

The Zodiac and Man's Body

*Part 2**

IN THE AIR, ruled by Mercury, is carried the solar element oxygen, which is taken into the blood, where it combines with the iron of the blood, the Mars metal contained in the hemoglobin of the corpuscle. The blood, as a liquid, is ruled by the moon. Thus we behold Mercury, the divine messenger, correlating the activities of Jupiter, Venus, the moon, the sun, and Mars through the medium of the blood and the circulation. The process of oxidation is of highest importance to the ego as it gives the Thinker red, warm blood, and makes it possible for him to become an indwelling ego, regulating his body through the temperature of the blood.

Anatomically there is a close connection between the nerve supply of the arms (Gemini) and the nerve supply of the heart (Leo). The rhythm of the heart is influenced by two sets of nerves; the vagus or twelfth cranial inhibits or slows the action of the heart; the accelerators stimulate the action of the heart. The latter take their origin from the first, second, and third dorsal nerves, which also supply the lungs with nerve energy.

The heart is the secondary seat of the Christ principle or Life Spirit. When the divine fire of love bursts into flame, the rhythmic action of the heart is accelerated and its divine force flows through Gemini, the arms, so that we learn to do what the heart has felt to be right and true. If we reach out in love and self-forgetting service, the flame within the heart radiates outward through our extended arms in blessing and benediction to the suffering ones. Impelled by the love of the



Oil on canvas, 60 x 66 in., 1925, Ernest Proctor (1886-1935), Tate Gallery, London

The Zodiac

The artist has introduced an apocalyptic dynamism into the traditional representation of the twelve zodiacal signs, suggesting the acceleration of time, runaway progress, a carousel of energies pursuing and being pursued. Libra has lost her balance, Leo is attacking, and the Twins are perilously poised.

heart we must learn to do that which is right and true in such a way that our right hand shall not know what the left one is doing. The fire of the heart, Leo, must reveal itself in action through the region of Gemini.

The fourth sign is the feminine, negative, cardinal sign of the mother, Cancer. It rules the breast and the stomach. When the seed atom has been planted in the womb of the mother, she carries the tiny germ under her heart that it may blossom forth into human flower of grace and beauty. She nourishes the budding life with her heart's blood until the hour comes when she can bring forth, both in pain and joy, her child and take it to her breast, where she nourishes the flower of her love with her milk, which is white blood, the counterpart of the cosmic emanation which sustains and nourishes

**Continued from January/February 1998 Rays*

creation as a whole. Thus is Cancer the mother-father God, the great nourisher.

This sustaining principle finds its physical counterpart in the stomach, which receives the food ingested by Taurus, and prepares it to be assimilated in the Virgo region. The starch during the process of mastication is mixed with the ptyalin in the saliva, to be acted upon in the fundus of the stomach, where the process of digestion of the carbohydrates, the starches and sugars, is carried on. The stomach is responsible for mixing the foods, acidifying the proteids, and liquefying the whole of the food. When this process of liquefaction has been reached, the pyloric valve between the stomach and the intestines automatically opens and the food which has been prepared by Cancer is passed into the intestines, which are ruled by the sixth sign, Virgo.

Virgo is depicted as a virgin, with the wheat ear in her hand symbolically indicating her mission to feed. It is from the small intestines and a part of the colon that the food which has been broken up into its ultimate constituents, as required for assimilation, is taken into the blood by means of the force which flows from the positive pole of the chemical ether of the vital body. The liver, also ruled by Virgo, is the body's great sorting house. After leaving the intestinal tract by the portal vein, blood is carried to the liver, where its excess sugar is extracted and, by the addition of water, is turned into a substance called glycogen, which is stored in the liver and muscles and called upon when the bloodsugar has been depleted. Then the glycogen is dehydrated and converted back to sugar to be used for the production of energy in the body.

The digestion of the carbohydrates and proteids is completed in the intestines, where also the fats are absorbed and carried to the blood via the lymph stream.

The waste products of the body are largely removed by the kidneys, which are ruled by Libra.

The amount of blood flowing through the kidneys determines the quantity of excretory matter which is eliminated by them. The work of excretion is carried on by the forces which flow from the negative pole of the chemical ether. The lower part of the kidney is called the pelvis of the kidney, and is ruled by the 8th house sign, Scorpio. Thence the waste products are carried by the ureters, ruled by Libra, to the bladder. The rectum, is ruled by Scorpio. If it were not for proper elimination, man would die of self-intoxication. Scorpio and the eighth house sign rule death. But the excretory organs, ruled by Scorpio, save man from death. Therefore Scorpio has rule over both life and death.

The silver cord was tied when the sun mystically passed through the sign Scorpio, binding the ego to its body and causing it to die to the heaven world. Through Scorpio flow the forces of generation inasmuch as the generative organs are ruled by this negative,

fixed, martial sign. If we do not want to taste of sin and death, we must learn to die to the things of the world—"to become fools, by pity enlightened," like unto Parsifal. All that is born of Scorpio, "by the will of man or the desire of the flesh," is subject to the sting of death. We must learn to transmute the martial fire of Scorpio, the Scorpion, into the Serpent Force of wisdom, lifting it through the central canal of the spinal cord "up on high" to the place of the skull, the house of Mars, Aries.

The generative organs, which contain the spiritual essence, are like the flower enclosed by a calyx or cup, which is formed by the sacrum in the back, the holy bone, and the two innominata, forming thus a perfect cup, the pelvis. It is the Holy Grail indeed, containing within itself the mystical spirit essence of the procreative organs, which are ruled by the sign Scorpio. The Scorpio force is the Christ essence within us. It is at present turned downward, and therefore typifies the first Adam,

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who squandered this essence. Therefore does St. Paul enjoin us that if we are to become the second Adam, or Christ, we should keep the seed within.

If we would live forever, we must lift this spiritual essence to the heart, the seat of affection. Then lust or passion, a quality of Scorpio which was instilled by Lucifer, the false light of Lemuria, will be transmuted into the love of the Christ. The Mars metal, iron, will be turned into the pure gold of spirituality. This ascending Scorpio force sets the heart ablaze with the divine fire of love, which radiates through Gemini in noble deeds of mercy and brotherly love.

The Grail Cup, or the pelvis, is ruled by the mutable fire of Sagittarius, which also rules the sciatic nerve, the hips, and the thighs. The centaur, the symbol of Sagittarius, is half man and half horse, indicating the dual nature of this sign. The animal side of it or the personality is represented by the horse, while the man with his strong bow and arrow pointing to heaven represents the higher self and its divine potentialities, which are actively developed through the service rendered by the lower self, the animal.

To the artist the part of the human body corresponding to Sagittarius is of exquisite beauty. He has depicted in colors and in snowy marble its grace and matchless beauty. Through the arts the noble qualities in the animal nature may be transmuted into soul, which is the spiritualized essence of the body. Even anatomy, which describes the parts of the body in a dry and scientific manner, recognizes the beautiful curve of the thigh by naming the slender muscle which is located on the inner side of it, and which is responsible for its beautiful curve, the *gracilis*—“the graceful one.”

The knees are ruled by Capricorn, the lower legs and ankles by Aquarius, these signs being respectively the night and day sign of Saturn, which rules the joints and the whole of the bony system. It is through his crystallizing influence that it is possible for man to have a skeleton and an upright position, which latter is necessary in order that the ego may become an indwelling intelligence and rule its



This alchemical illustration refers to the subjugation of the primitive life energies by the male and female components of the human Ego. The regenerative channeling of the creative life forces is represented as the “killing of the dragon.” “The dragon only dies when he is killed by his brother and sister at once. Not by one alone, but by both at once, namely by sun and moon.”—Rosarium philosophorum, Ed. J. Telle, Weinheim, 1992

vehicles. The knees have a complicated structure, more so than that of any other joint. They and the ankle joints (Aquarius) make locomotion possible, and give to man the upright position which lifts him from the status of the animal to a kingdom of his own, where he stands on *terra firma* with his feet (Pisces), which typify understanding.

Pisces completes the circle of the zodiac. It is the twelfth house sign of confinement, sorrow, and compassion. Through its influence man learns to put his feet upon the steep path and walk through the narrow gate which lead him to the realms of holiness. Through its ruler, Neptune, man’s illusions are dissolved and he sees the spiritual basis for life. When through watery Pisces his eyes are drowned in tears and blinded to the mistakes and shortcomings of his fellow beings, when he weeps tears of contrition, seeing his many sins and his own shortcomings, then through reason, Mercury, he turns within for light. And when his heart, the seat of love (Venus), has also been developed, then truly does he express the qualities of the Pisces co-ruler, Jupiter, which are understanding and wisdom. When the forces of the mind, Mercury,

and the forces of the heart, Venus, become one, then has understanding dawned upon him—he has wisdom.

Thus do we behold in man, the little world or microcosm, the epitome of the divine, the great heavenly man, the macrocosm, typified by the twelve signs of the zodiac. The various parts of man come under the control of these twelve divine Intelligences. The earthy signs represent by their nature the dense physical body and its counterpart, the vital body; the watery triplicity represents our body of emotion, the desire body; the airy triplicity represents the mind; the fiery triplicity symbolizes the spiritual self, which is divine, but only potentially so.

Through the medium of the three triplicities—water, earth,



THE ADEPT

The creative spirit fire in the adept traces a lemniscate figure between (and is positive in both) the heart and the brain, where the three-fold spirit has its temple: the Divine Spirit seats at the root of the nose; the Life Spirit is mediated by the pineal gland; and the Human Spirit expresses through the pituitary body. The etheric larynx speaks the form-creating, life-imbuing Word.

and air—we are to develop our latent spirituality. The sign Sagittarius, the grail cup, contains the base essence of the passionate fire of Mars through its relation to Scorpio. This fire must be lifted to the fixed sign of Leo, the heart; thence it must travel to the cardinal fire sign of Aries, arousing into vibratory activity the holy Trinity enthroned within this Golgotha, the place of the skull. When the transmutation of the lower into the higher nature has been consummated and the latent forces of the divine man are turned into actual dynamic spirit force—or the first Adam into the second or Christed Adam—man can at last joyfully and triumphantly cry out with Christ, our divine example, *Consummatum est!*—It is accomplished! □

—Dr. F. Lash

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