness.

The energy of the fifth ray flowing through Aquarius works by forming groups, separating groups from each other, and coordinating them all into a functioning unity in which every group has its task. When the energy of affinity and attraction has received its form through the fifth ray, the human groups become a stable and functional synthesis in which reciprocal activity leads to a synthesis of higher order. This higher unity or ideal of universal brotherhood is unthinkable without the freedom and voluntariness of all concerned. All forms based on the imposition of uniformity and the control of the many for the benefit of the few will be incapable of assimilating this inflow of new life and will sooner or later break up.

Service. Activity for the benefit of the higher kingdoms. Humanitarian consciousness.

All things to all men. The burden of the self.

Let desire in form be ruler.

All forms, whether they be group forms or organic forms, individual or planetary forms, are built by means of the same organizing principles brought into incarnation by the seventh ray, principles which in their initial phase manifest themselves through Uranus. In this, Aquarius is that evolutionary phase in which those principles can be apprehended in an individual way. In the most primitive phase of the human being, Uranus rules the sexual energy that leads to reproduction, or instinctive creation of forms. Mutually attractive energies of opposite poles are brought into play, energies which on different levels of the psyche are experienced as desire, attraction on which also depends obtainment of what is necessary for the persistence of the organism or the community. The Aquarius individual rouses the need for goods, for everything that promotes what is good and meets the needs, one's own needs to begin with, but basically to raise his own value as a purveyor. The intention to supply sets in motion the universal mechanism of densification, and the Aquarius individual instinctively fills his shelves with goods to exhibit them on that market where offer and demand make up those polar forces which sustain the social organism. Individualist to a high degree, the Aquarius individual under the rule of Uranus insists on freely deciding whom he will attach to himself in his affinities, as friend and colleague, and in so doing forms associations and groupings defined by what he has to offer. In this way, the social fabric is organized, but at this stage the Aquarius individual is still ignorant of who he is beyond his social identity. He is not yet the master of himself and his own forces, and he has nothing of his own to offer. He has many goods in his cart, has less inner conviction, and often does not know even what he is feeling.

Dedication to the soul. The burden of mankind.

In Aquarius all energy is turned to the acquisition of scientific knowledge of nature and the study of the thousands of forms and the mechanical laws governing their constitution. In this way he obtains an increasing control of matter that is demonstrated in the advances of technology and the application of engineering science on all levels of human organization. In the age of Aquarius and in a cycle of the seventh ray, mankind, like every Aquarius subject, is faced with the danger of confounding their immortal identity with the ephemeral machines that they use, or of identifying themselves with their bodies, their emotions, or their thoughts. In this delirium there are those who think that they can have their organisms repaired

indefinitely by means of technological inventions and prolong the life of the race by means of robotization and automatized social forms.

Only the science of consciousness – psychology – can restore the equilibrium so that the individual obtains the knowledge of the fact that he is an immortal self, the necessary origin and basis of any act of will, of any possibility of decision without which freedom is inconceivable. It is self-consciousness, consciousness of the self, acquired laboriously in Leo after long cycles of development, the force that animates and drives any organism or organization.

The self is the only point of force capable of giving direction to energy, the least possible unity of will; its reality is and will for a long time be subjective only, but not therefore less real, because the acts of will have perceivable objective consequences. The self's attention sustained by effort reveals not only that the self is will but also that the only insuperable will existing is the will to good, that the will to good exists abundantly in the universe, that it is poured generously over all forms, and that it is organized from within and can be known as a collective consciousness called symbolically in all ages the soul or the conscious union of all things. The understanding of this rules the life of the advanced Aquarian who wields the energy of Jupiter to become an efficient benefactor and a server.

The server of all men. The burden of the world.

Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.

Great minds and wills keep great planetary, solar, or cosmic systems functioning for the benefit of their members, and mankind as a kingdom is no exception. It is nourished abundantly from higher kingdoms with whatever it needs to fulfil its duties within the planetary order, duties which above all consist in assuming responsibility and developing compassion for all that lives and breathes, and freely and voluntarily directing the energy of life where it is needed. From the point in the middle, the energy of life flows like waves in space, as the pictogram of the sign describes. The knowledge of reality is as vital as etheric energy or money, and can penetrate the system so deeply that it can circulate in it and finally cleanse the stables where the fictions of human thought have fermented without oxygen during centuries and in so doing have caused congestion, impotence, disease, and death. Finally, the energy of Uranus appears anew in Aquarius, being used by the server as the electricity that introduces and establishes right relations and restores life to universal brotherhood between all natural kingdoms.

Pisces

The end is the beginning. The beginning of the human adventure in the development of consciousness happens here, in this sign, where the acquisition of the essential qualities culminates. The human being can know these qualities as such by returning to unity after developing an ineffaceable, conscious individuality.

The unity of the superpersonal sphere is a memory that consciously or unconsciously overwhelms the Pisces subject, an impression that can be mitigated to some extent only through the contact with the natural world. But the first incarnation of the human being submerges him into the ocean of collective consciousness represented by Neptune as the ultimate guarantee of the consummate unity of the human family.

Sharpened sensitivity and unflinching will meet in a sign where man must learn to be inclusive to the highest degree and equally firm in his defence of the freedom of the human spirit. In so doing he causes a particular problem which he must solve by unifying sensitivity and will with wisdom and raising himself through the energies of the second and sixth rays.

Imprisonment. Indifference. Sacrifice.

Receptivity to the environment. The medium.

Entrance into matter.

The history begins, however, with a state of extreme passivity, no experience, and a confident expectation of the goodness of the process just begun. During long ages Jupiter is the master who guides development. Many experiments must be carried out that lead to the knowledge of reality and of the significance of the countless sensory impressions afforded by Jupiter. Through an exceedingly long process of tasting of everything that life has to offer, the individual learns slowly how to differentiate between good and less good impressions, between better and worse, and in so doing plants the seed of future mental discrimination. At this stage, however, the mind is only in its beginning and lacks the power to initiate any activity, and therefore the Pisces subject yields like plankton to the billowing of the emotional nature as this awakens and forms more definite currents. At more advanced stages, this shows as great receptivity to external impressions, ingenuous credulity, and difficulty of confronting troubles in existence decisively. The addiction to sensations of any kind, a Jupiter problem, plus an imagination now agitated, make the Pisces subject often the sport of environing forces and a psychic sponge that cannot avoid identification with the currents that run to and fro through the collective emotions. This being the case, he comes to know the nature of the prison, and to see the imprisonment of the human soul as a reality.

Sensitivity of the soul. The mediator.

Only by developing a critical intellect, which is done in the opposite sign, Virgo, can the Pisces individual get out of his prison. This implies primarily disidentification with the environment and recognition of the differences in quality of impressions, so that he does not any more accept anything whatever just because it seems good. Bitter lessons, caused by credulity without a rational basis, agitate the subject's subconscious, but his growing harmlessness puts them aside. Sensitivity to the environment is transformed into sensitivity to real factors of energy and of consciousness coming from higher worlds and so demonstrating the efficacy of the process of consciousness development. With his mind reborn in Christ, the work of Virgo, he is now able to establish contact with the world of ideas, which higher forces have created for the good to be known and realized, and he readies himself to act as a mediator between the world of ideas and the world of action. In the worlds of man, the first thing that he discovers is that he is bound, since he moves in a world without freedom of action, that he cannot manifest the good because he is ignorant of the true and does not appreciate the beautiful. And he discovers it first of all in himself. With his new sensitivity he

must get in touch with those factors which will allow him to set himself free and sever the chains that keep him in the world of illusions and fictions, and must learn how to assimilate the impact of those forces from Pluto which remove the roots of his psyche to annihilate any trace of attachment. All his mistakes rise from his subconscious to claim him. Implacable Pluto cuts off the fictions, one after the other, causing separation and elimination, and his whole past is lost from sight in vapour. Evil and any relation with it is negated, and all sinks anew into the subconscious and oblivion never to return. The death of death itself reveals possibilities of freedom never perceived before.

Spiritual responsibility. The Saviour.

I leave the Father's Home and turning back, I save.

The strength and higher will acquired originate from the world of unity and cannot issue from any other world without manifesting themselves with vitality that is not reached by death and that sustains the world of unity, of Christ consciousness, the world presided by Neptune. From the perspective of unity, the concept of individual freedom is seen to be untenable, and the Pisces subject acquires spiritual responsibility for the liberation of all the units of consciousness imprisoned. He carries out this process of liberation or salvation by fighting those forces which deliberately keep mankind in captivity, and demonstrating freedom by setting an example so that all can free themselves and so revealing the illusory character of separateness. Still mightier Plutonian forces emerge, and just as Hercules did, man defends justice and law all around the Earth, and in so doing clears the way that leads him to the world of unity, where the will to the good now has one more doer.

Title of the Spanish original: Evolución y desarrollo en los signos del zodiaco.

Translated by Lars Adelskog.