

A Brief Interpretation of Aquarius From a Symbolic Painting

AFTER PROFOUND meditation upon the conditions of our times and their meaning in the light of knowledge obtained and verified through the divine science of astrology, my abstraction became focused in the concrete, and I saw through the reflecting ether in the form of a picture what the New Age will mean.

Being an artist, I immediately made a sketch of what I had seen, and was inspired to give it to the world. I worked for two years with the greatest reverence and enthusiasm to put this wonderful prophetic message of truth upon canvas. The types were carefully chosen from persons born in the zodiacal signs which they represent.

The size of the canvas is four by eight feet. One of its greatest charms as a work of art is its scheme of color based on the rainbow, which I very much regret cannot be reproduced here.

This picture represents through the symbolism of the zodiac the evolution of the soul under the Universal Religion of the New Age, upon which we are now entering.

As the earth in its yearly journey around the sun passes through one sign of the zodiac each month, so does the sun by the precession of the equinoxes pass through each sign of the zodiac; but in this

great journey it takes 2160 years to pass through one sign, and about 26,000 years to pass through the cycle of twelve signs. When passing through one sign it is called an Age or Dispensation. The Taurean Age was in effect while the vernal equinox was preceding through the earth sign Taurus, whose symbol is the Bull. Artists represented this zodiacal animal with the golden disk of the sun between his horns. Next came the Arian

Age of fire, during which the Ram was worshiped as the symbol of the sun god. Then came the Piscean Age, Pisces being a water sign, whose symbol was the Fish, used by the great teacher, Jesus, who was the perfected Christ Soul of the Arian Age and was called the Lamb of God. He came to prepare the world for the evolution in Pisces which was the

Christian Dispensation. His disciples were represented as fishermen and called fishers of men. Now we are gradually approaching the air sign of Aquarius, whose glyph is the Man pouring water from an urn, symbolizing the outpouring of the Spirit upon all nations which will bring about the Brotherhood of Man and the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

The sign of Aquarius stands for the humane qualities, beneficence, and service to humanity in its highest expression. During those precessional

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times when the sun passes from one sign of the zodiac to the next, there are always great disturbances on every plane of life. Old conditions give place to new and adjustments have to be made in both the public and the individual life.

Every human being is a solar system in miniature. As his own life passes through the cycle of the zodiac, he is affected by all its planetary aspects. As they affect one another, so they affect him. It is only when man has mastered himself that he can master outer conditions. As Christ said, "when we are in the Spirit, we are above the Law."

Each of the twelve divisions of the zodiac represents certain characteristics, and the planets which rule them also express certain qualities. The will of man has power over the vibrations caused by the planetary aspects according to the degree and quality of his spiritual understanding.

Aquarius is governed by Saturn in its lower vibrations and by Uranus in its higher. Saturn is the limiting, crystallizing, and testing planet, and Uranus the planet which governs revolutions and reforms, electricity, telepathy, and the inspirational and intuitional faculties of man.

Bible authors make many references and predictions concerning the Aquarian Age, and all the sages and seers of the past looked forward with hope to the effect which it would have upon the advancement of the destinies of the human races. In Matthew 24:30-31 this age is referred to in the following prophecy:

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

This testing and gathering is now commencing to take place.

The four winds are the cosmic forces in the four signs of the fixed cross of the zodiac which will express themselves in the New Dispensation. The leader of the four is Aquarius, the source of the outpouring of the water of life or the mother force

contained in the ewer carried by the water bearer. The opposite pole is Leo, representing great strength of love. The other two are Scorpio, the force of the regenerated sex principle, and Taurus, which labors with persevering patience. Man develops through his victory over the lower animal aspects of these signs.

No doubt Christ referred to this age when he gave His disciples instructions in preparation for the next Passover: "Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him." It is also referred to in Acts 2:17:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, [the last days of that dispensation just before the passing over of the sun into the next sign] I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

The time has now come when we can no longer afford to ask whether one is a Protestant, Catholic, Jew, occultist, or what not, but rather how much love has one for his fellowmen and how much of a sacrifice is he willing to make for the uplift and unity of human kind. The pouring out of the Spirit upon all flesh is to come about as the New Age progresses.

Christ also said that those who attained to a consciousness of their oneness with the Father, such as He had, would have a well of living water springing up within them into everlasting life.

The prophet Zechariah also saw this fountain of cleansing life when he prophesied: "In that day there shall be a fountain opened for sin and uncleanness."

In Revelation Aquarius is spoken of as "one like unto a son of man, whose hair was white as snow and whose eyes were as a flame of fire, his voice as the sound of many waters and his countenance as the sun shineth in its strength." Another relevant Revelation passage reads: "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven clothed with a cloud, and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was, as it were, the sun...[and he had] one foot on the land and one on the sea," which seems to mean he, Aquarius, was poised in heaven



From *Les Grandes Heures Du Duc De Rohan*, Master of the Rohan Hours (11-3/8 x 8-1/8"), Miniature, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

Pentecost

In this extraordinary portrayal of the first manifestation of the Holy Spirit sent by the Resurrected Christ, the artist depicts the Son as a Child in the bosom of the Father, enveloped by the dove of the Holy Spirit, and bearing the sword of the Word. Angels of each human tongue proffer texts. The disciples are kneeling in adoration of the intellectual vision.

between the earth sign Capricorn and the water sign Pisces.

Aquarius is the soul of man illumined after being tested and tried by the limitations of Saturn, who guides the soul when passing through the formative period until it receives the electric shock from Uranus, which breaks down the walls of selfish personality, superstition, prejudice, and crystallized customs. Such a shock came to the world when Uranus came into conjunction with Jupiter, the ruler of Pisces, in June 1914, which ushered in World War I.

When Uranian shock awakens the soul to the

universal life, the sun bursts through the cloud which has hidden it during the electric cyclone, and man is revealed in his God-consciousness. (The following description refers to the painting on page 32.) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is then poured down in a torrent, reflecting all the colors of the rainbow—the rainbow being emblematic of universal life which each soul receives according to its individual color vibration. Then Saturn recedes into the background in smiling silence, knowing that his work of preparing the soul to receive the higher vibration is finished, and, by a strange paradox in nature, what seemed to be Satan was a Christ in the disguise of the horned head and cloven hoof; for through our sorrows and trials we attain to higher planes of spiritual thought and understanding.

The human family below, who are receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, personify the positive masculine and negative feminine sides of planets which rule some of the other signs of the zodiac. They are under the vibration of Uranus, and are all bringing their spiritual gifts to the service of humanity. The planetary color is shown in the drapery which clothes the figures.

Pictured at the painting's left is the positive aspect of Mercury in Gemini, the youthful member of the air triplicity and an intellectual sign, impelling the search for

knowledge and the accumulation of facts. As such Gemini may be called Science. Realizing that the mere facts of science are dead without the informing life of the spirit, Mercury looks to his negative or spiritual manifestation, which is Virgo (the other sign ruled by Mercury) symbolized by the Virgin attuned to the message from God. She is Gemini's higher self and is called Inspiration. Science receives inspiration which endues facts with life. The color vibration of Mercury is violet.

The next pair of figures is governed by Jupiter, the planet of prosperity, opulence, benevolence, and religion—Sagittarius, the Prophet, and Pisces,



Oil on canvas, 1923, Mary Neal Richardson

Aquarius

Through Aquarius the Holy Spirit will baptize with the water of life. The law of Saturn prepares for the impersonal (Uranian) love of the Christ, while the Father, extended hand (symbolizing Will) blessing the Son, shows Old Testament sternness.

the Mystic. Sagittarius brings to the Age his gift of prophecy, which is the fruit of the spirit of devotion. He offers the silver box containing a pomegranate, which was the symbol of the fruit of the spirit used by the ancient Hebrews in their reli-

gious ceremonies. Pisces, the negative side of Jupiter, is the twelfth sign of the zodiac and represents the soul as it passes from material to spiritual consciousness. It is a mystical sign. She is the “bride of the Spirit” and sees through the veil into the invisible. Rising to the higher vision of truth she becomes truly clairvoyant. The color vibration of Jupiter is blue.

The group’s central figure is Cancer, the mother sign, governed by the moon. She represents the maternal principle in nature, the mother of the races. She has two children. One represents the church of the Piscean Age and is clothed with clericalism and theology. Although filled with idealism and aspiration, his action has been limited owing to intellectual quarrels over differences of opinion about Christ and His message, detracting from the primary need of living the Christ life. Consequently, he has not grown to his full stature.

The other child, the newborn babe of the Aquarian Age, filled with the joy, gladness, and freedom of the new life, is held aloft by the mother for the baptism of the Holy Spirit directly from its source. The color vibration of the moon is green.

Next are the pair representing the Venus vibration or love principle: Libra, denoting divine love or justice, and Taurus, the planting sign, expressing human love. Venus offers to the church the rose, the emblem of love. The Church in its attitude questions the idea with conservative innocence and uncertainty. Unless the church accepts the universal love principle in a greater degree than heretofore, it must with its Saturn limitations (creeds and dogmas) recede into the background. Justice holds the Scales, the symbol of Libra, the balance sign of the air triplicity, and watches with sad solicitude to see whether the church will accept the more expansive interpretation of his teaching to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” This is the open question before the world today. The Venus pair are those who turn back in the onward march of their aspirations to aid the less evolved, those who in their youth are seeking and asking for wisdom. The color vibration of Venus is yellow.

The last pair of figures are Scorpio and Aries, governed by Mars, the planet of energy, action, and desire. Scorpio, risen from the depths of personal

life into the higher conception of service, becomes Wisdom, the emblem of which is the Serpent on her brow, which passing around her head takes its tail in its mouth, thus completing the circle of generation and regeneration. She places on the shoulder of Aries, the warrior, the talisman of the white lotus, another emblem of Scorpio, bidding him to fight for purity and righteousness instead of dominion and power. The Mars vibration is red, which completes the prismatic scale of color, symbolic of Universality.

Science faces the age, and War turns his back and goes out, having served his purpose.

In the Aquarian Age woman will be free as never before to serve with her great intuitive power. Therefore I have represented her as the active force in giving the Spiritual Message. Aquarius represents the triumph of love over prejudice, hatred, superstition, and all the limitations which retard the soul of man in his evolutionary progress toward his highest ideal, which is his conception of God. This is the experience of every soul in its spiritual consciousness.

Aquarius expresses through planetary law, which is the divine plan for increasing manifestation through all nature. This law, when understood in even a small degree, awakens understanding, quickens aspiration, raises thought vibration, and opens up avenues of truth which enrich life's value. It removes all bitterness because it teaches that the conditions governing our lives are the result of the thoughts and deeds stored up in the subconscious mind from former incarnations, and it explains the problems to be worked out in our present embodiment. It relieves discouragement, and by disclosing the inner meaning of our experiences, it stimulates faculties which have become stagnant through disappointed hopes. It marshals all our thoughts and aspirations to the making of better causes, thus producing better effects here and now.

Aquarius teaches that each person, through the power of individual will cooperating with divine will, may bring all the forces at his disposal into harmonious relation within himself and with others, and thus, evolving the inner Christ, may become a mystic having the direct vision of real

Grasp the Whole

Let there be many windows in your soul
that all the glory of the universe
may beautify it.

Not the narrow pane of one poor creed
can catch the radiant rays that shine
from countless sources.

Tear away the blinds of superstition.
Let the light pour through fair windows,
broad as truth itself,
and high as Heaven.

Tune your ear to all the wordless music
of the stars,
and to the voice of nature;
and your heart shall turn
to truth and goodness
as the plant turns to the sun.

A thousand unseen hands reach down
to help you to their peace-crowned heights;
and all the forces of the firmament
shall fortify your strength.

Be not afraid to thrust aside half-truths
and grasp the whole.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

and eternal truth.

Gradually we realize the great responsibility that rests upon us and the “scales fall from our eyes.” We no longer “see through a glass darkly, but face to face.” Our love expands and reaches out to an inclusive humanity. We hear the cries for help that go up from suffering souls, and we seek to answer them, to give them our sympathy and service, because we better understand the universal need. Our service may be rejected, but the love that we give rises on its own pinions and becomes transfigured into divine consciousness, and throws its rays into endless space.

We know that love is the creative force of all existence and that we may all become “fountains of living water” which overflow upon all life in symbolic rainbow colors, every color being necessary to complete the universal pattern of Divine Harmony. □

—Mary Neal Richardson