

God's Message Through Pisces

WE NOW ENTER the sign Pisces, whose planetary rulers are Neptune and Jupiter. Neptune's work is to awaken us to the truth that the spark of God in us is one in essence with the spark in every other creature, and one with God, since all are a part of the one Light and one Life which is God.

Neptune, therefore, offers us the first key by calling us continually to be still and listen to the voice of our Divine Self. Knowing this isn't enough, for God is also Love. So the love-power of the heart must be developed until it reaches out in kindness and understanding to every living thing. That is why Jupiter calls upon us to "be kind."

The Creative Hierarchy operating through the sign Pisces is the Hierarchy to which the human life wave belongs.

It is called the "Sign of Sorrow" because in its mystical depths is pictured that pathway of pain upon which Man entered when he broke from his spiritual guardians and took upon himself (prematurely) the responsibility for his actions.

Pisces indicates the reaping, under the Law of Cause and Effect, of that which has been sown. It is the Sign of Sorrow only because so much of Man's sowing has been done in defiance of the laws of life. When the awakening comes and he recognizes these laws as the laws of his own being, Pisces ceases to be the Sign of Sorrow and becomes the Sign of Liberation.

Each individual travels this path of pain until he becomes so entangled in self-wrought confusion that he sees no escape. Then, in despair, he cries out to God for help, the help which was there for him all along the way: "Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice." (Psalm 130)

This cry marks the turning point in the evolution of each individual, the beginning of his upward journey toward the Light. From this point on there stands before him on the path Christ Jesus, the Way-shower, with His magic call "Come unto me....I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

Every word that He utters points the way to liberation from the bondage of pain and discord. But one promise rings out above them all to strengthen the courage of the climber: "If ye continue in my word then ye are my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

During the solar month of Pisces we are given an opportunity to touch the very depths of our own being and to gain a truer understanding of life's mysteries than we have ever had before.

During this month let us meditate often on the symbolism of the Crucifixion—Spirit nailed to the cross of Matter—and apply it to ourselves, the Christ crucified in us. Let us hold in mind the Law of Cause and Effect as it operates throughout all Nature, hold it until we KNOW that the conditions which surround us and the experiences which come



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to us are the direct results of forces which we ourselves have set in motion.

This complete acceptance of responsibility for all that "happens" to us, is necessary before we can realize to any extent the power that lies within us to shape our destiny as we will. Once this realization has come, every defeat may be turned into a victory and every obstacle into an opportunity for progress.

The mystic Ray of Neptune calls us during this month to recognize the divinity within us as being one with the divinity of our brother man and one with the divinity of Him Who is All in All.

The Jupiter Ray, meanwhile, calls for an analysis and readjustment of our scale of values, based on this broader vision of life.

Understanding, one of the most precious qualities to which the human mind may aspire, is born of such deep searchings into the inner meanings of outer phenomena.

One of the first fruits of understanding is glad obedience to the Law within, as represented by conscience. Happiness in obeying the Law indicates a developed conscience.

With understanding comes *compassion* for the failures and sufferings of others, together with an increasingly intense desire to hasten the day when pain and discord will be eliminated from human life. This can be brought about only by the effort of each awakened Ego to attune his individual life to the cosmic rhythms so that these may vibrate through him in ever greater volume and power.

Under *Rhythm*, the third keyword of Pisces, we study the relation of the physical body to these mighty rhythms.

The archetype of our physical body is established in the rhythmic outflow of that Power which sustains the universe. Hence the wonderful resistance of this, our most perfect vehicle, to the countless abuses to which it is subjected. Nevertheless, every inharmony in our being has a disturbing effect upon its delicate balance, so that persistent abuse together with discordant thinking over a period of lives will wreck it in time. It can then be restored to health only by the re-establishment of the rhythms which have been broken.

Conscious effort toward the establishment of the life rhythms in our whole being builds the regener-

ated physical body. This, as we "continue in His word," grows more and more responsive to the will of the Spirit and becomes, in time, the perfect spiritual instrument it was designed to be.

Pisces has rulership over the feet, and it is well to remember that what the feet are to the body as a supporting foundation, so are Love and Truth to the inner man.

One of the keywords of Pisces is Understanding. Understanding is sought after by many people, but few really possess much. Wisdom is closely related to understanding. Wisdom is knowledge wedded to love. The trait of understanding blends knowledge with feeling. It encompasses sympathy and empathy.

Knowledge includes more than human relations; it includes the principles of life and the Laws of Nature. Memorized knowledge is helpful in certain specific instances, but with understanding a person can apply that knowledge to other situations. In a sense, the person who possesses understanding becomes as a skilled craftsman using his tool, knowledge, with grace and facility. A person need not be a genius to possess understanding, but he does need to apply himself seriously to grasping a situation or a principle in Nature. The person who has been observant during his experiences is the most likely to gain understanding.

Understanding begins as a small light in the darkness and grows to a brilliant radiance when a person sticks with a problem, uses his memory, and applies his reason. Reason, when exercised, and with the help of love, produces understanding. When reason is not sufficiently exercised it withers, and limited thinking takes its place. Love alone cannot produce understanding any more than can knowledge alone.

Man has been given a mind so that he can become godlike. Mind, fully matured, is capable of reason—connecting causes to effects and relating future effects to present causes. Without mind, knowledge is impossible, but mind alone cannot provide understanding. A person achieves understanding only if he pursues his study of a subject with constancy, sympathy, and courage, and ultimately comes to feel himself almost a part of that subject.

When we open the doors of our minds to eliminate

old, crystallized ideas, we open the avenue to understanding. Understanding cannot exist in the presence of crystallized, negative, prejudiced thought.

Understanding leads to contentment. It eliminates useless cares and worries and gives a new lift to the business of life.

Understanding is based on observation and experience. We should do our utmost to observe everything going on and apply our powers of reason to it.

Then, too, we must learn to react sympathetically and with love. In this way, we will gain understanding. "With all thy getting, get understanding."

Other keywords of Pisces are *Love* and *Humility*. In all Christ Jesus' work we find love and humility to be very outstanding. Although He brought great hope to people and was to make the great sacrifice of His life, still He was the most humble person who ever walked this Earth. He could very easily have taken a prominent role and put to shame all the rulers of His day, but that wasn't what our Heavenly Father sent Him to do.

The disciples had been with Christ Jesus for about three years, listening to and learning from His parables to the people, and His private talks with them when he explained the hidden meanings of all He taught. They were being prepared to spread those Teachings to people everywhere. Christ Jesus heard their conversations and listened to their questions about who would be the greatest among them. He must now give them a clearer understanding of His mission and their own, for the time was rapidly approaching for His departure from them.

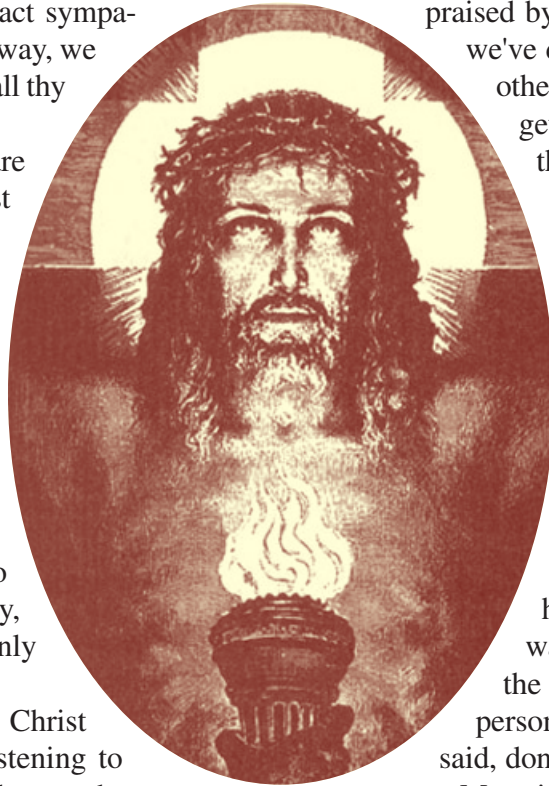
After they had eaten supper one evening, Christ Jesus arose and, wrapping a towel about Himself, filled a basin with water, and began washing the disciples' feet. Although this was customarily done by servants as an indication of courtesy and respect, not one of the disciples thought of doing it, even

though they had no servants. In doing so, Christ Jesus "took upon himself the form of a servant." By doing this humble task and saying to His disciples, "What I do, you don't know now, but you shall know later," He was giving them an example of what they should do for others. It wasn't easy for the disciples to understand the need for humility, although Christ Jesus said: "He who would be the greatest among you, let him be the servant of all."

It is all very well to do something and be praised by those who see or hear of what we've done. The word gets around and others come with their praise, so it gets to be a "big thing." The little things we do for others, silently and unnoticed, however, are the true test of our humility. Perhaps we can help an elderly lady to cross the street, or speak to a new classmate at school. Perhaps we can give a hand or take some food to a new neighbor who is busy getting settled. Sometimes just a smile or a cheery "hello" to a passerby on the street may be helpful. There are many other ways that we will think of when the occasions arises. The observant person will notice what needs to be said, done, or even thought.

Most important of all are thoughts of goodwill, kindness, and cheerfulness. By our very presence we may bring to others those worthwhile things which make life more pleasant for everyone around us. Not only that, but we ourselves shall find that we not only feel better, but also get far more accomplished in our daily lives by thinking and acting in harmony with Christ Jesus' way of love and humility. Let us see what we can do to live in this way.

Another keyword of Pisces is *Compassion*. The great Beings above mankind in evolution are living in harmony with the laws of Nature, while many people on this Earth are not. These laws are mighty forces flowing throughout the Universe with a rhythm somewhat like the rhythms of great music.



I am the Truth

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The Higher Beings are always in tune with these glorious rhythms. Their thoughts and activities create harmony, order, and beauty, while mankind is mostly out of tune with the cosmic rhythm. This causes our thoughts and activities to fill our world with discord, disorder, and ugliness.

We can't nullify the Laws of Nature, but we can break ourselves against them. From the very beginning our great spiritual Teachers have tried to get this truth across to us. The Ten Commandments, given through Moses in the early stages of our mental development, were warnings against doing things that would hurt us. At that time, only warnings could be given us because we were unable to understand anything about the marvelous results possible by living in tune with those great laws.

When Christ Jesus came with His message of Love and Compassion, He showed us how to free ourselves from the terrible confusion we brought into the world by our ignorance and stubbornness. We are all equally guilty and owe it to the world to do our part in changing bad conditions—beginning with ourselves and our own lives.

All people are developing their hidden powers and climbing the road of evolution by reaping the results of actions in past lives—good or bad. When we see someone, either sowing evil or reaping the results of evil sown in the past, our first impulse or thought must be to give all the help we can, either by word or deed, if that is possible. If not, then we can always send a strong, good thought to strengthen the Higher Self of that person and help him to gain victory over the wrong conditions, whatever they may be.

Jupiter, as the messenger from Pisces, enriches and improves our feelings so that the problems and sorrows of other people become just as important to us as our own problems. It isn't possible for us to have compassion unless we do care about others and how they feel. It is in so doing that we "Love our neighbor as ourselves."

And if we want to be able to care about others, we must also know what Temptation is and how powerful it can be. In Matthew 4:10, it is written: "Then said Jesus to him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." These verses are

PRAYER

Lord of my unabashed desiring,
Give me piety to conceive Thee
Free from the image of my aspiring,
Empty my zealous mind
 of these all-too-human divine definings
And visit Thy true form
 on my transformed beholding;
For Thou canst not be present and be seen
When I lack presence
 and am blinded by worldly seeing.
Nor the word Thou ever speakest do I hear
While earthly concerns busy my tongue
 and I listen to the din of deaf doings.
Light Thou my eyes from within
 the heart of Thy Sun.
Open my inner ear to the wisdom
 that conceives in fertile silence.
Find in me a Temple hallowed,
An altar worthy of descent,
A readiness acceptable of summoning.
Thy patience is my promise of overcoming.
 In Thy absence there is no solace,
But thus does the flame for Thee burn brighter
 and this vessel Thou will fill becomes lighter.
Lord, teach me the being I must be
 to know Thee,
The loving I must live
 to be one with Thee,
And from hour to hour may my life prove
The prayer Thou wouldst most hear.

—CW

extremely important.

Christ Jesus, our Way-Shower, great as He was, met with temptations. As He gave us an example in so many things, He also gave us an example in overcoming temptations. "He was tempted and yet remained without sin."

Christ Jesus spent 40 days and nights fasting in the wilderness before He was tempted. We can well believe that He was hungry. Then it was that Satan (or the devil) came to Him and suggested: "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Christ Jesus had the power to turn the stones into bread because He knew how to work

with the Laws of Nature in order to accomplish this. Any very highly evolved person, such as the Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross, also have such power. Christ Jesus also knew, however, that one must not use spiritual power for selfish purposes. It would have been all right for Him to turn the stones into bread to feed other people who might have been starving, but it would not have been right for Him to have done so for Himself. Thus, He answered:

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." In this way, Christ Jesus showed that we must overcome the temptation of desire.

Next, Satan took Christ Jesus to the "holy city," in the first of the heaven worlds, and set Him upon a pinnacle of the temple there. Then Satan said: "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." This was the temptation of vanity, a temptation of the mind. Christ Jesus knew that He could get the whole world to admire and wonder over Him if He gave a demonstration of His ability to use supernatural power in this way.

We, too, are often subjected to the temptation of vanity, and it is sometimes very difficult for us to keep from bringing ourselves to the attention of other people by saying, "Look at me. Look what I did. You can't do that!" Christ Jesus, of course, knew better, and said to Satan: "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Finally, Satan took Christ Jesus to what is called in the Bible an "exceeding high mountain." This refers to the Second Heaven. Here is seen the Memory of Nature, the record of all that was, and is, and is to come. It must truly be a magnificent sight for anyone who is able to read it, which Christ Jesus, of course, could do. Satan then said: "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down

and worship me." Christ Jesus saw the wonders that could be His, but He also could not forget that He had come into the world to help suffering and sorrowing mankind, who would be lost without Him. His compassion and selflessness triumphed. He did not succumb to this temptation of the soul, but said: "Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

After this, "angels came and ministered unto him." So, too, do they come to bless and strengthen every person whenever the higher is victorious over the lower self.

We must remember that it is not the temptation itself, but the way in which we respond to it, that shows our spiritual strength. If we are tempted to do something we know is wrong, but do not do it, we have triumphed over the temptation. If we do it in spite of knowing that it is wrong, then we have yielded to temptation.

Resisting one temptation makes us stronger in overcoming the next one, and at the same time gives courage to stand up to it, while we pray for strength to overcome every single one.

For us, "praying without ceasing" is the only sure way we have of meeting the temptations that appear before us every day of our lives. Satan, the devil, knows so well how to twist and turn temptations according to each person's nature so as to make them attractive traps, avoided only by those who are praying and watching. We can't say exactly what our temptations will be, but we may be sure we can learn to tell they are not what Christ Jesus would have us do.

A good question to ask is: What would Christ Jesus have me do? If we use this question each day as an incentive, we shall find we receive help in overcoming. Also, we must remember to thank Him for helping us! □

—Rosicrucian Fellowship Staff Members



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