

## ASTROLOGY



### *Lucifer and Satan in Astrology*

**B**IBLE SCHOLARS are usually agreed that the story of the fallen Angels was, from an early time, associated with the disappearance of the Evening Star (the planet Venus) from the western sky, where it is seen to sink lower and lower toward the horizon each night until it disappears, leaving the horizon empty. After a time it reappears in the eastern sky, rising just before the Sun, when it is called the Morning Star. In the New Age Bible studies it is suggested that the Moon, wandering through the stars night after night, represents the Mother seeking the lost Evening Star, which eventually she finds in the East with the rising Sun.

Although the rabbis and Christians alike thought the words of Isaiah, "How thou hast fallen from heaven, O Day Star, Son of the Morning!" referred to Satan (historians say it referred to the King of Babylon), yet we find that some Christians actually referred to the Christ as "Our Lucifer," meaning the herald of the New Day of God. For by its disappearing in the West and its reappearance before the Sun in the East, Venus seemed to them an apt symbol for the Resurrection of the Christ.

When, therefore, we read that there was a Christian cult in the second century known as Luciferians, we understand that these Christians are saluting the Christ as the Morning Star, Light-Bearer of the New Age. The astrologer understands further that in the Aryan Age, at midnight of the winter solstice, the sign Libra rises on the Ascendant; and since Jesus was thought to have been born at that time, he would have been a Libran in respect of his person; and Libra is ruled

by Venus.

There is little question but that the priests of Heliopolis and of Babylon alike understood that the Evening and Morning Star were one and the same, but this was one of the Temple mysteries not revealed to the multitudes. The Greeks, of course, told everything they possibly could, and have therefore been given credit for many discoveries which they really obtained from the Temples of Egypt and the East, including the precession of the equinoxes, which historians now recognize was known long before Hipparchus.

At any rate it was the Greeks who secularized science, wresting it from the control of the priesthoods, and who thus made possible the rapid development of science down to our own day. Now it is the science of the soul, hitherto guarded and controlled by the priests, which is falling into the hands of laymen non-priests, much to the anger of priests, ministers, and hierophants everywhere. As, for example, shown in the bitter opposition expressed by orthodox churches to modern psychology.

It is from the period when men believed that the Evening Star which disappeared and the Morning Star which took its place were different gods that Venus was given two Greek names: *Hesperus*, the Evening Star, and *Phosphorus*, the Morning Star. The Latin name for the Morning Star was, of course, Lucifer, the Light Bearer.

A Christmas carol sung by Jean Ritchie, of the Kentucky family of ballad singers, presents some interesting problems in respect of the Morning Star. Note that this carol (which is not clearly a folk song) salutes the Morning Star as if it were the



*In the ninth circle of Dante's Inferno are beings covered with ice. In their midst broods Dis-Satan. Burning ice is a fitting symbol for loveless despair.*

Star that led the Shepherds to the Christ Child.

### BALLAD OF CHRIST AND THE MORNING STAR

Hail, thou blest morn when the great Mediator  
Down from the regions of glory descends!  
Shepherds, go worship the Babe in the manger,  
Who for a guard the bright angels attend.

Chorus

*Brightest and best of the Sons of the Morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid!  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our Infant Redeemer is laid.*

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

*(Chorus)*

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts His favors secure,  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

*(Chorus)*

Lucifer's Emerald was called Morning Star, leg-

end says; and Beta in Libra, a green star, may have been associated with Venus in the astronomical legends of the fall of the Sun. But again, the lost emerald may have been representative of our own green Earth, which Christ came to save. And so we understand why Dante shows Satan imprisoned in a frozen hell in the very heart of the earth (or world)—the hell of icy despair.

We may note in passing, however, that if the Emerald Grail seems associated with the Morning Star, the Ruby Grail or Stone suggests the red planet Mars, which also figures as the celestial abiding place of certain fallen angels, whose leader Samael represents the planet Mars in cabbalistic astrology. "Samael" means "the Severity of God" and indicates the

work Mars does in human experience.

Just as Venus is coupled with the green star Beta of Libra, so Mars is coupled with the red star Antares of Scorpio. Due to the precession of the equinoxes, the "fall" of the Sun God during the Taurean Age took place in Scorpio, whereas in the Aryan Age during which the Bible was written the Sun's fall took place in Libra.

There is a certain amount of confusion in these ancient myths of fallen gods and angels, because sometimes the word "fall" is used to mean "killed"—as Baldur the Sun God in Norse mythology was killed through the machinations of Loki, the spirit of evil. So also Osiris was slain through the evil Set, and in ancient times philosophers everywhere realized that the "death" of the Sun was involved in these myths.

This concept has somehow, over the Christian centuries, become blended with the idea of a "fallen" god or angel in the sense of a rebel or outcast from heaven, of which there were indeed many in antiquity. We may think of the Greek Vulcan, for example, cast out of heaven by Zeus, and the fallen angels of Hebrew mythology.

It is the latter group of myths, confused with the pagan stories of the murdered Sun God, which causes most of the misunderstanding. We have to

be quite sure just which kind of “fall” we are speaking of—the righteous Hero or the “failed” god of evil, the murdered or the murderer.

Ancient peoples viewed the heavens with their eyes, they did not refer to ephemerides to the extent that modern astrologers do, and so the stars visible in the night sky figured more vividly in their thinking than those which were up in the day time when they were hidden by the light of the Sun. They saw how, in the spring time when the Sun was in Aries, Libra with the green star Beta rose on the eastern horizon as the Sun set; this meant that to their eyes the green star in Libra was actually a harbinger of the spring time and Nature’s resurrection. In the autumn when the Sun was in Libra then, of course, they could not see the green star because it rode the skies with the Sun in the day time. But the priest-astronomers knew it was there.

The same was true of the red star Antares which rose in the East when the Sun set in the West in Taurus in the Spring time. When the Sun was in Scorpio in the autumn, Antares was invisible because it rode the skies with the Sun in the day time. But the priest-astronomers knew that it was there.

Thus there was a popular astrological religion and an esoteric, priestly astrological religion connected with the Temple sciences.

Now just as some ancient calendars started the solar year from the Sun in Aries or Taurus in the spring time, others started the year from Libra or Scorpio in the autumn. The calendar which started in the fall of the year was often the sacred calendar, as in Judaism; although Egypt’s Sothic cycle was counted from the heliacal (sunrise) rising of the star Sirius, which is near Gemini and Cancer.

Thus throughout antiquity, and still in our own time, spiritual astrology holds that as the vernal equinox is the key to material progress during a zodiacal age, so the autumnal equinox holds the key to the spiritual progress of the same age, and therefore the religion of the age or aeon is signified in the constellation of the autumnal equinox. In our own Piscean Age, this is Virgo the Virgin; but in the Aquarian Age the sacred constellation signifying religion will be Leo the Lion.

As in the Taurean Age Mars, and in the Aryan Age Venus, was the “fallen god,” so in the Piscean Age Mercury and the constellation Virgo figure together under the curious symbolism of the “Fallen Sophia” of the Gnostic cults, precisely because the autumnal equinox was beginning to draw near the constellation Virgo in the centuries after the coming of Christ. The Fallen Feminine Aeon is Virgo, the sign of the Sun’s fall into winter. Virgo is ruled by Mercury, significator of the mind; and the keynote of Gnosticism, like that of Hermeticism (some Hermetic texts were found among the documents of Nag Hammadi), is that all evil is a product of the misunderstanding in the mind, that is, of ignorance; and that its cure is knowledge, especially spiritual knowledge or Wisdom.

The Virgin Sophia represents the human soul or spirit—as we would say, Virgin Spirit—the essential Man, made in God’s image and likeness. This is the Self which man must find, learning to know himself as he truly is, a perfect ideation in the Mind of God. Sophia is then no longer fallen.

Throughout the Piscean Age this metaphysical and spiritual Mercury concept has been working its way to the surface of Christianity. In the nineteenth century it once more suddenly burgeoned after long suppression, and we may expect to see it grow still more prolifically between now and the Aquarian Age.

The fallen gods of antiquity are the devils of Christianity. The sins relating to the lusts of the flesh are naturally attributable to Venus. The sins of belligerence, including warfare, and therefore death and destruction, are ascribed to Mars. The sins of ignorance pertain to Mercury. While Saturn stands as the Adversary who blocks the way, whom the soul must appease and pass.

As the agent of destiny, Saturn is Satan the Adversary who, in the words of a philosophical Bible scholar, G. de Purucker, “will not allow the candidate to pass upward until he has proved his worth, until he has learned the keywords, the passwords, which mean primarily self-conquest. Thus the teachers of past times were often called Nagas or Serpents of Wisdom, and so was the opposing power in nature, whether divine or malign, referred

to as a serpent, as in the Garden of Eden. The New Testament tells us to worship the serpent in the graphic injunction, 'Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves.'"

He continues: "We learn from our weaknesses to mount to higher things. Our weaknesses become our teachers, and once we have learned their lessons it is then no longer needful to turn to them for instruction....It is our duty to go on, to challenge new opponents, new accusers. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' The door opens. The Adversary of the moment says, 'Who are you?' If you give the right answer, you pass; the wrong answer, and the door is closed against you because it is so in reality.

You cannot take a step onwards until you know the passwords which are parts of yourself; in other words, until you have the will and intelligence to do right.

We ourselves, then, in such instances, become the Adversary, the so-called Satan. We must conquer this part of ourselves in order to go higher, to become something new. Our present selves in their turn some day will pass and we shall meet the Self of the future. It too will ask, 'Who are you? Give the password.' And that password is wisdom, altruism, the great treasury of long-past experience. 'Be ye wise as the serpent, but harmless as the dove'—a most beautiful and profound allegory. No wonder it has been adopted by race after race in different parts of the world."

We understand from all this why Max Heindel says that Lucifer and Satan are not to be confused. They are not the same figure, although Christian legend has combined all aspects of evil into one symbolic being whom it calls Satan.

Neither Venus nor Mercury is ever very far from the Sun, and they never form the square aspect with the Sun, except by progression, which is a purely arbitrary counting of numbers in the ephemerides and has nothing to do with astronomical fact.

But it is Venus which has always been the Morning Star of popular astrology, because its brilliant fire is easily observed, whereas Mercury is small and so close to the Sun that it is seldom seen with the naked eye. Only to the astronomer would

Mercury figure as the Morning Star.

Yet there is another aspect of Egyptian mythology which may reveal a different solution to the story of the fallen god and explain why he is associated with the Emerald and the green star of Libra.

In Egypt, almost alone of the nations of antiquity, we read of a green sun, which represents the Sun of the underworld after it sets in the west. The Egyptians believed that the Sun, after sinking in the West, travelled under the earth until it arose in the East, and that while it was under the earth it was green. A modern astronomer thinks he has found the explanation of the Egyptian belief in the green midnight Sun. It seems that, due to atmospheric conditions which characterize Egypt's desert climate, there is, for just a moment at sunset and sunrise, a sudden flash of bright green light on the horizon; and this, the astronomer thinks, is what caused the Egyptians to believe in their green Sun of the underworld. The green Sun was of course associated with Osiris.

Since Venus is always so near the Sun, Venus, too, would be seen against the "green flash" when the Sun went down in the West or rose again in the East. In the Aryan Age, when the vernal equinox was in Aries and the autumn equinox in Libra, the green star Beta would also have been part of the "green flash."

Since as we have said the Bible was written during the Aryan Age, naturally it is the astronomical picture of that Age which we find in Hebrew and Christian legend, as well as in the Greek and Roman. Some of the Egyptian texts of the Book of the Dead and some of the older portions of the Indian Vedas go back to the Taurean Age, and a few texts may even go back to the Geminian Age.

Most Bible scholars are not astronomers, and they often misunderstand the passages which relate to astronomical data. Today the Sun sets and rises in the constellation Pisces at the vernal equinox and in Virgo at the autumn equinox. The green flash is still there, but it no longer has a special significance in relation to the sacred calendar, the god Osiris in the underworld, or the star Beta in Libra, or with the planets Venus and Mercury. □

—Kent Lorimer