

God's Message Through the Astrological Sign Cancer

CANCER, THE SECOND of the great Feminine Signs, has to do with the bringing forth of the thought of God into physical substance. Under Taurus is sounded the Creative Word, which sets in motion the sustaining rhythms of Life along the lines determined by the Divine Will.

The work of the Feminine Principle in Cancer is to receive and hold the picture of the Plan—mirrored, as on the surface of a still, deep pool—and to impress that picture, already imbued with life, by the power of the Word, upon the living seed of every physical form at conception—"Each according to its kind."

All the ideas which we associate with the term *Mother Nature* belong to the sign Cancer: infinite fertility, infinite richness and variety of form and color, ranging from the majesty of the mountains to the dainty perfection of the tiny desert flower. The hidden magic which changes inert chemical substances into a living plant is wrought by the great feminine-forces of Cancer, as are also the metabolic changes by which the food we eat is transformed into the living substance of our bodies and, holiest and most mysterious of all, the forming of a living child within the body of the mother.

To understand the working of the Cancer forces in Nature would be to understand the central mystery of Life itself. But there are clues which, if followed, will lead us unerringly into the Holy of Holies where the wings of the Cherubim meet above the mercy seat of the Most High. There we may sense something of the glory and the wonder of that mystery. Note well this point: It was the Cherubim (the Lords of Cancer) who awakened in man the Life

Spirit, second aspect of the divinity within him, which corresponds to the Word, the Wisdom or Feminine Principle—the Cosmic Christ. In the Bible, these Beings are also called Cherubim.

In the symbolism of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, set before us at the very dawn of our self-consciousness, was pictured the whole design of God for man—the development of his consciousness through the use of his creative power (the Holy Spirit Principle) in generation; the development of his mind through the control and direction of this power; the lifting and extension of his consciousness through purification, regeneration, and service to the point of complete surrender of his creative faculties to the awakened Christ Principle within.

"No man cometh to the Father, but by Me," said Christ Jesus to His disciples. Not until the Christ consciousness has been established in us will the path of the Father be open to us, a path too exalted for our comprehension.

The outstretched wings of the Cherubim, meeting above the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies, guard the entrance to this path; but each year at the Summer Solstice, when the Sun enters the sign Cancer, the Christ passes between these outstretched wings to ascend to the throne of the Father and lose Himself, for a brief period, in the unspeakable glory of communion. There He is filled once more with the might of the Father before turning again to the task of helping us, God's blundering Earth-children, to find the way.

Those of us who aspire to hasten our journey to the Father by traveling the path of Initiation may well ask ourselves what we shall do with this mystic ray

of Cancer while it is being focused upon us.

We shall find our truest answer to this question in the brooding silence of Nature, in some spot where she is undisturbed by the noisy activities of man. It is a silence complete and immense, yet filled with life of a quality that varies with the character of the spot. It rebukes our restless minds with a voiceless message which comes sometimes as a plea, sometimes almost a command: "Be still and know that I am God."

This is the Eternal Feminine's message to us. It tells us that only in the silent sanctuary of our innermost being can God reveal Himself to us; only in the still waters of the soul can His image, His truth, be reflected.

It may seem odd to us at first that this inner stillness should be associated with Cancer, whose messenger to Earth is the roving, ever-changing Moon, the avenue of fecundation, whose ray brings life

line of communication *intuition*. As intuition develops we cease to judge or condemn our fellowman because, through that inner knowing, we gain an understanding of his position, his view point, his problems, which enables us to clasp his hand in the fellowship of Truth across any and all differences of opinion. This quality of understanding, which is eminently a quality of the "feminine principle," born of love, we call sympathy.

Since the work of the Feminine Principle in Cancer is to nourish, as well as to conceive, we find that its reflection in the physical body is the stomach, which prepares the food we eat for digestion, and the breasts, which give nourishment to the new-born child.

There is for the neophyte a lesson of deep significance hidden in the question of nourishment, for through this process a mysterious exchange of forces between the higher and the lower life waves



Cancer: One of twelve murals (oil on canvas) painted, circa 1922, by Camille Lambert (Lille, France) for the Healing Temple at Mount Ecclesia

and change and movement. But this is explained when we realize that the process of creation begins with a mental image of the thing or condition to be created, and that this image is conceived in stillness. Once conceived, however, it is a living thing imbued with creative power which starts immediately the activity needed to bring it into manifestation. Here then, are two things which we can strive for under the Ray of Cancer:

First, we can set up a censorship over the moving pictures which pass in a continuous stream across the mirror of our minds each day. We can shut out or blot out the undesirable ones, and pour the creative power of our hearts into the good ones, that they may the sooner become manifest in our lives.

Secondly, we can seek more intensively the way to that holy place within ourselves where God dwells and, by daily endeavor, establish a line of communication between that hidden shrine and our concrete mind, a line along which His message may flow to guide us in all our affairs. We call this

is accomplished. To the illumined Ones a meal is a communion service.

Another point of vital importance connected with the Cancer Ray is the rulership of the Moon over the sympathetic nervous system, by means of which most of the functions of the body are carried on. The pressure of intensive living produces in us an almost constant mental tension which contracts the nerves and muscles and interferes with the rhythmic flow of life force to the vital organs.

When, therefore, in preparing for meditation, we still the mind by an act of the will and release all tension in the physical body, we not only open the door that leads into the inner shrine, but we also set free the forces which sustain the body.

When, by earnest striving, we have succeeded in transferring our consciousness from the outer self to that mystic center of our being, we shall know the true meaning of the words spoken by Christ Jesus to the tempter: "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that pro-

ceedeth out of the mouth of God."

The "living" lesson under the Ray of Cancer is so deep and mysterious that it may be approached only in stillness.

It is when the Sun enters Cancer that the Christ returns to the Father, to be nourished and refreshed after His year-long day. In doing this, He touches the highest point He is capable of reaching. Since He is our teacher, our example, we are to learn to do the same. A study of the keywords of the sign Cancer and the message of the Moon, its ruler, will help us to do so.

Imagination is one of the keywords of the sign Cancer; it is the picture-making ability of the Spirit—our Higher Self—at its negative pole. We know that our minds, thus far, have been devoted almost entirely to reflecting the pictures and sounds of the outside world, together with the impressions and feelings of the personality about its experiences in this outer world. The line of communication between the mind and the personality is like a broad well-traveled highway, while this line of communication between the mind and the spirit is like a little path through woods, all choked with underbrush and brambles.

It was part of the evolutionary plan that we should center our attention upon the outer world in order to learn about the laws governing it, while at the same time learning how to manage properly our dense body, vital body and desire body.

Now the time has come when that little hidden path leading from the mind to the Spirit must be cleared so that the knowledge we gained through experiences in the outer world may be used by the Spirit to carry us forward to the next great step in evolution. That step will open our eyes to the worlds above the Physical World where we can see for ourselves the causes behind the things that happen in this world.

We cannot get to the holy place within ourselves where the mind and Spirit meet until we clear the path between them. Our object is to shut out all thought pictures of the busy, restless world. There is always a heavenly stillness and peace in this secret place, but there is also something thrilling about it, for it is here that the messages of the Higher Self, the God within, are received. Truths

undreamed of are given to us.

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and light shall not cease."— Genesis 6:22

At this time of the year, when Nature's physical activities are at their peak, Midsummer is celebrated, and it is only fitting that we recognize the great work done by the Nature Spirits and show our gratitude for all they do to make life more beautiful with flowers, plants, and trees. They work for all kingdoms—mineral, plant, animal and human—and help mankind in so doing.

Anyone having extended (etheric) sight may see the gnomes, elves and fairies building green chlorophyll into plant leaves and tinting flowers beautifully. They also cut crystals in minerals, making the priceless gems that gleam in golden crowns. Without the gnomes there would be no iron, silver, gold, and other metals.

The Nature Spirits about which we hear most are the gnomes, the undines, the sylphs and the salamanders.

The word *gnome* means "earth dweller", and that is what they are. One type of them frequently mentioned in stories is the brownie, or elf, a mischievous, comical looking creature about twelve or eighteen inches high. Their body is made of chemical ether.

The undines belong to the family of water spirits operating in liquid ether, close to the water elements. They help to control the course and function of water in Nature. Their body is composed of life ether.

Sylphs live in the air, their bodies are composed of the light ether.

Salamanders are the little people of fire; their bodies are made of reflecting ether. They are the invisible fire element of Nature. Without them, material fire could not exist; no match could be struck, nor would flint and steel give off sparks without their assistance. They appear immediately when brought forth by friction.

All four classes of Nature Spirits work with our life wave, giving most valuable and necessary service. That is why we owe them our heartfelt gratitude. □

—Rosicrucian Fellowship Staff Members