Church of Light Clark TERI Fall 2004 Church of Light Vol. 79, No.4

The Silver Key

Astrological Significance of Each Egyptian Tarot Card – Part XV The Alchemist

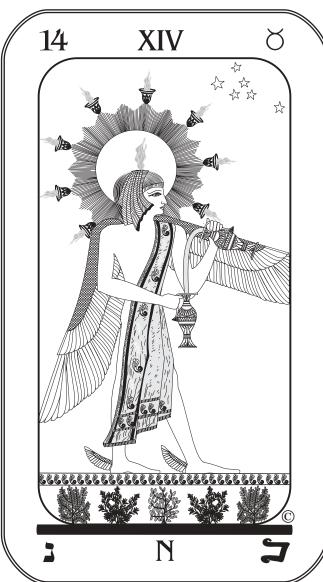
Elbert Benjamine

March 1938, American Astrology Magazine

In spring of the year, when the sun crosses the vernal equinox and enters the sign of its exaltation, Aries, represented by tarot Arcanum XIII, the forces of nature commence to move and new processes are set in motion within the laboratories of Isis.

Yet the solar force in Aries is not alone capable of regenerating the world; for such regeneration, or any other regeneration, requires also that feminine forces shall be mixed with the masculine. That is, either the alchemy which constantly we witness in nature, or that produced on any plane by man, requires a combination of positive and negative forces, such as astrologically are typified by the sun and moon.

To perpetuate the knowledge of this fact, the ancient Masters not only explained it clearly in the language of symbolical pictograph, on tarot Arcanum XIV, but they also incorporated it into a religious holiday. The origin and significance of this holi-



day, with an explanation of the customs associated with it, are

given in detail in the Spring, 1937, issue of American Journal of Astrology. Here, therefore, it is only necessary to point out that the transmutation of Nature's forces is not celebrated at the time of the vernal equinox, but on Easter, which can not occur until after the full moon has brought a partnership and exchange with the sun, from the natural sign of marriage.

The process, started at Easter, is carried forward as the sun enters Taurus, the exchange of the finer forces fecundating the earth (Taurus) to bring forth the grass and flowers. For while Aries is the exaltation of the sun. Taurus is the exaltation of the moon; and the sun moving thus into the exaltation of the moon after the partnership has been formed, carries forward the process of fructification. This process by which fecundity is assured, is pictured in Arcanum XIV by the genie of the sun holding a golden urn and a silver urn, and pouring from one to the

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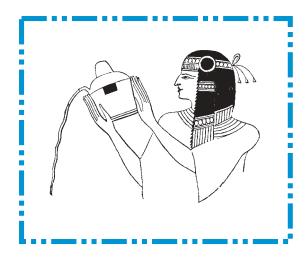
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Editorial

The Perpetual Movement of Life

Christopher Gibson

The article by Elbert Benjamine featured on the cover of this Quarterly is a reprint from the March 1938 Amrican Astrology Magazine. The author discusses in detail the astrological significance of arcanum XIV the Alchemist, pictured by an angel or winged-being pouring the magnetic fluid of life back and forth between a gold and silver chalice. In the Sacred Tarot we are told that this card expresses in the spiritual world as "the perpetual movement of life." One of the measurements of life is the ability to function and grow. Therefore we must be able to find a correlation between one's level of growth and one's level of aliveness.

Growth can be physical. The adult of any species is many times larger than a newborn. However as one ages the physical form stops growing and in old age actually starts to shrink. Intellectual growth is the mind's ability to constantly learn from the environment and our experiences. Yet the mind will atrophy and become forgetful, conservative and fearful if it is not exercised. Spiritually we grow when we cultivate the attitude of the alchemist - that is when we look upon each and every experience as an opportunity to add to the growth of our immortal soul. Through the proper attitude we are able to lift our dominant vibratory rate and affect spiritual substance. Even though somewhere in our twenties the physical body stops growing our intellectual and spiritual growth can still be challenged as we move through middle and old age. To that degree we can still feel vitally alive even as we deal with the aches, pains and indignities of our aging bodies.

Most of us have been drawn to the Brotherhood of Light philosophy because we have not discovered the answers to our life questions and spiritual perplexities through either religious or academic orthodoxies. We find ourselves attracted to a faith that rather than claiming to have all the right answers encourages us to ask all the right questions. For any organization to remain alive it, too, must experience growth. Growth is not only measured in the number of members or volume of assets, but by the ability of the organization to adapt to an ever-changing environment. The last two years have been filled with an increasing sense of aliveness for those of us who work closely with church head-quarters Although, at times we may be exhausted by the sheer magnitude of our undertakings we are excited by the

interest and growth that is manifesting within our group. This growth is apparent both on the human scale and is made possible by technological advancements.

Recent conventions and educational programs have stimulated a core group of participants to further explore their studies and share their expertise with others. Members who have been inactive are suddenly in contact with headquarters and with one another. Unique and marvelous people are coming together in fellowship. Our next program in January 2005 titled *The Alchemical Laboratory* will be a weekend retreat in the mountains of northern New Mexico where we explore the symbolism of the ancient alchemists and how to apply their techniques for transforming our lives. Our convention slated for next June is titled *Hermeticism in a Modern Era* and will be held once again in Albuquerque. Participants will get to know Church of Light members from around the world and sample a variety of topics and skilled instructors.

On technological levels our website permits anyone in the world with internet access the ability to find out about our organization. Our Horoscope© program allows both students and seasoned professionals to have astrodynes© and the Hermetic system of progressions at their fingertips. Our CD-ROM places all of the Brotherhood of Light Lessons in a researchable format at a fraction of the cost of a full set of books. Our newest frontier is print-on-demand publishing which will eventually allow us to publish all our lessons and related materials in both the United States and Europe. Within the next few years we will have the capability to fulfill both individual and bookstore orders within a 72 hour period. We will no longer have to tie up valuable cash resources in slow-moving inventory. Headquarters staff will have more time to devote to membership services, educational programs, counseling, ministry and developing new teaching materials.

No doubt there are many other exciting changes in store for us in the next few years and we hope that each one of you will continue to be a part of that growth. For the time being we are feeling alive, excited, and enjoying the perpetual movement of life.

Continued from Page 1

other the conducting fluid of life. Taurus, the Bull, also is the symbol of fecundity.

We are not to believe that those who in ancient times designed this picture understood photosynthesis, by which the green coloring matter of plants when exposed to sunlight (Sun) are able to combine water (Moon) taken by their roots from the earth (Taurus) with the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere, in the production of those carbohydrates upon which all animal life depends. The process is not merely chemical, in the commonly accepted meaning of that word, for there' are interchanges of electrons involved, somewhat after the manner of the action of light upon a photographic film.

Yet by this process, inorganic elements are transformed into organic substances fit for food. Chemists are hot upon the trail of making artificial chlorophyll, but the problem has not as yet been solved. And until it has, as no creature can subsist on minerals, all animals on the earth are dependent upon the green leaves of plants, such as appear most abundantly when the sun moves into Taurus, to perform the alchemical work by which alone food can be procured.

What the ancients had in mind, undoubtedly, was not the actual process of photosynthesis; nor was it the union of the newly discovered electric particle, the positron, with the electron, by which it is now believed the material universe comes into existence or is destroyed; but a universal principle which they believed to be applicable on all planes, and within every sphere of existence.

They gave the pictured genie a crown of flame to indicate it to be a spirit, or principle. They placed wings upon its feet to signify its rapid movement. And nothing observed by physical science moves faster than light, which is here represented by the rays of the sun behind the genie. This sun exhibits eight rays to signify that the positive, or masculine, forces of the universe are, on the whole, exactly equilibrated by the negative, or feminine forces. The cloak over the shoulder of the genie indicates the perpetual fecundation of matter, which Taurus, as the most fixed of all the earth signs represents, by the sun, symbol of spirit.

This material world, which thus the sun fecundates, and upon which the soul must depend for its experiences with physical life, which are a necessary phase of its total evolution, it is now known, is itself an exemplification of the union of masculine and feminine forces such as tarot Arcanum XIV was designed to explain.

Material science has known something about the existence of the electron, the ultimate electrical unit, which Dr. Millikan succeeded in isolating and measuring, for several decades. Dr. Millikan has calculated that it would take 50,000 of these electrons in a line to make a length equal to the diameter of an atom. And it would take about 300 million atoms in a line to reach a distance of one inch. Or, com-

paring the size of an electron with that of a baseball, if the baseball and the electron were magnified at the same time until the baseball were as large as the earth, the electron still would be too small to be visible under the most powerful microscope.

The importance of these electrons, or negative electrical charges, lies in the fact that they form one of the factors of all material substance. At the center of all atoms of matter are protons, or positive charges of electricity, having a mass 1,840 times that of the electrons which revolve in orbits in the outer structure.

Just as at the present time the energy radiated from the planets has not been isolated and analyzed, which, impinging upon the astral body, or unconscious mind of man, stirs him to thoughts and behavior which, within limits, can be predicted, so before November 9, 1925, science had no definite knowledge of the cosmic rays which so powerfully pelted the earth and its inhabitants, night and day.

Yet the announcement on that date, by Dr. Millikan, of the discovery of the cosmic ray, opened up an entire new field of investigation to material science.

In terms of their effect upon human behavior, and upon the events attracted to an individual, we have fairly accurate estimates of the energies exerted by the various planets when differently situated and aspected in a birth chart or by progression. But we have as yet no measure in terms of physics of their power; no more than material science had as to the energy of the cosmic rays before 1928. The tremendous energy exerted either by cosmic rays or by planetary forces, was no assurance of their recognition by the physical senses. In 1928 Dr. Millikan estimated that the most penetrating cosmic rays observed up to that time, had an energy of at least 500 million electron-volts.

In a lecture on January 13, 1937, William D. Harkins, Chicago University physicist, stated that atoms are being altered through the impact of cosmic ray electrons which have energies as high as one-hundred billion volts each. That is, the elements of matter are being transformed through the alchemy of these cosmic rays,

These electrons are negative charges, and hence could be well represented by the fluid which The Alchemist pictured in Arcanum XIV pours from the silver urn in his left, or negative, hand. But if, as the picture explains, transmutation is brought about, not by a negative force alone, but through the united action of positive and negative what about the masculine equivalent of the feminine electron?

Science was unable to locate it until August 1932.

It was found that the mathematical formula known as the Dirac Electron-Equation, solved many difficulties, but also led, when followed to its logical conclusion, to quite peculiar ideas.

This equation requires that electrons under certain conditions should have less than zero energy and weigh less than nothing; and Dirac considered each point in space, including a perfect vacuum, to be crowded with an infinity of such negative energy electrons. They were unobservable, and it was a property of free space that they should be there.

The peculiar logical conclusion this assumption led to is that if one of these electrons should be removed, the "hole" in space that remained would manifest itself as an electron of positive electrical charge and of positive mass and energy.

According to the well-known mathematical formula, with which most of us wrestled when taking algebra in high school, if less than nothing be taken from nothing, or empty space, it is the equivalent of placing something there. And according to Dirac's theory, this something would be a positive electric charge with a mass and energy similar to the electron. But until August 2, 1932, no such entity was known to exist.

On that day Dr. Carl Anderson, who is Dr. Millikan's assistant in cosmic ray research, at the California Institute of Technology, discovered the positron, which is a positively charged particle having the same mass as the electron, instead of 1840 times as much, as has the proton. And strange to say, this positron, according to Dr. Anders6n, performs very much as Dirac's theory holds it should.

This theory holds that when a positron meets a negative electron, both particles will suffer the fate of complete annihilation, and that in their stead there will be a pair of corpuscles of radiant energy. This radiation resulting from such annihilation of the positive and negative building-blocks of matter has actually been observed by the French physicists, Joliot and Thibault. However, it is believed that a positron, if removed from a region densely populated by negative electrons, instead of perishing immediately, may live a billion years or more.

These most recent theories and discoveries of material science are set forth here in connection with the explanation of the general principles of alchemy which have been left to us on the tarot called The Alchemist, because such processes now are being applied in various university laboratories, based on the discoveries mentioned, to convert energy into matter, to convert matter into energy, and to manufacture by alchemical processes not less than a score of chemical elements out of other chemical elements. Yet alchemy and astrology, until recently, were twin outcasts, alike open to the ridicule of narrow minds.

Ions are atoms which have lost one or more electrons by a proper kind of impact. Such impacts take place in the ordinary neon light, and in the sparks of an automobile system.

Because they are thus electrically charged, if such ions enter a space where there is a high voltage, the action of the electrical force is to acquire high speed, and thus also great momentum and energy.

If such a stream of ions — atoms charged through loss of one or more electrons — is directed at other matter, those ions which happen to be heading directly at the nucleus of an atom of this other substance will come close to it. But, because both ion and nucleus are charged with the same kind of electricity, there is a tendency for it to be deflected so that it does not strike the nucleus. Yet if the speed of a stream of ions is sufficiently great, instead of being deflected, they will plough through the electrical resistance of the nuclei and add themselves to these nuclei, as direct hits are made, thus becoming part of an entirely different element synthetically formed.

To give streams of ions — atoms charged through loss of one or more electrons — the speed required of them if they are not to be deflected from making head-on collisions with the nuclei of atoms of other substances at which the stream is directed. Professor Ernest Orlando Lawrence of Berkeley, developed the cyclotron. By this instrument the ions are accelerated again and again by the same electric field so that, even when but 10,000 volts are used the effect upon the speed of ions is that of 2,000,000 volts. A tremendously more powerful cyclotron is now in process of being built in the East.

Thus, so far as material substances are concerned, have the dreams of the medieval alchemists been far more than real-

But as anyone familiar with alchemical literature is well aware, the transmutation of physical substances was only one, and not the most important, phase of the contemplated alchemical work. The more important changes desired were those relating to man's character. Through using the experiences of his life, and the proper application of thought, the old alchemists believed man could change his inner character; and the inner structure of the unconscious mind, as we now call it, thus changed, would also alter his destiny and enable him to rule his stars.

While the ancient wise ones who designed tarot Arcanum XIV probably never even remotely dreamed of a machine like the cyclotron, which through adding ions to atoms would change their chemical substance, they did picture the general process in association with the earth-earthly sign Taurus. And this same general process, evidently, is the one which must be applied to alchemy on any plane, such as in the transmutations within the unconscious mind of man, by which alone he can alter his destiny upon the physical sphere.

But the energies which correspond to ions, if they are to alter the unconscious mind, must be those of thought. And if they are to have power enough to make worthwhile transformations, they must use, instead of a cyclotron, the dynamic force of emotion. It is emotion, feeling, which gives thoughts the power to accomplish work.

What those alterations within the unconscious mind must be to change the trend of destiny in the direction desired, of course, depends upon what thought-elements and combinations already are within that unconscious mind, which are mapped by the planets in the birth chart; and upon the energies reaching and giving power to these mental factors at the time, as indicated by the progressed planetary positions.

When we speak of ruling the stars, we do not mean that we can prevent the aspects that form in the sky, or that we can prevent planetary energies reaching us. We do not prevent the activity of the various forces of nature, whether they be ocean currents, flowing streams, glaciating ice, or the ionizing cosmic rays. But through our knowledge we are learning to adapt ourselves rather successfully to these and other environmental forces. And while we can not prevent the planets from radiating the energies they most certainly do, we can learn what those energies are and how they influence human life, and then take proper steps to utilize them so that they will work, not against us, but in a direction that will be to our advantage.

We can easily demonstrate that each planet broadcasts an energy of a special type. Yet such energies are not, responsible for the character with which the individual is born nor for the events which later enter his life. He comes into human existence at the time the planets accurately map the more active mental factors within his unconscious mind, which are the outstanding qualities of his character, in obedience to the line of least resistance. As it is easier for a chip to float down stream instead of up, so is it easier for him then to be born than at any other time.

Nor are the progressed planets responsible for the events that come to him as life continues. It is true that they determine in great measure the astral environment at a given time; but how that invisible environment affects hint is not determined thus, but by his reaction to it.

Thus are two things involved in every condition and event of the individual's life: the organization of the thought-cells within his unconscious mind, which constitutes his character, and the environment to which the character reacts. Even though the environment remains the same, even under the same progressed aspects, for instance, if the thought-organization of the unconscious mind upon which these energies act is changed, that which happens will be different.

What is explained in tarot Arcanum XIV is that if the thought structure of the finer body is changed, whatever is indicated by progressed aspects, and by the birth chart, is proportionally changed, and that through the proper application of Mental Alchemy, energies that otherwise would be coincident with misfortune can be diverted into channels so that they will attract good fortune. That is, The Alchemist associated with Taurus contemplates doing with planetary

energies, through changing the character upon which they act, what man to some extent has done with tide and wind and rain. As once destructive winds now are made to drive his ships, and uncomfortable rains to grow his crops, so explains this Alchemist, through proper understanding, can man make the once fear-begetting aspects work for him.

It is true, as one who studies astrology long must be convinced, that what usually is attributed to chance is never such; but the working of a hidden law. And the law which governs the events and circumstances that enter every life is that which relates to the release of desire energy on the four-dimensional plane.

Each thought-cell of the unconscious mind has within it energy under tension, and each thought-organization has still other energies stored and under tension. These energies strain for release. And when they gain enough additional energy, through more thought or planetary vibration, they spill over into unusual action. Nor is such action confined to the physical plane. It works in an equally potent fashion from the four-dimensional plane to attract into the life those conditions which are the objects of the desires of these thought-organizations.

What the thought-cells and thought-structures of the unconscious mind attract into the life with such energy as they possess is determined by the way they are conditioned. This applies not only to those with which the individual was born, but also to all that have been added by subsequent experiences. The thought-elements enter into discordant psychoplasmic compounds when they are conditioned by feelings of distress, and into harmonious psychoplasmic compounds when they are conditioned by feelings of pleasure. How they have been conditioned is revealed by the aspects between the planets in the birth chart.

Arcanum XIV, which shows the Alchemist pouring new thought-elements into the cup representing the unconscious mind, or astral body, explains in the language of symbolical pictograph, that if an individual expects to attract to himself events that are more fortunate than those indicated in his birth chart, he must change the Conditioning of the thought compounds in his unconscious mind which those birth chart aspects merely map. To the extent he can do this will more fortunate events come to him.

This old tarot picture explains that harmonious thinking and feeling about the things mapped by discordant planets in the birth chart rearranges the thought-elements in the stellar-cells related to these things, much as the cyclotron rearranges the electrons and positrons within an element of matter to make of it a new element. And when the factors of the unconscious mind are thus conditioned through Mental Alchemy, they attract a different set of events under the same progressed aspects.

In other words, The Alchemist sets forth that any condition within the astral body shown in the horoscope of any indi-

vidual in the world, either in the birth chart or by progression, could be built into any other person's astral body, if enough thought-energy could be acquired.

It is true, just as it is true that gold in commercial quantities has not been manufactured by using the cyclotron, that physical life is too short, with the thought-energy most people have, to build into the astral body those thought-cells and organizations that express as genius or that attract world recognized power.

But to the extent they do build into themselves the same thought-cells and thought-cell relationships possessed by genius or men of world-wide power, others also must inevitably attract to themselves similar external events.

The planets furnish the energy with which the thought-cells work. But the kind of work done by the planetary energy thus utilized is entirely determined by the desires of the thought-cells and stellar organizations. That is, we build our fortune, as well as our abilities, through our experiences and how we mentally react to them. If we want a different kind of fortune, the only way we can get it is through the process indicated by tarot Arcanum XIV, which is by pouring in such thoughts and feelings as will build thought-cell compounds and structures into the astral body having such desires as will attract it.



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Natal Astrology

Brando Dies at 80

Christopher Gibson

Brief Biography

egendary actor Marlon Brando died of pulmonary fibrosis on July 1, 2004 at UCLA Medical Center. This ended a several year struggle with obesity, congestive heart failure and pneumonia. Brando's tragic and enigmatic personal life was as much the subject of news reports as his bigger-than-life portrayals on stage and screen.

According to Lois Rodden's AstroDatabank Brando's birth data is listed "AA" and is derived from his birth Certificate. Brando was born in Omaha, Nebraska on April 3, 1924 at 11: P.M. the third and last child of Dorothy Pennebaker Brando and Marlon Brando Senior. Marlon Jr. was affectionately known as "Bud" by his family members. His mother was active in the local theater community and was influential in encouraging Henry Fonda and Dorothy McGuire, two other local actors onto the stage. During his childhood, young Brando moved with his family a number of times between Evanston Illinois and Santa Ana, California. A rambunctious teen and notorious prankster he was sent to Shattuck Military Academy in Failbult, Minnesota from which he was later expelled for insubordination. At age 19 he moved to New York to live with his sister Frances. He quickly joined his other sister Jocelyn in her studies with celebrated acting coach Stella Adler.

In 1947 Brando achieved star status through his role as Stanley Kowalksi in Tennessee William's A Streetcar named Desire. Four years later he became a major movie star playing the same role in the 1951 film version of Streetcar. In 1954 he was awarded the Oscar for Best Actor for his performance as ex-boxer Terry Malloy in On the Waterfront. During his career he would be nominated for Academy Awards another seven times winning once more in 1972 for his role as Don Corleone in The Godfather.

Brando's personal life was both tragic and controversial. His parents separated in 1935 and reconciled in 1937. Brando married three times, in 1957 to Anna Kashifi, in 1960 to Mexican actress Movita Castenada, and in 1962 to Polynesian actress Tarita Teriipia. His oldest son Christian was arrested for murdering his sister Cheyenne's allegedly abusive boyfriend Dag Drollet in 1990. Christian Brando was sentenced to 10 years in March 1991 and released in January of 1996. His daughter Cheyenne distraught over the loss of her lover committed suicide in 1995. Brando reputedly spent millions of dollars defending Christian and during his last years subsisted on his screen Actors Guild pension, minor residuals, and Social Security.

A Partial Listing of His Films:

- 1950 The Men
- 1951 A Streetcar Named Desire
- 1952 Viva Zapata!
- 1953 Julius Caesar
- 1954 The Wild One, On the Waterfront, Desirée
- 1955 Guys and Dolls

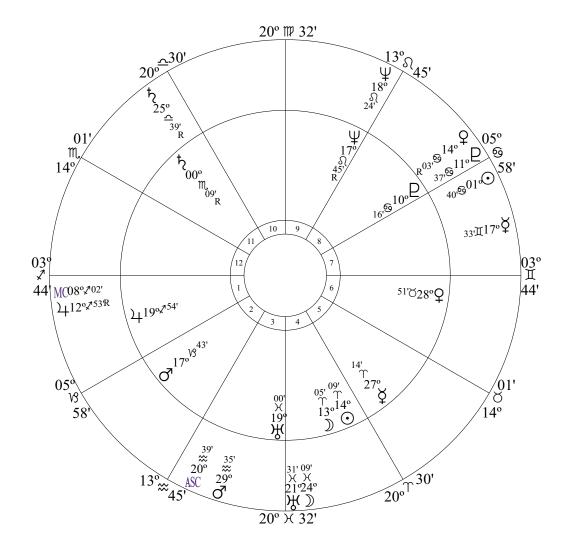
- 1956 The Teahouse of the August Moon
- 1957 Sayonara
- 1958 The Young Lions
- 1961 One-Eyed Jacks
- 1962 Mutiny on the Bounty
- 1966 The Chase
- 1967 A Countess from Hong Kong
- 1967 Reflections in a Golden Eye
- 1972 The Godfather, Last Tango in Paris
- 1976 The Missouri Breaks
- 1978 Superman
- 1979 Apocalypse Now
- 1980 The Formula
- 1989 A Dry White Season
- 1990 The Freshman
- 1992 Christopher Columbus: The Discovery

- 1995 Don Juan de Marco
- 1996 The Island of Doctor Moreau
- 2001 The Score

An Astrological Analysis

Natal Chart

A Grand Trine in fire signs is one of the more outstanding factors in Brando's chart. His Sun and Moon are conjunct in Aries in his fourth house and forming trines to Jupiter in Sagittarius in his first house and Neptune in Leo in his ninth house. These factors no doubt contributed to his physical presence, charisma and acting ability for which he is remembered. The Sun is his dominant planet (13.2%) which is helpful in attracting awards. Falling in his dominant fourth house, Brando was often in the news concerning his family, his atoll retreat of Teti-aroa, or his reclusive behavior at his Mulholland Drive estate.



Marlon Brando: April 3, 1924; 11:00PM; Omaha, Nebraska Source: Progressed to:

	Natal	Major
0	05N35	23N26
D	02N01	04S40
ξ	11N17	22N14
₽	22N22	21N12
♂	22S58	15S22
4	22S21	21S43
ħ	08S57	07S30
Ж	05S02	04S05
Ψ	15N46	15N34
Б	20N42	20N43
MC	03N45	21S39
ASC	20S54	14S37

7.9

4.22

65.59

Jupiter, the second most powerful of his planets (13.0%) in Sagittarius in his first house can contribute both to his outspoken support of the plight of the American Indian as well as the obesity (300 lbs.) which he struggled with in his later years. Jupiter the wealth-builder is his most harmonious planet. In 1978 he was reputedly paid four million dollars for his ten minute cameo appearance in Superman.

Pluto is his most discordant planet and the eighth house his most discordant compartment in his chart. This reflects the anguish created in his life by the highly-publicized death of Dag Drollet and subsequently his daughter's suicide.

Progressed Aspects

- 1947 Progressed Midheaven opposes natal Moon and natal Sun. Achieves star status in A Streetcar named Desire
- 1951 Progressed Sun sextile natal and progressed Pluto, progressed Midheaven sextile Neptune. Receives acclaim through his role in A Streetcar named Desire.
- 1954 Progressed Midheaven sextile natal Jupiter. Receives Academy Award for Best Actor for role in On the Waterfront.
- 1957 Progressed Venus (in seventh house) trine natal Saturn. Marriage to Anna Kashifi.
- 1960 Progressed Venus inconjunct natal Ascendant, progressed Mercury semi-sextile natal Sun. Marriage to Movita Castenada.
- 1962 Progressed Mercury semi-sextile natal Sun. Marriage to Tarita Teriipia.
- 1972 Progressed Sun parallel natal and progressed Pluto. Receives Academy Award for role in The Godfather.
- 1978 Progressed Mars opposition natal and progressed Neptune. Receives record salary for his work on Superman.
- 1991 Progressed Midheaven square progressed Mars, progressed Midheaven opposition progressed Mercury. Spends millions defending son Christian on murder charges.
- 1995 Progressed Midheaven opposition Venus, Progressed Venus opposition Mars. Daughter Cheyenne commits suicide.
- 2004 Progressed Venus square Sun. Dies at 80 years of age.

For additional astrological insights into the life of Marlon Brando, read Vol. 2 of Dennis Sutton's *Hollywood Trilogy: The Superstars, A Celebration of Success.*

INITIATION:

A JOURNEY OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Mary Meg Dissinger

This article is presented in response to a request from students at a recent seminar (June 2004) on the Tarot. It is presented as a series, this being the introduction.

Zain tells us repeatedly throughout the 21 Brotherhood of Light Lessons that initiation impresses upon the soul, by unforgettable experiences, the journey the soul must make to enlightenment. ³The journey opens the senses of the soul to transcendental realms and awakens dormant powers of the divine self. ² (Cs. II) The question is, are we paying attention? Life is the initiation. Initiation is our

journey, the hero/heroine's journey to the realization of our spiritual nature. If we examine our lives closely in retrospect, we may see that life has been and will continue to be a series of journeys of enlightenment. Each of these journeys/experiences draws us closer to realization of our spiritual destiny and self-conscious immortality.

All life depends upon polarity, the uniting of the masculine and feminine elements. This balance of the masculine and feminine is a major part of the hero's journey. Each of us must confront, assimilate, and harmonize both the masculine and feminine of our nature in order to move forward in conscious progression toward enlightenment. How can we expect to be prepared for the reunion of the twin souls in the next life if we have yet to align our masculine and

feminine energies, represented in our natal charts in this life? We stumble about looking for the answer in externals, seeking balance from without when the real journey of initiation must begin within. We must pay attention to the externals in order to learn, but the journey of enlightenment, the initiation, is an internal journey. There are signs all along the way in archetypal stories, in nature, in the very deepest core of the philosophy of The Religion of the Stars.

Each reference to the journey of initiation has four stages: separation; trial; discovery; and return. We can relate these four stages in an unlimited number of ways. Consider the seasons. The separation occurs at the vernal equinox as the seed, having left the source, struggles to survive, put down roots and grow. The summer brings the trial—will there be enough water, light, fertile soil for the seed to grow into maturity. In the autumn the full beauty of the plant is realized, the fruit or flower emerges in all its glory, producing its seed

for the next generation. Finally, winter arrives, death, sleep, the return to the source of all. Draw the analogy here to human existence. Birth is the separation, adolescence the trial, adulthood the discovery, and death the return.

In the next example we may consider the soul's journey. The separation relates to the dividing of the twin souls from their angelic source. The trial is represented by the journey of the individuated souls through mineral, vegetable, and animal realms. Discovery occurs as the souls awaken in human form to the potential of self-conscious immortality and

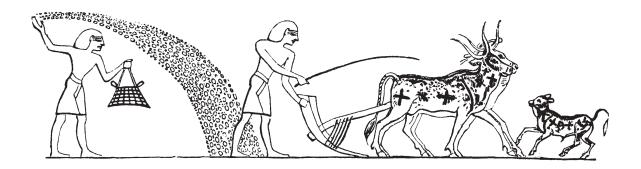
the path of cosmic consciousness. The return is the ultimate reunion of the twin souls, which having gained enlightenment through their separate journeys, are prepared to unite and take their place in the divine chain of being.

We know that the secret doctrines of initiation have been hidden behind religious tales, in fanciful stories of childhood, in mythology of every culture known to us, and in the rites and ceremonies of secret organizations, literature, and film. Consider the most recent contributions: Star Wars, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings. We are bombarded from the inner and outer planes with opportunities to embark on our personal journeys of initiation. The only excuse we humans have for not being more enlightened and initiated is that we are not paying

attention, or perhaps we still are making up our minds as to which path we will follow—the materialist or the spiritualist—the materialist or the spiritualist, represented by Arcanum XXII or 0.

It is interesting to note that many tarot decks begin with the zero card—commonly known in those decks as "The Fool." Because our journey is a spiral which takes us through the labyrinth of existence and returns us back again to our place of departure, through materialism toward spiritualism, the Brotherhood of Light places this card at the end of the series representing materialism as XXII, and ceaseless cooperation in the Great Plan as 0. This physical world interpretation is a major key to the journey of initiation for we must separate ourselves from materialism, endure the trials of a life of surrender to something greater than self—the knowledge of the higher Self, in order to discover that it is only through giving ourselves to pure spirit that we may make the return to cosmic consciousness.





Stellarian Honor Guard

April 1, 2004 - June 30, 2004

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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Healing List Requestmay we pray with you?	- 1
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Credit card (Please call 1-800-500-0453, MTTh 10 a.m5 p.m. (PT) or complete the following:	11.1 9
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Signature

Patrick Ramsey, Membership Minister

The Tablets of Aeth

Tablet The Eleventh Aquarius ≈

"A stormy sea is seen; above it the eight stars shine, brilliant and clear."

The waters pour fourth on the Earth: it is the emotion of the Cosmic Mind desiring the recognition of truth and love, like a parent to the children so the Higher Mind, like a cell in the Cosmic Mind, in each individual moves

and stirs within the heart and mind. It is a practical balance between heart and mind that enables the co-creative forces to interact. Through the symbiotic relations of all creation moves electrified waters of life so as to manifest the truth that always enables greater love.

The emotions move the balance both consistently and erratically. Truth and love does this as it molds the physical. The presence of all that is, was, or will be emanates brighter than the Sun from within the soul of the enlightened person, not from a point outside the self, but from within the self. This relationship exists within all in synchronicity for the sake of all souls.

That then which is encountered on this Earth is scrutinized and interacted with to experience higher and yet higher levels of truth leading to greater feelings and summits of love. Movement and constant exchange therefore is necessary for the experience. The creative energies are therefore taxed to achieve greater compassion, goodness, kindness, perceived qualities of self-worth and the continuance of life all leading towards a better and higher level of existence for the whole of life.



From the Light of Egypt, Vol. II by T.H. Burgoyne"...The Tablets of AETH, ...constitute a spiritual astrology, a spiritual science of the stars, void of mathematics, yet possessing all the exactitude of figures, constructed on the principles of astronomy, yet expressed by the methods of the Kabbalah...."





"A stormy sea is seen; above it the eight stars shine, brilliant and clear."

ΧI

Aquarius

REFLECTION

TABLET THE ELEVENTH

"This tablet symbolizes the complete materialization of man—man perfect on the earth and the lord thereof, in so far as material forces are concerned. The storm is the tempest of life, the whirl of the elements of matter in their battle with the spirit. The eight stars, brilliant now (for they are the same stars that were dimly seen in Gemini), show that the conquest of matter is complete, the great fall of spirit finished; the end of involution. And this would bring stagnation and death, if peace now ensued. The lesson taught is that, not in peace and rest can the soul grow; but admist the earthquakes that shake, thrones, the floods that overwhelm countries, the fires that reduce to ashes, has the strong man-soul grown to its present state and power. So fear not the storm, but the calm; not the unrest, but the quiet; fear not the battle, but the ignoble peace of the coward.

O child of Adam! The astral soul must learn to do and dare. Not over the brace man's grave shall it be written, "Rest in peace," but "I will arise, and go to my father."

From the Archives

GOD CREATED ALL LIFE

Lea Riffle

Church of Light Quarterly, January 1969 Vol. 44, No. 1

In all ages, and among all men, mankind has found himself surrounded with a vast scope of life. The Idea of God is simply the overwhelming conviction of how tremendously greater these things are than the individual is. God is the identity given to the ALL OF LIFE, and the intelligence that created it. To know God, man has had to recognize that he is a part of God and a creation of God, and that all men are a creation of God.

This concept of God and that each of us are a part of God even with our limitations, implies a responsibility both to God and each other. Codes of ethics have been evolved over the centuries, some of them obviously primitive, and others quite enlightened.

A code of ethics is a code of conduct not imposed by law, nor by common custom, but self-imposed because we believe in it. It represents a belief in something outside self, and of much greater importance, that is directed toward the achievement of a high objective.

A devotee of the Religion of the Stars perceives his responsibility to society. His code of ethics has for its objective a maximum contribution, on his part, to the Universal Welfare. The Code of ethics around which the western civilization has developed is the Judeo-Christian code, and it has for its objective the brotherhood of man.

Common to both codes is the recognition of the Divine Origin of man and the ultimate objective of their individual achievements: Immortal Life.

In general, the teachings of orthodoxy regarding how man should treat his fellow man are sound. Do as you would be done by, and treat your neighbor as yourself are valid rules. They assist all to survive. They assist all to be happy and spiritual. Although these teachings have been interwoven with erroneous belief and commandments relative to the relationship of man to God, and life after death, a large body of its adherents have been highly successful in living lives of maximum contribution to God's Great Plan. In many is a love of God and an awareness of the presence of God that stands out in all that they do. I mention this for people of this background, in varying degrees of enlightenment, who are the people that comprise our daily lives.

To be actively aware that God created all life is to be aware that whatever we do for others or to others, we do for God, or to God. It is a teaching of both the Religion of the Stars and of orthodoxy that those who unite with Deity in order to manifest truth and work justice are often endowed with Divine powers in their efforts. Those who work in behalf of the Universal Welfare find, upon a closer look, that each success is a contribution of increased freedom; either freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of worship or freedom from expression, for someone.

Successful contribution to the well-being of another inevitably develops those attributes which become love. When we see in each person a bearer of eternal values, some one entitled to a dignity and respect quite apart from how he may act toward us, courtesy is almost instinctive. Politeness is born of seeing in every one a potential or actual Son of God; in so doing we surround that image with "thanks" and "please." All manners are the shadows of virtue: politeness is respect for personality.

Each of us who have consciously tried this with those with whom we are in contact, in our daily lives, find it is not always easy. Most people expect us to accept them on their own evaluation – which sometimes, in its fears and confusions, is far below the one we hold of them. But to view another in terms of dignity and respect does not inspire antagonism. In a majority of cases, they respond in kind.

To acquire such a habit with people may take careful and energetic effort, and we may find ourselves sympathizing with the small boy who protested to his mother, "Why are there so many vitamins in spinach instead of ice cream where they should be?" But the end result of the effort is a relationship to others that is highly satisfying.

As far back as we have records there have always been despots. Mostly, they were the rulers of nations. More recently, the leadership of religious groups, academic groups and commercial enterprises have at one time or another been despotic. Their objective has ever been the servility and the obedience of the people they rule, or the maintenance of the authority they hold over a group. In each case, one, or all of the four freedoms were denied the people involved. Today is no exception. Over one-third of the population of the earth is under military subjection. At home, the enemies of everything we care for most: our liberties, our society, our human dignity; are marching to the

attack with ideologies, bigotry, prejudice and mob coercion.

Regardless of the appraisal we make of the damage being done to others, and the intentions we entertain toward it, the proponents of such despotism are also a part of Deity. All of us are highly evolved animals and not the finished product. All of us are in the process of development. Where despotism is to be opposed, that opposition must be devoid of hate. Hate is the stuff despotism feeds on.

As beings of Divine origin, our happiness consists of fulfilling the purpose of our being. Every man and every woman knows from their own unfulfilled hunger for them, that each person was built with a capacity for three things of which there has never been enough: Life, love and wisdom.

Each of us wants life – not for the next few minutes, but forever and with no aging or disease to threaten it. Each of us wants to acquire wisdom - not just the ability to choose wisely between two perceptions, but the wisdom of total consciousness. Thirdly, we want love; not with a time limit nor mixed with satiety, or disillusionment, but an undying love of the highest attributes.

These things are not to be found in their entirety in this life, but in the human heart there would be no craving for these things in their purity, if there were no possibility of ever attaining them.

Since birth, men and women have been in association with each other. The experiences of their daily lives have given evidence that the well being of life, love and wisdom as they know them are related directly to each experience. This striving to attain a higher quality of love, and of wisdom, is the thing that makes possible life without end. Life without end is self-conscious Immortality.

The All of Life, pure Love and pure Wisdom; this is a definition of God. To attain Immortal Life, pure Love, and pure Wisdom is to achieve the purpose of our being – to unite with God and participate in Divine powers attributes. And God created all Life. 34

Third Decanate of Libra ... Elbert Benjamine

CofL Quarterly, September 1928

he 45 ancient constellations picture by their symbolism the influence of the 12 signs and 36 decanates. In addition the ancient Magi associated with each of the 48 constellations an important spiritual teaching, these teachings as a whole being the moral tenets of the Religion of the Stars. Each of these 48 spiritual doctrines may be stated as a text, and from each of these 48 texts a vital full sized sermon may be preached. These 45 texts, as associated with a particular constellation and therefore also with a certain section of the zodiac, will be published in The Brotherhood of Light Annual for 1929. From time to time I expect to use various of these 48 texts of the Religion of the Stars as subjects of sermonets.

In the present instance I choose my text from the Third Decanate of Libra. Libra, as ruling the 7th. House, is associated with war, and the third decanate is pictured by the constellation Lupus, a wolf being put to death by the spear of Centaurus. This wolf depicts the spirit of war, and the spiritual text associated with it reads: "It is impossible for a man to injure another with out himself being injured, and it is impossible for a man to benefit another without himself being truly benefited."

According to this text, according to common sense, and according to The Religion of the Stars, war is abhorrent, a thing of evil, that ultimately defeats its own aims and leaves but waste and devastation. Yet we have had Hinduism 3,500 years, Buddhism has flourished 2,400 years, Christianity has had its sway for 1,900 years, and Moslemism exerted its power 1,300 years, and war is with us still. The most that can be said is that this summer some treaties were signed to outlaw war; treaties that statesmen admit are mere gestures.

I hold that the world war is an indictment of the world's four dominant religions. I hold that a religion which fails to create an irresistible popular sentiment against war is a weak and decadent religion...

I do not believe it to be the function of religion to tell politicians and statesmen how to abolish war. But I do believe it to be the sacred duty of religion to create a public sentiment against war so strong that politicians and statesmen will lie awake nights solving the problem of how war may actually be abolished. You may be sure that if the common demand for peace is strong enough and universal enough those who seek leadership will find a way to secure peace, and to secure a just and lasting peace

Have our religions created such a popular demand? They have not. Is it not time, therefore, that thinking men and women discard the obsolete in religion as they have discarded the obsolete in locomotion, the obsolete in manufacturing methods, the obsolete in business procedure and adopt an up to date viewpoint, a religion that disregards no fact in nature yet encourages spirituality, a religion that would create an irresistible sentiment against wholesale murder? Such a religion is the Religion of the Stars.



The play begins...

Church of Light Convention 2005

The Two Keys: Journey of Enlightenment

Join us in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 24-26, 2005 for one of the most exciting Church of Light Conventions to date! Brotherhood of Light mentor teachers from around the country will be presenting workshops on a variety of astrological and tarot themes.

Friday, June 24

9 A.M.-1 P.M. — Pre-Conference Program

A special added feature in 2005 will be a pre-conference intensive offering two in-depth tracks on astrology and tarot for students desiring comprehensive training in either subject.

Meg Dissinger Astrological Delineations:

The Competent Astrologer

Christopher Gibson Tarot Academy:

Increase Your Interpretive Skills

2 - 6 P.M.— Annual Business Meeting

7-10 P.M. — Reception Party

Saturday, June 25

9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M — Lecture Schedule

Donald Baker Financial Perspectives 2005-2006

Paul Bergner True Education and the Initiations

of the Tarot

Paul Brewer Progressed Astrodynes Using the

Horoscope® Program,

Michael Foltz The Decanates of Astrol-

ogy

Christopher Gibson Astrodynes and Progres-

sions: Health and Disease

7-10 P.M.— Awards Banquet

Sunday, June 26

9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. — Lecture Schedule

Paul Brewer Decanates and the Tarot

Gail Carswell Symbolism: The Universal

Language

Meg Dissinger The Goddess Unveiled

and Astrology Intensive



Talented Speakers....

For those planning to make this conference their vacation destination; New Mexico is a region rich in history, art, architecture, and natural beauty. You'll want to add a day or two to either end of the conference to explore The Land of Enchantment.



Honoring one another....

Membership Room

We have a WINNER!



Rex Oxley, Harrison, Ohio, was the first person to contact HQ about finding the Egyptian Tour symbol in the Summer Quarterly. Congrats to Rex. We wish we could reward all the sleuths who sent a response to HQ...instead, we wish you good luck on the next expedition! The first one to find and notify HQ about the Fall Quarterly Egytian Tour symbol will be announced in the Winter Quarterly.

1

And...another winner....

Member Randahl Purchase recently participated in a marathon...here is what he has to say and a picture of him crossing the finish line

"Hi my beloved friends. I did a running meditation with each one of the signs for one year. Something great happened I got younger. I thought I would share that and the pictures with you. L.L.L. Randy P."

Annual Membership Meeting

To be held at 1: P.M. on Friday September 24, 2004

9818 N. Guadalupe Trail, Alameda New Mexico

Call 505-792-2995 for directions



Paul Brewer & Meg Dissinger Conduct Initiations in Outdoor

Educational Seminars in New Mexico

Educational retreats exploring astrology, alchemy, and tarot have continued in New Mexico. Special emphasis is placed on the practical application of esoteric knowledge in our daily lives. These "hands-on" workshops are taught using the Hermetic teachings of the Brotherhood of Light. Facilitators Meg Dissinger, Aggie Damron, and Christopher Gibson are Brotherhood of Light trained and have more than three decades of experience in metaphysics, tarot, and astrology. Recent additions to our programs have included Sunday morning Church of Light services and initiations for new members, grade changes and Hermeticians.

2005 Retreats and Conventions

Cimarron, New Mexico

January 15 & 16 - The Alchemical Laboratory: Life's experiences provide us with ample opportunities for transformation and change. In this weekend retreat in the mountains of northern New Mexico we'll discover the formulas of the alchemists which lead to the development of spiritual gold. Learn the use of antidotes and conversion, directed thinking and induced emotion. Using the astrological chart as a map of our thinking we'll use experiential techniques for turning discord into harmony.

Alameda, New Mexico

March 19 & 20 – Tarot Astrology & Numerology: In this weekend retreat we'll ponder the knowledge of the ancient Kabalists to discover the relationship between a name, the tarot arcanum and your astrological chart. Find a name that brings out the best in you.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Albuquerque, New Mexico

June 23 - 26 —Hermeticism in the Modern Era

Discover how best to practice Hermetic science in the 21st Century. Gifted teachers from around the country will share their knowledge of Tarot, Astrology and Alchemy. This convention will include a preview party, two days of educational programming, with Church of Light experts, an awards banquet, and more. Participants who plan to come to town in advance of the conference can join us in

sightseeing tours to archeological sites, Indian pueblos, and museums.

For registration contact:

Rev. Christopher Gibson

The Church of Light, 111 S. Kraemer Blvd., Suite A, Brea,

CA 92821; Phone: 505 792 2995;

E-mail: churchoflight@light.org

Speaking of Conventions....



Blowing Rock, North Carolina

Movement is in the direction of holding the next Annual Meeting and Convention (2007) on the east coast. Member Claudia Clark from Blowing Rock who owns a beautiful bed and breakfast next to the old Coca Cola estate, has offered to participate in hostingthe convention in Blowing Rock. So far we've met with challenges of affordability and logistics...With your help in visualizing us in Blowing Rock we'll attract the perfect situation that supports the east coast effort. To give you a little flavor of the location and to help a little with the visualizing, here's a picture of one of Claudia's cottages.

Some Members Need Sponsors

If you are considering sponsoring another person's study please let HQ know either in writing (111 S. Kraemer Blvd., Suite A, Brea, CA 92821) or by e-mail (churchoflight@light.org).

Sponsorship involves purchasing books and making exam donations. Some ½ price books are available.

Member Activities

Member, Robert Zoller, whom many of you have had the pleasure of hearing speak at CofL Conventions will be hosting an intensive in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. A student of ancient classical languages, Robert, a Medieval Astrologer, has transcribed some of the more obscure astrological treatise from which our own modern astrology evolves. Because of Robert's unique understanding of language and astrology he has



been able to create a window of perspective on how our predecessors approached the practice of astrology. The topic of his upcoming intensive is Mundane Astrology. It will be held October 8-11. Cost is \$1200 US. If this sounds interesting, contact Robert at 604 925 3651.

Publishing for the 21st Century

By the time this Quarterly has gone to press Course 6, The Sacred Tarot and Course 5, Esoteric Psychology will be at BookSurge. By November 2004 you will be able to order both the paperback and harbound editions....yipee!!!!

**Total Course of the Course



How to Rule the Stars...

"...what comes into our life is not due to the positions of the stars either at our birth or after our birth; it is chiefly due to the psychokinetic activity of the thought-cells within our astral bodies. ...If we would rule our stars, therefore, in addition to manipulating the physical environment intelligently, we must change the thought-cell activities. When these activities are altered the change thus in our character can not fail to bring a corresponding change in the events and conditions attracted."

"Return to Spirit" Tour Ready to Begin! Win One of Three Souvenir Books on Ancient Egypt!

As many of you have learned via mail and email, we are very excited to say that all the arrangements for our "Return to Spirit" Tour to Egypt for next April 2005 are complete. It is time to register for the tour. Space is very limited, and a number of spots on the tour are already spoken for. Make your commitments and deposits early, so that you will not miss this

historic opportunity to be part of the Brotherhood of Light's first journey back to Egypt!

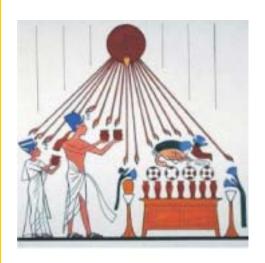


As you enjoy the following excerpt from the itinerary for our tour, peruse this newsletter in search of the symbol to left:

The first person to find the symbol hidden in the newsletter and to notify us in writing will win the book *The Way To Eternity*!

There will be more chances to win in future newsletters. Happy hunting, good luck and enjoy this preview of our tour!

April 20th - Thursday - Day 06 - Abydos Temples / Denderah Temple



Today you disembark the cruiser and by early morning convoy visit Abydos, one of the most spellbinding spots in Egypt. Architecturally unique, the temple complex at Abydos was dedicated by Seti I to the god Osiris. Osiris is resurrection, rebirth and renewal. Murdered twice by his brother Set, Osiris' final revival at the hands of Isis transformed him into the guardian of the afterlife and the proof that we never really die, we simply transcend to an-

other level of life. The temple contains chapels devoted to seven individual archetypal energies. Afternoon drive to Denderah, where you visit Denderah Temple dedicated to the goddess Hathor with its beautifully preserved paintings of the sky and zodiac.

Hathor was the consort of Horus, the feminine balance

to the redeemer's masculine energy, as the Sophia energy is to the Christ energy. Often depicted with the head and/or body of a cow, Hathor is the one who loves and nurtures continually and unconditionally and was followed openly by many of the queens of Egypt. Evening free; optional visit to essential oils factory. Sonesta St George Hotel.







Win a Book on Ancient Egypt! see page 19



Building a Better World with a Better Vision!

The Church of Light Vision for the 21st Century

OUR MISSION

To teach, practice and disseminate the Religion of the Stars, a way of life for the Aquarian Age, outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

WHAT WE TEACH

- There is a loving Cosmic Intelligence, of which we are all a part, whose infinite goodness expresses through undeviating natural law.
- There is a Divine Plan in which each person has a unique and important role.
- The Divine Plan manifests through progressive evolution.
- There is a universal moral code Contribute Your Utmost To Universal Welfare - which, to the extent adopted by each individual, will make the world a better place to live.
- The Religion of the Stars will evolve by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.
- Astrology is the Golden Key that unlocks the door to understanding the Soul's true character and potential.
- The safe development of extrasensory perception (extension of consciousness) is the best tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the

after-life and the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Our vision is to become a significant world religion in the 21st Century, and a powerful force for good and for spiritual enlightenment, by:

- Providing reliable and verifiable information regarding the nature of the soul and its relationship to Deity and other life forms;
- Seeking out reliable and verifiable information regarding life on higher planes of existence, especially in regard to the transition we call death, and the nature of the next life;
- Developing increasingly advanced tools and training in astrology, extrasensory perception, directed thinking and induced emotion, toward the end of maximizing each person's happiness, usefulness and spirituality;
- Promoting the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;
- Building a sense of community and spiritual purpose which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.

