

Virgo

Spiritual Keyword of Virgo is.....	Service
Mental Keyword.....	Discrimination
Emotional Keyword.....	Devotion
Physical Expression	Intestines
Function	Assimilation

If we analyze the work laid out for us by our Cosmic Teachers under the zodiacal signs from Aries to Leo, we shall find that our lessons under these signs are directed chiefly toward acquainting ourselves with our being: its constitution, its powers, and the right use of these powers in the evolutionary work of gaining experience.

Our recent Leo lessons had to do with the establishment of the Spirit within us as ruler of our being, as a tribunal before which all our activities and experiences are to be brought for judgment. Under Virgo, Libra, and Scorpio, our heavenly Teachers incite us to sift and weigh and make use of experience in order that we may climb to a higher level of being. We find also that the Creative Hierarchies in this section of the zodiac are concerned with the development of the vehicles which the three-fold Ego is using to contact the three lower planes of Nature: the dense Physical Region, the Etheric Region, and the Desire World.

It is to the Lords of Leo that we owe our dense body, the temple of the indwelling Ego and the instrument used by the Divine Spirit in building the Conscious Soul. It is the Lords of Wisdom (Virgo) who gave us the germ of the vital body, that radiant body of ethers used by the Life Spirit in building the Intellectual Soul. But this is only one phase of the mani-

fold service rendered to our life wave by the Lords of Virgo who, *through that service*, have risen to the place of greatest responsibility among the seven Creative Hierarchies now working actively with man. Thus they demonstrate to us the cosmic principle of service as enunciated by the Christ when He said, "He that would be the greatest among you, let him be your servant." (Matthew 23:11).

To analyze the part played by service in the Divine Plan would be to lay bare the hidden threads that bind all orders of evolving beings together.

Service in the cosmic sense is at first unconscious, as in the case of the mineral kingdom which gives of its substances to build the physical vehicles of plant, animal, and man; and the plant which gives its dense and vital bodies to sustain the lower vehicles of animal and man.

The animal also serves by giving up its body to feed others of its own life wave, as well as by giving food or raiment to human beings, but only under compulsion: when overcome by the superior strength or agility of other animals or by the ingenuity of man.

Man himself has passed the stage when he needs to give his vehicles in this way to sustain the lower vehicles of those above him on the ladder of being, but he is incurring a debt to the life wave beneath him which he will some day recognize and gladly pay.

The service which man renders to his fellowmen today is also given largely under compulsion of one kind or another, but one by one we lagging children of Earth will respond to the love call of Him who is the "Servant of all" and will learn in time what is the "breadth and length and depth and height" of service as God knows it.

Each of the three great Mother Signs, Taurus,

Cancer, and Virgo, is bound up with the Christ Mystery, with the involvement of life in form and the sustaining of the form. The varying aspects of Nature under the three signs give us a clue to the part which each plays in the Cosmic Drama: under Taurus, the joyful growth of springtime; under Cancer, the rich flowering of summer; under Virgo, the fruitage, the *harvest*. It is under the Virgo Ray, then, that Nature gathers in the fruits of her labors and stores them away to serve as the nucleus for a new cycle of experience.

In the physical body of man the Virgo Ray works through the intestines to perform the function of assimilation which is a process of selection and absorption.

Do we not find in all of this a clear indication of the work to which God calls us during this solar month, while the radiations of the Lords of Wisdom are being focused upon us? The assimilation of experience! Mercury, the planet of Mind, as messenger of Virgo, lends his ray to help us check up on the use we have made of the Christ Impulse sent forth at the Vernal Equinox, and helps us to develop the discrimination needed to analyze and classify our findings in accordance with the principles of Truth.

It is through the use of discrimination in this practice of retrospection, analysis, and classification, that the fruits of experience are assimilated and absorbed. This work affects strongly and directly the vital body, the germ of which was projected to us by the Lords of Virgo *from their own being*.

The vital body with its constitution and correlations offers to the neophyte a field of spiritual research which can hardly be equaled in richness and importance, for this instrument, through the medium of the four ethers of which it is composed, is used by the Ego as a sort

of clearing house for all its activities. Its correlation to the work of the Virgo Ray will be obvious to the student who analyzes that work.

As the instrument of the Life Spirit, the Christ Principle in man, it also gives us a clue to the diversified character of the work done by the Christ Principle, both in man, the microcosm, and in Nature, the macrocosm. It is a work that binds all departments of our being together, as it binds all the departments of Nature together, by establishing lines of intercommunication which reveal their inter-relationship.

In Virgo we find the mental ray of Mercury blended with the love-ray of the Christ to accomplish the work of assimilation. This tells us that the magic touch of the Eternal Mother, the Love-Wisdom Principle, is as necessary to the building of the Intellectual Soul as it is to the building of the physical form we occupy. Therefore, in the retrospection and analysis of our experiences the mental quality of discrimination must be backed up by a strong *devotion* to the ideals of Purity and Truth, if the desired results are to be attained.

It is through persistence in such intelligent and devoted work as this that the mind gradually becomes invested with the creative power of the Christ Principle, and we grow toward the ideal set before us by Virgo, the Virgin Mother, the "Woman clothed with the sun (Spirit) and the moon (Form) under her feet."
—Rev. 12:1.

Libra

Spiritual Keyword of Libra is	Equilibrium
Mental Keyword	Judgment
Emotional Keyword	Poise
Physical Expression	Kidneys
Function	Purification

We enter the solar month of Libra with the consciousness that the Christ Ray is returning to the Earth, to sound again throughout our planet His note of Love and Light and Life.

Of the four cardinal signs which mark the phases of His yearly cycle, none holds for us more important lessons than Libra, the Sign of the Balance. When we study the Divine Plan as it unfolds itself before us in the heavens month by month, we cannot help but see through all complexities of detail one aim that stands paramount: the attainment of balance between the positive and negative poles of Being — Spirit and Matter, Life and Form, the Creator and the Thing Created.

When man, the immortal Spirit, became so completely involved in Form as to identify himself with the body in which he dwelt, he tipped the balance in his own being to the negative, or Form, side. As a consequence, the vehicles, so laboriously built through the ages of involution to be his tools in dealing with the problems of Form have themselves become his problem. The confusion now existing in his world is only the reflection of the confusion he has wrought within himself by giving his lower nature, the personality, the place in his consciousness which should be occupied by his eternal Self, the Ego.

The whole purpose of the Western Wisdom Teaching is to help us to recognize and correct this unnatural state of affairs so that the equilibrium, lost so long ago, may be regained. It is only when we, as Spirits, begin to strive consciously for mastery over our vehicles that we discover how much power we have delegated to this threefold personality of ours, and what a strong and subtle influence it wields over the mind, the very instrument we must use in accomplishing our task.

St. Paul says, "I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I find another law warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:22,23). This "law of sin" in our members is nothing more or less than the unholy cravings we have gratified and the habits we have formed in previous lives, the *vibrations* of which have determined the quality of our vehicles in this life. But we have created these vibrations and we can change them by following with unwavering loyalty the direction given us by Christ Jesus, our Lord and Redeemer.

The conscious work which we do upon our vehicles at this time, will prepare us to respond more intensely than ever before to His glorious radiations, now touching the aura of the Earth with renewed power.

Under the influence of the Sun in Leo, we strove to become conscious of the Divine Life vibrating in every cell of our physical body, that we might *know* this to be literally the "temple of the living God", work designed to bring the physical body under the complete control of the Spirit and to build the Conscious Soul.

Under Virgo, with the help of Mercury, we strove to analyze and classify our experiences and to understand the inner trends of character with which these

experiences are connected, work designed to develop the vital body and build the Intellectual Soul.

Now, under the influence of the Lords of Individuality (Libra), we turn our attention to the discipline of the desire body and the building of the Emotional Soul.

It was the Lords of Individuality who gave us the germ of the desire body in the Moon Period and who today, through Venus, their planetary messenger, are helping us to mold this vehicle into some semblance of the marvelous instrument it is destined to become. The fact that Venus serves as an intermediary between us and the Lords of Libra indicates the vital part played by love and purity in the attainment of that equilibrium for which Libra stands.

The phase of purification of which Venus is in charge, under the Divine Plan, is accomplished by separating the good from that which is evil for the purpose of conserving the good and *letting go* of the evil. The chemical balance of our physical body is maintained in exactly the same manner by the kidneys (which are the reflection in our miniature cosmos of the sign Libra) where harmful elements are filtered from the blood stream and needed elements conserved. This physical process of purification shows us clearly how we should go about the work of purifying our inner life and balancing the various elements in our nature, by cleaving to the good, and filtering the evil out of our being.

This action of the Venus Ray throughout Nature tells us that love and purity are touchstones which enable their possessor to distinguish between the true and the false and that they are, therefore, necessary elements of judgment — such judgment as is in harmony with Cosmic Law.

Let us call upon the Love Ray of Venus now in forming our judgments of the various tendencies operating within us, that we may decide which are leading us along the way of truth and which are leading us into by-paths of confusion. When we attempt to put these judgments into effect as rules of conduct we shall become acquainted with the particular disciplinary needs of our individual desire body, for since the desire body is the body of action, no action can be put into effect without its aid. When we inaugurate a new order of things or intensify our campaign of progress we find this vehicle continually balking against the orders of the will, sometimes through rebellious impulse — the undisciplined force of Mars — and sometimes through inertia, which is the lack of the Mars force in us.

Only love, and the understanding born of love, can check those flashes of power which dart forth from us against our will, to cut, or sting, or confuse our fellow wayfarers whom we, as neophytes, want to aid. Only love can build a new incentive to action when discouragement and defeat have led to stagnation of the will. Only love can replenish the reservoirs of life when passion, worry, and waste have left them empty.

As long as our desire body is controlled by Mars we are "under the law" and cannot escape the payment of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," but to the degree in which love directs the energy of Mars in us and poise takes the place of impulse, we liquidate our debts and gain the glorious freedom to which Christ Jesus calls us. As St. Paul tells us, "Love is the fulfilling of the Law."

Scorpio

Spiritual Keyword of Scorpio is.....Power
 Mental Keyword.....Intensity
 Emotional Keyword.....Transmutation
 Physical Reflection.....Generative System
 Function Reproduction

When we enter upon the study of the sign Scorpio, we are approaching the mystery of Life in its most powerful and most intensive expression. Scorpio is the department of Nature through which pours the mighty power of the Holy Spirit to produce all living forms. What mind can measure the depth of that power and what words can describe it? The best that we, God's Earth children, can do is to bow in awe before it and pray for understanding.

All that we have learned by study and practice in our journey through the other signs of the zodiac must be melted and blended into one, if we are to do the work God calls upon us to do under the Ray of Scorpio. This Ray is administered throughout the Cosmos by the Lords of Form. Therefore a survey of the work done for us by this Creative Hierarchy will give us a clue to the use which we should make of the Scorpio power as it manifests within ourselves.

It was the Lords of Form who, previous to the Earth Period, actually did the principal work upon our dense, vital, and desire bodies under the direction of higher orders, using the evolving life, we are told, "as a kind of instrument." Thus they established with us a peculiarly close relationship. Because of this work upon our vehicles they were given charge not only of the precious living germs of these vehicles but of the Human Spirit in us as well — the counterpart in man

of the Holy Spirit, the creative, form-building principle of God.

Now, in the Earth Period, when we as evolving Spirits are having our crucial test in dealing with the problems of Form, these great Beings, who carry so large a share of responsibility for our progress, overshadow us in a special manner with the power of the Holy Spirit, and sound in the depths of our being the call to creative Godhood.

Mars, their intermediary, stirs the creative fire in man to keep it alive and active, and thus urged on, man has used this power to conquer the elements of earth, fire, water, and air, on the physical plane; but he has still to conquer and blend these elements within himself. The physical body (earth), the vital body (fire), the desire body (water), and the mind (air), must be brought into alignment and attuned to one another and the forces which play through them balanced and controlled before he can answer the call of the Holy Spirit and take his place in the Plan among the Sons of God.

The work of aligning and attuning our vehicles goes on insensibly from month to month as we endeavor to respond, in all faithfulness, to the particular radiations focused upon us. Under the power Ray of Scorpio the opportunity is given us to hasten this process of transmutation, to weld together, as it were, the gains we have made and take a long step forward on the mystic path that leads from *generation* to *creation*.

We ask ourselves how may we best take advantage of this opportunity. The answer is, by delving into the very depths of our being and gathering all the powers that we find there — powers of mind and body, of heart and soul — and forming of these the spiritual

“scourge of small cords” with which to drive the “money changers” from our temple — the false conceptions, bad habits, and weaknesses which cheat and betray our high purposes when we least expect it. Purity of motive and intensity of purpose are needed for this task. Without these no progress can be made, but the intensity of which we speak is not the intensity of clenched hands and taut muscles. It is the still intensity of the Spirit that sets the body free from every tension and burns its way, like a white-hot torch, through every barrier that would block its way.

In the Libra lesson attention was called to the fact that throughout the Cosmos the force of Mars is always counterbalanced by the Love-power of Venus. We repeat this statement here, because without some realization of the relation between these two forces the mystery of Scorpio must remain for us a sealed book. A study of the operation of these twin forces in our own being will help us to gain this realization.

The path that leads from generation to creation is indicated in the zodiac by the pair of opposites, Scorpio-Taurus, and in the human body by the pair of creative organs, the organ of generation, ruled by Mars, and the organ of speech, ruled by Venus, the larynx, through which some day the *creative word* is to be spoken. The straight line between these opposites in the heavens and their prototypes in the physical body is “the Path”, called by Christ Jesus the “straight and narrow way.”

In following the winding road of evolution we cross and re-cross this mystic, hidden path, but with eyes that “see not”, for the following reason. We gained our consciousness in the Physical World through use of the creative force in generation, and since, have leaned so heavily toward the gratification of desire that the Mars force has become the dominant factor in

human relations, working destruction everywhere because the balancing Love-power of Venus has remained comparatively undeveloped.

But where love has found an entrance, there the process of *regeneration* has begun; and as Venus blends her ray with that of Mars, mellowing, refining, redirecting this force, the consciousness is at last awakened to the glorious purpose of life, and the entrance to the narrow, shining way is disclosed to us.

When this awakening has come we begin to know something of the sacredness of generation. We know that the power of the Holy Spirit comes upon every human mother as it came upon Mary of Nazareth, regardless of her capacity to understand the mystery that is being consummated in her. A mystery, indeed, for the interaction of forces involved in the birth of a human being are identical with the interaction of forces that bring a universe to birth. "As above so below."

Since it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that Life involves itself in Form, we may say that Scorpio is the point at which the two meet. It is therefore the gateway through which we come at birth and through which we pass again at death.

When once our feet are planted firmly on "the Path," birth and death appear to us as incidents in life. As we travel step by step along this mystic way, the creative fire which has operated for so many ages from the sacral region of the spine, begins to shine like liquid gold and rises by imperceptible stages to its ultimate goal in the brain, the goal that spells for us Initiation, and releases in us the power of the Word.

Sagittarius

Spiritual Keyword of Sagittarius is Aspiration
 Mental KeywordScope
 Emotional KeywordReverence
 Physical ReflectionHips and Thighs
 FunctionLocomotion

As we enter upon the solar month of Sagittarius, we come under the influence of the Lords of Mind. It was these great Beings who gave us the germ of the individual mind that we possess today, and it is they who hold before us the living archetype of the human mind as it is to be, a glorified instrument permeated with the life and light of the three-fold Spirit and under its command. Year by year, at this time, the Lords of Mind focus upon us the creative fire of the Holy Spirit to urge us on in the building of this mind that is to be. Let us then, while under their stimulating influence, delve as deeply as possible into the process of mind building, that we may understand more clearly how the work is done, and give to our heavenly Teachers a more ardent and effective cooperation.

The mind, as we have learned, is three-fold in its development and operation. There is first, the subconscious mind which controls (by means of the sympathetic nervous system) all the functions of the physical body. This department of mind is at present under the sway of cosmic forces focused through the Moon. It is the faithful recorder of conditions which prevail within and about us at every moment of our lives. But, although it operates entirely without our volition, the subconscious mind may be converted into a powerful ally of the will, for the following reason:

It tends to induce a *repetition* of the thoughts, feelings, and actions which it records, and *we may make that record what we will.*

The conscious mind comes next in order of development, and this is the tool with which we must work our way to the higher reaches of mental power. In our study of this phase of mind, under Gemini, we noted how closely our mental vehicle is bound up in its development with the desire body. An understanding of the nature of this tie is essential to the one who seeks a true realization of the principles involved in spiritual unfoldment.

A study of the diagram of the Seven Worlds (*Cosmo-Conception*, page 54) will help us to clarify our conception of the situation. Let us realize, to begin with, that man has within himself the replica of the cosmic planes here pictured, and that as he develops the vehicles correlated to each plane, he creates within himself the conditions corresponding to the particular region in which his thought is focused.

It will be noted that in the diagram the mind lies between the Human Spirit, which operates in the Region of Abstract Thought, and the instrument of the Human Spirit, the desire body, which operates in the Desire World. Thus, its closest connection is with the two vehicles through which the creative fire of the Holy Spirit is seeking expression. The mind itself is situated in the fourth, or uppermost, division of the Region of Concrete Thought, and stands ready to clothe, in the living material of this region, every image projected to it from above or below. (It must be remembered that the terms "above" and "below" relate to rates of vibration and not to points in space.)

It can readily be seen that the line of development for the mind would be determined by the vibratory

quality of the thought forms it is called upon to make. The fate of the thought forms after they are created depends upon the reactions they produce in the fourth region of the Desire World, the Region of Feeling, where interest vivifies or indifference kills them.

With the diagram before us, let us endeavor to trace the effects of the interplay between the desire body and the mind. As long as the interest is centered in the desires, impressions, wishes, and feelings of the personality, the thought forms created are almost entirely reflections from the three lower regions of the Desire World. These have a crystallizing effect upon the mind and cast it in a narrow mold that chains the consciousness to the realm of Form. This, as we know, is what has happened in man, but all the forces of Nature are bent upon the breaking of that narrow mold, and sooner or later it *will be broken* in each of us. Sooner or later we shall "know the truth, and the truth shall make us free."

This release is brought about by the action of the twin laws of Repulsion and Attraction in the Desire World, one of which, under Mars, whips and tears out of our being the false creations of selfish desire, while the other, under Venus, cherishes and preserves every vestige of attempted good. This whole drama of action and reaction is reproduced in the sensitive living substance of the mind. Gradually the sorrow and pain incident to the continued action of the Mars forces call forth a deeper, wider range of emotion, and this, with the accumulation of good, makes it possible for the tender, purifying Ray of Venus to penetrate our being and turn the desires to higher levels. This brings us, in an increasing degree, under the influence of the Law of Attraction and we are definitely through with the grosser phases of experience.

The vibrations of the mind are heightened by this process. It becomes more amenable to the Will of the Spirit. Reason begins to assert itself, to judge the images projected into the mind from above and below, and to choose which among them shall become the basis for action.

Two dangers meet the evolving man at this point. One is the danger of becoming so enamored with the exercise of Reason as to turn all the currents of the desire body into mental pursuits and interfere with the development of this vehicle, thus blocking the growth of the Emotional Soul. The mind, trained in this way, will grow in power and may penetrate far into the Region of Abstract Thought, but will never find the secret of the Plan because it lacks the illumination which soul-power alone can give. The second danger lies in becoming contented with the degree of harmony attained under the Law of Attraction and centering the interest in the beauty of the personal life and the beauty of the outer world, thus binding the consciousness by the power of *attraction* to the realm of form.

It is Jupiter, the Great Benefic, working in the ray of Sagittarius, who alone can draw these two extremes to a common center and set them to work on the building of the Higher Mind, which is a *joint* product of Intellect and Heart. Little by little, under his repeated call, there is awakened in us a desire to share with others such treasures as we have gathered on the road of evolution.

Gradually this desire takes form and blossoms into humanitarian service. The love, which was confined to a narrow circle of chosen ones, becomes a flame that reaches out to all God's children. Under its glow the mind expands. Reason, which before was powerless to find the Way of Life, now holds a flaming

torch that enables it to see the whole glorious vista leading, from the spot on which we stand, straight to the heights of attainment.

Pride is lost as the scope of our vision widens, and in its place is born a tremendous reverence for Life in its every expression. Every step of this process, as well as the part played by the senses, is registered in the light and reflecting ethers of the vital body. These grow in volume and luminosity as progress is made, becoming at length the Golden Wedding Garment, or Soul Body, which the Ego can use at will as a separate vehicle, freed forever from the limitations of the physical body.

In the physical body the Sagittarius Ray reflects itself in the hips and thighs, *which make freedom of motion possible.*