

Proposal: Planet Exaltations are Evolutionary Blueprints

GOD IS LIGHT, the Light that creates, enlivens and illumines. According to biographers, the dying words of the inspired nineteenth-century painter J.M.W. Turner were, “The Sun is God,” a statement in near agreement with esotericism. The writer of the *Cosmo-Conception* states that the physical sun is the physical vehicle of the true, invisible Sun.

However, before a mass ignites into light, there is first a period of dark warmth. Light follows dark heat as its manifestation, as the Son proceeds from the Father. Similarly, in our pattern of evolution, the light-manifesting Sun Period followed the dark warmth of the Saturn Period.

Considering that the divine Godhead is composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who are the three highest Initiates of the three antecedent creative Periods, we may not be amiss in saying that God is living Darkness, Light, and Crystallization—Darkness corresponding to the Saturn Period, Light to the Sun Period, and Crystallization to the Moon Period.

Let us turn to the *Cosmo-Conception*, page 377, and study Diagram 14. We note that the vehicles of

the highest Initiates, the leaders of the Periods, are related to both the World-matter of which these vehicles are composed and the zodiacal signs that correlate with each Period. The diagram designates twelve distinct layers or states of consciousness within the seven Worlds that compose our cosmic plane. For ease of reference, we shall call these layers, and also the cumulative thirteenth layer, “estates.” Note that the highest vehicle of the

Father lies in the thirteenth estate, that of the Son in the twelfth, and that of the Holy Spirit in the eleventh.

For the Sun and Moon Periods, the highest Initiate’s highest vehicle is in the estate/sign in which the Sun and Moon are exalted—Aries and Taurus, respectively. All twelve estates below the 13/12 boundary may be con-

sidered manifest existence, as distinguished from the thirteenth estate, or unmanifest existence. Manifestation is a function of crystallization and constitutes identifiable existence. The Christ, when called good, refused the tribute, and deferred to the Father: “There is only One Who is good”; that is, perfect, transcending manifestation. As St. Bonaventure expressed this idea of the Son in the Father, “God is light...and this knowledge is

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Diagram 14. The vehicles of the highest Initiates & ordinary humanity

Zodiacal Signs	The Worlds in which these orders have corresponding vehicles	Saturn Period		Sun Period		Moon Period	
		The highest Initiate is <u>The Father</u>	The ordinary humanity are now Lords of Mind	The highest Initiate is <u>Christ</u>	The ordinary humanity are now Archangels	The highest Initiate is <u>Jehovah</u>	The ordinary humanity are now Angels
13 <small>altogether</small>	World						
12	of						
11	God						
10	World of						
9	Virgin						
8	Spirits						
7	World of Divine Spirit						
6	World of Life Spirit						
5	Region of Abstract Thought						
4	Region of Concrete Thought						
3	Desire World						
2	Etheric Region						
1	Chemical Region						
			Jesus Bodies				

gained by means of the uncreated light.”

The other major boundary, between estates 11 and 10, separates the threefold Creator from the relatively crystallized Creation, our Cosmos as a whole, from rarest to densest matter. By extension of the fact that the Son and Holy Spirit have highest vehicles in the twelfth and eleventh estates, the highest vehicle of the highest Initiate of the Earth Period may follow pattern by occupying Gemini, which is the highest subdivision within the World of Virgin Spirits. The highest point within that estate is thus a fulcrum between the Godhead and Its precipitate, Creation. Thus the leader of the Earth Period would come into touch with the Godhead.

According to the principle that the densest mirrors the highest, it can be seen that the present globe of our direct experience in the Earth Period is located within Pisces, the first estate, thereby mirroring the highest, the thirteenth, the ultimate

Throne of Grace. In this sense, Earth is in touch with God in a unique, antithetical manner, consonant with the nature of Gemini bipolarity. That there is a close affinity between the constellation Gemini and planet Earth is clear from observing that the seven highest estates correlate, in order, to the seven Periods in our Great Creative Day.

The constellations related to the seven highest estates are, in order of descent, 13 (cumulative); 12, Aries; 11, Taurus; 10, Gemini; 9, Cancer; 8, Leo; 7, Virgo. The planets usually identified as exalted in these signs are, in corresponding order, 13 (none); 12, Sun; 11, Moon; 10 (none); 9, Jupiter; 8, (none); 7, Mercury. This sequence of planet exaltations seems to serve as a rough blueprint for the sequence of the seven Periods, as interpreted below.

(1) The **Saturn Period** correlates with the thirteenth estate because primordial essence precedes visible ignition. In ancient mythology Saturn is

represented as a Father figure, a reaper of the hours of time, such as Kronos, Chaos, or the

Eleven is written as two one digits, bringing to mind the two manifest proceedings from the Father: the Tree of Life (the Son) and the Tree of Knowledge (the Holy Spirit).

Demogorgon of Shelley's allegorical poem, *Prometheus Unbound*. In such representations, Saturn is visualized as a mythic sower, a vast seed-ground, and a primordial container, as well as the usual reaper of life and form. Similarly, our seven-period Creative Day is "contained" within Chaos. The Father, then, is "behind the scenes" as well as the scenes themselves. He is the ultimate Matrix of our system, the Source of forces expressed and unexpressed.

The number thirteen, likewise, is often associated with invisible centrality and authorship. For example, Mr. Heindel indicated that it requires twelve outer, visible spheres to totally conceal a central thirteenth, if all are of equal size. Since the thirteenth estate is a composite or consummation of the twelve specific estates below it, we cannot speak of a single planet exalted in it.

(2) The **Sun Period** correlates with the twelfth estate, Aries. The Sun is exalted in Aries. In the Sun Period, the nebula became manifested, visible light. Twelve is the number of completion of outer manifestation. Together, twelve is one, as Aries is the first sign and twelfth estate. Aries is referred to in the Bible as Gad, son of the Father Jacob, as follows: "A troop shall overcome him, but he shall overcome at the last" (Gen. 49:19). That is to say, zodiacal progression is from Aries through the gamut of signs on the ecliptic, back to Aries once again in ever-progressing spirals. The Christ, Leader of the Sun Period, is the Way through all, and has access to all twelve estates because He has

used vehicles comprised of all layers of consciousness.

(3) The **Moon Period** correlates with the eleventh estate, Taurus. The Moon is exalted in Taurus. The Moon is feminine, a reactor to and reflector of the solar masculine. Venus-ruled Taurus is a feminine sign. In the Moon Period, the nebula began to crystallize as a result of the interaction between fire and moisture, the eternal, cosmic masculine and feminine. According to Corinne Heline's *New Age Bible Interpretation*, eleven is the number of mastery in occult symbolism. Eleven is written as two *one* digits, bringing to mind the two manifest proceedings from the Father: the Tree of Life (the Son) and the Tree of Knowledge (the Holy Spirit).

(4) We now descend from the World of God, diagrammatically, to the tenth estate, Gemini. Likewise, in the **Earth Period**, the various planets were sent out, separated from the physical Sun, and the "concreteness" of our existence increased. The polarities now become more palpable as well as being expressions of cosmic principles. The parts created are further crystallized and removed from the Source they revolve around: this marks a duality of Creator/Creation and a separation among the sister planets. Gemini is the sign of

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brothers and sisters, and the sign opposite Jovian Sagittarius, a fire sign often signifying the Creator in literature. On page 15 of *Message of the Stars*, it is stated that in an age corresponding to Gemini influences, "the division of soul from soul by the veil of the flesh, which we call the body, became more noticeable."

The Earth Period correlates with the tenth estate,

Gemini. Perhaps the Earth will come to be considered exalted in Gemini, the sign of duality. We are aware that it is one of the great tasks in the Earth Period to redeem the fallen pole within ourselves, within the humanity of the Earth Period. We work for and look forward to a restoration of equilibrium between Nature's two-fold forces. Let's consider briefly what forms our concrete dualities take. Some of the generally recognized complements are: positive/negative electro-magnetic forces; positive/negative chemical forces; centripetal/centrifugal forces; repulsion/attraction; night/day; life/death; ebb/flood; masculine/feminine; will/imagination; heart/mind; involution/evolution; Fire and its handmaid Air/Water and its handmaid Earth; spirit/matter; mystic/Churchman; Jachin pillar/Boaz pillar; Urim/Thummim (Ex. 28:39); Cain/Abel- Seth.

The forces we deal with in this Earth Period tend to be bipolar, Geminian, on many levels. It has been reported that there may be basis for some astronomers' view that the Moon and Earth are

twin bodies in a double system rather than planet and satellite. Even if this should prove not to be the case, it is still another interesting overtone of Gemini-Earth identification.

Should we accept for a moment that the Earth is exalted in Gemini, at least one Bible passage that has long bewildered theologians, Exodus 33:21-23, becomes more intelligible: "And the Lord said Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: and it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: and I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." Turning again to Diagram 14, we see that "a place by me," but not in Him, might reasonably be the first estate outside of the World of God—Gemini.

According to this reading, the "rock" that

redeemed (fulfilled) mankind stands on may be the essences of material experience, the alchemist's *philosopher's stone*, the Mason's *cornerstone*, the *white stone* of Revelation 2:17; in other words, the Earth itself, and the human bodies of those who were human in the Earth Period, as matter sublimated. Gemini at its highest (Diagram 14) borders Taurus, an earth sign. The "back parts" referred to in this statement on cosmic destiny in the Vulcan Period may mean the lowest substrata of the World of God, for it is at the fulcrumatic point of the highest point in Gemini where the bulk of what is now humanity will stand, and where our present highest Initiate ought to stand now, if pattern is followed.

In this obscure passage, the Lord's unseen "face" would then refer to the higher strata in the World of God, to which our life wave would evidently have no direct access at that time, according to the passage and to pattern, although our highest Initiate would be in the "face" by then. Biblically, ten refers to opposite poles working separately

but in harmony toward unity, as Corinne Heline informs us. Thus the achievement of "elevenness," by means of perfecting "tenness," is our destiny. The sign Gemini resembles a latent, restricted eleven: two vertical lines, but at present barred at the top and bottom.

(5) Diagrammatically descending one further estate, we arrive at the future **Jupiter Period**, Cancer, correlating with the ninth estate. Jupiter is exalted in Cancer.

(6) The **Venus Period** then correlates with the eighth estate, Leo. However, in current consensual astrology, no planet is given exaltation in Leo. It has been supposed that Neptune may eventually be considered exalted there, instead of Cancer, the exaltation home it shares with Jupiter, in general opinion. If so, the expected name for the evolutionary Period corresponding to the Leo estate

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would be the Neptune Period, if we adhere to pattern.

On the other hand, without forcing the issue, the case for Venus' exaltation in Leo rather than its present exaltation home of Pisces may be less ludicrous than might appear, since Leo rules the heart, and Venus expresses forces of love. Forces of Leo as experienced on our level of being do have an element of ferocity within the nobility and largeness of mind, and this ferocity is tamed and uplifted by only one planet in a significant way—

Venus, suggesting exaltation.

Exaltation is the expression of the highest, brightest, most positive facets of planetary rays as they affect us.

Message of the Stars, page 179, states: "Contrary to the commonly accepted ideas, there is a cruel streak in Leo, but when Venus is there, there is no more loving and tender sign in the zodiac." The feminine sign Virgo follows Leo in the zodiac, which may be the significance of the symbol of the Virgin closing the mouth of the Lion in early Mystery Schools. But if Venus is exalted in Leo, perhaps the lady is Venus who has transmuted its force and brought it to flower. The beauty of eternal symbols is that they speak so much at once.

(7) With attainment to the **Vulcan Period**, we arrive at the seventh estate, Virgo. Note that in our symbolic descent in time by periods, the last estate to be reached is Virgo. Note also, from the concrete bottom (Pisces) ascending, that our particular life wave has its field of evolution from the first estate through the seventh (comprising the lowest

five Worlds). Thus Virgo is the very highest estate in which our general humanity may come to function in this particular seven-period Creative Day.

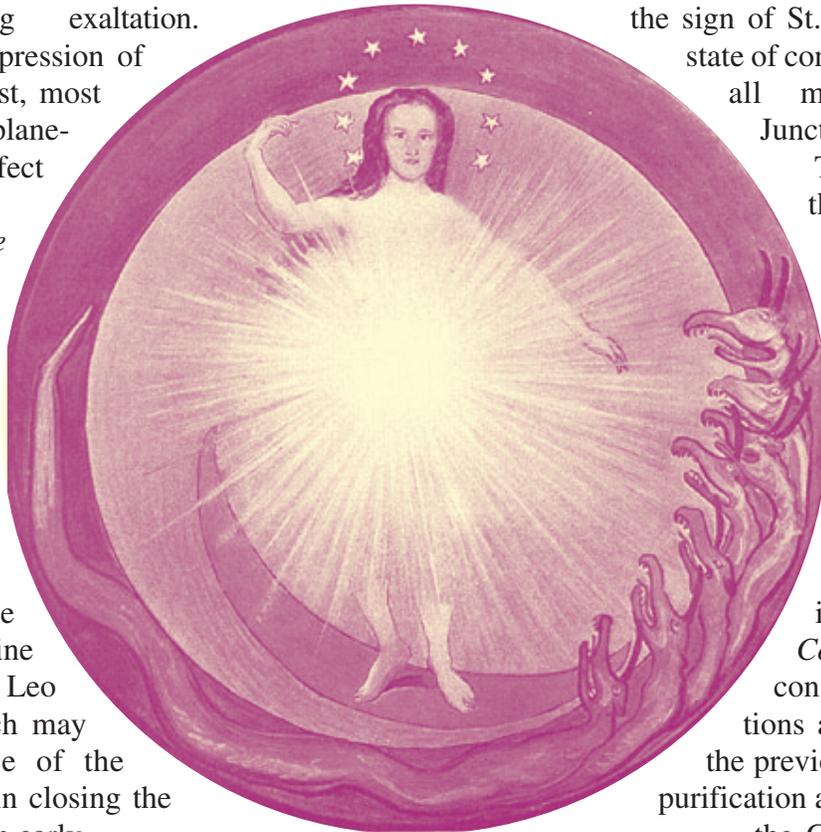
Glancing horizontally across Diagram 14 at the Virgo estate, you will find that there is a portion of each life wave and entity represented within Virgo. As the great feminine absorber and relative matrix (of that which is manifest), Virgo is also the storehouse of the true Memory of Nature, which lasts

until the end of the Creative Day. Virgo, the sign of St. Mary, designates a state of consciousness in which all meet, a veritable Junction of Being.

The seventh estate is the middle of the thirteen, and the feminine cross-bar of the Great Cross, of which the vertical "Way" is the masculine. Harmonious with the all-inclusive nature of Virgo, the Vulcan Period is described in the *Cosmo-Conception* as consisting of recapitulations and assimilations of the previous Periods—a final purification and harvesting. Thus the Great Day's "wheat" crop is signified by the shaft of ripened grain in Virgo's astrological symbol. After the Vulcan Period, the present unfoldment will have

been consummated, and we will have returned to our Father Source. Mercury, the planet closest to the physical Sun, is exalted in Virgo; it seems to be the case that our unique, concretized development of the powers of mind, when perfected in the Vulcan Period, will be the staff and hallmark of our life wave. □

—Rinske Hayes



Painted by C. Rettich in Munich in 1907 after sketches by Rudolf Steiner, the fifth Apocalyptic seal (Revelations 12) depicts humanity, as a Virgo-like being, that shall have become sun beings, able through the power of the sun to bring forth suns. The destructive forces of the lower nature (dragon) will have been overcome as well as all the magical forces that the moon still exerts on the earth.