

An Esoteric View of Capricorn

*Janus am I; oldest of Potentates;
Forward I look, and backward and below;
I count, as god of avenues and gates,
The years that through my portals come and go.*
—Longfellow, from *Poet's Calender*

IN CAPRICORN THE SUN has reached the southern gate of heaven, from which it must ascend. It is the goat that begins his climb from the foot of the mountain. For most of January the sun transits the sign Capricorn. The word January comes from the Roman *Janus*, an ancient Italic god who presided over gateways and beginnings. It was through his archway that the armies of Rome went to war. The archway was in the Forum (replaced later with a Temple) and its double doors were closed only during periods of absolute peace. In Hebrew the word *Janum* means slumber.

We would do well to ferret out the secrets contained in the above. Saturn, as ruler of Capricorn, takes on in its negative manifestation the name of Satan, who stands in the doorway of the Temple. Satan would block entrance to those who seek the higher pathway. In a chemical or physiological sense, they who endeavor to ascend do not lack the *material* to produce the requisite higher vibrations. Satan has no power over them so long as they do not “look back.”

The god Janus is pictured as having two faces looking in opposite directions. One face is that of an old man; the other, that of a young man. Hence the double doors of the Temple: one leads to the future even as the other opens on the past. Each entrant must decide what he will do. If the lessons of the past have been sufficiently mastered, the prodigal son has power to move past Satan. When



Janus, the porter of heaven, and the guardian deity of gates

this is the case, one will look at the tempter with amazement, for he now appears as the Christ. Transmutation has taken place, and one has finally entered in at the *strait gate* which is straight: “Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”—Matt. 7:13-14.

The strait gate opens into the “strait,” which is a narrow passage that connects two bodies of water. It appears to wind around itself (like the curves of a goat’s horn). Capricorn is the entrance just as Aries is the summit, or head. The body of fluid at

the bottom is that of procreation; the body of fluid at the top is that of re-creation. “And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait; let us fall now into the hands of the Lord: for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man”—2 Samuel 24:14. The one who desires to recreate him/herself seeks to fall into the Lord’s hands and not into the hands of common man.

According to an early Christian tradition, when the heavenly host announced the birth of Christ, a deep groan, which was heard throughout Greece, signaled the death of Pan (the goatman god) and the dethroning of the Olympian dynasty, for many deities were sent wandering in cold and darkness (Saturn).

Winter is a period of darkness and, as the actual meaning of hell is “to conceal,” it should be clear that the celestial *esse* or divine fire should not stay down (below the earth to those in the northern hemisphere). Winter is the season when the sun shines most obliquely. Thus a study of Capricorn reveals the true nature of man, and of a December-

TRUTH

Truth is the trial of itself,
And needs no other Touch;
And purer than the purest gold,
..Refine it ne’er so much.

It is the life and light of love,
The sun that ever shineth,
And spirit of that special grace,
That faith and love defineth.

It is the warrant of the word,
That yields a scent so sweet,
As gives a power to faith to tread
All falsehood under feet.

—Ben Jonson

born savior who goes about His Father’s (Saturn’s) business separating the sheep from the goats. ☐

—Rick Manoff

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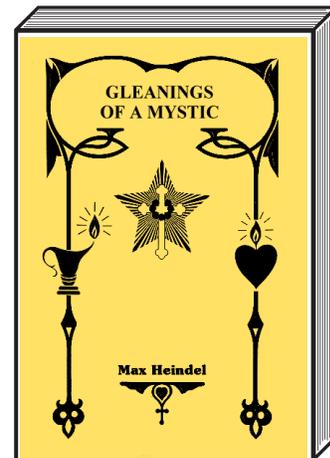
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