

God's Message Through the Astrological Sign Aries—The Lamb of God

THE SIGN ARIES is the first sign of the Zodiac and is, according to our Rosicrucian Philosophy, the first Great Creative Hierarchy. The first and second Great Creative Hierarchies are said "to have passed beyond the ken of anyone on Earth. It is known that they gave some assistance at the beginning of our evolution" (CC 221).

According to *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, these two first Hierarchies have no name; according to the Greeks, the Divine Hierarchy of Aries is called the Xeophim.

The sign Aries rules the head, the cerebral hemispheres, the various organs within the head, and the eyes, except the nose, which is under the rulership of Scorpio.

So, it seems that this Great Creative Hierarchy of Aries truly gave us a wonderful assistance, as all their gifts are located in our head.

Under Aries, the first of the fire signs, we consider the mighty outpouring of Life from God, its source and fountain-head, and the distribution of that Life through all the avenues of Being.

During the past six months the Christ, our Planetary Spirit, has brooded over the Earth and in the Earth, nurturing the souls of men. He has called upon us to turn within ourselves, to search our motives and cleanse our hearts, that we may better prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His paths within us.

Meanwhile he has filled to the brim the hidden reservoirs of Life throughout the planet. When, at the Vernal Equinox, He begins His ascent to the Father, He releases this abundant life to be used by all evolving beings upon the Earth. The divine spark in every living thing has been touched by it,

and in each has been awakened the inherent cosmic urge to press forward—to be, to do, to dare.

This cosmic urge is the expression of the eternal epigenesis of the Spirit. Never is Man more divine than when inaugurating new constructive activities, or breaking the bonds of habit to mold his life upon a larger plan. So, *epigenesis* could be a keyword for the sign Aries

The student who is endeavoring to adjust his life to the Great Plan will find much interesting work to do during the solar month of Aries—vigorous work, joyous work—for the God within him has been stirred to action.

The desire body is the body of action, the body through which the creative power of the Ego finds expression. This power, Man, at the instigation of the Lucifer Spirits, undertook to handle under his own initiative, when the vehicle through which it flowed was barely started on its development, and the mind, the instrument of control, was as yet but a germ. Small wonder that the desire body has proved such a problem in human evolution.

The infant mind coalesced, we are taught, with this body of action—desire, and emotion—and in the vast majority of mankind is still under the sway of its surging, never-resting currents.

Those who have heard the call to the higher life and are striving to answer it, are gradually extricating the mind from this age-long domination and placing it in its true position as link between the Ego and its vehicles.

This is a tremendous task, but a glorious one. It is through the constant effort to command the obedience of the desire body to the will of the Spirit that consciousness is expanded and the personality made gradually aware of the eternal I AM as a

living Presence within.

Under the stimulating Ray of Mars, ruler of Aries, each of us is given an opportunity during this solar month to gauge the measure of control he has gained over the forces that play through his own being. Our progress in evolution depends upon active use of the powers that we possess, whether these be great or small. God calls upon us now for action. So, on the physical plan, dynamic energy is a keyword for Aries.

If, in the past months, we have conceived a wider vision of life, then the Spirit, with its inherent epigenesis, will find a way to translate this new vision into action. But the will must hold steadily to its chosen purpose, otherwise the desire body, filled with new strength, will slip its leash, and scatter the precious store of life force in purposeless activity.

The mind is called upon, during this month, to develop initiative, and the heart courage. It is the time to draw out the problems that lurk about in odd corners of our being and bring them to the light to be faced and solved. It is the time to clear from our minds and our lives the non-essentials which absorb time and energy and block the way to the accomplishment of the constructive, progressive work that we want to do.

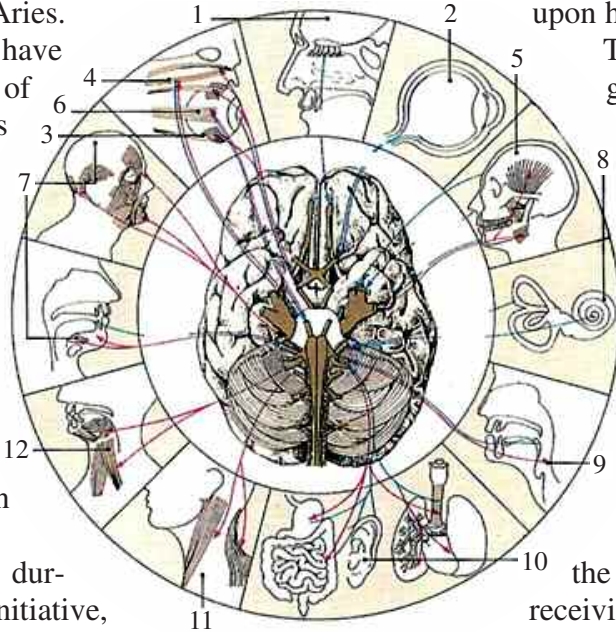
This necessitates a general survey of our activities with a view of co-ordinating them, and assigning to each its proper time and place in our lives.

In the human body, the marvelous instrument of co-ordination, the human brain, is under the rulership of Aries. So, *co-ordination* is another keyword for the sign Aries, in both the Physical World and the World of Thought.

When we come to the functioning organs of the body and their correlation to the Cosmos, which is the body of God, we enter upon a field of study so vast in its extent and of such intense interest that

the heart fairly stands still before it. No wonder the injunction "Man know thyself" is written above the doorway of every Mystery School!

The physiological key to the Wisdom Teachings is one that brings to the earnest student the richest of results. Every hour given to the study of anatomy and physiology, with the cosmic correspondence in mind, will repay the aspirant a thousand-fold when realization begins to dawn upon him.



It is suggestive to compare the twelve cranial nerves serving the indwelling Ego and the twelve disciples serving the Christ.

This realization of the analogies between Man, the microcosm, and God, the Macrocosm, is an individual matter, something that grows and deepens as the aspirant grows and deepens. But the least of us may prepare the way for understanding by getting acquainted with the wonders of our physical body.

The brain, as instrument of the mind, is both sending and receiving station for the messages that pass between the Ego and the personality. It is through the intricate mechanism of the brain, therefore, that the Spirit makes known its will in the use and distribution of the life energies pouring into the three lower vehicles from the Center of being.

The brain is the instrument through which all the functions of body are directed and operated.

Here, in the etheric brain, we may become conscious of the records of the current earth-life stored in the heart—all sense perceptions, all inner and outer experiences, all dealings between the Ego and its vehicles.

In the folds of the twin hemispheres of the brain are great unused spaces, suggesting the larger life to come, as we succeed in pushing ever farther back the self-wrought lines of limitation that stand between us and that larger life.

In the brain, too, are the pituitary body and the pineal gland whose intensified vibration will some

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day meet across the mysterious passage-way of the third ventricle, to bridge for us the gap between the seen and unseen worlds.

No esoteric student can meditate upon the brain and its infinitely complex operations without becoming, in time, aware that he is looking into a miniature model of the workshop of God. He knows then that some day, through the reverent study of this model, he will learn how the mighty forces of the Creator are directed and distributed throughout the universe.

We have seen that Aries has rulership over the brain, one portion of which has been referred to as the old or ancient brain, tracing its ancestry back about 100 million years. The medical name for it is hypothalamus. It is located on the underside of the brain area, being about 1/300 of its size, and about in the center of the head.

The brain, with its highly developed sense of hearing, smelling, seeing, tasting, and feeling, and with great nerve connections within the nervous system, has a richer supply of blood than any other part of the body. This allows it to carry on its great work without the person realizing what is being done. Its chief duty is to keep balance throughout the body, warning other areas of body and brain when their help is required, also balancing the nervous system and the pituitary gland. It is spoken of as the most wonderful computer in the world, also as the central power station from which all activities are directed. The brain is the organ through which the mind operates.

We have heard that "thought furrows (or makes grooves in) the brain," and that is actually true, for the gray matter folds over and over upon itself, with new brain areas being formed like library shelves one above another. When we wish to study a new language, we must make a new shelf. The Spirit can make new brain areas to carry out new studies, although that becomes more difficult as we grow older. There are large areas of the brain which are smooth and unfurrowed so that we may well believe we are not using these portions. This gives us an understanding of the way in which our brain may develop greater mental ability in the future. We can truly say the brain is man's most important instrument, making it vital that we bring

those smooth areas under cultivation. The Life Spark, the true Self in each one of us, is striving through the Will to become manager of this power station and to use its power to build a fine character and successful life.

Let us entertain thoughts of good-will to all mankind, and seek to improve our mental ability along lines beneficial to others, as well as ourselves, in the choice of our life's work. Our diet, too, is of utmost importance, making it necessary that we avoid the use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, and that we adopt a harmless (to others) diet. All of these practices are helpful in improving not only our brain, but our entire person—physical, mental, and spiritual.

MARS THE RULER OF ARIES

From Mars we receive a number of our highly-prized virtues, as well as some of our worst faults. When well-aspected he gives a strong constitution and physical endurance, a positive, independent and self-reliant nature, determined and proud, generous and energetic, resourceful and quick to learn, especially when in Aries, Leo, Scorpio or Capricorn; otherwise, he can make the person quick-tempered, obstinate and spiteful.

SUN EXALTED IN ARIES

We know that the Sun is the physical vehicle of Christ. We also know that the heart is ruled by the Light ether, and that the Ego has control over its vehicles through the positive pole of the reflecting ether. The positive pole enables the Ego to impress its thoughts on the brain; the negative pole of the reflecting ether is the seat of the subconscious memory. In the head, the Sun rules the Pons Varolii, which is the lower end of the Medulla Oblongata. Concentration on these elements will shed light on a number of esoteric subjects.

THE CHRIST LIGHT

Many people regard the Crucifixion of Christ Jesus as a tragedy. In a limited sense, this is true. In the eyes of the world, a sublimely good man was killed at the behest of a mob exercising mob cruelty. He was forced to endure, uncomplaining, indignity and torture that were hardly in keeping with the message of love and brotherhood that He

had come to teach. Even though, at the Resurrection, Christ gave proof of having conquered death and instilled new hope into the hearts of all who believed in Him, the agony of the Crucifixion remains, in the minds of many, a heartlessly imposed tragedy.

Yet, the Crucifixion was necessary. Christ Jesus could not have died simply a natural death and still have been able completely to fulfill His mission. It was necessary that His blood (part of the physical vehicle) flow in order that the Christ could, by this means, enter into the Earth itself to become its indwelling Planetary Spirit. In this way the tremendous spiritual power of Christ passed into the center of the Earth. The Christ Light shone through the Earth and everything upon it. The Earth and its atmosphere were then cleansed and purified.

The Christ Light continues to shine for the purification of the human race. This power increases each year when the Christ again enters the Earth. Thus, slowly but surely, every person that draws upon the Christ Light is purifying himself and increasing the love and fellow-feeling which will eventually bring about universal brotherhood.

We see, then, that although the fact of the agony and Crucifixion of Christ Jesus was not, and is not, pleasant to think about, it is also, in fact, the beginning of a great gift for humanity—a gift which will continue to be given for a long time to come.

Christ Jesus words from the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34), are more than simply a prayer that God forgive the mob for demanding His death. These words show Christ Jesus' understanding that mankind at that time had no idea of the real reason for His Crucifixion. Most men, even today, do not know this. Christ Jesus was not crucified merely that He might rise again from the dead and thus prove the fact of immortality. He was crucified, as we have seen, that the Christ might be enabled to enter the Earth to become our Indwelling Planetary Spirit, and thus continue to give of Himself year after year—century after century—until humanity at last, with the help of the sublime Christ Light, has developed its spiritual powers to the extent that it will no longer need the help of an Indwelling Planetary Spirit.



Tempera on wood panel, Masolino da Panicale (1383-1440), Vatican, Rome

The Crucifixion

What distinguishes this representation of the Crucifixion is a tree of life growing from the cross, in which a pelican feeds her brood with blood issuing from a self-inflicted wound. So does Christ endue this planet with new life on several levels.

The more we think about all of this, and of the sacrifice that Christ made and is making for our sakes each year, the more we realize our responsibility to avail ourselves as much as possible of the Light that He is giving us in abundance. The more we live in accordance with His Teachings, setting aside our selfish interest and trying to do our work in the world as best we know how, the more we will be able to take advantage of His great gift and strengthen ourselves in His service. □

—Rosicrucian Fellowship Staff Members