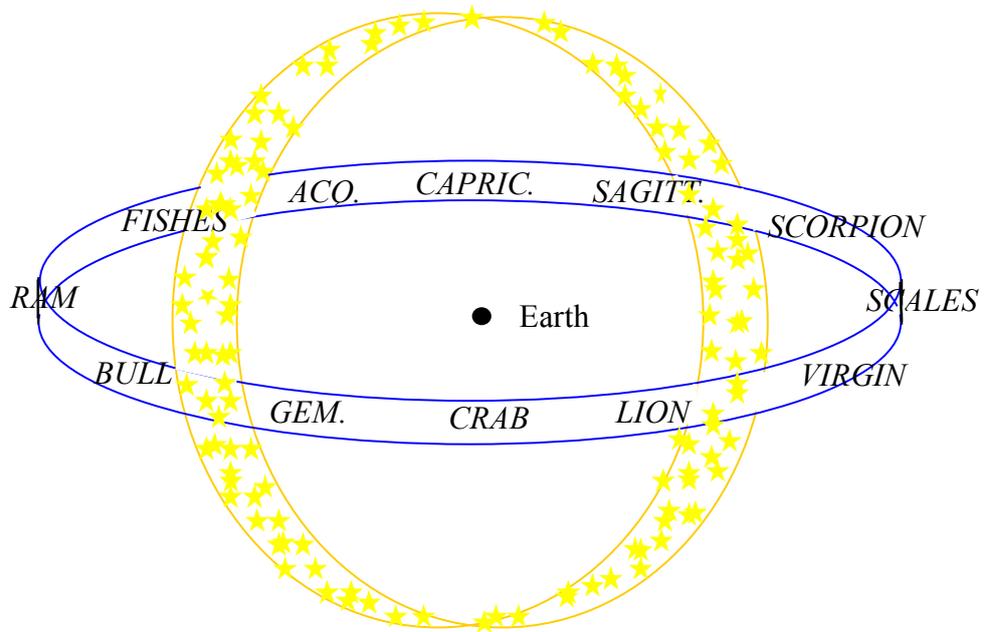


Associating Plants with the Zodiac

OR HOW TO GROW PLANTS
IN HARMONY WITH THE
LAWS OF THE ZODIAC



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Mark

Associating plants with the zodiac

– PART ONE –

1) THE SOLAR SYSTEM, PLANTS AND THE GROUP I

To understand the history of the natural kingdoms and the laws that govern their internal processes, these kingdoms must be understood in the context of the “system” in which they are embedded. All aspects of their life come from this all-embracing home. At the heart of all living phenomena is the Sun, and it is the Sun that gives Life to the Earth. Because of this, our “system” is called the solar system.

*Life
and the Sun*

We can develop this and say that although life comes from the Sun, it is *regulated* by the Moon, the ‘planet’ that moderates life in phase with its alternating luminosity. This is especially true for the plant kingdom.

*Sun and
the Moon*

The fertility of the animal world is also governed by the Moon but its gestation is overseen by the planet Venus, while the speed and capacity of animals to reproduce resonates with the influence of Mercury.

*Sun and
the inner
planets*

<i>ELEMENT</i>	<i>PLANET</i>	<i>SPECIFIC IMPULSE IN LIFE</i>
Fire	Saturn	proceed to another dimension of life
Air	Jupiter	offerings as gifts
Water	Mars	impulse to evolve
Earth	Sun	vital centre of the System
Fire	Mercury	governs the rate of animal breeding
Air	Venus	governs animal gestation
Water	Moon	governs life especially in the plant kingdom
Earth	Earth	manifestation of life

life and evolution

Life as a flow of forces is manifested on Earth as a part of a wider and deeper “scheme” that we call “evolution.” Without life there can be no evolution. The forces of Mars address this evolutionary impulse, while Jupiter will bring the strength for the plant kingdom to give itself to the other kingdoms of nature (as food for example). Saturn rounds off the worldly experience so it can continue in other dimensions.

life and the outer planets

Planets, and the Elements

The study of Spiritual Science¹ teaches that the Sun and the Earth are linked to the Earth Element². Venus and Jupiter are linked to Air, the Moon and Mars are linked to Water, whilst Saturn and Mercury are linked to Fire.

the planets and the human soul

The planets are within the well-defined and organized hierarchical Solar System, a society of mutual association. The planets also represent all the aspects of the forces of the soul as shown, for instance, in the works of Dante.

The human soul feels, perceives and evolves. In an analogous way we can see the Solar System as a sense organ that permits the evolution of the planets and the entities³ who make their homes there.

the evolution of the planets into stars

But what can be meant with the phrase that the Moon evolves? What will it become in the future? What else can a celestial body become? All of the planets are destined to transform into a Sun. So every planet, evolving into a star, will be part of a new constellation.

Since that which lives and works in the macrocosm also lives and acts in the microcosm. We can say that everything that is in the cosmos makes itself felt in the plant kingdom.

plants and Elements

We can thus find plants with a greater connection to the influence of the Moon having greater vigour (vigour is related to the Water Element), and other plants more connected to the Fire Element with remarkable reproduction through seed. Plants more connected to the Water Element have a remarkable aptitude for asexual reproduction (ie without seed), such as couchgrass and ‘weeds’ in general.

¹ The Science of the Spirit, Spiritual Science, Super-sensible Science or Anthroposophy, was founded by Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) from which descended, among many other things, Biodynamic Agriculture.

² An “Element”, as explained by Aristotle, is the result of an analysis of the world into four aspects: Earth, Water, Air and Fire. Elements are given an upper case ‘E’ to distinguish it from the chemical elements of modern chemistry.

³ Translator: In the ‘Hierarchies’ there is a spectrum between mineral existence and the divinities. At the mature human stage of this one is able to develop autonomous activity. Those who are below this level are called ‘beings’ by the author, and those above this level are called ‘entities’.

Then there are plants that represent more specific planetary aspects: the grasses refer particularly to the Moon and the Sun, the Rosaceae to the Sun itself, conifers to Saturn, etc.

From Spiritual Science we also learn⁴ that all the planets are seats for the various spiritual Entities. Among them are those entities known as the Group I's, or the Individual Principal of the Species, which govern the plants, animals and minerals linked to them.

of the Group I

This complex system of laws, processes and natural forces remained in good harmony until about one hundred and fifty years ago. Then everything began to degenerate rapidly as Man's grafting and crossing developed into hybridization, asexual meristem reproduction (cloning), and finally into the transgenic manipulation and engineering of our days. Note that genetic manipulation consists of transferring parts of DNA within the same natural kingdom (from one plant to another), while modern genetic engineering has gone further by crossing DNA fragments from different kingdoms: for example animal genetic material being inserted into the vegetable kingdom.

*the rupture
of cosmic
harmony*

2) THE EVOLUTION OF THE GROUP I

Let us return now to the word *evolution*, and remember that that which evolves is not the individual plant specimen, but the Individual Principal of that Species (or Group I). These entities have a planetary sphere as a point of force. They gain experiences thanks to all their single plant specimens. Each Group I, therefore, "governs" all plants belonging to the same plant family (Cucurbitaceae, Rosaceae, Gramineae, etc.), simultaneously and over the whole Earth. For example, a Group I which is based on the Moon gains experiences from all the grasses that are physically manifest on Earth.

Developing this thought further we can hypothesize that the Group I of the grasses acts from the Moon, and if it evolves the whole Moon (as a living being) can take advantage, because it will evolve. On the other hand if the grasses are hybridized or otherwise manipulated by us on Earth, the evolution of the Group I will be hindered or stop because it no longer "recognizes" the plants linked to it. This very same hindrance - for example - extends to the Group I of earthworms,

*relationship
between various group
I's
referring to
the same planet*

⁴ See by R. Steiner "The Spiritual Beings in the Heavenly Bodies and the Kingdoms of Nature" and "Spiritual Hierarchies".

which is also linked to the Moon, and for this reason the worms will be less able to do their work in the soil.

*silver and
the Moon*

The same goes for silver, a metal that is also linked to the sphere of the Moon. For example if a silver wire conducts an electric current - ie by a force of subnature, by a force of death opposed to the life - its Group I experiences a setback in its evolutionary process. These spiritual entities can no longer take on the experiences that come from their “children”: from the couch grass, earthworms and silver.

*the retreat of
the Group I
to the
zodiacal sphere*

It is a common experienced for us all that when we don't feel at ease in a place anymore, if someone wants us to go away, we take refuge in a more remote or secure place. In our time, unfortunately, because of the disharmony mentioned, all the spiritual entities that were based on the planets are in retreat to the Zodiac, because they can no longer recognize that which comes from their plant-“daughters” as a positive part of their evolution. Therefore, if we want to connect with the governing Group I we must expand our consciousness to the Zodiac. We must raise our eyes and turn our gaze far above to develop an effective agriculture that reckons to help the spiritual evolution of plants.

*devitalization
of the plant*

We can recognise this dynamic reflected in the conditions that the plants on Earth suffer having been deprived of their inner strength. Since they are “abandoned” they become increasingly at the mercy of diseases and pests and climatic stress.

*return to the
manifestation
of the Group I*

However, the Entities that have withdrawn expect the proper conditions for their return to be reestablished, and when that happens they will develop plants that are more resistant and productive, and which – when eaten as food - support the inner development of Man.

*the task of Biodynamic
agriculture*

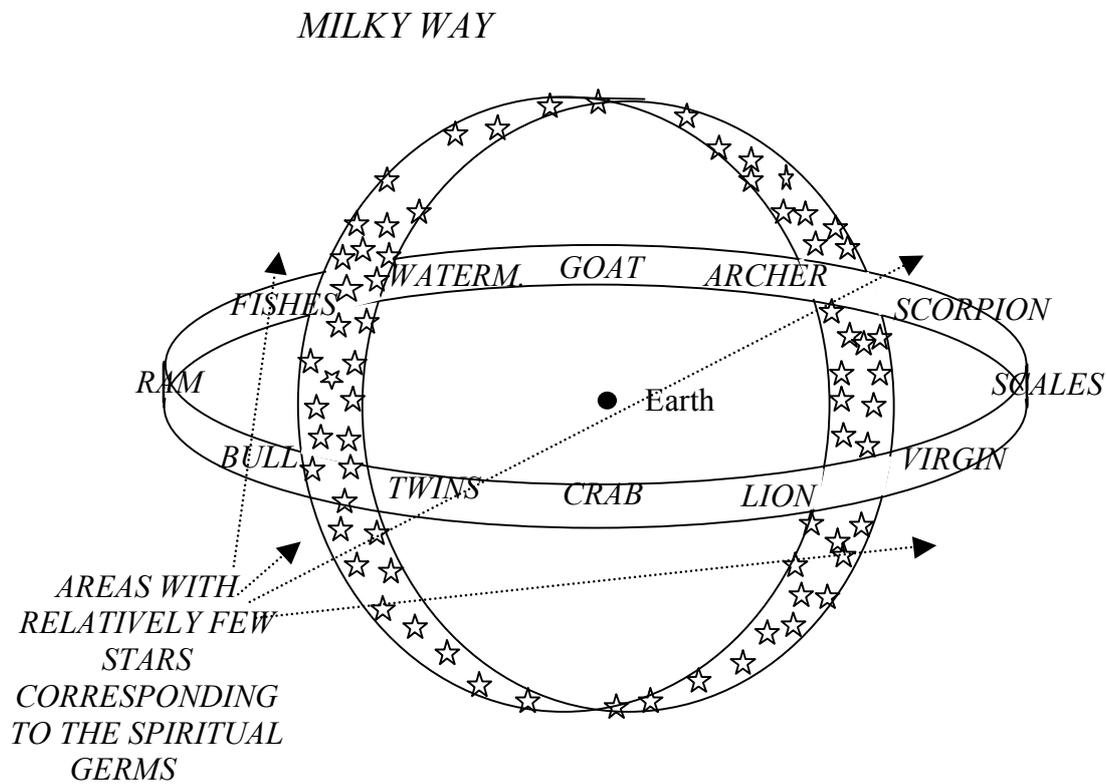
This could and should be the spiritual task of Biodynamic agriculture, and in fact biodynamic preparations⁵ give us the opportunity to connect the plant to the planetary sphere and then to the zodiac. Organic agriculture cannot aspire to these results. As a result of its practice of husbanding the humus alone - it is only able to connect to the lunar sphere. It is perfect for individuals with an awareness of the importance of not polluting the Earth but it does not address the question of

*possibilities
and limitations
of organic
agriculture*

⁵ The biodynamic preparations are a synthesis of materials and processes from the different natural kingdoms, ie minerals, plants, animal sheathes - all coordinated by Man. They become the catalysts for living, soul and spiritual forces.

evolution brought of the lower kingdoms. When we grow with this method we do not take on Man's monumental task of helping the evolution of other kingdoms. We are called upon to raise our thoughts to thinking about the zodiac, a logic that allows us to re-establish the dialogue with the Group I and to recreate the conditions that favour the new manifestation of these Spiritual entities on Earth. The imbalance that we are currently bringing to our plants makes them ever weaker and increasingly vulnerable to attacks by pests. We are, therefore, called to find the inner courage necessary to develop a farming practice that is able to connect with these entities. We must develop increasing awareness within us that is capable of developing methods that can open up to these new dimensions.

The schema below shows an overview of our solar system, surrounded by the Zodiac and embraced in turn by the Milky Way – our local Galaxy.



As we can see, the zodiacal circle and the spiral of the Milky Way form a huge macrocosmic Cross.

3) THE CREATION OF THE ZODIAC

Having alluded to the necessary new zodiacal dimension of plants, we must now address squarely it in our quest to understand nature intimately. It might help to refer to a passage from Genesis⁶.

*Adonai
from Genesis*

In Genesis there is reference to two ‘men’, two “Adams”. The first is Man created in the image and likeness of God. This man was called “Lord God” or Adonai.

*Adam from
the Earth*

Adonai, in turn, formed Adam from dust (Adam means “from the earth”). There is thus a profound difference between these two ‘men’. The first, Adonai, was “created” in the image and likeness of God, the second Adam was “formed” from earthly dust.

*Sun, planets,
Zodiac and the Milky
Way*

Let us suppose that we are within a system, where Adam is the Sun (with the other planets around) and Adonai is the Zodiac that was created in the image and likeness of the Creative Logos (thus of other stars). The creative Logos itself must therefore be beyond the twelve constellations of the Zodiac, thus in the Milky Way (our Galaxy) or beyond, which we know is a huge spiral of stars crossing the plane of the Zodiac.

*the three
macrocosmic
Crosses*

It is interesting to observe that in the northern arc of the Milky Way there is a further cross in the constellation called Cygnus, and in the southern arc there is the Southern Cross constellation. We find three Crosses in the cosmos, the two on the Milky Way (Cygnus and the Southern Cross) and that represented by the crossing of the same the Milky Way with the plane of the Zodiac: it results in a macrocosmic image of the three crosses of Golgotha.

*Adam and the Earthly
Paradise*

The first Man Adonai (the Zodiac) lived in the stellar light, and we can therefore say that He was in “Paradise.” He had to develop a new quality within Himself, which flowed to Him directly from the Creator Logos: the qualities of Freedom and of Love which were attributes of God⁷. He had to generate these qualities within himself to allow the same God to evolve, because God evolves by transferring his qualities to His creatures. Adonai created a system that mirrors the previous one, but in a minor key. This “Earthly” Paradise was the home of Adam,

*Freedom
and Love*

⁶ Genesis 1: 26. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

⁷ For more on these thoughts, see by the author: “Freedom and Love”.

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