

From **ASTROLOGY** to **ASTRONOMY** **IN US**



by

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FROM ASTROLOGY TO ASTRONOMY IN US

The current theme is very broad and certainly would need much more time to be addressed as it should. It is interesting that we have been asked to consider this subject right after the course held in Padua on homeodynamic agriculture during which we demonstrated the method of growing crops in harmony with the forces and influences arising from the planets and stars according to the actual stars we see in the sky. There we addressed the question of whether to use the zodiacal signs or, indeed, to the visible constellations.

By the term "constellation" we mean the real constellations, the ones we see when we raise our eyes to the sky. There is the Virgin of the Crab with their different configurations and dimensions. In other words, the constellations are what can be perceived and is investigated by astronomy.

"The signs" is the conventional subdivision of the band of stars known as the Zodiac (the Zodiac is the celestial band that provides the background to the apparent motion of the Sun on its annual path) into twelve equal sectors of 30 degrees each, and these – as is well known - does not match up with the actual situation in the sky. For example, the vernal equinox falls on the 21st of March and normally one says that on the 21st of March, the Sun rises in the sign of Aries. In reality the actual constellation behind the Sun at that time is that of the Fishes / Pisces. So there is a lag of a sign, one "step" because the Fishes follow the Ram. This can be interpreted as if the signs had been "fixed" in the sky whilst the constellations have continued their slow apparent motion from the perspective of Earth. This movement is due to the precession of the equinoxes¹ which has now caused a phase shift between signs and constellations of about 20 degrees.

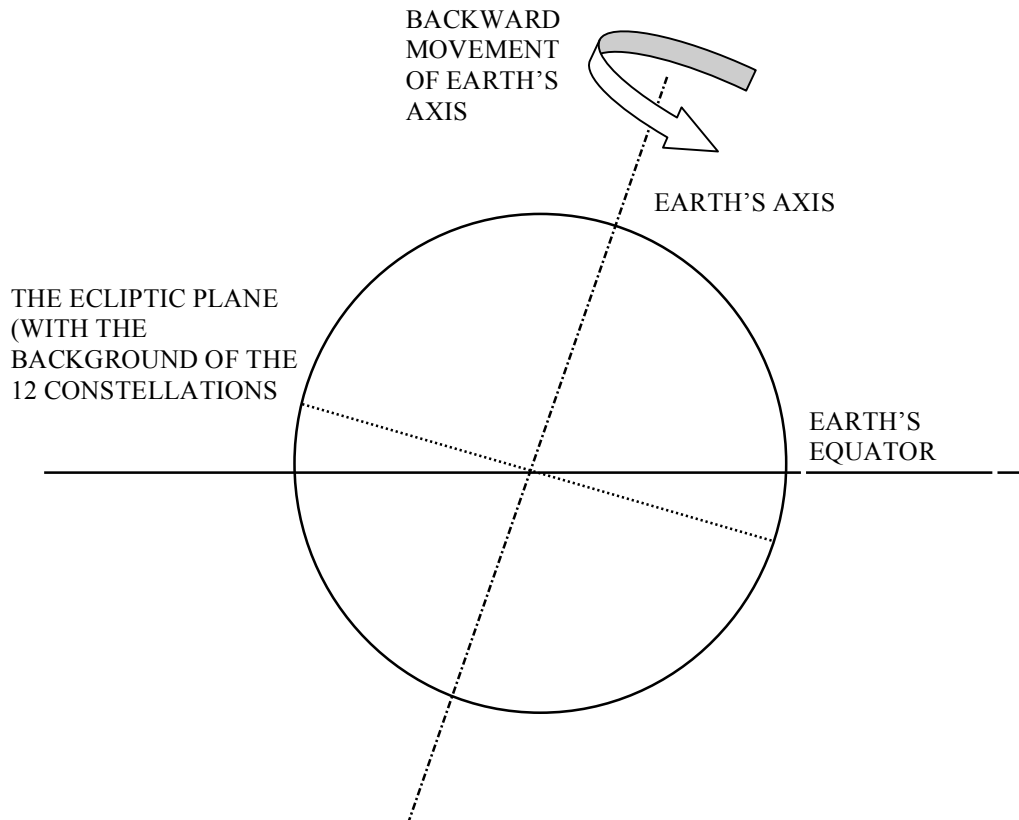
Recall that the precession of the equinoxes is a result of the backward movement of the Earth's axis that – as it etches out an "hourglass" in space - traveling all twelve stages of the Zodiac in 25,920 years, which is why each "step " through a sign takes about 2160 years.

From the above the question naturally arises whether, in our relationship with the macrocosm, we should take into account the visible constellations or the theoretical signs.

Those who practice agriculture through consideration of the impulses arising from the real constellations, could – as a matter of fact - find these same results, but also those who look to the signs – which we might call "virtual" constellations – and also be convinced of their influence.

If both these inferences are true, we must seek a unifying truth that overcomes the apparent contradiction. Such a truth must arise from a higher level. So let us search for a truth that integrates these two aspects, one that must be superior to both astronomy and astrology.

¹ The precession of the equinoxes is a movement of the Earth due to a slow but continuous change in the orientation of its axis of rotation in relation to the ideal sphere of fixed stars.



The precession of the equinoxes

Man's relationship with the stars

Looking at the magnificence of the starry sky we find it difficult to remain indifferent. If amazement and wonder do not arise at the celestial phenomena what does this say about a person? - the fall of meteorites in St Laurence, comets, eclipses - these events can not fail to touch the human soul.

Over the millennia, however, the attitude of people has changed. The stars once aroused an attitude of deep veneration. In watching the heavenly bodies one felt small compared to infinity and one could feel the influence of the divine. This feeling stimulated us to a proper relationship with and to recognize the superiority of what surrounded us. With the withdrawal of this perspective, the planets have been seen increasingly as a more or less dense spheres that rotate without purpose or goal. Everything is interpreted according to the law of universal gravitation, ie purely in terms of mechanical laws. So Man has gone through various stages in this connection: the first phase (during the times of Zarathustra) was of a spiritual nature, when people still appreciated the reality of the divine beings who worked from the stars. The second phase, during the Egyptian era, was more of the nature of soul when Man felt his soul come to life due to this connection. In the third or Greek period there was an etheric connection due to which man understood the etheric aspects that arose from the stars. Finally, in our astrophysics age, we only see the mechanical movements and the emission of "waves", "fields" and "energy".

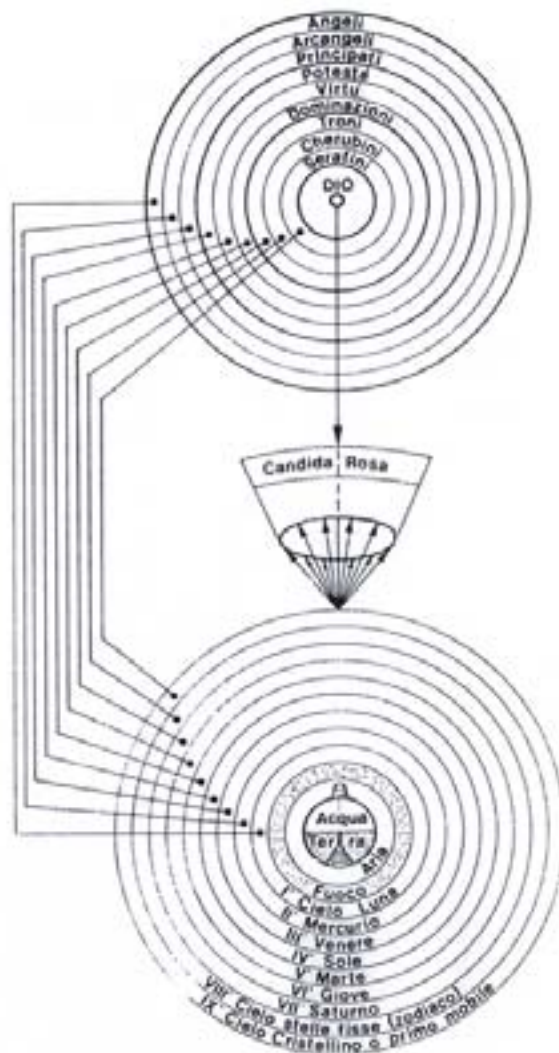
In this descending process practically nothing remains of the ancient wisdom. Only a distorted echo remains as superstition within an almost frightening vacuum.

In our age, whether or not there are stars and the planets would not change a thing

for modern Man. Nothing of the old wisdom remains. A positive aspect of this *tabula rasa* could be that one can now build something completely new. Our task is to grope our way to a new relationship and we'll try and do this together.

The Divine Comedy

In his Divine Comedy our famous poet, Dante Alighieri, set up a complete inner architecture based upon the relationships between the spheres of the planets and the zodiac. Each of these spheres was connected with the influence of an angelic or archangelic hierarchy. He considered there were nine steps in all, seven for the seven classical planets, and two for the Zodiac. We want to stress the point that while every planet has one level of the spiritual hierarchy, when it comes to the stars he assigned two hierarchies: the Cherubim and Seraphim.



The following question could arise: if the hypothesis we are following has some validity - that there is a manifestation of the divine, a sign of the spiritual world in these spheres above us – why has Dante attributed one level of the hierarchy to each planet but to the world of fixed stars, to the Zodiac, he has assigned two? Here we can see, if we really wish, a path to discover a new rapport and interpretation of the zodiacal sphere (see figure).

The heavenly bodies and the four bodies of man

We will mainly talk about the zodiac and less about the spheres of the planets primarily to put some limits on our discussion. Moreover, the zodiacal sphere is the highest representation of the spiritual world, while the sphere of the planets is more related to the soul, ie the sphere where our sentiments live in the archetypal polarity between sympathy and antipathy².

For students of esoteric science we could say that the realm of the soul is subject to the law of *karma*, or cause and effect and is linked to the world of planets, while the sphere of the ego, the sphere of individuality, has a relation to the stars. A person who travels easily through life is said to be "born under a lucky star".

We can say that the relationship between Man and star relates to his ego, while the relationship between man and the planets relates to his soul. Similarly the relationship between man and his vitality is reflected in the Moon and the relationship between man and his physical body is an affair of the Earth.

Since we are on Earth, we have developed an Earthly culture into which we are now so completely immersed that when we look up we see only massive bodies which wander around the sky without purpose or import: we have lost the meaning of life, the meaning of soul and especially the meaning of spirit.

Our relationship with the planetary spheres and the zodiac is actually very intimate, more than we think. It is not just fate or *karma* which binds us to it, but also language, for example. Rudolf Steiner has shown that each constellation represents a consonant and a vowel is assigned to each planet (we consider five vowels and two diphthongs).

We list these associations briefly below and their main role in humans.

PLANET	VOWEL	SOUL ATTITUDE
SATURN	U	GNOSIS
JUPITER	O	LOGIC
MARS	E	WILLFULNES
SUN	AU	EMPIRICISM
MERCURY	I	TRANSCENDENTALISM
VENUS	A	MYSTICISM
MOON	AI (or EI)	OCCULTISM

² According to the antroposophical spiritual science upon which our work is built, Man has four 'bodies', of which the physical body, with whom we normally identify, is just the "lowest". The physical body, the physicality, our "corpse", is permeated by an etheric body (or life body), to be understood as the totality of life processes in ourselves (breathing, digestion, etc). Then we have an astral body or soul, in which our feelings live, and a spirit, or our "I", the principle of self-consciousness which is founded upon the laws of the True, Good and Just. It is the divine part in us that is embodied in a physical body to experience life on Earth and thus evolve.

CONSTELLATION	CONSONANT	WORLD CONCEPTION
LION	T (and D)	SENSATIONALISM
VIRGIN	B	PHENOMENON
BALANCE	C	REALISM
SCORPION	S (and Z)	DYNAMICS
ARCHER	G (and K)	MONADISM
GOAT	L	SPIRITUALISM
WATERMAN	M	PNEUMATISM
FISHES	N	PSYCHICISM
RAM	W	IDEALISM
BULL	R	RATIONALISM
TWINS	H	MATHEMATISM
CRAB	F	MATERIALISM

One can go deeper into this subject as we did in the eighth meeting of the "Course on the quality of dwellings", or books and lectures on Eurythmy and the art of speech.

For example, the fact that people have a vowel-based language like Italian, means that such people are more connected to the planetary spheres, and thus have their centre of gravity in the soul. Other nations, like the Nordic peoples or those of the East, have a language that accents the consonants more. They are more connected to the sphere of the zodiac, the spiritual sphere, and this is characteristic of the people. Then we know there are dialects. We Venetians have our trailing "a" and "e" and this additional vocalization betrays the Venetian character which is even more soul orientated, "from the heart", while the Piedmontese lingering "u" implies a different inner attitude.

The evolution of man and the cosmos

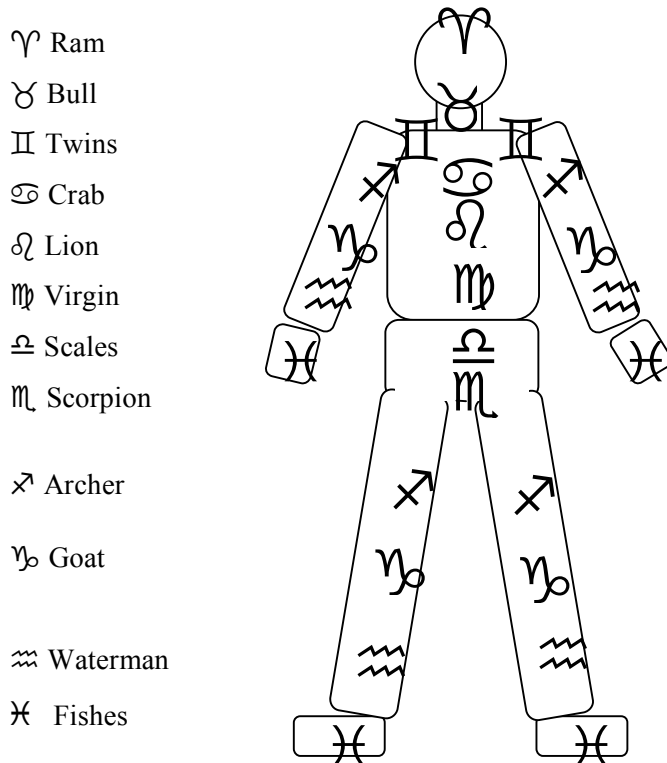
We can pose a new question: "*What exactly is it and how does what comes from the planets and zodiac act?*" This is followed immediately by a second question: "*Are these things unchanging or is there a development over time in what works from these higher spheres to humanity?*" The fact that things are one way now does not mean that they will always be like this. If we assume a process of evolution for humans including in the higher levels of these processes, these dynamics could be synchronous, simultaneous. One should be a mirror of the other.

As a background we can set up a sort of sliding scale of evolution. As man evolves all the levels above (and below) also evolve. All entities that have a point of reference in these planetary spheres evolve, and also something changes in the sphere of the Zodiac.

Might not this *tabula rasa* state of our times be the necessary starting point to build a new relationship with the Zodiac?

To find our way into this hypothesis we will approach it from the phrase from the Bible where it says that God created man "*in his image and likeness.*" Now one must wonder "who" was this man. This man is not us, at least as we know ourselves. A man who is made in the image and likeness of God must be quite a special man, and we can not say that this is us, also because we are all different. If we were in "*the image and likeness,*" then mankind should all be equal. For example there should not even be the male and female, black and white, and so forth. Such a man must be an archetype of all humanity. We can, therefore, say that this created-man referred to in

the Bible is an archetype of all humanity and this archetype of all humanity can be found precisely in the zodiac. Ubiquitous tradition has established relationships between the Ram and the head, the Bull and neck, all the way down to the Fishes that correspond to the feet. We see that in ourselves, in our body, but if we were able to really look up to heaven in the right way, then we could see Man drawn in the Zodiac.



- ♈ Ram
- ♉ Bull
- ♊ Twins
- ♋ Crab
- ♌ Lion
- ♍ Virgin
- ♎ Scales
- ♏ Scorpion
- ♐ Archer
- ♑ Goat
- ♒ Waterman
- ♓ Fishes

Man and the constellations of the zodiac

This man, the archetypal man, is called "Adonai" or "Lord God" in the Bible. Rudolf Steiner calls him "Adam Kadmon." Beyond the names we can identify the archetype of man, as "*Man created in the image and likeness of God.*" He was not a physical-material man of flesh and blood, but he was stellar man, distributed across the Zodiac: macrocosmic Man!

Let us remember that Dante puts the sphere of the Most Holy Trinity beyond the zodiac belt.

Here is this primordial man, this archetype of humanity, who is like a bridge between what we call the Holiest Trinity and the physical Earth where we are. But who then are we? We are not the created-man. We are the Man who has been "*formed.*" It is written in Genesis that Adonai took the dust and formed man with it: us. There is thus the created-Man – Adonai – who is the archetype for men who have been formed - Adam and his descendants - and we are the children of this formed Man, the sons of the earthly Adam: males, females, blacks, whites, etc.

It is useful to understand how this transition took place, because if we are to reestablish a relationship with the Zodiac, we have to restore the relationship with the archetypal man, with what we identified as Adonai, the Lord God, Adam *Kadmon*, with macrocosmic Man.

To do this we can imagine ourselves before time has arisen and before space has

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Thanks

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