

The Church of Light

# QUARTERLY

Spiritual Astrology Series: Leo-Leo



SUMMER 2024  
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## The Quest of Spirit

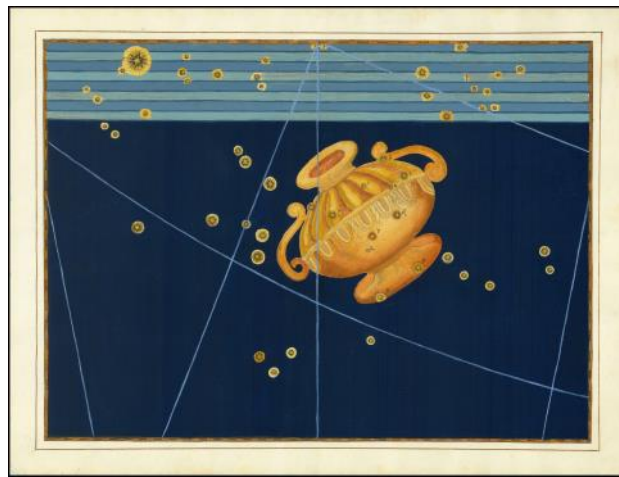
Crater: the Season of Pleasurable Thoughts & Emotions

Tim Prichard, Hermetician, Order of the Sphinx

The Spiritual message for this, the Sun decanate of the Sun sign Leo: *To Learn to Like Anything, Associate With it as Many Pleasurable Thoughts and Sensations As Possible.*

The keyword is Rulership.

The application of desire energy, or to use the keyword for Leo, the Will, can be used to achieve a creative objective or overcome a dislike that may have manifested itself by conditioning. Conditioning by parental influence, by



Crater, Johann Bayer 1624

(Continued on page 4)

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## Spiritual Astrology: Crater—Rulership

Scenza

Each of the twelve primary signs of the Zodiac is further subdivided into three ten-degree sections called decanates. The decanates enjoy a primary influence from their mother sign, and a secondary influence from each of the signs that shares the same element as that sign. Hence, the first decanate of the fifth sign, *Crater*, is termed *Leo-Leo*, as it is found within the primary sign Leo, and enjoys a secondary influence of the fire sign, Leo. The Keyword for this

decanate is “Rulership”, and it extends from July 23 to August 3 of each year.

As explained above, the decanates are subordinate in their influence to the signs themselves. Similarly, in interpreting and explaining the symbolism of each decanate, they nearly always relate back to their mother sign in terms of their overarching value and meaning. If you will recall, as the fifth sign of the Zodiac and as the second fire sign, Leo is archetypically the sign of power, pres-

(Continued on page 17)

### Consider that ...

**Rulership** is development of the Will by exercising authority over one's thoughts and actions.”

#### **Affirmations for a Great Day:**

*“I invite nourishing energy and wonderful people into my day.”*

*“The universe sends me the opportunities I need. I will embrace them and prioritize the ones that match my personal vision.”*

— MentalHelp.net



# The Stellarian Honor Guard

For the period between January 1, and March 31, 2024.

Regular Contributors form the solid foundation from which The Church of Light can grow. This column honors those who financially support the work of spreading the Religion of the Stars. Guardian Angels contribute more than \$500 in a quarter. The Stellarian Honor Guard includes those who contribute between \$100 and \$500 per quarter. We are grateful for your generous contributions to The Church of Light.



*“True generosity is an offering; given freely and out of pure love. No strings attached. No expectations.”*

— Suze Orman

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## Editorial

Margaret Joscher, President

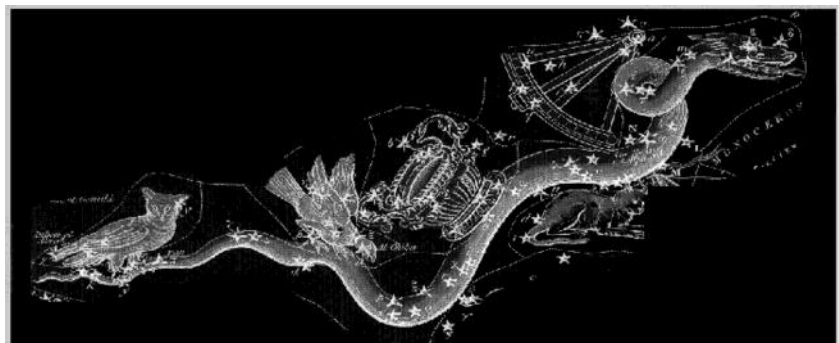
*"The reward of doing one duty is the power to do another."*

— Rabbi Ben Azai

Representing the fieriest of decanates is the constellation Crater which Zain likens to a cup of fire or furnace. As Tim mentions in his article, Crater was actually the cup of the Greek deity Apollo who pulled the sun across the sky. One day he gave the cup to his crow or raven (Corvus) to fetch water. On his way Corvus noticed some ripening fruit and decided to hang out for a while to gorge himself. Realizing he might be in trouble on his way back, he grabbed a water snake and blamed it for his tardiness. Of course Apollo saw through that fabrication and gave the cup, Corvus and the snake (Hydra) a one-way ticket to the stars. It seems that Hydra was an innocent bystander in this story but we all know it's dangerous to be in the vicinity of an angry god.

The juxtaposition of water and fire here is intriguing. Both elements are used for purification although water more often for cleansing and blessing. Fire, however, causes impurities (dross) to rise to the surface so that it can be easily removed. It's employed in a forge to refine, transform and strengthen metals although the metal must be plunged in water to stop the process. Fiery passion or desire effects change but cool, calming water keeps us from going too far. It moderates and balances the transformation.

Back to that rascal Corvus—he got into trouble for prioritizing pleasure over duty and then using deception to avoid the consequences. Our duty or responsibility to build character is often hard, painful work. There is no pleasure in some of these life lessons. Sometimes we may even deceive ourselves. But we persist because we desire to become better people, make better choices and to help others. In this we should take pleasure—each step taken towards personal growth, no matter how challenging, is a step towards a more enlightened self, capable of contributing positively to the world around us.



*Hydra, Corvus & Crater; The Water Serpent, The Crow and The Cup.  
From University Lowbrow Astronomers, Ann Arbor, Michigan ([Constellation of the Month](#))*





friends, or by society, or even by your environment, all having their own potential bias.

We must find our own personal Rulership by directing energy towards, and dwelling upon, things that may empower us, not in an arrogant egotistical way, but balanced by alchemy. There is a good enough objective.

In ancient Greek culture, the Krater was traditionally used to mix wine to dilute its effects at a symposium. Greek: **συμπίνειν**, *sympósiōn* or *sympōsiō*, from **συμπίνειν**, *sympínein*, "to drink together" was a part of a banquet that took place after the meal, when drinking for pleasure was accompanied by music, dancing, recitals, or conversation. All attributes of one or other of Apollo's muses.

So maybe in keeping with the spiritual text for this decanate, if the experiences and emotions are sometimes unpalatable like the wine you are served in life, dilute them down with pure spiritual water.

Zain seems to describe Crater, or rather Krater<sup>1</sup>, more as a crucible. Alchemically Leo rules the process of digestion as would befit the Greek after dinner usage of the Krater, rather than calcination. Similarly, it's not always exactly the time of year as Zain says "when commonly the days are the hottest" here in England. Maybe a little later, the Corvus decanate of Leo, with Mars sub-rulership giving the

energy of the scorcher! Aries alchemically is the process of calcination.

The Sun is really in his afterglow. He's provided the actual and symbolic male energy for the year and Nature is fecund, in her belly it swells, like an annual thing we often seem to assume will just magically happen?

This decanate is a favourite time of year for me. I love fields of Wheat, Oats, or Barley. The balmy wind that shakes the Barley, the epitome of the British summertime as much

as an English Oak in full leaf canopy, creaking and swaying like the Oak that would have built an old ship of the line, in full sail!

I always go and stand out in a field of Wheat or Barley, or better still, in the quietude of the countryside, lay down in the Wheat and drift off into meditation. I have my favourite fields, some since childhood. Buzzing Bees, small innocent bird song, even the Kite or Buzzard way on high, like a Spiritual symbolic flag that all is well "[peeeeeeeuuuuw](#)".<sup>2</sup> Somewhere in the distance, in the background, the subdued din of the city.

Call me a "Romantic," but I would have it that, when people were more attached to Nature and working on the land in days gone by, they were happier in their smaller communities, working together, knowing together. Now in the spreading cities and the humdrum and complications of modern living, there seems a de-



Terracotta Volute-Krater  
Attributed to the painter of the Woolly Satyrs  
ca. 450 BCE  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

— Albert Einstein

(Continued on page 5)

tachment from the cycles of Nature and “natural philosophy” in favour of a “virtual” reality and an easier seeming, sedate lifestyle. With it can come a laziness, an atrophy, a presumptuousness, even an apathy?



Photo: Tim Prichard

Here's a quote that may inspire you:

*“Everything in existence is crying out for a particular quality of consciousness that only humans can give. This doesn't mean we are superior to Nature, only that there's an incredible need for a certain cooperation. The famous mystic Rudolph Steiner has said that for the agricultural process to happen, for seeds and plants, and trees to grow, birdsong is absolutely essential. This is a beautiful truth that very few people know. But we also need to take what he said one stage further, because birds call and sing not only to quicken plants: they also call to awaken the human seed that we are. They are actually singing for our sake as well.*

*“If we can start to listen to them, really listen, they will draw us into this greater consciousness I have been talking about. They will be our teachers, because Nature is able to point us to our inner nature.... We are called to be there. When we can listen to what the birds have to say, to what Nature has to say, and when we perceive the beauty of Nature, then we are completing the circle and returning this physical world to its source through our own consciousness.”<sup>3</sup>*

—Peter Kingsley

As the Sun rules the heart, and heart rules the direction of the desire energies, we must endeavour to stay as fit and healthy as possible in Body, Mind and Spirit.

If we can try to become like the Sun's vitality and live with integrity and with quiet conviction to the Spiritual task at hand, even in the dull days, darkness will be dispelled.

If I feel despondent, lacking in motivation, having to face situations I may not like, the hectic and stressful...in my mind I can be right there in that field of Wheat or Barley. Overhead the Buzzard soars....peeeeeeeuuuuuuuw.

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- <sup>1</sup> For more about Kraters: <https://www.carc.ox.ac.uk/carc/resources/Introduction-to-Greek-Pottery/Shapes/Kraters>.
- <sup>2</sup> peeeeeeeuuuuuw: [https://youtube.com/shorts/8x\\_-NNtQ8lw?si=OGpPwTsj5fEigohl](https://youtube.com/shorts/8x_-NNtQ8lw?si=OGpPwTsj5fEigohl).
- <sup>3</sup> Interview in *Parabola Magazine*, Spring 2006.

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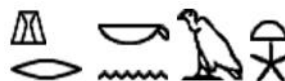
*“The earth has music for those who listen.”*

— Shakespeare



# Leo-Leo, The Crater Decanate

Leo/Leo Decanate, Ruler-Sun, Keyword-Rulership



Kher-khept-Kenmut

Ancient Egyptian name for the 1st Decan of Leo, 0° - 9° 59' 59"

Laurie Dixon, Hermetician

## The Rulership Decanate

*"To Learn to Like Anything, Associate With It as Many Pleasurable Thoughts and Sensations As Possible."*

## Terrance Stanley Fox

Delving into the Leo/Leo decanate of Rulership, let's begin with Terry Fox, whose Sun falls within this decanate. Terry's remarkable endeavor, the "Marathon of Hope," exemplifies the essence of harnessing the WILL and applying the spiritual teachings associated with the Rulership decanate. His selfless goals inspired him to call upon and associate every joyful thought and sensation imaginable to achieving his objective!

Diagnosed with cancer when he was only 18 and losing his right leg to cancer at 19, he found a profound purpose: to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. His ambition drove him to run a marathon across Canada, coast to coast, stating, "I want to set an example that'll never be forgotten." Despite his suffer-

ing, Terry felt a deep responsibility towards others battling cancer, driven by his compassion and humanitarian ideals, symbolized by Venus in Cancer in the 11th house.

Symbolically aiming to unite his country by pouring Atlantic water into the Pacific Ocean, he began his journey on April 12, 1980, at 2:45 pm, by dipping his foot into the Atlantic Ocean in St. John's, Newfoundland. Running an astonishing average of 42 km (26 miles) daily on a single leg and a customized prosthesis, he ran towards his hometown of New Westminister, a suburb of Vancouver, while braving all weather conditions.

His mantra, "One day at a time, one mile at a time," captured his unwavering resolve to raise \$1 million. Inspired by overwhelming public support, he adjusted his target to \$24 million. Most significantly, he shattered societal taboos about cancer, fostering open conversations about the disease.

The media extensively covered Fox's Marathon of Hope, fueled by his steadfast desire to make a difference. "I want to try the

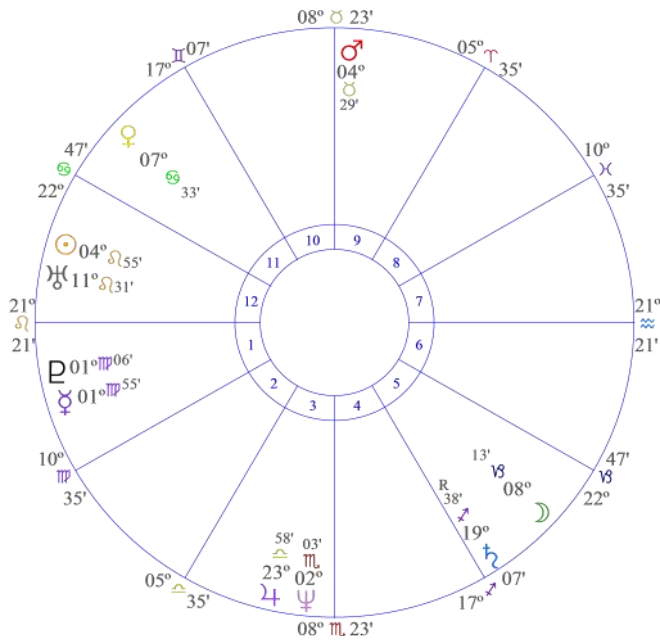
*(Continued on page 7)*



*"Marathon of Hope" fund-raising run across Canada. Photo taken July 12, 1980 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada by Jeremy Gilbert. Wikimedia commons*

*"...action flows spontaneously and without friction toward those things in which pleasure is found..."*

— C. C. Zain  
CS VII, *Spiritual Astrology*



**Terry Fox**

July 28, 1958; 7:30 a.m. CDST, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
 (Rodden Rating: A—mother’s memory)



*Leo-Leo Rulership Decanate (continued from page 6)*

impossible, to show it can be done,” he declared, embodying resilience directed to constructive possibilities, Pluto in Virgo conjunct Mercury in the 1st house, analytical willpower.

East of Thunder Bay, Ontario, his journey ended tragically on September 1, 1980, as cancer spread to his lungs. He covered 5,373 km in 143 days, and remained optimistic. Even in the hospital, he expressed his commitment: “If there is any way I can get up there again and finish it, I WILL”, note the keyword for Leo. On September 14, 1980, Terry became the youngest Companion of the Order of Canada, the nation’s highest civilian honor. Sadly, nine months later, he passed away.

Winning Canadians’ hearts coast to coast, the Terry Fox Foundation was established in 1988, alongside The Terry Fox Research Institute, founded in 2007, furthering cancer research in his name.

What started as a solo effort in 1980 has become a widespread movement involving over 8,500 Canadian schools and millions of students participating in the annual Terry Fox Run held every September. People worldwide continue the Marathon of Hope for a disease that affects every family. His Foundation reports over \$800 million raised for cancer research. The ongoing support from Canadian schoolchildren—perhaps influenced by his fifth house, Capricorn Moon, in a grand trine to 1st house Mercury and MC conjoined to Mars in the 9th house—is noteworthy.

Always passionate about sports, he excelled in basketball and cross-country running. During chemotherapy, he learned wheelchair basketball. Mars is his dominant planet, and Taurus is his dominant sign. In February 1979, Terry began training for his Marathon. Mars conjunct the MC, highlighting his determination. Virgo Pluto/Mercury conjunction emphasizes his drive to serve others. Additionally, Leo/Leo Sun conjunct Uranus in the 12th house exem-

*“Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory.”*

— William Barclay

*(Continued on page 8)*



*Leo-Leo Rulership Decanate (continued from page 7)*

plifies his courageous advocacy for universal welfare and cancer eradication.

Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope received backing from the Canadian Cancer Society, War Amps, Ford, Imperial Oil, and Adidas. Neptune, ruling the 8th in the 3rd house of media, played a vital role in amplifying his message. Media attention surged with the Toronto Star's weekly column, propelling Fox to national fame when he reached Ontario.

Jupiter in Libra, ruling his 5th house of sports also in his 3rd house, facilitated widespread media coverage, spreading his message nationwide and inspiring countless supporters. His impact earned him recognition as Canadian Press Newsmaker of the Year and the prestigious Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's Athlete of the Year.

On June 28, 1981 (4:35 am), flags flew at half-mast nationwide to mourn Terry's passing. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau expressed the nation's gratitude, saying, "It's rare that the courageous spirit of one person unites a nation in both celebration and mourning."

Terry's belief in miracles is exemplified with Mars ruling the 9th house, governing belief systems. His dominant planet, Mars, underscored his remarkable mission. Boundless courage, passion, and love for sports propelled him to raise cancer awareness. Despite immense challenges, Terry's discipline and responsibility, suggested by Saturn in Sagittarius in the 5th house, fueled his hope. Limitation with obstacles served as a testament to his faith and determination.

Mars squaring his Sun at the exact degree speaks to his formidable will and spirit, leaving an unforgettable mark on the hearts of Canadians and beyond. Terry's unwavering belief in miracles and his courageous

pursuit of goals have forged a legacy of hope and inspiration for future generations. Fox was more than just an athlete, he was a humanitarian, cancer research activist, and visionary. Thank you, Terry, for elevating humanity with your miraculous beacon of hope.

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## David Palmer

David Lawrence Palmer introduces himself on LinkedIn as follows; CEO Founder High Vibe TV; The Disruptive Spiritual Network, The Leo King.com, Celebrity Astrologer, House DJ, TV Studio Owner, Pro PWC Racing (Jet Ski), TV personality, Reality TV Star, TV/OTT Producer and Mastermind.

His influence extends across multiple Over-the-Top (OTT) media corporations, producing and distributing content through mobile apps, social media, and streaming platforms. His content resonates with audiences far and wide.

Born with his Sun at 0° Leo 55', reigning over his 1st house, Palmer's 'over the top' kingly personality is evident. A wide 10° Venus conjunction amplifies his charm, drawing people toward him effortlessly. With Leo Mercury conjunct his Leo ASC, Palmer's oratory skills shine. A regal voice demands attention. Ears naturally perk up, captivated by his compelling delivery.

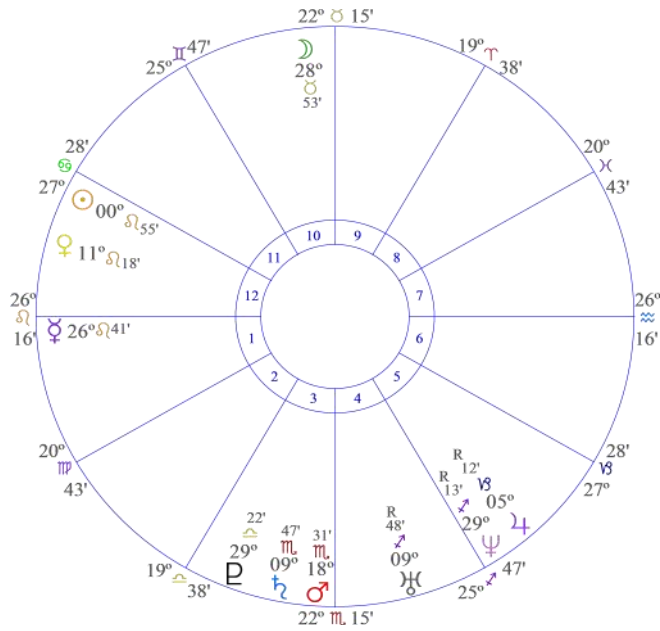
Mercury governs his 2nd house of earnings and 11th house of networking. Through this community, he generates income, especially online, aligning seamlessly with his

*(Continued on page 9)*

*"Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars."*

— Khalil Gibran





**David Palmer**

July 23, 1984; 8:05 a.m. PST (AA rating); Newport Beach, CA



11th house. Adeptness at leveraging online channels and connecting with a broad network significantly contributes to his financial success, synergistically blending earning potential and networking skills.

Mercury conjuncts his Leo ASC and trines both Neptune and Jupiter in the 5th house—a born entertainer. His self-proclaimed title as a spiritual influencer reflects his desire to inspire and uplift others through his entertainment platform.

Exalted Taurus Moon conjunct his MC, he associates wealth with success. He embodies the trustworthy, hardworking, and reliable traits of Taurus, while his emotional side seeks material comforts. The sextile aspect between his Moon and Leo Sun maintains a balanced ego-emotion harmony.

With Pluto in his Libra 3rd house, he excels in diplomatic counselling and navigates interpersonal dynamics with finesse. The square aspect to his Sun infuses passion and conviction into his communication and beliefs. He adeptly imparts his

doctrine, captivating followers with eloquence. Palmer's drive for distinction propels him to excellence in all endeavors.

The Scorpio Saturn-Mars conjunction in the 3rd house gives vigor, stamina, and exceptional business communication skills for passionate empire-building. With this potent energy he is well-equipped to achieve his desires on his path to greatness.

Mercury conjuncts his ASC in Leo, and Neptune and Jupiter conjoined in the Sagittarian 5th house highlight Palmer's creative flair and visionary approach. This alignment aids his objectives in mysticism, myth, and spiritualism within the entertainment industry. His latest venture, Astro Mystic AI, reflects his innovative spirit, blending technology with spirituality and promising exciting developments.

“Risk equals reward, and how I have used risk to play into my life and career is by not being afraid to make decisions and execute them. Every choice I make comes from an

*(Continued on page 10)*

*“Nothing is impossible. The word itself says I’m possible!”*

— Audrey Hepburn



David Palmer, Astrologer—screenshot from his website:  
<https://djdavidpalmer.wordpress.com/2011/09/05/davidpalmernew/>

overwhelming place of excitement and a gut instinct of, hell yes! I have used risk as a catapult to go where nobody has gone, creating my own market, my own businesses that everyone will try and copy.”

With his Leo-Leo personality, *The Leo King* envisions himself as an inspirational figure, ascending towards divine enlightenment. Exuding a strong sense of conviction and self-assuredness in his beliefs, he is akin to a lion adorned in regal attire surveying his kingdom. He perceives himself as uniquely positioned, perhaps endowed with a sense of authority or deeper insight into truth than his peers. His mantra, “My message is clear—positivity, love, and inspiration will guide you to true happiness,” highlights his commitment to disseminating a message of uplifting transformation. Palmer firmly believes that following his guidance can lead others to enlightenment.

At 35, Palmer amassed a net worth of \$64 million as a professional YouTuber. Now, at 40, his trajectory remains captivating. With his Leo/Leo Sun and Leo Venus in the 12th house of the collective unconsciousness, he stands as one of the top 5 “Astrology Influencers.” A charismatic trendsetter, will he use his gifts to inspire others constructively? The stage is set for Palmer to shine, leveraging his charisma to uplift others. Yet the journey ahead poses questions: Will ambition overshadow his

light, or will he embody his Leo energy, illuminating the path?

### Benito Mussolini

Benito Mussolini was Europe’s first 20th-century fascist dictator, Italian prime minister (1922-1943), author, editor, journalist, schoolmaster.

In 1922 he gathered fascist leaders in Rome and compelled King Victor Emmanuel III to relinquish control. Marking a significant moment, he became the youngest prime minister in Italian history. By 1925, Mussolini dismantled Italy’s democratic government, declaring himself Il Duce, “The Leader.” His regime crumbled when he was ousted by his own Grand Council, arrested and imprisoned on July 25, 1943, ending 21 years of fascist rule.

Born in the Leo/Leo decanate, the eldest of three children from a notably poor family, he displayed strong leadership qualities at a very young age. His Sun conjunct Mercury in Leo provided creative self-expression and a commanding voice. His Sun-Mercury aspects to MC, Mars, Moon, Saturn, Pluto, and a sesquisquare to Uranus add potency to his Leo-Leo personality.

An early police report excerpt from the Inspector-General of Public Security in

(Continued on page 11)

“Don’t sit down and wait for opportunities to come. Get up and make them.”

— Madam C.J. Walker

Milan provides insight into Benito Mussolini's character which showcases his appeal. "He was gaining a reputation as a young man of strange magnetism and remarkable rhetorical talents. He read widely and voraciously, if not deeply, plunging into the philosophers and theorists of the past, impressing his companions as a potential revolutionary of uncommon personality and striking presence."

Mussolini's Scorpio Ascendant intensified his charismatic persona. Despite Neptune's exact opposition to his ASC, which added layers of complexity and ambiguity, it also suggests potential struggles with clarity. Scorpio's influence on the ASC, characterized by passion, obsession, secrecy, intensity, and mistrust, may have also contributed to his tendency to fantasize, leading to illusions that hindered accurate decision-making and perception of his schemes.



Despite Neptune's challenges, his optimistic nature, reflected in Neptune's sextile to Venus and Jupiter posited in the 8th house provided faith and support during difficult times. Mussolini's alliances, exemplified by Hitler's paratroopers rescuing him from Campo Imperatore prison in 1943, fostered a positive outlook.

Neptune's exact trine with Uranus in his 10th house of ambition fueled Mussolini's revolutionary ideology. With all but one of his planets in the upper west quadrant, he was influenced by events that captured public attention.

With a Gemini stellium, Mussolini exhibited intelligence and exceptional oratory skills. His self-taught proficiency in French and German, along with translations of philosophical works, revealed his intellectu-

al curiosity. However, the Gemini planets are square his MC suggesting potential challenges in his ability to wield and maintain power.

His belief systems played a significant role in his life with Sun conjunct Mercury in the 9th house. Mussolini's early editorship of *Avanti* for the Socialists earned him high esteem. His interpretation of the working class spirit and passionate advocacy for vigilant neutrality were admired.

Evidenced by a reluctant abandonment of socialist ideals, he shifted from socialism to fascism marking a significant turning point, reflecting his adaptability (Gemini) and willingness to challenge norms.

Transitioning to *Il Popolo d'Italia*'s editorship, Mussolini stated his new fascist philosophy through forceful articles. His declaration, "From today onward we are all Italians and nothing but Italians," marked the birth of fascism. The rallying cry, "Viva l'Italia!" encapsulated the fervor and patriotism of the emerging fascist ideology, solidifying his role as the supreme authoritarian and dictator.

Mussolini, a trailblazer and idea developer, adeptly adapted to diverse environments. His charismatic Scorpio Ascendant drew full-capacity crowds to his speeches. With impressive oratory, theatrical moves, and a magnetic presence, he captivated audiences despite contradictions and factual inaccuracies. Using dramatic language, surrounded by men in black shirts, making use of effective gestures, he wielded influence and imposed his mood on the audience, contributing to his political success.

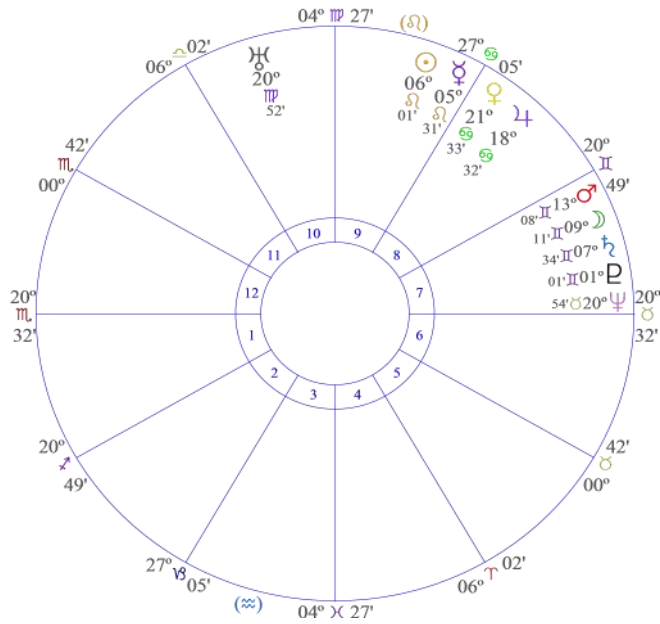
Fast Forward to September 12, 1943, eleven days after his daring escape, Mussolini yielded to pressure from Hitler and loyal

(Continued on page 12)



"It doesn't matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn't matter how smart you are. If it doesn't agree with experiment, it's wrong."

— Richard P. Feynman



**Benito Mussolini**

July 29, 1883; 2:00 a.m. PM LST (AA rating); Predappio, Italy

*“You are free to make choices, but are a prisoner of the consequences.”*

— Pablo Neruda

fascists to establish a new regime, the Italian Social Republic (RSI). As head of state and Minister of Foreign Affairs, he focused on writing his memoirs, later published as *My Rise and Fall* by Da Capo Press, combining them with his autobiographical writings of 1928.

In a January 1945 interview with Madeleine Mollier, just months before his recapture and execution by Italian partisans, Mussolini declared: “Seven years ago, I was an interesting person. Now, I am little more than a corpse.” He continued: “Yes, madam, I am finished. My star has fallen. I have no fight left in me. I work and I try, yet know that all is but a farce...I await the end of the tragedy and—strangely detached from everything—I do not feel any more an actor. I feel I am the last of spectators.”

The end of Mussolini's rule marked a transition to democracy. His legacy encom-

passes both positive and negative aspects of his rulership, etched in history. It emphasized traits of authority, desire, distinction, fame, and power — all characteristics of his Leo/Leo decanate.

*“Better to live a day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep.”* —Benito Mussolini

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## The Egyptian Roots of The Brotherhood of Light Series:

### Part 4 - The Cycle of Necessity

by J. A. Miller, PhD, Hermetician, Order of the Sphinx

*“Ascend and descend; descend with Nephthys, sink into darkness with the Night-bark.*

*Ascend and descend; ascend with Isis, rise with the Day-bark”*

— Pyramid Texts, utterance 222, line 210

Having laid the foundation in Parts 1-3 of this series, we are now ready to proceed with the decoding of the theological symbols and stories of the Heliopolitan Ennead. Before proceeding, the reader is encouraged to review the information given in these previous contributions [1, 2, 3]. In this article, we will examine the goddesses Nephthys and Isis and demonstrate how they encode the BOL doctrine of “The Cycle of Necessity.”

As previously noted, Elbert Benjamine provided us with the key to unlocking the BOL doctrines contained in the Heliopolitan Ennead. This is found in the “Osiris Passage” from the Egyptian Initiation chapter in Course 2, *Astrological Signatures* [4].

*In Egypt, Osiris is portrayed as murdered and the fourteen dismembered parts (each soul possessing a septenary constitution) sent floating down the Nile (the current of involuntary life) finally to be cast upon the muddy banks of the Delta (the material world). But faithful Isis (Nature) gathers together these fragments and breathing upon them the breath of life they become reunited and Osiris is born anew, never again to die. These allegories symbolically picture the drama of the soul’s descent from the celestial state, the separation of the twin souls in the highest realms of the spiritual world, who after a time, Nature again brings together, breathes upon them the breadth of love, uniting them, and by their united strength they become immortal.*

In the “Osiris Passage” above, Benjamine tells us that the theological symbol of Osiris represents the BOL teaching of the separation and reunion of the twin souls.

Osiris “murdered” encodes the separation of the twin souls. This is made quite evi-

(Continued on page 14)



*“Because there is no conceivable way by which the soul can acquire love and wisdom except through varied experiences in form, the cycle through which the soul passes, from spirit to matter and from matter back to spirit...is called by initiates, ‘The Cycle of Necessity’”*

— C. C. Zain  
CSII, *Astrological  
Signatures*



dent in the “dismembering of Osiris” into 14 pieces. As Benjamine observes, the number 14 refers to the two souls, each having a septenary (or 7-fold) constitution according to the BOL Hermetic teachings [5].

In his condensed account of the Osiris Myth, Benjamine indicates that “Nature again” brings the two souls together. The word “again” means that at one time, prior to their separation, the two souls were indeed together in “Nature.” This is confirmed in the same statement in which the separation of the twin souls is said to have occurred “in the highest realms of the spiritual world.” According to the BOL Hermetic teaching, in order for the soul to descend further than the 7th level of the Spiritual Realm, it must polarize and separate into twin male and female souls. This occurs in the Involuntary or Descent Phase of the Cycle of Necessity (CON). It is during the Evolutionary or Ascent Phase of the CON that “Nature again” brings the two twin souls together to become reunited and immortal. Thus, it is “Nature” that separates the twin souls and “Nature again” that reunites them [6].

The term “Nature,” then, as used by Benjamine, is referring to the BOL doctrine of “The Cycle of Necessity.” In the “Osiris Passage,” he refers to “Nature” as “Isis.” However, this condensed reference to “Nature” as “Isis” can now be unpacked in light of the longer version of the Osiris

Myth that was the subject of the previous installment in this series [3]. For in the extended Osiris Myth, Isis has a “twin sister,” Nephthys.

In Heliopolitan theology, Nephthys is the “mirror image” of Isis. Nephthys is a goddess of death, lamentation, the night, darkness, protection, and magic and is associated with the West. She represented the death experience. Isis is a goddess of life, marriage, light, health, love, protection and magic and is associated with the East. She represented the birth experience. In the 5th Dynasty Old Kingdom Pyramid Texts

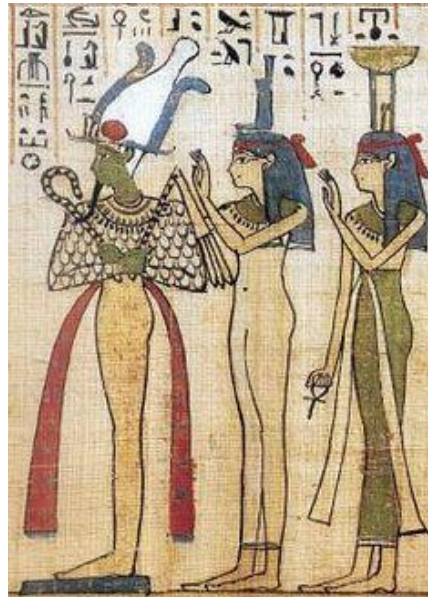


Figure 1. Osiris (left), Isis (middle), Nephthys (right).

(Utterance 222, line 210), the oldest religious literature in the world, we find the following:

*Descend with Nephthys, sink into darkness with the Night-bark.  
Ascend with Isis, rise with the Day-bark.*  
[7]

So, Nephthys, the twin sister of Isis, is clearly associated with descent and death. Thus, we can now understand that she symbolically represents the Descent Phase of the Cycle of Necessity in which the twin souls are separated and then descend through the various levels of the Spiritual Realm and Astral Realm to finally incarnate into the mineral level of the Physical Realm. This is the “death” and “dismembering” of “Osiris.”

In the Osiris Myth, Osiris is “murdered” in connection with Nephthys. It was Nephthys’ husband and brother Seth (god

(Continued on page 15)

“... this cycle of experiences in various forms is a necessity if the soul is to acquire the love and wisdom which alone make possible Self-Conscious Immortality. The mission of the soul, therefore, is to acquire Love and Wisdom to the end that Self-Conscious Immortality may be attained.”

— C. C. Zain  
CSII,  
Astrological Signatures

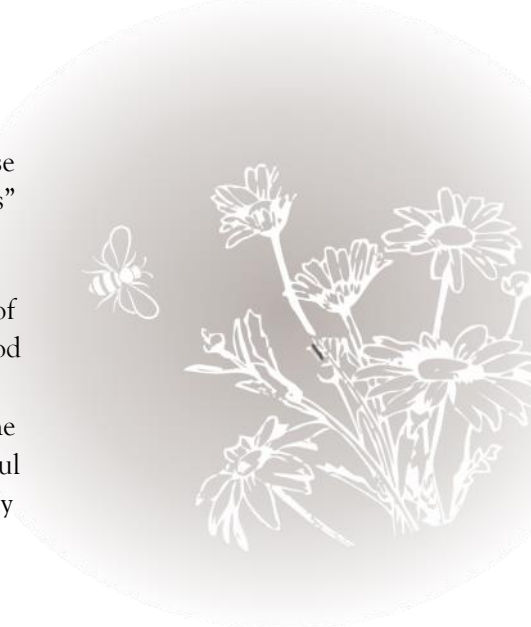
of war) who killed Osiris, dismembered him, and scattered the pieces across “Egypt.” Why? Nephthys and Isis were twin sisters and, except for their dress, their appearance was identical [see Fig. 1]. Though Isis was married to Osiris, Nephthys was also in love with him. In one version of the Osiris Myth, it is said that one night, Nephthys dressed up like Isis in order to fool Osiris into making love to her. This union resulted in the conception and birth of the god Anubis (of whom we will treat in a future installment). It was this unwitting “affair” between Nephthys and Osiris that drove Seth to murder and dismember his brother [3]. From this, we can understand that the separation of the twin souls, their “death” and incarnation into the mineral realm, is associated with Nephthys, who represents the Descent Phase of the Cycle of Necessity.

In the Osiris Myth, it is not just Isis that looks for and puts together the dismembered pieces of Osiris for his eventual resurrection, but it is both Nephthys and Isis who work together to do this [see Fig. 2]. This is an important point, because the Cycle of Necessity is comprised of two phases that work together. Both phases

are necessary. The twin souls “descend with Nephthys” during the Descent Phase of the CON. They then “ascend with Isis” who represents the Ascent Phase.

Once Nephthys and Isis find the pieces of Osiris, they bring them to Anubis, the god of the dead and mummification, who wraps Osiris in bandages, making him the first mummy. Isis, then, with her powerful magic, resurrects Osiris temporarily. They are together for one night during which she conceives Horus, the sky god. When he comes of age, Horus battles with Seth to “avenge” his father. The victory of Horus over Seth results in the final completion of the resurrection of Osiris. There is much here, in this part of the Osiris Myth, that involves additional BOL doctrines, but these will be addressed in future installments of this series. However, for now, we can see that it is Isis, and her son Horus, that is associated with the return to life and complete resurrection of Osiris which represents the reunion of the twin souls. So, here we have The Brotherhood of Light teaching that the twin souls (“Osiris”) achieve their reunion (“resurrection”) in the Ascent Phase (though the actions of Isis) of the CON. Clearly, Isis represents the Ascent Phase of the CON.

(Continued on page 16)



*“Nature moves toward specialization, each specialized part performing a definite function. Therefore, the soul impelled on its cyclic journey is given that trend which offers it the opportunity to develop such attributes as it requires if it is ultimately to fill its proper sphere as a useful member in the cosmos.”*

— C. C. Zain  
CSII,  
Astrological Signatures



Figure 2. Nephthys (left), Osiris “dead” (middle), Isis (right). Isis and Nephthys work together in the restoration of Osiris back to life.



“[The Tree of Life] is the reunion of the separated male and female souls...In Egypt, Osiris is portrayed as murdered and the fourteen dismembered parts (each soul possessing a septenary constitution) sent floating down the Nile (the current of involutory life) finally to be cast upon the muddy banks of the Delta (the material world). But faithful Isis (Nature) gathers together these fragments and breathing upon them the breath of life they become reunited and Osiris is born anew, never again to die.”

— C. C. Zain  
CSII,  
Astrological Signatures



**Figure 3.** Nephthys (left), Osiris (middle), Isis (right). The twin souls (Osiris) being embraced by The Cycle of Necessity. Nephthys represents the Descent Phase (involution). Isis represents the Ascent Phase (evolution). The fully resurrected Osiris, representing the reunited twin souls, has his face toward Isis symbolizing eternal progression as a celestial, angelic being.

Just as the BOL doctrine of the separation and reunion of the twin souls is interrelated with the doctrine of the Cycle of Necessity, so, we now can understand the interrelatedness of Osiris, Nephthys and Isis in Heliopolitan Osiris Myth. Metaphorically, it can be said that the Cycle of Necessity, (a key aspect of “Nature”) is “in love” with the twin souls that experience their separation, death and involution (Osiris “murdered and dismembered”) in the Descent Phase (Nephthys) and their development, growing life, evolution and reunion (Osiris fully resurrected) in the Ascent Phase (Isis).

This understanding allows us to see the deeper meaning in Pyramid Text Utterance 505 in which the deceased Pharaoh states: “Isis is before me and Nephthys is behind me” [7, Fig. 3]. This is an acknowledgement that the evolution of continued Ascent (Isis) leading to

“resurrection” (reunion of the twin souls) in the after-life lies ahead of him whereas the last remnant of the involution of Descent (Nephthys), the physical body, has been left behind. Thus, the deceased was considered to be an “Osiris,” destined for self-conscious immortality.

This interrelatedness of BOL doctrines and the elements of the theological myth of Osiris is not exhausted by the examination of Osiris, Nephthys, and Isis. We shall return to other aspects of the Osiris Myth, in future articles, to reveal additional BOL doctrines that are related to the teachings about the twin souls and The Cycle of Necessity.

#### About the Author

J. A. Miller, PhD is an anthropologist, scientist, researcher, and Hermetician with a longstanding avocational interest in Egyptology and Western Esotericism. The contents of this article reflect the results of the author's personal study and research, as a Hermetician, which Elbert Benjamine and T. H. Burgoyne encouraged to supplement the foundational BOL materials that they left to all.

#### Footnotes and Citations

[1] For Part I of this article series, “An Overview of the Heliopolitan Ennead and BOL Theology,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 98, Issue 3, pp. 15-20, at <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2023-summer-web.pdf>

[2] For Part II of this article series, “Elbert Benjamine's Key to Decoding the BOL Doctrines in Heliopolitan Theology,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 98, Issue 4, pp. 16-21, at <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2023-fall-web.pdf>

(Continued on page 17)



[3] For Part III of this article series, “The Osiris Myth,” see *The Church of Light Quarterly*, Volume 99, Issue 1, pp. 16-21, at <https://www.light.org/pdf/archives/quarterly/2023-24-winter-web.pdf>

[4] See C. C. Zain, Course 2, *Astrological Signatures*, Chapter 9 “The Ritual of Egyptian Initiation,” paragraph 13, at <https://www.light.org/The-Ritual-of-Egyptian-Initiation-SL001.cfm>

[5] For example, see Burgoyne, *The Light of Egypt*, Volume I, Part I, Section II,

Chapter II “The Hermetic Constitution of Man,” pp54-61, 1965 Reprint Edition.

[6] For an overview of these doctrines, see *The Brotherhood of Light Course 2, Astrological Signatures*, Chapter 4 “Mission of the Soul,” and Course 3, *Spiritual Alchemy*.

[7] see Butler EP, “Nephtys.” *Henadology, Philosophy and Theology* website, at: <https://henadology.wordpress.com/theology/netjeru/nephtys/>.



*Leo—Rulership (continued from page 1)*

tige, and prominence. The tale that Zain (1997) most completely analyzes as a metaphor for the message and meaning of the heavenly lion is The Story of Samson, which is depicted over the course of four chapters in the Book of Judges (*King James Version*, 2024, *Judges 13-16*). Samson is an Israelite of peerless physical prowess. He defeats a lion with his bare hands, single-handedly overwhelms entire enemy forces, and ultimately topples the pillars of a prominent Philistine’s house in a final act of vengeance, while also effecting his own demise in the process. At the same time, Samson wantonly abuses his power on multiple occasions, marries outside of his faith (in those days, a serious infraction of Moses’ instructions to the Israelites), lays with a harlot, is guilty of gambling, acts out of terrible rage and wrath, slays innocents, and behaves in vicious and vengeful ways. In essence, then, Samson represents the archetypal Leo, who like the Sun or a mighty lion is powerful and prodigious, but whose supernal strength must be tethered to spiritual aspirations if it is to effect constructive growth as opposed to destructive devastation.

In a similar fashion, all three of the decanates found within Leo elucidate important aspects of the right use of power. The first decanate of Leo is called Crater, which translates as “the cup” (Constellation Guide, 2024). Zain (1997) associates this constellation most closely with the incredible heat of a volcano’s caldera, or the fiery furnace mentioned in two Biblical tales, the first related in Daniel 3 and the second recounted in Genesis 19 (*New Living Translation Version*, 2024, *Daniel 3*; *Genesis 19*). In both cases, we are first reminded of the importance of directing willpower constructively, and then instructed as to how to do so.

The first tale that Zain (1997) relates in order to expound upon the mythological meaning of Crater is found in Daniel 3 (*New Living Translation Version*, 2024, *Daniel 3*). King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has defeated King Jehoiakim of Judah. As a result, many Israelites reside in Babylon as captives of King Nebuchadnezzar. The king desires that several royal or noble family members of Judah serve in his palace. Hence, he puts them through a rigorous three-year training period, after which he selects Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and

(Continued on page 18)

*“The True Self is not our creation, but God’s. It is the self we are in our depths. It is our capacity for divinity and transcendence.”*

— Sue Monk Kidd



Azariah, whom the king's chief of staff re-names Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, respectively. Daniel and his three companions adhere to a strict, vegetarian diet, refusing to partake of what they see as the defiling diet provided by the king. Daniel in particular is gifted in the art of dream interpretation, and his successful interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams earns him praises and privileges in the king's royal household. At Daniel's request, his companions Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are also promoted to high positions.

A little while later, King Nebuchadnezzar sets up an enormous golden statue 90 feet tall on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. The king summons many dignitaries to the dedication of the statue, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king commands that all those present kneel before his golden statue, but as their religion prohibits the worship of idols, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do so. For this action, Daniel's three companions are cast into a fiery furnace heated to seven times its normal temperature. So hot was the fiery furnace, in fact, that it set to flames the soldiers of the king who had been tasked with casting in Daniel's three companions.

Once Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in the furnace, however, something miraculous took place. Not three, but four men were seen inside of it, wandering around completely unharmed. The last individual looked like some kind of god or angel. King Nebuchadnezzar called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego out of the fiery furnace. They emerged, completely untouched by its all-consuming fire. Astonished by this marvel, the king offered praise to the God of the Hebrews. He then stated that anyone who speaks a word against the God of the Hebrews will be torn limb from

limb, and their houses turned into heaps of rubble.

A second, related story is recounted in the well known tale of Sodom and Gomorrah (*New Living Translation Version, 2024, Genesis 19*). The ill repute of these two cities had spread far and wide, so much so that the Lord Himself had heard the cries of the righteous and determined to erase them from the face of the earth for the flagrant sins of their inhabitants. Not wanting to see morally upright individuals caught up in the incineration of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham intercedes, negotiating with the Lord until He agrees not to destroy the cities if He discovers even ten righteous individuals within their city limits.

The Lord sends two angels to assess the spiritual timbre of the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah. The angels encounter Lot, a righteous man who offers them lodging, and defends them against the ill intentions of the city residents. Recognizing Lot as a morally upright individual, they warn him to flee the city with his wife and daughters before it is utterly destroyed. Lot manages to escape with his wife and two of his daughters before the Lord rains down fire and brimstone upon the cities, completely consuming them. Even though they were warned not to stop or look back as they fled, Lot's wife cannot resist one final glance. When she looks back at the smoldering cities, she is turned into a pillar of salt.

Both of these tales communicate a similar moral. In both cases, a fiery furnace awaits those who cannot overcome the allure of their lower desires, who cannot attach their willpower to more uplifting, spiritual aims. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were protected from the overwhelming heat of King Nebuchadnezzar's hellish furnace owing to the purity and spiritualization of their desires. As they remained faithful to

(Continued on page 19)

*"There is but one cause of human failure. And that is man's lack of faith in his true Self."*

— William James

their God, even under pain of death, they were protected against the destructive nature of ill-conditioned desires. Likewise, the Lord discovered in Lot a righteous man living amongst the craven sinners of Sodom and Gomorrah. As such, he sent his spiritual messengers to abscond Lot and his family members to safety. Unfortunately, his wife could not completely resist the appeal of her former home, and, turning back, became crystallized by her lower desires.

In these timeless tales, we find not only an admonition against entertaining the lesser aims of base, selfish motives, but also the means by which to recondition our desires in order to duly spiritualize and uplift them. The Leading Text of Crater is: *To Learn to Like Anything, Associate With It as Many Pleasurable Thoughts and Sensations As Possible* (Zain, 1997, p. 119). That is, in order to recondition our desires into potent builders of a robust spiritual frame, it is necessary to associate them with as many constructive, enjoyable experiences as possible. As Zain (1999) discusses at length in *Esoteric Psychology*, all living creatures, including human beings, are attracted to pleasurable experiences and repelled by painful ones. As such, forming as many pleasurable associations as possible with a desired behavior will help to encourage and cement it in place. While doing so, however, it is important not to “look back”. In other words, when seeking to build new, more constructive habit systems into our mental maps, it is not productive to focus our energy on that which we want to avoid,

but rather to so completely focus our energy on uplifting, constructive aims that the undesired behavior withers for want of nutrition. In such a manner, any and all desires can be converted into sublimated, aspirational aims which will uplift and buoy the soul in its growth and development.

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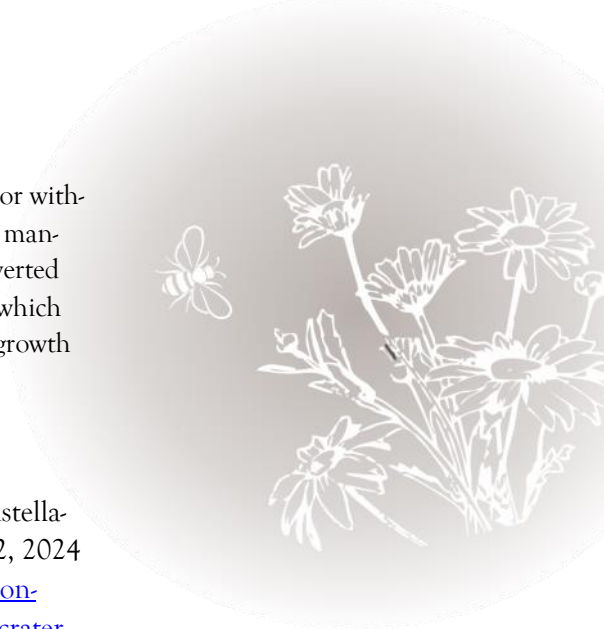
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“Confidence... thrives on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection and on unselfish performance. Without them it cannot live.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Introducing 2024 Convention Speakers

Meg Dissinger is our MC for this year's Convention. She is a Hermetician who began her journey with The Brotherhood of Light Lessons in the early 1970s. Along this path, she became a Missionary Teacher. This simple act evolved into a lifelong dedication to teaching the principles of The Brotherhood of Light. She holds a master's degree in Community Mental Health and was a secondary teacher for the Cimmaron, NM, public school system.



Yvonne Aivaliotis is a Hermetician and earned a BS in biology and chemistry from SUNY Albany. After Montessori teacher training, she taught science, math, biology, and chemistry. Since retirement, she has been deeply involved in genealogical research—especially the astrology of her ancestors. She will introduce us to the history of alchemy.

Chelsea Hessel is a Hermetician, and Certified Teacher. She studied chemistry at the University of Oregon, and has worked in public administration and environmental science. Currently she is developing a stress management practice using mindfulness meditation. For the convention, she is enthusiastic about teaching us about the metals and their corresponding planets. Her workshop will focus on identifying the alchemical metals in the birth chart—which ones are strong, and those needing more work.



Erin MacLean is a Hermetician, Mindfulness Meditation Teacher, trained facilitator of the Work of Byron Katie, and a conflict resolution lawyer. Yvette Fortin is a Hermetician with a BS in Anthropology and AA in Accounting. She is also a Weather Observer at Kirtland AFB. Her passion is studying and teaching esoteric principles. Erin and Yvette will present a class and workshop focused on the Mental Alchemy of identifying which metals need greater fortification and understanding.



Pat Ramsey is a Hermetician, Certified Teacher and Membership Minister with the Church of Light. He is an ordained Metaphysical Minister and Doctor of Metaphysics associated with the University of Metaphysics. He will conduct the Sunday Service. The theme is Cosmic Alchemy.

Mark Doubleday is a Hermetician, Minister, and Mason. He has a passion for and is a lifelong student of history, religion, and philosophy. His major areas of study in western philosophy and comparative religion. His studies exposed him to many people's religious and cultural ideas and practices. Mark's lecture is on Spiritual Alchemy, and his workshop focuses on how to build a spiritual body.



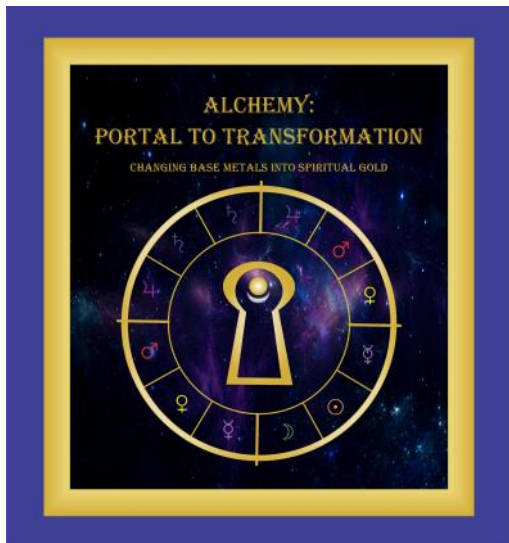
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### Friday, June 28th

We commence with the Opening Ritual and Annual Membership Meeting at 11am, during which the status of the Church and its future is discussed.

Afternoon free time.

Friday evening you are invited by The Order of the Sphinx to witness and/or participate in initiations for new members and incremental grade achievements for existing members. The evening concludes with a celebratory reception.

### Saturday: June 29th

**Focus is on learning how to alchemize the planets in your chart.**

The day begins with a comprehensive exploration of Alchemy in the context of the Hermetic teachings of The Brotherhood of Light lessons presented by Yvonne Aivaliotis. This is followed by a discussion led by Chelsea Hessel on how to identify the alchemical metals and their relation to the Alchemical Laboratory. The lecture is followed by a workshop titled "Where are My Metals?"

Lunch buffet is provided by The Church of Light.

Yvette Fortin and Erin McLean will then discuss Mental Alchemy. The lecture will focus on using your birth chart to find your discordant and restricting thought compounds. The lecture will be followed by an associated workshop on "How to Apply Corresponding Mental Antidotes and Conversion Techniques."

On Saturday evening, we gather for an Awards Banquet Buffet including a playful round of Occult Jeopardy, hosted by Paul Johnson.

*(Continued on page 22)*

**Sunday: June 30th**  
**Focus is on learning how to strengthen**  
**the weakest planet in your chart.**

Sunday morning begins with a Spiritual Service on Cosmic Alchemy, led by Rev. Patrick Ramsey. After the service, Mark Doubleday delivers a talk on “Spiritual Alchemy – Building Our Spiritual Body.”

Lunch buffet, courtesy of the Church of Light.

After lunch, there will be a raffle, followed by a Spiritual Alchemy Workshop by Mark Doubleday, asking the question, “Based on Your Birth Chart and Experience, What Essential Metal Do You Need to Build and Balance Your Spiritual Body?”

All in all, a weekend of camaraderie and enjoyment culminating with the Church of Light Closing Ritual.

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**Speakers or topics may be subject to change.**

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**2022 Convention fun....**





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## The Church of Light Vision For the 21st Century

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To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of humankind through the teaching and practices of the Religion of the Stars as outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

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Astrology is the Golden Key that unlocks the door to understanding the Soul's true character and potential.

The safe development of extrasensory perception (Extension of Consciousness) is the best tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

Religion is the sister of Science, and it evolves by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.

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We seek out reliable and verifiable information regarding life on higher planes of existence, especially in regard to the transition we call death and the nature of the next life;

We develop increasingly advanced tools and training in astrology, extrasensory perception, directed thinking and induced emotion toward the end of maximizing each person's happiness, usefulness and spirituality;

We promote the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;

We build a sense of community and spiritual purpose which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.