

God's Message Through the Astrological Sign Capricorn

THE FORCE represented by Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn, has to do with both the beginning and end of manifestation. This force was the agent active in setting the boundaries of the Universe, in crystallizing God's thought into form in the substance of all planes, thus marking the descent of the Spirit into Matter.

The sign Capricorn is the tenth sign of the zodiac and is, according to Rosicrucian philosophy, the tenth great creative Hierarchy. In *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, we are told that the great creative hierarchy of Capricorn is comprised of the Archangels, the humanity of the Sun Period.

Christ is the highest Initiate of the Sun Period and an Archangel. He is "The Son."

The Archangels are expert builders in desire bodies, and work with the animals and man.

In the latter part of the Moon Revolution of the Earth Period, the first germ of separate personality was implanted in the higher part of the desire body by the Lords of Mind.

The Archangels were active in the lower part of the desire body, giving it the purely animal desires. They also worked on the desire bodies where there was no division.

The force represented by Saturn was involved also in awakening the Ego to consciousness on the physical plane. It is through this force, now focused on the Earth by the mighty planet Saturn, that the conquest of Spirit over matter, and the sublimation of matter into Spirit is to be achieved on the return journey to God. As said before, Christ Jesus, who has taken upon Himself the task of helping us to this achievement, is the highest Initiate of the Archangelic life wave, which

belongs to the Hierarchy of Capricorn. Each year at the Winter Solstice, when the Sun enters this sign, Christ completes the cyclic concentration of His forces in the center of the Earth, of which He is Lord and Master.

During the three months that follow, He is working within the Earth, sustaining and renewing the life principle of all evolving things upon the planet. His powerful love-radiations are also cleansing and vitalizing the higher vehicles of man to the degree in which he is, individually and collectively, able to respond to them.

We take up the study of thought and motive while the Christ is working upon our inner being, thus laying the foundation for the study of action under the sign Aries, where the spiritual forces which have been working inwardly burst into outward manifestation. The outstanding truths considered in the Capricorn lesson include:

- 1) Thought as the hidden seed from which all action and all manifestation spring; the reactions of our thoughts under the Law of Cause and Effect; the relation of our habitual thought-life to the yearly coming of Christ.

- 2) The picture of the Universe held in the mind of God, and the faithful, ceaseless work of all orders of Beings, above and below Man, to bring the Divine Plan into manifestation.

- 3) The physical body as the dwelling place of the Ego, its beginning as a thought-form, its long evolution; Saturn's particular work in the body, the skeleton, which is a reflection, in form, of that hidden framework of God's thought upon which the Universe rests. His life is the sustaining principle in both.

Since the Cosmos is the pattern upon which our

lives are to be molded, we seek the application of these truths to human life and conduct.

The one great lesson to be learned from the consideration of God's Plan in operation is that we, together with all self-conscious beings, are called upon to work with the Plan; that our highest good and our greatest joy are bound up in the Plan and can be attained only when we have learned to conform our lives to its divine purposes.

Following the Right at all costs is the first step toward this attainment. Hence, *self-sacrifice* has been chosen as one of the keywords of Capricorn, the sacrifice of the outer form to the life within, the obedience of the outer self to the God within. To yield this obedience is but to exchange a lesser and temporary good for a greater and everlasting good. It is, therefore, a sacrifice only from the standpoint of the personality, and then only in the first stages of self-discipline. When the beautiful results begin to flow in, it ceases to be a sacrifice, and the term loses its meaning.

This transfer of our allegiance from the Form to the Life is the supreme ideal set before us by the Great Ones who work through the sign Capricorn.

The recognition of thought as the creative power behind all activity forces us to recognize also the necessity for controlling this power in our own being and directing it into channels that are in line with the purposes of evolution. The conscious control and direction of thought is *concentration*. Therefore, *concentration* may be said to be the mental keyword of Capricorn.

Concentration, or focusing thought on a single object, idea, or mental picture, is like using a lens to see a single planet or a particular portion of the heavens: When we look at Saturn, that is all we see, for we have pointed the telescope to it alone, even though the room may be full of people. Maintaining the single focus steadily on a thought permits the Higher Self to send light and power through the lens of the mind into the thought picture to which it is pointed, filling that thought picture with energy and enabling it to fulfill its intended purpose. Every time this is done, more life is poured into that thought, making it stronger.

The Higher Self of each person, which is a part of God, does its best work when we completely

forget our lower self. That is why, when concentrating in prayer, we sit with the physical body in a comfortable position, staying perfectly still, with spine erect, and muscles relaxed and at ease.

The Ego needs and uses the complex physical body in many wonderful and mysterious ways. One of the important things we need to learn is how to give this higher part of ourselves free play in the physical body as well as in every other part of our being.

Concentration can be used in examining some object of interest, in working out a problem, or performing a task. One of the advantages of concentration is that it increases the speed and accuracy of accomplishment. If a lesson or task seems difficult or uninteresting, it can be made interesting and done so with surprising ease by employing concentration. After doing this a few times, we will discover that our Higher Self knows much more than the personality or lower self and stands ready to help whenever we give it a chance.

We may say that *consecration* is the emotional keyword of Capricorn. It is drawn from the absolute devotion with which all orders of Beings above man give themselves to the realization of the Plan of God.

Faithfulness in following the urges and warnings of the Higher Self is the first step toward consecration. It forms when the desire to follow the call of our true Self is stronger than any desire of the personality.

How often we have heard the words: "Loving, self-forgetting service to others is the shortest, the safest, and the most joyful road to God." There is a deep, hidden meaning in this statement. As we come to a better understanding of God's Plan for the progress of all mankind, we are eager to learn, and speedily at that. However, as truths slowly unfold, we realize that there is a great deal more to life than we ever dreamed. For example, what may seem unfair and unjust in life is not so at all.

There is considerably more to our existence than what is encompassed in our present lifetime, which may be likened to a day in the School of Life, as there are many grades in our educational system. Some make their grades with ease, others struggle and barely pass on to a higher level, while still

others do not make the grade at all. So it is in Life's School. The knowledge that we have lived many lives before this one, and will live many more before we reach the perfection of God's Plan, includes that we all become more tolerant of others' shortcomings (and we all have them, although not exactly the same ones). This makes us more willing to be helpful to others, while showing kindness and love in doing so.

Eventually we send a joyous outpouring of goodwill to all people, who really are our brothers and sisters, for God is the spiritual Father of us all. True, we do not always get along with brothers and sisters in our families, but we must learn to do so; that is why we have been brought together in the family relationship. This is one of the things Christ Jesus came to teach us.

Mankind's progress has been slower than it should have been, so we must grow in love and service to others, beginning with our family, and spreading out into the community, into the city, the state, the nation, and into the entire planet. Only in this way shall we progress and have peace on Earth with goodwill to men. As more and more people learn to do this, wars will be no more.

Another keyword of Capricorn, *support*, calls first for the recognition of the Ego as the sustaining principle in the physical body, the invisible support without which it could not exist. Capricorn has specific rulership over the knees, and a significant point is found in the association of the bended knee with humility and worship and the unbending knee with pride and arrogance.

These are some of the truths to be learned under the sign of Capricorn. These truths give a view of the foundation underlying all lessons we must learn while on Earth. They present, obviously, only the barest outline of the vast work going forward under the guidance of the twelve Creative Hierarchies of the zodiac. But this simple outline, if built into the consciousness and lived, will open in turn each of the Seven Seals of God's great Book of Life, to reveal at last the full glory of its message.

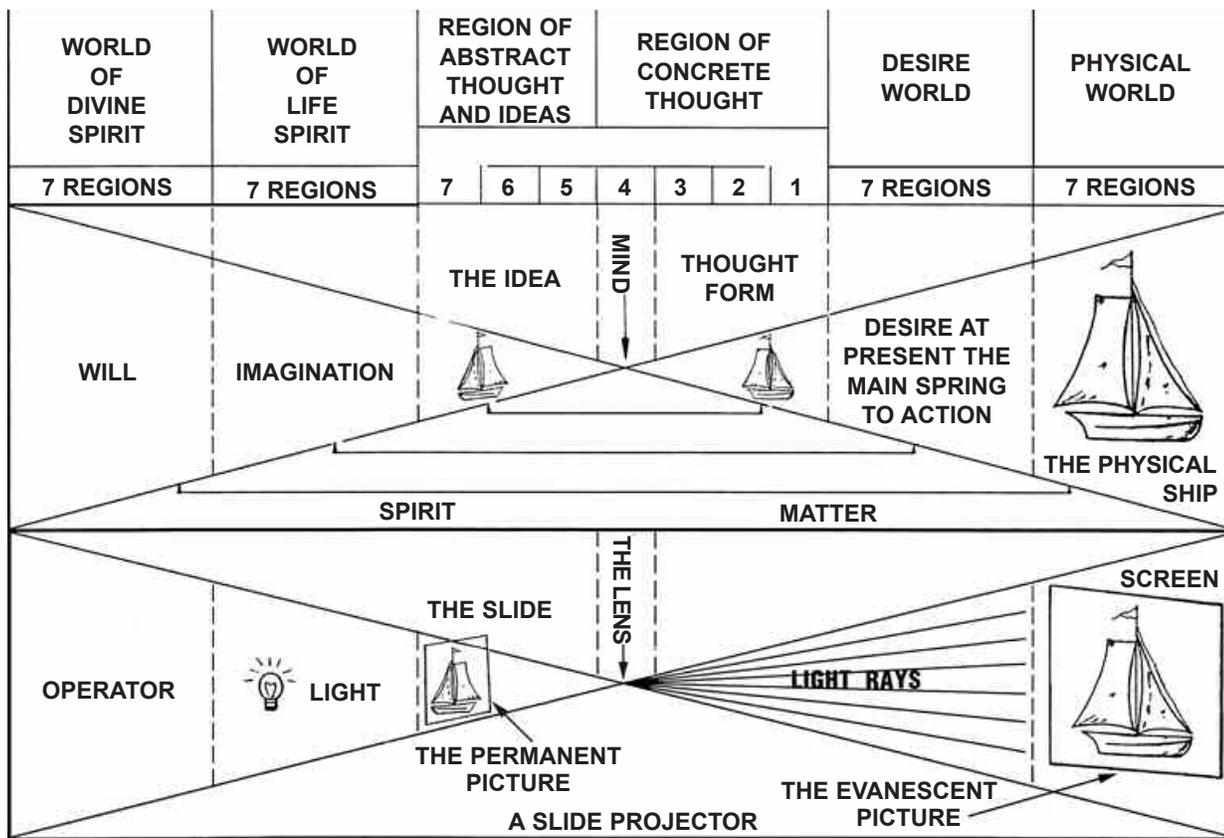
Let us now consider some of the qualities we may evolve with the help of Saturn, ruler of the Capricorn.

In the symbol of Saturn (♄) the cross of matter is above the half-circle of the soul, denoting also the brain mind. It is that which gives persistence to the impulses of Mars and symbolizes the relatively permanent part of the lower nature, that which has been weighed and found to be of use. Saturn is, therefore, symbolical of the seed-atoms of man's lower vehicles, wherein are stored the experience of all past lives. Hence, Saturn denotes mechanical ability, chastity, and justice; the perseverance and material attainments which have been made into virtues through his purging influence. He stands as the reaper of what has been sown in the body, and as such he appears often in life to chastise us for the wrong we have done, in order that we may learn the lessons of how to act rightly.

The seed-atoms enable the Ego to gather in each world the substance needed to build its instruments; that is to say, to build again the mind, the desire body, the vital body, and the dense body.

With the entrance of the Sun into the sign Capricorn, we come to one of the four crucial points in the year. It is the point marking the completion of Christ's entrance into the Earth. His great love for mankind led Him to take upon Himself the burden of the Earth until poor, blind humanity should awaken to the realization of its glorious destiny of spiritualizing the planet Earth. This may be done only when man realizes that he is his brother's keeper and, as such, must love his fellowman enough to sacrifice the world's pleasures by living a life that is true, honest, and helpful in the fullest sense of the word. To accomplish this, we look to the ruler of the sign Capricorn, Saturn, for his direction as to what we must do. His message is, "Stop and think!" When we do so, we shall find we can hear the still, small voice within (God speaking) helping us to choose the right course of action. Thus we make fewer mistakes, and one day we may become helpers in doing what Christ now does continuously to keep the world afloat in its orbit.

We conclude our study of Capricorn by presenting one of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's poems entitled *The Law*, which wonderfully characterizes qualities and energies associated with this cardinal sign and its ruler, Saturn:



The mind is the focus through which the worlds of Spirit are projected into the denser worlds of matter. In the Saturn Period, The Lords of Mind were human and worked with mental substance as we humans are now working with mineral substance. When the Ego concentrates its will on and in matter, projected thought forms (mental images) can be physically embodied.

The sun may be clouded, yet ever the sun
Will sweep on its course till the cycle is run,
And when into chaos the systems are hurled,
Again shall the Builder reshape a new world.

Your path may be clouded, uncertain your goal;
Move on, for the orbit is fixed in your soul;
And though it may lead into darkness of night
The torch of the Builder shall give it new light.

You were, and you will be; know this while you are:
Your spirit has traveled long and afar.
It came from the Source, to the Source it returns;
The Spark that was lighted eternally burns.

It slept in a jewel, it leaped in the wave;
It roamed in the forest, it rose from the grave;
It took on strange garbs for long eons of years,
And now in the soul of yourself it appears.

From body to body your spirit speeds on;
It seeks a new form when the old one is gone;
And the form that it finds is the fabric you wrought
On the loom of the mind with the fibre of thought.

As dew is drawn upward, in rain to descend,
Your thoughts drift away and in destiny blend.
You cannot escape them for petty or great,
Or evil, or noble, they fashion your fate.

Somewhere on some planet, sometime and somehow,
Your life will reflect all the thoughts of your now.
The law is unerring; no blood can atone;
The structure you rear you must live in alone.

From cycle to cycle, through time and through space,
Your lives with your longings will ever keep pace.
All that you ask for, and all you desire,
Must come at your bidding, as flames out of fire.

You are your own devil, you are your own God,
You fashioned the paths that your footsteps have trod,
And no one can save you from error or sin,
Until you shall hark to the spirit within.

Once list to that voice and all tumult is done,
Your life is the life of the Infinite One,
In the hurrying race you are conscious of pause,
With Love for the purpose, and Love for the cause.

—Rosicrucian Fellowship Staff Members