



The Real, Real World

Cosmic Politics

excerpt from Course 17, Cosmic Alchemy



C.C. Zain

BECAUSE all too often politics has been used by the unscrupulous to acquire advantages for special privilege at the expense of public welfare, it has gained for itself, in the minds of many, a noxious odor. Yet this is merely one more example of the principle — exemplified by aviation, and still more recently and forcefully by atomic fission — that anything which can be used for good can also be used for evil.

Cosmic alchemists must be realistic, willing to face facts without being influenced by popular prejudice. And the fact concerning important changes in the social structure, by which people can be benefited, is that the only way they can be brought to pass is through politics. Under a democracy, those elected to office are supposed to enact legislation that will carry out the desires of the people. If they pass laws disapproved by the people, it is likely they will not be returned to office at the next election. But even in a dictatorship, the dictator, to remain in power, must be able to sell his ideas to his immediate henchmen, and if he is to be successful in any really large enterprise he must have the willing support also of a large portion of the people.

It is the desire of the cosmic alchemist that all the people of the world shall make as great intellectual and spiritual progress as possible, and for reasons briefly stated in lesson No. 164 he believes this can be accomplished only by providing freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of expression and freedom of worship to all the people of the world.

These freedoms, or any one of them, can only be gained by the people of the world exerting sufficient political pressure upon their leaders to cause them to strive to devise means to attain them.

Already, in the two preceding lessons, it has been shown that only through proper organization can poverty and war be abolished. And such organization is possible only under governments which permit it. That is, they are dependent upon politics.

The fear of want and the fear of war are not the only fears harbored by man. There is the fear of death, the fear of disease, the fear of failure, and many other fears. Nor can there be freedom from fear among a people who are persecuted because they have different religious views than those advocated by the state. And the only manner in which man can be freed from these other fears is through adequate knowledge and freedom to govern his actions by this knowledge.

When he understands after-death conditions, he should no longer fear death. When he understands how to protect himself from disease, and gains the viewpoint of the spiritual alchemist relative to it and other disagreeable experiences, he will no longer fear them. But to gain the knowledge which will thus banish fear, he must have access to the facts. And this he can have only where there is freedom of expression and freedom of worship.

From the standpoint of the cosmic alchemist the best kind of government for a people is one that gives no undue advantage to any group or class, but which affords the greatest opportunity for every individual to develop his highest talents, and which affords him an incentive to use these talents in a manner that will benefit others as well as himself.

As any astrologer quickly can demonstrate, people are not born equal in the sense that they have equal natural aptitudes which can be developed into abilities. But all should be given the opportunity to develop into abilities such natural aptitudes as their charts of birth show they do have. Regardless of race, sex, creed or color, people should be given equal opportunity to work, equal pay for doing the same work, equal political opportunities, equal educational opportunities, equal social opportunities and equal recreational opportunities.

But they cannot have such equal opportunities if they permit the form of government under which they live to be selected for them by some hereditary strain, by some special privilege

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A Timely Lesson Using the Gold and Silver Keys

Vicki Brewer, Hermetician & Minister

The controversial and highly polarized presidential election in the United States seems a perfect opportunity to take a look at the anatomy of such an event and what it tells us about ourselves. Zain is very clear that politics is the means by which a group of people may voice their individuality and implement their will. Interestingly he places this discussion within the context of Course 17, *Cosmic Alchemy*. Let's see if we can gain any insight into why Zain did this by examining one of the Silver Keys, Arcanum 17, since it is the major arcanum associated with the occult science, Cosmic Alchemy.

Along the path of the initiate, Arcanum XVII follows Arcanum XV and XVI. Arcanum XV represents perfect equilibrium, polarized by crystallizing selfishness and is followed by Arcanum XVI, the false security of material success and failed ambition. Then comes Arcanum XVII, which after the exhaustion of dealing with these first two forces, carries the message of faith and hope, teaching us how to pick up the pieces and glean the essential truth of an experience.

From the Tarot:

"Arcanum XVII is figured by a blazing star of eight rays in the center of which is a white trine with point upward joined at its base to a black trine with its point downward. This star is surrounded by seven other stars. It hovers over a nude young girl who has one foot upon the sea and one foot upon the land, and who pours the fluid of universal life from two cups, one of gold, the other of silver. Near the girl is a flower of three blossoms, and above the upper one a butterfly opens its wings.

"This young girl is the emblem of truth. She is nude, signifying that truth can be perceived only when stripped of the preconceived ideas and dogmatic opinions with which it has been clothed by the artificiality of civilization.

"She rests partly upon the land and partly upon the sea to denote that truth is dual, the truth of reality and the truth of appearances, the truth of the practical and the truth of the ideal. The fluid is poured from a silver cup into the sea to indicate that the loving, emotional side of man's nature must be nourished if he is to grasp the inner truth. And it is poured from a golden cup upon the land to denote the necessity of cultivating the positive, reasoning intellect if he is to possess the external truth.

"The eight-point star symbolizes the Law of Equilibrium, the balance between spirit and matter, male and female, the inner and the outer. It is the book of the apocalypse sealed with seven seals, and thus represents the inner realization and the outer realization, the birth of the soul and the birth of the body, under the influence of the planets, represented by the 7 surrounding stars, or seals.

"Each of these smaller stars, or seals, has four points, to signify that man should recognize the nature of its influence and realize how to direct it into channels of his own choosing.

The two trines of the larger star symbolize the Hermetic Axiom, "As it is below, so it is above," and reveal that evolution implies a preceding involution.

It also indicates the necessity of experiences with both good and evil for soul progression.

"Numerically, 17 is the 2nd decade of 8, denoting the crystallized condition of Arcanum VIII polarized to the frequency level denoted by Arcanum II. It is involution followed by evolution, for, after all, matter is but polarized spirit. In the universe there is but one Principle, which manifests under two modes of motion as force and will. There is but one LAW, and this is sex, manifesting as male and female. There is but one Agent, which manifests as spirit and matter. And there is but one Truth, which manifests as ap-



pearance and reality. This is the truth represented by the star of Arcanum XVII.

“Astrologically, The most pronounced symbolism of Arcanum XVII pertains to its duality, and the most dual sign of the zodiac is Gemini. This sign, pictured among the constellations as the Twins, representing Reason and Intuition, belongs to the first degree of emanation of the airy triplicity, and therefore represents the most interior and free use of the intellect. It corresponds to the day house of Mercury, the planet of mental expression, and thus is a fitting symbol of Truth. Better than any other sign, Gemini typifies the duality that sustains all worlds and alone makes life and consciousness possible.”

To answer the question of why Zain would consider politics through the Cosmic lens, we must understand that in order to resolve the conflict of two opposites there must be a third principle or conciliator. For the Cosmic Alchemist that third element is the Cosmic Perspective which holds that true progress must build upon a foundation that represents both positive & negative, light & dark, good & evil, ideal & practical ... in other words TRUTH.

During the 2000 presidential election the constant comment was how boring and uninteresting the election was. People seemed to have great difficulty differentiating between the two major party candidates. Ralph Nadar called them Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum....two sides of the same coin....their positions about as middle of the road as one can get. Interestingly, even their birth charts are very similar!

It was as if the two candidates had been morphed into a very bland creature who tried to be all things to all people. Between the two of them it was very difficult to discern the difference between the truth of reality and the truth of appearance....who is the real Al Gore and what does he represent? The same for George W?

The truth is that each candidate lost his identity because of all the special interests who “owned” a piece of them. Elections in America (and I’m sure in any place where the means are available) have changed over the past twenty years. Campaigning is conducted through the media and is very costly. In order to reach a national audience, candidates are required to raise tremendous sums of money. While it sounds trite, the old adage is frequently true...money does

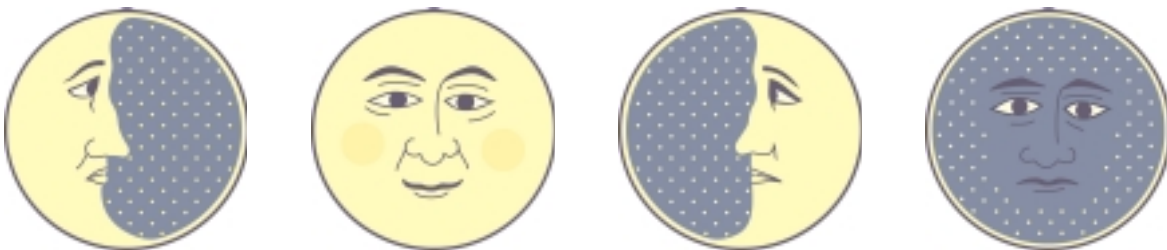
corrupt. It corrupts because of the essential nature of being human...until we learn to take the Cosmic Perspective, humans will be the instruments of their baser nature rather than their higher nature. This isn’t said in the spirit of being a moralizer...rather, it is stated to recognize the fullness of being human. To experience the power and satisfaction of operating from one’s higher nature the baser nature must be fully experienced, acknowledged, accepted.

Paying the dues of special interest is costly to all. Combating those interests requires a vigilant populace. If there is a lesson to be taken from this political experience it is that each person must work to take the larger Cosmic perspective.

The BofL lessons teach that within each individual is the seed of great potential that is necessary for the realization of God’s Great Plan. This potential will only develop when the four freedoms are insured. As long as power resides with the few who can afford to purchase it, then we are not truly free. It is then that we are under the influences represented by Arcanum XV& XVI.

As Zain suggests in the lead article, the pull and tug of special interests is a natural state. What is lacking as a norm, is the attitude of the Cosmic Alchemist, which is to see the various special interests as an important part of the whole. For each segment of the population there must be the opportunity to be heard without having to “buy” that influence with dollars or meanness. The challenges are to: Take advantage of every opportunity to be open to the Cosmic Perspective. Take advantage of every opportunity to educate yourself and support the education of others. Take advantage of every opportunity to acquire the facts and then based upon these facts, use intuition and reason to form a complete picture of the Truth.

“To correct or prevent the injustices of special privilege, people must have the opportunity to select their leaders and to bring pressure to bear to get just laws made. But this opportunity alone suffices little until a people are educated enough properly to reason correctly from facts, and have access to all the relevant facts.” Lets each of us strive to take the Cosmic perspective whenever the opportunity presents itself. Maybe one by one we can make a difference! 🐾



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group, or in any other manner than through self-determination. And even when there is self-determination there are always individuals seeking special privileges and always groups striving to gain unfair advantage over other groups.

Here in democratic America, for instance, groups which largely submerge their selfish interests in time of war in the all-out struggle for national victory, in time of peace work almost exclusively for their own advantage with little regard for the effect upon other groups or upon the nation. Many of these groups subsidize press publicity and maintain political lobbies in the effort to gain the advantages they desire. Other groups work as energetically to thwart these efforts and instead gain advantages for themselves.

Agriculture works vigorously for high prices for agricultural products, and vigorously opposes high prices for the products of industry; while industry works for high prices for industrial products and low prices for the products of agriculture.

The labor unions struggle continually for full employment and to raise wages; while organized capital seeks a condition where enough people are unemployed that it can always hire help and force wages down.

Those on the public pay roll work for higher taxes, so that money may be available to enable them to retain their jobs; while the general public works to have taxes, which they must pay, lowered. And states compete greedily for government appropriations which will benefit themselves at the expense of the tax payers of all the states; and cities and counties strive to grab as great a share as possible of the available tax money.

The movies organize to find means of drawing patronage that otherwise would spend their money on sports or other forms of entertainment; and other types of entertainment form groups to draw trade from the movies.

These groups too often ignore the public welfare and exert political pressure to get legislation passed that benefits themselves at the expense of the nation. In other words, they enter that class of individuals which we term special privilege. And special privilege means that others are deprived of the equal opportunities which are essential for the greatest intellectual and spiritual progress of the people of the world.

To correct or prevent the injustices of special privilege, people must have the opportunity to select their leaders and to bring pressure to bear to get just laws made. But this opportunity alone suffices little until a people are educated enough properly to reason correctly from facts, and have access to all the relevant facts.

It has often been pointed out that the backward peoples of the world are not yet ready for self government. These peoples, it is urged, are so ignorant of what kind of government is good for them that they can readily be induced to place in power individuals who would rob and enslave them. And it is undoubtedly true that having had little access to facts, and no experience in self government, they would make mistakes. But Germany was not considered a backward nation when it was robbed and enslaved by Hitler's cunning propaganda, nor was Italy considered a backward nation when Mussolini was given power of life and death over its people.

The United States was not considered a backward nation when in 1943 it permitted two special privilege groups — the American Astronomical Society and the American Society of Magicians — to get astrological broadcasts ruled off the air. Nor when, as at present, the big newspapers and magazines are either owned, subsidized, or otherwise largely under the control of big corporations which are interested in suppressing or distorting facts which if widely known would prevent them making huge profits.

Yet if self determination is to result in proper benefits to the people who exercise it, the people, whether of a backward nation or a progressive nation, must have access to as many facts as possible relative to what will give them the most opportunities, and, instead of being led into slavery or poverty by some demagogue or some self-seeking group, must have the intelligence to discern inversive propaganda and to recognize and work for conditions which will really benefit them.

Capable Leaders Needed

In the attainment of these benefits they should enlist the services of capable leaders. Government should be managed, not by individuals who muddle even their own small affairs, but by the best possible ability obtainable. For that matter, the fact may as well be faced that under any form of government that has existed in the past or is discernible in the future, the many are always governed by the few. So long as there are those with more energy, intelligence and ambition than their fellows, these will find some means by which to direct the destinies of other people. The ability of the cleverest to influence and manage the less clever cannot be abolished by law. But proper legislation can prevent the clever from gaining too great power and wealth at the expense of others.

When a person is taken to a hospital because of a serious accident, the relatives do not gather and take a vote on what shall be done for the patient. Instead, they select as good a surgeon as they can find, permit him to do what he thinks is best, and hold him responsible for results. Realizing that the surgeon is a specialist in his line, they make no attempt to dictate to him what to do. Such undue interference would jeopardize the life of the patient.

Nor is any successful business of size conducted by permitting numerous share holders to vote on the many decisions that from time to time arise. Instead, a board of directors is elected, or a group of men of ability selected, to pass judgment on policies; and these commonly select some one individual to hold responsible for the administration of these policies.

In the San Joaquin Valley some years ago a farming colony was promoted in which every individual was to have an equal voice in every decision affecting the colony. They had a huge tract of land, part lying on one side of the road and part on the other side. It had been decided to use practically the whole tract for raising small grain. No difficulty arose until the plowing had been finished and the time for seeding was at hand.

An argument then started whether to seed the north side piece first, or the south-side piece. As the result of the argument a meeting was called in the assembly building to put the matter to vote. A few more practical men implored the rest to get the seed in the ground with no delay as already it was time for the rains. But there were numerous longwinded speakers, and they did not finish on the first evening, so that the vote was postponed until the next formal meeting a week hence. Nor did the speakers finish on this occasion. It took three weeks, with a meeting but once a week, to get the matter settled. In the meantime the rains arrived and mostly passed. Adjoining farms had splendid crops that year; but the seed put in the ground three weeks too late failed to mature a crop. As a consequence the colony disbanded and the land was taken for its debts.

What every business concern needs, and what every government needs, was needed by this colony. It needed men of exceptional knowledge and ability in positions of responsibility, with sufficient authority to enable them to carry out their decisions. This much certainly should be clear: To have a good government, we must have the best possible brains to run it.

This brings up the question as to how the best possible brains may be secured for such tasks, and how they may be prevented from using their authority for the advancement of personal interests rather than for those for which they were selected. Large business concerns seem to have solved this difficulty rather well. For important positions they customarily pick men with training and experience along the line of the position they are expected to fill. These men are judged, not by their vote getting ability, but by their past performance in other positions of some responsibility.

A railway president may have started with pick and shovel on a section gang, and have worked up through the various departments. Through long experience and arduous training he is a specialist in railroading. So, likewise, the superintendent of a manufacturing plant often makes his start as a mechanic, then becomes foreman of a department, and finally achieves still higher. There is, no doubt, some favorit-

ism shown in business advancement; but the competition of other concerns is so keen that favoritism is largely routed in the interest of self-preservation. Consequently, we find the men at the head of present-day large business and manufacturing concerns, almost without exception, to be men of outstanding ability.

But can we say as much of those we select to run our government? Are the governors of our various states as thoroughly trained in the principles and practices of sound administration, as the presidents of railroads are trained in the principles and practices of railroading? Or take the men at the head of our national government and compare them in ability with the men at the head of nation-wide merchandising concerns, at the head of nation-wide banking systems, and at the head of manufacturing organizations with nation-wide distribution.

Merchandising, banking, or manufacturing cannot be successfully carried out on a large scale by men who have spent most of their lives occupied with something entirely different. Yet the science and art of government is more difficult than any of these. An MD must pass four years at medical school, must pass examinations, and usually must serve a considerable period as intern at some hospital before he is permitted to practice. A lawyer also must have requisite schooling and pass certain tests before being admitted to the bar. But a jack-of-all-trades who turns his hand a few years to politics, if he is a convincing talker and a hail-fellow-well-met, need know nothing of governmental principles nor have had any experience in administration, to win enough votes to get him a post where he exercises much influence over the destinies of his fellow man.

This is common knowledge; but what can be done about it? It is to be hoped that legislation and political administration may be critically studied and formulated before long into definite sciences to be taught in colleges. Any individual, then, who becomes a candidate for a given office, should be required to show, by his college certificate, or by passing special examinations prepared for those who have studied at home, that he is thoroughly familiar with what already is definitely known about government. Instead of having to experiment on the public with every idea that enters his mind, to find out if it actually will work, he should be thoroughly familiar, through his studies, with ideas that already have been tried out, and to what extent, and why, they have or have not, succeeded. The starting point of every political career should be a thorough schooling in the science of government.

But because a man or woman has a diploma that entitles the holder to practice a given profession is no assurance of real ability. Ability is tested out and increased by the actual application of knowledge. No one would think of giving a newly graduated engineer charge of some great project. He would be tried out, and given opportunity to gain experience, in connection with smaller and less important ven-

tures. As he demonstrated actual ability through doing, he would be advanced to more important positions. If past performance warranted, in time he might be placed at the top. Because he had proved himself the best man for the position, the position would be his.

Dictatorship and Aristocracy

Of all the forms of government, when an unusually talented man is at its head, a dictatorship or an absolute monarchy is the most efficient. In either case authority is so centralized that the man-power and the material resources of a country can be organized and directed in a manner that is quite impossible under other forms of government. There is one man at the top whose word is law. Making a survey of the country's needs, he decides how much acreage shall be placed in this or that crop, and how many men shall be engaged in the production of each commodity. Without red tape or long delays the energies and the man-power of the country are thus completely mobilized and directed into channels of production that yield the most in the way of goods and public improvements for the nation.

Why, then, are not dictatorships more popular?

This we can perceive readily, not merely from theory but by reviewing the conditions in this and other countries during each of the World Wars. Because of the threat to the existence of the country, in war time there is necessity for the utmost efficiency; and to gain this efficiency the authority of those in high position is increased until there is virtually a dictatorship. Those who were not engaged directly as combatants were told what to do. Factories that had been built to manufacture peacetime articles were commanded to manufacture war products. There was conscription of men. People, regardless of wealth, were regulated in the amount of various foods they might procure, and in the amount of various products they might buy. Very little account was taken of the desires or inconveniences of individuals. The only thing considered of consequence was whether it helped or hindered the nation as a whole.

Thus it is under a dictatorship the freedom of the people to decide the kind of lives they will live is taken from them. They are slaves of the state. A man, or group of men, at the top decide what is good for people, and force them to live according to this decision. And under competent guidance such a dictatorship may make for the utmost in industrial advancement. But it tends to prevent the development of talent and individual initiative except such as has the approval of those in authority. The dictator may determine what religion alone is to be permitted in the country, may decide that all facts shall be suppressed except those favoring his regime, and may divert the wealth and resources of the nation to furthering his own ambitions.

The slave, in the olden days, was usually well taken care of; and when he exhibited promise often the opportunity was given him to develop his talents. But in spite of being parts

of a more efficient industrial machine, men find both slavery and rigid dictatorship irksome. A dictator has the power, and it was thus used by both Hitler and Mussolini, to deprive people of the things they otherwise could have had, to encourage fear, to curtail expression and to prevent religious freedom. Either a dictator or an absolute monarch has it within his power to thwart all the things for which the cosmic alchemist works, including freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of expression and freedom of worship.

When a man, or a group of men, gain absolute authority over others, they are very apt to abuse their power to their own selfish advantage. As a matter of fact there have been only a few monarchs, such as Napoleon, Louis XIV, Ivan the Terrible, Peter and Frederick who have been real rulers. Most of the others, like Kaiser Wilhelm who merely voiced the thoughts and policies of the Junker crowd, and Hirohito who was but a front and took orders from the Japanese military caste, have been the tools of dazzle, display and seeming authority through which a powerful and secret group has been able to work its will upon the people. And this will, as revealed by the history of monarchies, with the gaining of complete authority by the few, has almost always been to practice oppression on those less fortunately situated.

The aristocracy of the past not only despoiled the people of their wealth, but it used them, as hunters now use dogs in the pursuit of dangerous game, in the sport and pastime of war. Nor do we find, with rare exceptions, that aristocracy has nursed and developed the highest in culture. The Greek drama was encouraged and supported by the business men of that day. The fortunes of Roman gentlemen also made possible the literary works of Horace, Lucretius and Virgil. The merchant guilds erected the Gothic cathedrals, and the treasures of the banking house of Medici were largely responsible for the renaissance. Very seldom has aristocracy contributed either influence or ability toward the development of those things that make for higher standards of living, or for an appreciation of art, music and literature among the people.

Socialism or Private Enterprise

The only safeguard the people have against exploitation and oppression is to retain in their own hands the power to select their leaders and to change their leaders and through these leaders to form and administer just laws. And even when such democratic processes prevail there are always present those who seek to have laws passed which will give them special privileges. The only safeguard against them is an enlightened and vigorously interested public opinion.

Thus while it is perfectly clear that the cosmic alchemist should work to establish democratic processes throughout the world, and for the enlightenment which prevents special privilege from using democratic processes to exploit the people, it is not yet clear to what extent government ownership and management of natural resources, industry, agri-

culture, business and all other economic activities should supplant private enterprise. But this is the great issue before the world today, and a struggle for supremacy between the two systems is inevitable. It is a struggle that relates not only to the manner in which the affairs of a particular nation are to be conducted but, unless each system is modified to embrace many features of the other and thus presents a modified form acceptable to all important nations, it is a struggle that inevitably will pit nation against nation and system against system in a contest for world mastery.

Agricultural people are dependent upon their land for a livelihood. It is quite natural of them, therefore, to desire to own the land. Owning the land gives them a feeling of security, a feeling that they have control of the source of their living. For this reason a farming population resists socialism which would deprive them of the private ownership of their lands.

As a people turn from agriculture to industrialism they wish to retain the same feeling of security that they had in the past. Now, however, instead of being able to raise what they eat, and what they wear, they must purchase these with the returns from industrial work. Such employment, however, unlike the work they did upon the land they owned, must be furnished by some organization. Unless they can find an organization willing to employ them they cannot secure the necessities of life. In the past private enterprise even in normal times has not been able to furnish jobs for all willing to work, and under exceptional conditions the distress resulting from unemployment — some 14 million being forced into idleness in the U. S. a few years after the commencement of the Pluto Period in 1930 — has been intolerable and widespread.

The worker feels, and rightly, that he is entitled to security. A job is not to be owned in the same way that land is to be owned; but he feels that he should have quite as much control of it. The socialist solution is for the government to own the resources and control the organizations and the jobs. Instead of being initiated and conducted by privately owned organizations in competition with other privately owned organizations, all would be conducted through the avenue of politics.

As opposed to this political method of conducting affairs we have the development of corporations, trade associations, trade unions, syndicates, and chain groups. In competition these develop a high degree of efficiency, the most efficient often absorbing the others until, like J. P. Morgan and Co., which exercises a governing power over huge groups of railroads and industries through its banks, they are so powerful that they have little to fear from competition. At this stage, unless these great organizations take unusual care to function for the general welfare quite as much as for profits, it is necessary for the government to establish regulatory measures.

We have the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Reserve Board and the

Federal Trade Commission, all empowered to prevent unfair practices of huge organizations. Yet it certainly is an unfair practice for the great privately owned and managed enterprises to acquire either so much of the raw materials or the machinery of production that millions are made poverty stricken through inability to have access to these essentials for production. And in addition, this enforced idleness and unproductivity detracts from the wealth and prosperity of the nation and of the world.

While there is full employment it may be wise for the government to permit private enterprise to handle business and industry, subject to certain government controls. But it certainly is not wise to depend entirely on private industry to furnish that full employment which alone can give freedom from want. Here government should step in. Instead of abolishing the private ownership of business, which is the method of socialism, the government could set up adequate reserves, to be used in the construction of roads, public buildings, canals, dams for flood control and generation of electrical power, irrigation systems, reforestation, erosion checks and other things beneficial to the whole population. Such a reserve set aside for the purpose of absorbing the unemployed in constructive government work would, through keeping money in circulation, be of advantage to everyone, and be an insurance against hard times.

But whether accomplished through this method or through a still wider application of the principles of socialism, full employment must be insured. Those who are dependent upon employment will then have that feeling of security that all people demand. Not only will it make for freedom from want, but people will not live in fear of being deprived of a means of getting a livelihood. And we may be quite confident that they will never cease struggle and agitation until, either through the wisdom of those engaged in private enterprise, through governmental regulation, or through the application of the principles of socialism, they have this security.

Whatever prosperity now exists in the world is largely due to organization by which leaders or managers have the control of large resources. Under either system of government, then, unless the benefits that so largely determine prosperity are relinquished, the managers must be given access to vast material means that they can induce labor to function, and that raw materials and machines may be had in quantities and handled in such ways as to afford economical production. Under any system, to free people from want sufficiently that they may develop higher standards of life and culture, there must be huge concentrations of wealth and vast groups of well organized men. The problem that confronts each political system therefore is the same: how to secure the most efficient managers, how to insure that these managers will perform their functions in the most efficient manner, and how to insure that they will utilize the products of combined wealth and organization for the general welfare instead of for the selfish ambition of the few.

Because competition weeds out those with less ability the managers of big corporations in this country usually are efficient. But too often the corporations are managed to insure immense profits to their stockholders rather than for the benefit of a wider public. Large oil interests are accused of attempting to gain, through corrupt public officials, vast holdings that belong to the people. Power interests are believed to be engaged in grabbing natural resources and making the public pay usurious profits for their development. It is charged that there is a monopoly on the production of aluminum. To the extent private enterprise, whether through gigantic corporations or through smaller groups, shows the desire to benefit themselves unduly at the expense of the public, to that extent will the political method have to be invoked to restrain them.

In this country, up to the present time, the political method has been applied through politically appointed groups given legal authority to exercise a certain amount of control. That is, when people or groups do not exercise their functions in a manner conducive to public welfare, laws are passed and agents appointed to administer these laws. Thus as affecting the well being of the consuming public we have the pure-food act, the drug act, meat-inspection laws, fire prevention regulations, building regulations, and laws of sanitation. In the interest of the employee we have laws regulating the hours of work, the conditions surrounding work, the amount of compensation, and safeguarding against dangerous machinery. Then there are laws governing the employer's liability and determining how and when wages shall be paid. Other regulations are imposed on banks and institutions of trust. Those who enter certain professions and callings also must, in the interest of the public, prove their qualifications.

This political method of regulating affairs is on the increase. Wherever and whenever an industry or a group fails to control itself in the interest of the general public, the public, through the political method, is compelled to assume the responsibility of that control. Thus in this country it would seem that the amount of control exercised by the government, and the extent to which it takes over and manages business and industry in the future, will depend upon the deportment of private enterprise and the deportment of organized labor.

Telephone service throughout the nation can be completely paralyzed by the strike of the 263,000 members (1946) of the National Federation of Telephone Workers, lack of steel can cause a shut down of the majority of the factories in the nation should the 800,000 CIO steelworkers (1946) go on strike, a strike of the Railway Brotherhoods can tie up transportation, a strike of the A.F.L. and CIO packing house workers can cut off the supply of meat from the nation, a strike of the 500,000 members (1946) of the United Mine Workers can deprive the nation of coal, and strikes of other unions can prevent the people of the nation from getting clothing, groceries, gas, light, local transportation and other

things on which life directly depends or upon which the ability of people to continue productive activity depends.

It is not in the public interest, and should not be tolerated, that one group should starve all the other people of the nation, cause illness and hardship to many thousands through lack of heat, or prevent the other people of the nation from continuing the productive activities upon which their subsistence and the welfare of the nation depend. Therefore, when a strike or a lockout seriously threatens the welfare of the nation there seems to be no recourse but for the government, at least temporarily, to take over the industry under dispute.

The danger under the system of private enterprise is that big business will control the government to its own advantage and to the disadvantage of the people as a whole. Think, for instance, of the power to influence public sentiment of such an organization as the National Association of Manufacturers with a membership (1946) of 14,500 corporations employing 10 million workers.

The danger under the system of politics (socialism) is that the government will be controlled by a few whose good fellowship, wire-pulling and political strategy are able to influence the greatest number of votes, and that productivity and distribution will be handled by cumbersome bureaus and politically appointed managers whose ability is chiefly confined to getting votes for the higher-ups.

Under any system of government the many will be ruled by the few. But the few who run things under socialism may be wire-pullers and their friends who are unable efficiently to handle production and distribution, while the few who run things under private enterprise (capitalism) may be efficient but use their abilities for their own advantage instead of for the benefit of the public.

Socialism thus has its disadvantages, and private enterprise has other disadvantages. In each case the disadvantages chiefly relate to the personal equation of its managers. Not only does this personal equation change from year to year, and not only is it different in different countries, but just now it is difficult to determine the effect atomic fission and perhaps the utilization of the cosmic ray will have on industrial, political and international relations.

If we look back in history to the end of the Stone Age, we find that the use of iron changed not only methods of warfare, but also radically changed society. Then, at a much later date, gunpowder again changed methods of warfare, political boundaries, and the economic situation of many countries. Within our own time aircraft have once more changed the methods of warfare, narrowed the world to a space which makes of it, relative to the ease of reaching any part, merely a small country, and has revolutionized industry. And now comes atomic fission, a great new force to be used for good or evil.

In view of great changes which lie immediately ahead, and in view of the as yet unknown personal equation of the leaders in that near future, it seems wiser to place reliance on observation rather than on untried theory. Each system is now being tried out on a large scale in different parts of the world. It should be apparent, therefore, before too long, from the actual results attained in these areas, whether private enterprise or socialism will do most to insure all the people of the world freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of expression and freedom of worship.

Every Nation, Every Group and Every Individual Should Get a Square Deal

In a properly organized world, even as in a properly organized nation or in a properly organized industry, there must be division of labor, specialization of parts, and cooperation between those parts. Certain areas of the world are better fitted to grow or manufacture certain products, and other areas are more suited to producing other things. Each type of merchandise should be produced where conditions are best suited to its production. And it should be a function of the United Nations Organization to provide facilities for the equitable exchange of the products of one region for the products of other regions.

When world planning or national planning is supplemented by compulsory measures which regiment the people and force them into narrow grooves of activity, it interferes with freedom of expression. But lack of world planning and national planning is highly wasteful and interferes with freedom from want. It is not the planning which is distasteful, but the compulsion which forces people to follow activities they do not desire.

Through lack of national planning many of the natural resources of the U.S. have been squandered. Timber now sadly needed for paper pulp and for building homes was logged off in earlier days with no provision for reforestation. Oil was pumped from the underground reservoirs and used up with needless extravagance. Farm land was single-cropped to death until much is now worthless. In other areas the top soil was loosened with no provision to keep it from blowing away, or from being washed into the rivers. Ponds and swamps were tilled that crops might be raised on the land thus made available, and the water no longer retarded, but drained into the rivers almost as fast as it fell, caused the rivers to overflow, inundating and destroying not only vast areas of farming land, but villages also.

It certainly contributes to want when car loads of oranges are dumped into the Pacific Ocean, when peaches and apples are left to rot on the trees, and when wheat and corn are used as fuel in the regions where raised, because they cannot be exchanged for the products of other areas. And it certainly would not contribute to freedom from want were all manufacturing concerns to concentrate on producing washing machines, and neglect to produce other things.

Without compelling people to follow occupations distasteful to them, and without curtailing either initiative or independence so long as they work no injury on others, the government should make a survey of needs and make recommendations based on this survey. Its recommendations should follow the quota system. Certain areas should be called upon voluntarily to produce some crop in quantity such as indicated, with plantings large enough to leave a margin of safety in case of unseasonable weather. Different areas should be allocated other crops, and other regions called upon for manufactured products of a type for which the area has production facilities.

What would people think of an auto manufacturer who, with no demand for his engines except in his completed cars, built three or four times as many engines as he could build or procure car bodies or chassis? World planning and national planning, through the widespread dissemination of information, through tentative quotas whose fulfillment depends upon the voluntary activities of people having regional organization, and through inducements — including public opinion — to discourage quotas being exceeded, but to encourage their being met, can prevent such unwise use of time, materials and energies in world production as is illustrated by the inefficient auto manufacturer.

Whether in time the resources, productivity and business of the countries of the United Nations Organization are chiefly state owned and managed, or are chiefly owned and managed by private enterprise, there will be, as now, division of labor. Whenever there is division of labor there are groups which perform different tasks. Some of these tasks take much preparation and a skill acquired only by many years of application. Some require patient mental training and unusual intelligence, and some require little but brawn. The most obvious groups today are the capitalist, the merchant, the professional, the farmer, and the industrial worker. But within these broad categories are lesser classifications. And between such groups, as previously indicated, there is always a struggle for advantage.

Even should it come to pass that the members of all classes receive equal pay, some groups, because of the greater strain, would feel that they should work shorter hours than those under no such strain. There seems to be no prospect, therefore, under any kind of regime, of everyone being satisfied. One coterie, for instance, may be able to get more significance, or to exert greater political pressure than another group. Until everyone becomes wise enough to strive to contribute his utmost to universal welfare, and wise enough not to overestimate his own importance, there will be some who struggle to gain an advantage in some manner over others.

The common method of solving such problems is for the stronger to ignore the claims of the weaker. When there is a dictatorship, the less popular are shoved to one side with little ado. In the representative form of government, the mi-

nority are voted down by the majority. Right at the end of World War I a “dry” majority ignored the desires of a “wet” minority. As a result there was prohibition that failed to prohibit, because it was forced upon an unwilling group.

In any country there are always many groups, and these often pull in opposite directions. And in the United Nations Organization there are many nations, some of which will seek their own advantage at the expense of other nations. Yet when any person has a grievance, and feels unjustly treated, he is in a mood to stir up trouble. When any section of the human mind is repressed, it finds some outlet for its energies through a destructive, and often subtle, channel. A repressed proletariat, a repressed merchant class, a repressed professional group, a repressed religious sect, or a repressed nation, are always a potential source of disturbance and dissension.

But psychologists find when adequate recognition is made of a repressed emotion or thought, and some pains are taken, not necessarily to permit it to have its way, but to reconcile it to the rest of the mental structure, that its power for damage ceases; because it then works with, instead of against, the larger organization. They find, also, in settling labor disputes, and even in larger political issues, that a minority recognized, and such measures taken as will convince it that at least it has had a fair hearing, tends to remove the animosity, even though the minority is not given that for which it asks.

In any form of government, therefore, if it is to remain stable, it becomes fundamental that every group — in the United Nations Organization, every country, and in the U.S., every state — and in so far as possible every individual in it, must be given ample consideration and a square deal. In the modern world, disputes must be settled through all the relevant facts being discovered and made public, with conciliation and just arbitration based on these facts instead of violence or war.

As political measures arise, the cosmic alchemist will work for those that promise an increase in productivity, for those that give assurance that there will always be remunerative employment for every person who will work, for those that tend toward the widest practical distribution of wealth, for those that will give economic and cultural advantages to the greatest number of people, and for those that insure adequate consideration of, and a square deal for, everyone, including even the disfavored individual and the unpopular minority.

At all times he will work vigorously for these and other measures which, to the best of his knowledge, will advance all the people of the world toward freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of expression and freedom of worship. ✎



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Name: _____

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Please accept my charitable contribution in the amount of \$ _____

Address: _____

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Mail to: *The Church of Light, 111 S. Kraemer Blvd., Suite A, Brea, CA 92821*

The Church of Light's Annual Response Day Celebration

ANNUAL RESPONSE DAY DINNER

The Rising Star
Jan-Feb 1950

Although The Church of Light has been around for quite a while by some standards, it is still quite young with regards to establishing the traditions that bond the old with the new. Each year we try and shed new light on this important tradition within the Stellarian Family. This year Doris Chase Doane sent new stories and pictures we want to share with the rest of our membership.

Each year the annual Response Day dinner is held to honor a great man. Response Day, 1949, marked a distinct year for several reasons. It marks 51 years that man has studied astrology. (He still calls himself a student.) Also it marks a great milestone in Church of Light history. All of the 21 Brotherhood of Light Courses appeared in book form for the first time. It marks the emanation of the third wave of light in the Great Work is spreading the soul-uplifting teachings of the Religion of the Stars.

The first phase of the man's work was getting the Lessons distributed in mimeographed MSS. Form; this was completed in 1934. The second phase involved the rewriting and incorporating of the latest scientific material embracing both outer-plane and inner-plane factors into the courses, which by 1949 appeared in book form. And the next phase of expansion is evangelical work. Of course, you know that man is Elbert Benjamine.

The South Seas Room at Clifton's Cafeteria was the scene where members and friends gathered for the R dinner. Although attendance was not quite so large as other years, the true spirit of brotherhood prevailed. As R day was established to insure that all lessons stay in print and that the

Quarterly be financed, it is the day we all express our support through voluntary contributions. At the dinner the collection totaled \$71.50, as well as several pledges. Since then we have been receiving Responses from those who were unable to attend.

Highlight of the evening was an address by Elbert Benjamine, who spoke on A KNOWLEDGE OF INNER

PLANE FACTS IS ESSENTIAL TO WORLD PROGRESS. All

were pleased to welcome him and Maria back and delighted with his informal report of the last Student Contact Trip into the Northwest. We wish every member the world over could have been present to hear his talk. It was inspiring. One realized more clearly the great role each individual can play in the scheme of things, if he chooses to do so. By putting into practice in our everyday lives the tenets of the Religion of the Stars, we add that much constructiveness to God's great evolutionary plan.

Although there was no agreement between them, one might have thought E.B. and Rev. Edward Doane had one. For in bringing the evening to a close, Rev. Doane talked on the importance of harmony and cooperation within our organization. We have laid the foundation, and the next step is expansion. To insure expansion, a harmonious, cooperative unit results in demonstra-

tion, because the law is fulfilled. Regardless of what appearances seem here on earth today, God's plan is for a humanitarian civilization, and it will come. With that message, Rev. Doane bid us good-night. Another R Day became history. ✨



Stellarian Stories

RECOLLECTIONS OF ELBERT BENJAMINE by Doris Chase Doane

Anniversary Issue of the Quarterly, Vol. 43, No. 4, October 1968

One of the most outstanding experiences of my life was the years working with Elbert Benjamine, the founder of The Church of Light. He was truly one of the rare souls who walk among men.

Having a strong spiritual Mars, he never “ran scared”. When anything had to be faced, his confidence and faith shown like a beacon. One of the things, which he taught me by his own example, was that one should be himself and not bend to any personal or political pressure “to keep the peace”. To be spiritual is to make up one’s own mind. Once a principle or conviction is formed, hold to it until future experience demonstrates that an alteration of ideas is in order. This viewpoint has supported me many times when pressure has been brought to bear, and it made it possible for me to contribute more to the furtherance of the Religion of the Stars.

As with all great men, he was not one to indulge in small talk. He never used coarse language and absolutely refused to listen to gossip and rumor, which he termed a negative manifestation of an afflicted Moon — soul poison. He pointed out that it was also a waste of personal energies, which could be directed in a constructive way to assist a person to become more spiritual land thus more valuable in the Divine Plan.

With four planets and Ascendant in fire signs in his horoscope, one would assume that he was an impatient man. On the contrary, here was man who not only believed what he wrote; he practiced it everyday of his life. One of his most pronounced traits was kindness. Now this word is used loosely all the time. His was not the kindness of shallow words of flattery and thanks. Quite the contrary! His kindness was a projection of a warm deeply felt emotion — the kind that does not require many words.

This feeling was extended to every life form — animal, mineral, vegetable or those on other planes. He was sensitively and acutely aware of the relationship of all life forms to each other and to God. When problems of personality clashes arose, he always did his best to solve the situation, without favoring one side or the other. His inherent intellectual honesty and fairness forbid it. In essence he was not “for” this or “against” that. Rather, he took a cosmic viewpoint and made his decisions as to how they would affect the largest number of people.



Elbert Benjamine

As the Religion of the Stars is a group effort, he stressed time and again, that personalities were not important. The emphasis for growth should be placed upon cooperation, a keyword for Pluto — ruler of the Religion of the Stars. By taking the middle road emotionally — never enthusing too much, nor wallowing in depression — he was able to keep on a keel which allowed him to complete his cosmic mission, even though everything under the sun was tried to keep him from it.

Few people ever saw him as he really was. This is understandable. For when he made his public appearances he had to protect himself against the push, clamor and trickery of those who selfishly wanted his personal attention. His work was on a large scope — more than the person-to-person basis. It was necessary for him to keep at a distance the discordant

influences and troubled vibrations, which had nothing to do with the work at hand. In this manner he employed directed thinking and induced emotion, which made it possible for him to spend long, dedicated hours each day, every day, to piling up a mountainous contribution which he left for the future generations of the Aquarian Age.

He was great to work with. It was in the work area that the kindness I spoke of above added to a deep compassion for his fellowman came out. When anything went wrong, there

was no negative reaction — no sarcastic words, swearing or any emotional reactions. The effort was recognized, and immediately taken care of in the most effective manner possible.

His out-or-the-ordinary kindness prevented him from criticizing or making disparaging remarks about the people who wrote the nasty letters. He said that all souls are on the pathway, and even if their ideas are in exact opposition to those of the Religion of the Stars, we should take the opportunity to provide them with the seeds of light. Whether they accept or reject them is not our responsibility. But the planting of the seed — our responsibility — could bear fruitful results; perhaps much later and perhaps we will never know when. That is of little importance. Our responsibility has been met.

Another facet of his philosophy, which was most helpful, was the true art of giving. He maintained that by solving a person's problems for him, you were really contributing to the delinquency of his soul. Why! Because the only way we

have to build a spiritual body is to overcome difficulties. Here his kindness and compassion came in. He said that our spiritual duty was to encourage each soul to solve his own problems. In this manner, we encourage them to become more spiritual and thus more effective workmen in the Divine Plan of progressive evolution. This practical, religious philosophy was what sold me personally on the Religion of the Stars.

Nearly everyone we meet today is suffering from personal insecurity. They are filled with fears. Instead of having faith the right thing will happen to benefit all concerned, their lack of faith attracts negative things into their lives. They sorely need to PRACTICE the sound, universal, cosmic philosophy which puts man into his proper perspective in the universe so that they can “become themselves” instead of acting out roles they think others expect of them.

— Doris Chase Doane



THE ORDER OF THE SPHINX

P.O. Box 18855
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The Order of the Sphinx....

The Order of the Sphinx is accepting applications from all interested Hermeticians. The charter date for the order is January 11, 2001. The first gathering will be March 20, 2001 in Sedona Arizona.

Contact Angleo Chirban at zyton@earthlink.net for further information or contact CofL headquarters.

Remember this....

All growth is based upon a series of bonding with (liking), differentiating from (disliking) and interdepending upon (establishing equilibrium) people, places and things....next time you discover you don't like something, look again...there's a gift to be had!



Hermetic Astrology

Judging Election 2000

Vicki Brewer, Hermetician & Minister

In the last issue of the *Quarterly* Elbert Benjamine's "Astro-Physical Interaction Diagram" was offered as a good Hermetic model for organizing the delineation of an event.

Since that issue was published the United States entered into what may be the most unusual election processes of its history. Using Benjamine's model, let's see if insight can be gained into the Hermetic System of Astrology and inner plane weather that is influencing this event.

(G) Evolutionary Level is that of a country. Chart timing is by C.C. Zain and taken from CS13, *Mundane Astrology*. Since the subject is a country, the delineation is based upon the principles of **Mundane Astrology** along with insight gained from the principles of Cs. 8 *Horary Astrology*, Cs. 10-1 *Delineating the Horoscope* and Cs. 10-2 *Progressing the Horoscope*.

Next, as a foundation upon which the analysis must be based, there must be a grasp of the **Basic Character (A)** mapped by the birth chart.

Planetary Distribution and Aspects:

Aspects — The chart is harmonious with 55.32 Harmodynes. Applying the Hermetic principle that on all planes "Harmony is Life and Discord is Death", one can see the astrological evidence of those qualities that helped the USA become one of the world's oldest democracies.

Planets Elevated — In this chart there are two.

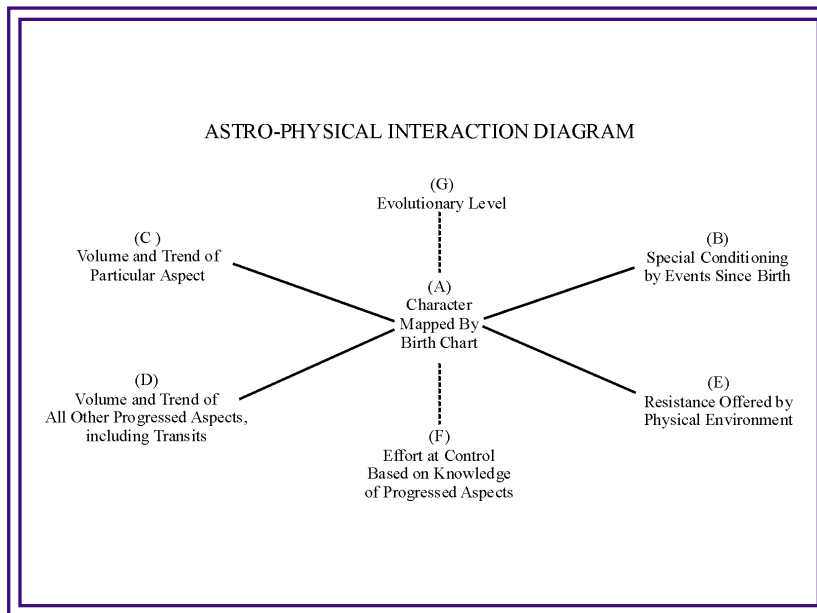
With **Moon** in 10th the *Domestic Urges* tend toward high visibility and affect the reputation of the country. In the political life, women and the common people are prominent.

In thought, family & home receive attention and in business, groceries and other commodities are elevated in importance. You may be thinking, "groceries and other commodities?" Just think about it, America, for better or worse, invented the shopping mall. Walk into any grocery store and it is filled with all manner of stuff that is constantly changing and rearranging just to stimulate and capture the appetite for more! The Moon is associated with "Notoriety" and there can be no doubt that the USA's domestic laundry is generally hung out for all to see! Moon is the 2nd strongest planet and with 15.04 harmodynes and tends toward *Adaptability* rather than *Inconstancy*.

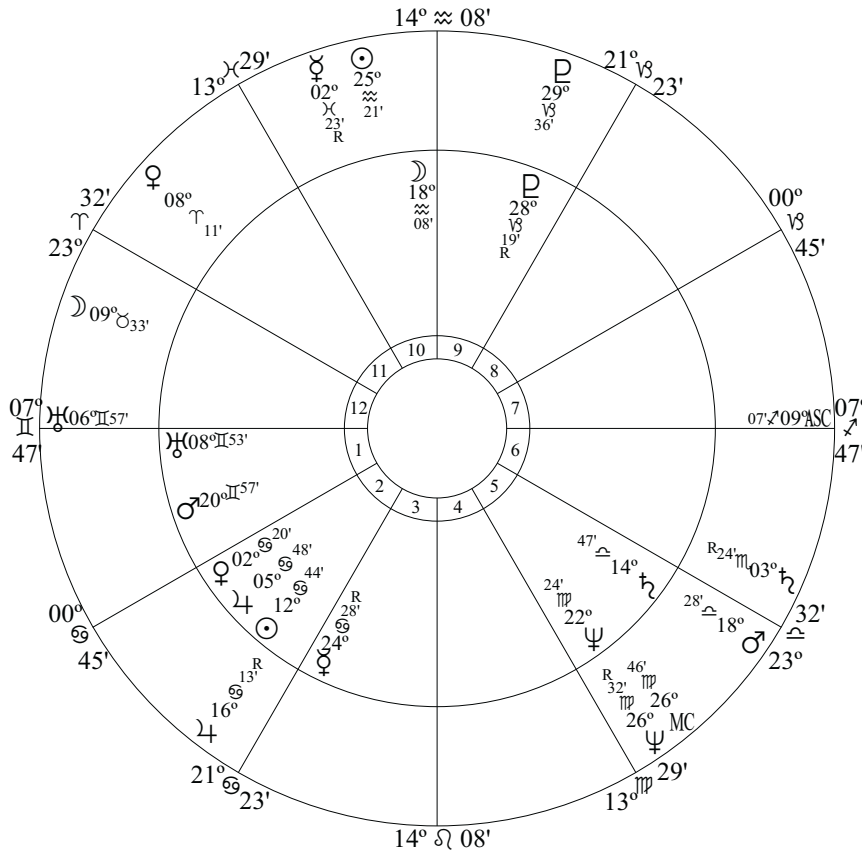
Elevated **Pluto** in the 9th represents the *Universal Welfare*

Urges operating within the framework of interstate and international commerce and traffic, the navy, foreign shipping, radio, cable messages, the law, the supreme court, churches, religion publishing, advertising, lectures, books and all places where opinions are publicly proclaimed. Within that framework, the USA's character expresses in thought as "spirituality or inversion" and is

influenced by invisible intelligences. In business, group activity is strong either for the selfish advantage of the group or for universal good; and, in politics compulsory cooperation is emphasized. Being slightly discordant with -3.20 discordynes there is a tendency toward acting out of self interest to the detriment of the whole. Fortunately Pluto is a relatively weak planet and its force will tend to be subordinated to other stronger tendencies when those tendencies are brought to bear.



United States of America
 July 4, 1776 2:15 AM LMT
 Philadelphia PA 74W08 39N57



PLANETS			
	Power	%	Harmony
♂	72.81	12.1	-1.45
☾	68.56	11.3	15.04
♃	62.80	10.4	14.13
♀	56.05	9.3	8.81
♄	53.92	8.9	24.72
♅	53.17	8.8	7.57
♁	49.84	8.2	5.52
♆	47.44	7.9	2.87
♇	44.56	7.4	-4.37
♄	41.11	6.8	-3.20
♃	28.43	4.7	-5.95
♂	25.40	4.2	-8.38
Total	604.10	100.0	55.32

HOUSES			
	Power	%	Harmony
1	190.04	20.3	8.67
2	188.81	20.2	36.69
10	156.52	16.7	31.78
5	87.05	9.3	-8.48
9	64.83	6.9	-1.77
3	62.71	6.7	1.57
12	50.42	5.4	1.48
6	42.27	4.5	3.82
7	26.96	2.9	12.36
8	23.72	2.5	1.44
4	22.28	2.4	-2.18
11	19.83	2.1	4.09

SIGNS			
	Power	%	Harmony
♈	251.52	26.9	38.25
♉	190.04	20.3	8.67
♊	156.52	16.7	31.78
♋	88.55	9.5	-0.33
♌	75.46	8.1	7.28
♍	39.62	4.2	-11.35
♎	36.41	3.9	-0.73
♏	26.96	2.9	12.36
♐	22.28	2.4	-2.18
♑	19.83	2.1	4.09
♒	14.24	1.5	-0.58
♓	14.01	1.5	2.20

Planets East — With 6 planets East the USA will seek to *Mold Circumstances*.

Chart Power — 604.10 astrodynes reflect a relatively powerful chart (the most powerful charts tend to run around 700+ with Elbert Benjamine’s among them at 708.85 astrodynes of power).

Adaptability — With 48% “Moveable” signs the United States is high in Adaptability and expresses a pioneering spirit, generating great activity and ability to adapt to whatever environment is present.

Temperament — 45% of the energy expresses through the “Air” signs, therefore, the Temperament tends toward *Intellectuality* and *Vacillation*.

Dominant Planet — With a Dominant Mars in the 1st House, the Aggressive Urges are powerfully present in the American people. They are aggressive and energetic. It is slightly discordant with -1.45 discordynes. It would prob-

	☉	☾	♀	♂	♃	♄	♅	♁	♆	♇	♄	MC	ASC
☉	▨		♂	♂	♂	□						♁	
☾		▨	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁					♂	♁
♀			▨					♁					♁
♂				▨								♁	
♃					▨								♁
♄						▨							♁
♅							▨						♁
♁								▨					♁
♆									▨				♁
♇										▨			♁
♄											▨		♁
MC												▨	♁
ASC													▨

	Natal	Major
☉	22N51	13S05
☾	16S25	09N51
♂	17N34	07S25
♀	23N31	03N21
♃	23N32	04S28
♄	23N16	22N53
♅	03S31	10S14
♁	21N44	21N27
♆	04N10	02N36
♇	23S49	23S40
MC	16S36	01N17
ASC	21N38	21S51

	Power	%	Harmony
SOCIETIES:			
Personal	491.97	52.6	48.39
Companionship	178.56	19.1	5.52
Public	264.89	28.3	35.54
TRINITIES:			
Life	341.92	36.6	-1.58
Wealth	387.60	41.4	72.29
Association	109.49	11.7	18.01
Psychism	96.42	10.3	0.73
ELEMENTS:			
Fire	85.65	9.2	9.45
Earth	142.18	15.2	-9.48
Air	422.02	45.1	47.72
Water	285.59	30.5	41.76
QUALITIES:			
Movable	451.93	48.3	44.47
Fixed	207.05	22.1	31.22
Mutable	276.44	29.6	13.76

ably be safe to say that the American people are slightly “irritating”!

Important Areas of Life —

With 53% of energy expressing through “Personal” houses much of the country’s energy is diverted into *personal* concerns.

With 78% of the energy expressing through the “Life” and “Wealth” houses the chief interests of the country are *living* (including life style) and *business*.

The Sun in Cancer is in the 2nd house. It is 9th in power and slightly discordant with -4.37 discordynes. The Power Urges express through the “I Feel” attitude. When the Sun is expressing harmoniously it expresses through *Rulership*, but it’s worst quality is *Dictativeness*. One might say, that when the Sun thought cells are stimulated within the USA, there is a tendency toward being a bit dictatorial! Fortunately for the rest of the world, the Sun is relatively weak so there isn’t much “Power Urge” left over after it satisfies its tendency to nurture its domestic wealth (2nd house in Cancer).

Planets through Houses & Signs

(Because of time & space this article addresses only the 1st House for its insight into the American personality. A more in depth review of the chart should include the houses with planets in them which are: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 9th and 10th.)

Certainly dominant Mars in the 1st House the people tend toward behavior that stimulates *Strife*. Fortunately, next in power is a harmonious Moon (trining in the 10th) which can act as an the natural antidote to the Mars energy. The best quality of Mars is *Initiative* and the worst is *Harshness*. Though just barely discordant with -1.45 discordynes, there is a tendency for Americans to generate a certain amount of discord while expressing themselves. Their tendency to be “diffuse, hot, impulsive, rash, headstrong and assertive” will not always go smoothly! As their inherently *Aggressive* nature expresses through the “*I Think*” attitude of Gemini, there is a harshness in the exchange of ideas. (Just listen to the air waves of America!)

Uranus, characterized by the *Individualistic Urges*, is in the First House giving the American people a tendency toward a *Disruptive* nature which is “abrupt, erratic, independent, sudden, penetrative, original, occult, scientific, unconventional and progressive”. Again, Uranus expresses through the air sign Gemini which is the sign of Uranus’ exaltation. With 7.57 harmodynes and being in the sign of its exaltation, the spirit of Individualism is alive and thriving in America. At its best, Uranus is always *Disruptive!* The status quo is always challenged which creates unbelievable chaos, but out of the chaos (7.57 harmodynes) there is a tendency to glean the essential harmonious qualities that inherently lie within...until the next time!

When trying to discuss and analyze the behavior of America and her people, these two planets must be considered as the keys for understanding their brash, abrupt and unpredictable nature.

Effort at Control Based on Knowledge of Progressed Aspects” (F) — there appears to be very little evidence of exercising control! This is true for most (if not all) countries. The thought cells of countries, represented by the people, continue their struggle to accept the facts of the “Evolution of Species” and “Survival of the Fittest”. They are far from extrapolating these ideas and applying them to a much larger consciousness. The consciousness of nations hasn’t evolved to the point of recognizing themselves as an organic entity with a role to play in Cosmic Society. A country has a spiritual, as well as material, role to play. This is why the world needs The Religion of the Stars!

(B) Special Conditioning by Events Since Birth —

The American “experiment” is founded upon an adversarial relationship between the three branches of government, which is intended to keep the power balanced. Inherent is the strife associated with such a system. America has done a good job of training her people to “believe” that their system of government is not perfect but that it is the best they’ve got. The American people are accustomed to the “adversarial” nature of government. Like everyone else they prefer things to run smoothly but when the big bumps are encountered they turn to this adversarial based system to resolve the conflicts.

So, with this conditioning in place, the American people have accepted the extended presidential election. There is confidence that the system will eventually work. It will not make everyone happy but there will always be another election. It has been said that America works based on a messy, untidy clash of ideas. The result, in the larger sense, is a test of the American system. Sounds a little like Mars and Uranus in Gemini in the 1st!

(C) Volume and Trend of Particular Aspect and (D) Volume and Trend of All Other Progressed Aspects including Transit

Four major progressed aspects seem to characterize the unfolding of the 2000 Presidential Election.

MCp σ Ψ p (perfect 8-16-00)

The first aspect is the progressed MC conjunction of Progressed Neptune in the 5th house. In Mundane Astrology, the 10th house rules the President. This aspect suggests that the race for the presidency was clouded by the vagueness of Neptune and probably signifies the attendant carnival atmosphere surrounding the event.

♄p ♂ ♃p (perfect 7-23-00) *Since Sept. 1996 ASC and Uranus oppositions have been slowly developing with first the ♃p ♂ ASCp then ASCp ♂ ASCr.*

The second important aspect is the opposition between progressed Asc. in the 7th house and natal Uranus (in the 1st). The aspect is separating but still within orb and obviously very active. Nately, these two planets are conjunct and therefore neutral which gives them power and a neutral trend. By progression, they are in opposition which is a powerfully discordant aspect. We can expect that without conscious effort the event will be contentious and unfold with momentum passing from one side to the other in a see-saw of greater polarization between “the people” and “the people”. In other words the American people are divided and the more radical elements seem to want a divorce! The 7th house influence increases the likelihood of going to court and sure enough that’s exactly where they are. The signature of Uranus is all over this thing...in politics Uranus energizes the radical elements. Uranus takes us into new frontiers where no one has “boldly gone before”! This event is a real test of the American democratic experiment. Fortunately, the Uranus and Mars in the 1st House give the American people a tremendous appetite for new frontiers along with the energy to sustain it.

☿p △ ♀r (perfect 11-22-00)

Mercury is progressed into the 10th and Venus is in the 2nd. In Mundane Astrology, the 10th house rules the president. We might expect that this aspect will be the defining aspect for who will eventually assume the presidency. The astrologer’s job is to determine which candidate is best described by this aspect.

♀p * ♃r (perfect 6-19-01) and ♀p * ASCp (perfect 3-24-03)

When searching for a favorable outcome for the Opposition aspect, Hermetic astrologers are taught to look for a conciliator. In this case, we find progressed Venus in Aries (the sign of its Detriment) in the 11th within 1° orb of sextile natal Uranus and trine progressed ASC. The 11th house represents the Legislature so don’t be surprised if the Legislature eventually steps in to help clean house. Because Venus is in its Detriment there should be no expectation for its usual mildness. Nevertheless, while it may lack its usual mildness and social grace, it will serve to drain the polarized energy. It is applying and therefore its benefit will be produced in the future.

♄p △ ♃r (perfect 9-28-97 and has been in orb for approximately 17 years)

This aspect’s significance is its reinforcement of the natal trine aspect. It is long term and therefore is such a strong reinforcement to the natal conditioning that it almost appears to be background noise. Once again, because the aspect occurs within the boundaries of the air signs, the Aggressive

Urges operate on the intellectual plane rather than on the physical. Thus, the Strife expresses itself in rhetoric rather than rioting in the streets.

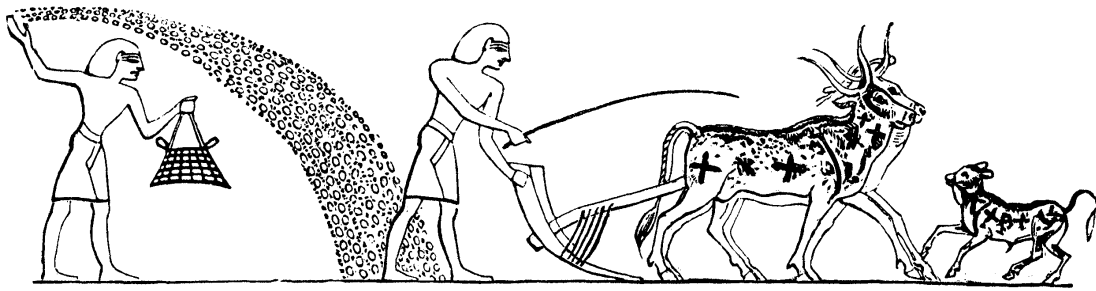
Conclusion

In summary, it seems fair to conclude that applying the Hermetic principles and rules to discern the outcome of progressed energy adds insight and depth of understanding. Clearly, in this presidential election we witness a daily clash of political and philosophical positions (Uranus in Gemini & progressed ASC in Sagittarius) within the context of a polarized populace (opposition aspect). Adding to this is the confusion of the Neptune/MC aspect and its attendant drama. Fortunately Neptune is the weakest planet in the chart (and enjoys a progressed parallel to Saturn [2.87 natal harmodynes]. The historical context and the habit system within which this clash occurs merits the conclusion that while the debate sounds mean and messy the outcome will conclude peacefully. The overall harmony of the chart and the mediating aspects suggests that ultimately good will come from the weaknesses revealed by this dazzling Uranian display.

The Hermetic Perspective

Perhaps one of the least appreciated qualities of Hermetic Astrology is the powerful point of view represented by the Hermetic Axiom, “From the inward doth the outward flow and the inward dwells in the inmost soul”. Applying this perspective to The Golden Key of Astrology, it then becomes the key for unlocking the meaning and purpose of the soul. An event is not an isolated happening or event. In the big picture, a nation is not soulless. The Hermetic astrologer sees people, places and things as organic entities with souls representing integral and necessary parts of an even larger process where the past and present come together with meaning and purpose. The future is always in the process of being created. Because the future is not static, there is great power that lies within each moment and each experience. The challenge is to recognize and grasp the power of the Soul and progress with intention and understanding of relationship to The Divine Plan. Applying this knowledge leads to transforming squares into sextiles and oppositions into trines! Self Awareness, in concert with the Divine Will, leads to a Masterful existence. The revolutionary idea is that a “Self Aware” nation can also have a masterful existence...what a concept!?

An invitation to participate in your Quarterly magazine... Oh yes, the new leader will be characterized by that Mercury/Venus trine. By the time you receive this Quarterly the entire issue will probably be resolved but if any of you brave Hermetic astrologers would like to offer your analysis of which presidential candidate most represents this aspect and why, we would love to hear from you. We’ll publish your responses in the next issue of the Quarterly. ☾



Stellarian Honor Guard

To those who financially support the work of spreading the Religion of the Stars, we are truly grateful.

Guardian Angels contribute more than \$500 in a quarter.

The **Stellarian Honor Guard** is reserved for those who contribute between \$100 and \$500 per quarter.

If you donate on a regular basis you form the solid foundation from which the church can work and grow. Thank you.

May we all grow and prosper together!

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- Barbara & Donald Baker
- Paul & Vicki Brewer
- Steve & Bessie Carrothers
- Rev. Dr. Russ Durocher
- Margaret Joscher
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Yeah & Hurray!:

www.light.org



Don't forget...you can use the web site to make book orders and donations! The CofL has gone to great lengths to assure that your financial transactions on www.light.org are secure.

The Mars and Uranus page still need work. Looks like it will be sometime after the 1st Qtr 2001 before it will be complete enough for the Yahoo listing. Slowly but surely!

If you have an event you wish to see on the Calendar please let HQ know.

We have lots of new articles scanned and hope to add them to the Archives by the end of 1st Qtr. 2001.

As the work load increases around here all we need are more hands, fingers, toes, elementals and lots and lots of LIFE, LIGHT & LOVE!

Please give your feedback. It's your siteit must work for you!

Quarterly on the Web:

Look for the Quarterly on the CofL web site at <http://www.light.org>. Although you can download a copy of the Quarterly for free, donations are appreciated and needed. To read the Quarterly from the Internet, you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader, version 3 or newer. You can download the Adobe Acrobat Reader

Membership Room

free from Adobe Systems
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>

We have resumed the policy of sending printed copies of the Quarterly to active members. If you do not wish to receive a hard copy please let us know.

The Academy of Hermetic Astrology in Canberra ACT Australia

Remember to look for their Quarterly Newsletter on the Home Page. Like the CofL Quarterly their newsletter is a pdf file and will require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Its link is located on the CofL Home Pagein the stardust next to the CofL Quarterly.

Reaching the CofL is just an e-mail away!

ChurchOfLight@light.org

Never too late!

It's never too late to respond to the Response Day Fund Raising. This year Course 5 and Course 18 are on the 6x9 "to do list". A little bird tells us there is the possibility for a third book also.

In addition to adding three more books to the 6x9 list, the tarot cards are in process of being redrawn. They will be the same cards but cleaner than the last few printings..

The long and the short of this little story is that the CofL can use all the support it can get. Polishing this diamond in the rough is very strenuous work!

Another little bird is talking about getting to work on the CD ROM version of the lessons....now that will be useful!

Congratulations to New Hermeticians!

11-13-00 Michael Dean

11-14-00 Rod Ferguson

12-05-00 Esther Skoegard

Thank you very much for the feedback!

**From a letter dated 8-18-2000

"...I've passed 4 exams, taken 5 and I can tell you how very much respect I have for all Hermeticians...

Even open book these exams insure the student will utilize much energy while learning the wonderful lessons. C.C. Zain most assuredly is still contributing his utmost to universal welfare. I was fortunate to find the 2 volume set of *Light of Egypt* in 1976 and it was several years later I found the C.o.L. I had tried to contact the publishers of *The Light of Egypt* when I was studying it in 1976 but they were no longer in business so I was overjoyed once I found the Church of Light.

"My goal is the Hermetician's certificate.

"I have the next book and the *Sacred Tarot*. I've used Waite's deck for over 25 years but the Egyptian Tarot is more inclusive of the symbology of the soul and the stars. I'm looking forward to learning them since I've not used them though I read and studied the book years ago.

"Thank you again for your encouragement."

— *Knowing how many people appreciate the BofL lessons makes all the work worthwhile...Thank you!*

**10-19-00

“I’m finding more and more teachings similar to CC Zain regarding Directed Thinking (toward the cells). One term is “Deliberate Creation” in line with One’s Highest Joy. LLL...”

**10-19-00 One of our prisoner members write...“I thank you for your patience and for the wonderful opportunity you have given me.”

—This member participates in a study group organized by a fellow inmate at Pine River Correctional facility in St. Louis MI. This study group purchases, studies, donates and passes exams.

**9-18-00 “...I always enjoy the uplifting excerpts from CC Zain, and I loved the profile of Dr. Russ Durocher and the article by Carol Peel.

“The astrological analysis of the election are very interesting, and I’m always delighted to see how accurate they turn out to be (delighted not surprised!). I’m wondering if it’s possible to do an analysis of Ralph Nader?”

“...thanks for the postcard reminders every month...”

—*About Ralph Nader, maybe in the near future.*

**9-14-00 Regarding Mildred Schuler’s passing

“...Mildred gave her all when Benjamine was living. They got along really well. She got up that convention that I sent you a picture of. She was a guest at Maria and Elbert’s home at that time. She really liked Maria but said she had to cook big roasts for Elbert. He told her he had to have meat. Mildred hadn’t eaten any meat since 1926. Elbert and Maria visited

Mildred too. She said they worked until the wee hours of the morning on something pertaining to the Church of Light...”

—*Many thanks to the CofL members who help us to build our stories.*

**11-14-00 New Member writes:

“I request that I be granted membership in the Church of Light and the enjoyment of its advantages. I’m returning to you my Declaration for Membership card after deeply giving it much thought and knowing this is in my best interest to do.

“...I believe in my honest opinion you’re in possession of the best and highest quality information regarding the wisdom of ancient Hermetics.”

—*this comment is echoed in many of the letters received at CofL HQ.*



President Paul Brewer, communing with one of the CofL’s newest members...Nebo Paul, son of David and Allison Paul.

**10-22-2000 Member writes:

“Enclosed is a donation which helps to cover the decanate postcards and the Quarterly you mail me.

“Is membership growing? If it is slow, as it always has been, you might need to evaluate by contacting all the present members through a questionnaire.

“As an example, the writings of C.C. Zain state that in Astrology the use of Part of Fortune, North and South Node, Chiron, Vesta, P. Athena, Juno, Black Moon, etc., are not worthy of consideration. Also, that the concept of reincarnation is a false and misleading doctrine, These are realities to many who wish to study the CofL teachings but are surprised to find these statements in a profound set of occult teachings in today’s information age i.e. books, tapes, websites, expos of New Age speakers, workshops etc. etc. As an example, the software “Solar Fire” provides a menu of even many more options to the Astrologer or students of metaphysical studies.

“The question is, can the CofL grow with the knowledge explosion that verifies techniques and applications useful to the practitioner of today? If not, will the CofL be bypassed by potential members who feel that C.C. Zain’s books/lessons are not the fulfillment of what could be a more complete, updated study in an ever expanding global awareness of the occult...??”

CofL Response:

First thank you very much for your kind donation. It helps cover the costs associated with mailing the postcards and Quarterly. All gifts are appreciated and go directly toward keeping the lamp burning.

Thank you for your wonderful letter. Your concern and desires are commendable because of your obvious concern for the advancement of knowledge and the BofL material. The questions you ask demonstrate that you’ve thought about the BofL material and want it to be the best, foremost, looked-up-to and up-to-date... we share your desire.

To answer your question, “Is membership growing?” The answer is very slowly. Possibly for the reasons you suggest. However, we think that the

core BofL Lessons are the best and most reliable for soul development and for building a foundation of occult knowledge. As Zain instructed, this core (The 21 BofL Courses) will never change. We do think we could do a much better job of creating a contemporary context for this material to grow and flourish. The problems we face in creating this context are as much financial as anything else. Much of the talent for curriculum and program development is being spent on running the mundane affairs of the organization rather than growing the body of knowledge. Ultimately, we look to Benjamine's oft-repeated message...one is only responsible for that which he/she is capable of fulfilling. Beyond that one must trust that others who share the vision will in time step forward.

Your suggestion to contact the members is a good one. We have done this from time to time. We always get very good ideas. On a continuous level, we are in contact with many of our members by phone, letter, e-mail etc. They are very generous in their constructive criticism as well as their support.

Most members seem to agree The Brotherhood of Light teachings represent something very solid and satisfying on a deep level. By comparison the CofL operates in a metaphysical world filled with lots of promises for a sweet life with no problems if one just learns right thinking. Certainly this is true. But human beings are complex creatures living in a very dynamic world — we need a similarly complex paradigm for understanding who we are, from where we come and to where we are going. So far, those who have tested the BofL material in their everyday life report that what they are experiencing is consistent with what they are learning in the BofL lessons. Anyone who reads Zain deeply, from the level of the “scientist” and the “metaphysician” comes to understand that Zain is a man of tremendous vision who is far ahead of his time. As time moves further and further into the Aquarian Age it is inescapable that the most important paradox that

people are trying to understand is the Science/Religion duality. As the discussions around this paradox evolve, what is bubbling up is straight out of Zain. There is a tendency to overlook Zain's work because it appears old...it is really quite new!

You are concerned that the CofL considers other astrological practices as “not worthy of consideration”. I know that impression is “out there”. It is not accurate. It is true that Zain's astrology was developed during the 30's and 40's when he was writing. His methods were based on the astrological heritage of the west. He wrote about those methods that seemed to bear fruit in The CofL Astrological Research Department. His specific statements regarding nodes etc. is that the research conducted by the Research Department concluded that they did not add anything to a chart that could not be demonstrated by other factors of Hermetic Astrology. Zain's impetus was to build a foundation upon which a systematic study of astrology could be based. The Hermetic System of Astrology adopted the scientific principle that less is more and so far there is no compelling reason not to adhere to that principle...no one else is systematically demonstrating otherwise. The process we seek is that of the scientist or engineer who spends a great deal of time “factoring out the noise” so the essential nature of their study or process may be understood and ultimately be predictable. The CofL affirms that there is much to be learned about astrology....we look forward to adding to the body of astrological knowledge...in a systematic way. We think this is the best approach for the long term...and we plan on being around for a very long time! We KNOW there is much to be learned.

An interesting point that might add to this discussion is that Benjamine spoke of two types of astrology...psychic and scientific. Both are valid. He taught that the student's beginning should be from the systematic and scientific. Once the student astrologer understands the foundation of delin-

ation, then he/she can move into the art of delineation, which relies more on intuition and the psychic faculties. Reversing the process does not advance the cause of astrology because there is no repeatability. We understand that we are one among many...what we offer is a different approach. Viva diversity!

Zain is very serious about *progressive evolution* being the anthem of life and does give human reincarnation a good working over! *Progressive Evolution* is a “core” teaching and won't change. To deny its role in The Religion of the Stars would be like taking astrology away from an astrologer...it is part of the core Identity. Individual members of the CofL are encouraged to “believe” whatever “works” for them...they are encouraged to maintain an open mind. It is possible to have respect for an idea and its source without agreeing with it...this is the same relationship that an individual member may hold toward human reincarnation. Certainly human reincarnation is a step above “heaven and hell”. We consider *progressive evolution* a step above human reincarnation.

For those who are committed to the BofL teachings and have studied and applied them in achieving a fair measure of happiness, success and spirituality, it doesn't seem probable that the BofL teachings will be “by-passed”. This is because (1) it is the only religion that claims it is unfinished and (2) it really works! The CofL's material body may not be growing at a rapid rate for now but the Aquarian Age is long.

Building a Better World

Here's a beautiful prayer used by one of our members...we thought we'd pass it on ...

“For _____ I ask for divine resolution of all conflicts, conscious and subconscious; for divine release from all fear and doubt; for divine clarity and understanding in all areas of life; and for divine liberation,

restoration, and wholeness, that he/she may recognize and follow the divine plan for his/her life.

—Many thanks to Rev. Dr. Russ Durocher for sharing this prayer with us.

A Big Oops!

The postcard for the 2nd decanate of Sagittarius has an error. On the picture side of the card it shows the ♐♐ decanate and it should be ♐ ♏. Thanks to Donald Baker for pointing this out.

Classes:

Longmont, Colorado

Donna Deatheridge is holding classes in astrology and various BofL courses. To be put in touch with Donna, please call or write International Headquarters.

Canberra AUSTRALIA

Hermetic Academy of Astrology; Julia Goldstein. Three year course work in Hermetic Astrology.

If you are conducting classes or study groups and wish to have it announced in the Quarterly, please let CofL HQ know. ChurchofLight@light.org.

Where's the Wizard...

We have a WINNER! Paula Rozan Gassmann, Massachusetts was the first person to find the transformed Wizard. Her prize was a set of audio tapes of Course 7, *Spiritual Astrology*. She says she was just telling a friend that she never wins anything and then....the Wizard Waved the Wand!

Another transformed Wizard is hanging out...waiting for the first vigilant person to write and tell us where it is located and how it has been transformed. You may be the next lucky person!

The Order of the Sphinx

The Order of the Sphinx has a birth day...January 14, 2001. Hermeticians have been sent applications and other relevant

information. If you did not receive this material and you know you should have, please contact us and we'll be very happy to mail a packet. All Hermeticians are invited to become Charter Members. We think we have a good chart that will promote friendly camaraderie and continued personal growth for Hermeticians.

The First TOOTS Retreat

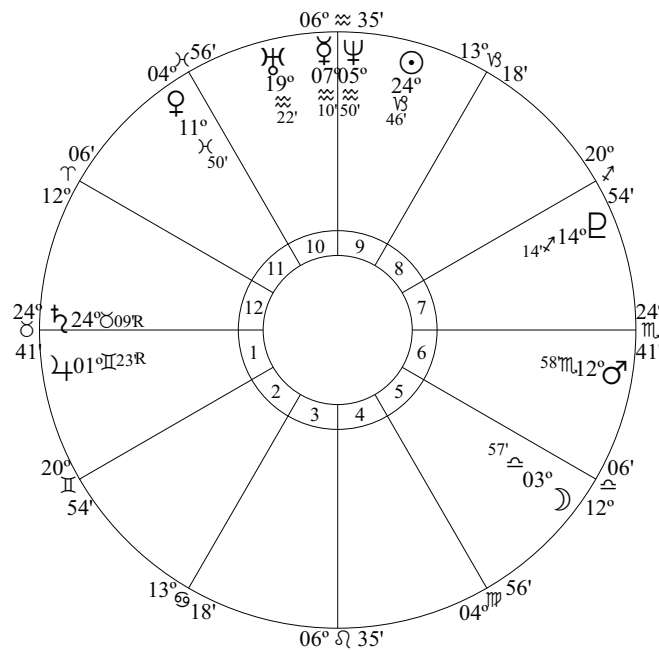
TOOTS is the acronym The Order Of The Sphinx. The first retreat meeting is scheduled for March 20-23, 2001 in Sedona Arizona. The intention is to have several meetings a year for the Hermeticians in different locations.

Annual Membership Meeting

The CofL Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2001. This date has been selected to coincide with the first TOOTS retreat. The location is Sedona Arizona. All members who are able to attend are encouraged to be there or be square!

Actually, we do understand that our membership is spread throughout the planet and having a meeting that most people can attend is almost impossible. If you can be there, your energy and input is always appreciated.

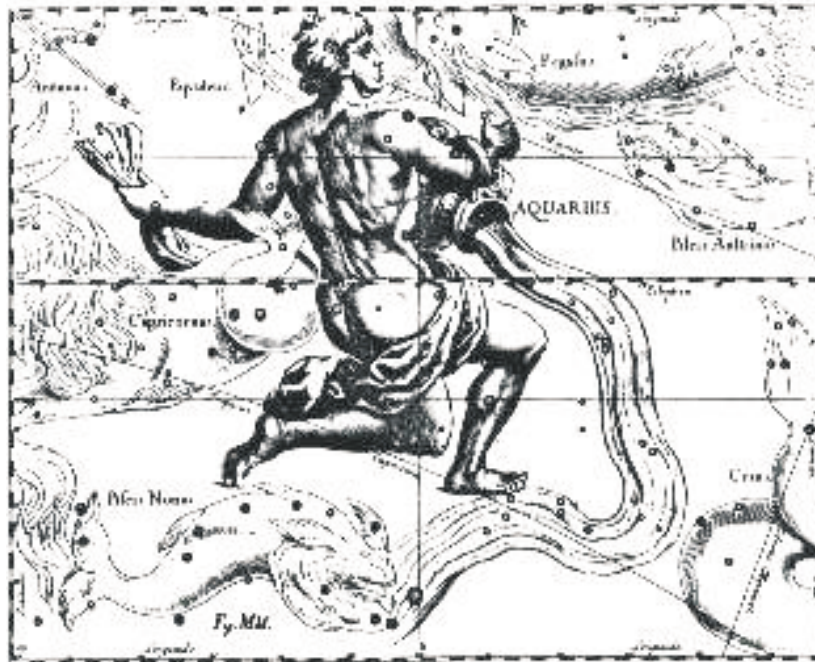
The exact meeting location will be posted on the web site and in a separate mailing. 🐉



The Order of the Sphinx
 January 14, 2001 12:50 PM
 117N54; 33N55

PLANETS			
	Power	%	Harmony
MC	76.56	13.2	9.99
♄	72.18	12.5	21.09
♃	68.14	11.8	16.43
♁	67.03	11.6	3.94
♃	60.23	10.4	45.85
♃	45.14	7.8	37.47
♂	37.68	6.5	-4.75
☉	36.25	6.3	17.53
♁	34.04	5.9	-12.71
♂	28.95	5.0	-6.97
♁	28.12	4.9	2.73
♁	24.74	4.3	-3.07
	579.07	100.0	127.54
HOUSES			
	Power	%	Harmony
10	200.71	23.7	14.01
1	141.33	16.7	51.15
9	123.23	14.6	31.59
5	81.22	9.6	48.02
11	60.22	7.1	18.30
12	52.16	6.2	-8.23
6	43.02	5.1	-5.60
7	38.17	4.5	-5.58
2	36.09	4.3	10.54
8	30.12	3.6	22.92
3	22.57	2.7	18.74
4	18.13	2.1	8.77
SIGNS			
	Power	%	Harmony
♏	268.84	31.7	30.44
♏	118.77	14.0	0.55
♏	96.32	11.4	56.39
♏	60.22	7.1	18.30
♏	59.20	7.0	38.84
♏	55.09	6.5	15.16
♏	54.86	6.5	19.85
♏	42.38	5.0	-9.48
♏	36.09	4.3	10.54
♏	22.57	2.7	18.74
♏	18.13	2.1	8.77
♏	14.48	1.7	-3.48

A nonprofit organization incorporated to teach, practice and disseminate The Religion of the Stars



The Religion of the Stars teaches that every person in the world should have Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion. And, to obtain these in proper measure, each must become familiar with the Facts of Astrology, the Facts of Extra-Sensory Perception, the Facts of Induced Emotion and the Facts of Directed Thinking. Rather than working to accumulate all that one can for himself or her-

self, each must learn to take pleasure in “**Contributing Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.**”

The Church of Light was incorporated to teach, practice and disseminate *The Religion of the Stars*, as set forth in the 21 lessons covering each of the 3 branches of occult science, as written by C.C. Zain under the auspices of *The Brotherhood of Light*.