

the birth of the spiritual. As a force working alone, and for separate selfish ends, Mars causes great selfishness, and in its influence we can trace the working of the three deadly sins—Anger, Lust, and Greed. But when its influence works co-operatively, then we may trace its higher working through Patriotism, Heroism, and Self-sacrifice.

We have only to recall the word “mafficking” to realise how quickly a Martial fever will spread and infect all who come under its expansive influence. But fortunately for us as a **A Martial Victory** Nation we can also respond to some extent to the higher vibrations of Mars, as witness the Nation’s response to the Call. The critical state of the Government, the financial danger, and the general discord through which we were passing at the time when war was declared, afford lessons in connection with the influence of Mars that none but the wilfully blind can fail to recognise; yet from the foolishness of Mars we came to the better side, and we are now in the throes of a struggle for a Martial victory *in more senses than one.*

It is the same with Nations as with individuals—the struggle in both cases is for INDIVIDUALITY. A nation is in the youthful stage until it is matured
Lesson I. or has reached the individual stage. Just as the fires of the five senses are gathered

up into the mind of the individual, so must the discordant part of a nation be gathered up into an individual unity.

The FIRST LESSON OF *MARS*, for every Individual, as well as for every Nation, is that the Mind, in the youthful stage of evolution, is *the slave* of the Senses, and in the pursuit of pleasure the senses become a playground for the mind. In this sense the fool obeys his stars; while the wise men, who have ruled their stars, declare—Thou shalt not let thy senses be a playground for thy Mind.

“ It was the privilege of Kings in ancient days to consult with the wise men, who not only studied the pictures in the heavens, but had also the insight to read therein the histories of nations.

“ Each nation was under the guiding influence of a STAR ANGEL whose influence not only brooded over the nation, but also chastised and at times brought about its apparent destruction in order that it might rebuild itself anew having profited by failures in the past. The great world drama has been written by the Supreme Spirit, and to each angel moving in the circle of the spiritual spheres control over certain places and kingdoms has been given. The written play contains many acts, each act closing a cycle in the vast scheme of evolution at the appointed time.

“ It is said that the actors are chosen according to their ability to fill certain parts; some must play what we term, for want of an appropriate word, evil parts. Others are destined by their own choice of training to fill those parts we term good and noble, but each man plays his part at the appointed time and place.”

Modern Astrology, October, 1914.

LECTURE II.

SYNOPSIS. The Culminating Star of the Material World—Philosophy, Maturity — The Age of Competition, Self-Assertiveness, Combat and Self-Righteousness — National Self-Consciousness — Ambition, higher and lower — The Struggle between Might and Right—The Critical Stage—The Second Lesson of Mars.

IN our first lecture we noted the influence of MARS as the Rising Star of the Material World, its influence over material science and its energising power

♂ Rising over youth accounting for the development of force, passion and assertiveness. We followed the working of this ray through National consciousness in its struggle for individuality, finally illustrating the province of Mars in regard to the senses, and taking for the first lesson of Mars the controlling and guiding of the senses which we saw would become a great factor in the progress of human evolution.

We have now to follow the influence of Mars into that period of human history where Mars becomes the Culminating Star of the Material World.

Before we follow the red ray of Mars to its material culmination, we must give some attention to the philosophical side of our subject. In the
 Culminating[♂] former lecture we laid stress upon the influence of Mars over material science, affecting natural science, physical science and mechanical science. Strange as it may seem however to those who view Mars as a purely material planet, Mars also governs what may be termed moral science, which may be termed the ultimate or specialised influence of Mars in its relation to all the various departments of science, so far as the obtaining of concrete knowledge is concerned. The ultimate and final perfection of the red ray of Mars has a moralising influence; and, in a moral sense, as distinct from the spiritual, we can trace its energising influence through the emotional soul as a quickener of the birth of the SPIRITUAL.

As an individualised Self, every human being is essentially a white spark of the Divine and all-embracing Light, "the Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world." This spark
 A Child of God is enclosed in a colourless film of matter; the light may be taken to symbolise the spirit, and the film of matter the soul through which it is to manifest.¹ Every human being is potentially a child of God, the

¹ Life itself comes from heaven. It is an emanation of the supreme power of the universe; but it requires a substantial vehicle for its manifestation. It has been said that 'Life is consciousness turned outward, consciousness life turned inward.'

Heavenly Father; and although white or 'colourless' in the beginning, directly the denser regions of the material world are touched a change takes place. For the Divine Spark can only reach the matrix of matter through the great Spiritual Intelligences who preside over the planetary spheres of influence. These great beings take charge of groups of souls and, correctly speaking, it is under the influence of one of Them that the individual is born; Who thus represents our Heavenly Father, our true "individual star."

The Monad, or unit of consciousness, is a seed placed in the concrete world of matter under the protection of

The Wheel
of Destiny

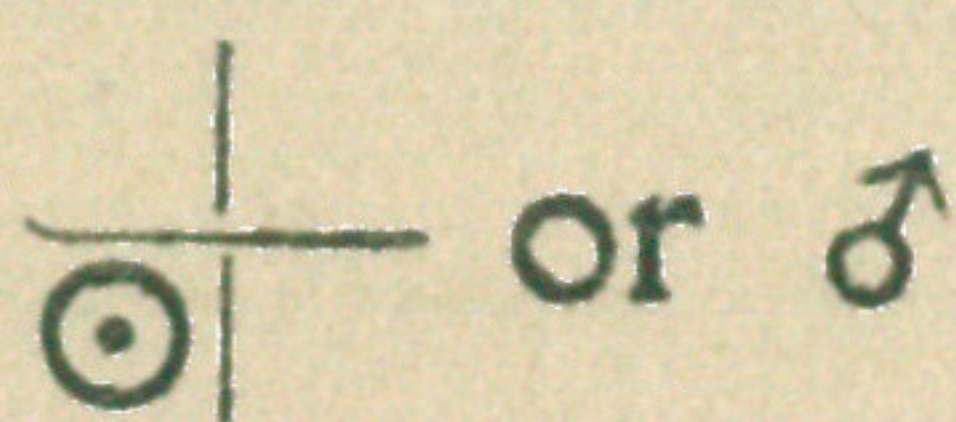
one of these seven spheres of influence, from which it obtains its first touch of colour, or what we commonly term the

Individual Ray. Speaking astrologically this "seed" is guided to the particular spoke in the Wheel of Destiny which is known as the Rising Sign, over which the ruling planet of the personality presides (p. xii). Looking at a horoscope metaphysically, the centre of the map represents the seed of the individual, and it grows along the line of least resistance through one of the lines which we know as the cusps of the houses. This wheel is constantly turning, it is the wheel of necessity, carrying all souls outward into material manifestation. The horoscope is a bewildering maze, as the world is to the uninitiated soul.

The World's Horoscope, at the present cycle of our

evolution, begins with the sign ARIES; it is the typical ascending sign of the four cardinal signs, The World and when on March 21st the Sun enters Horoscope Aries a fresh vital impulse is given to the whole globe, it is the spring time of the year when all life is bursting forth anew. Mars is therefore the ruling planet of the world at the present period, and the RED RAY is most in evidence. Speaking in a general sense, the red ray of Mars is the most attractive to every individual; it is the line of least resistance to the majority, since it is the ray of desire in us all, and it has primary influence over every personal ego through the emotional or animal soul. There is not a single thing in the manifested universe that has not some hidden attraction which appeals, more or less, to our desire nature; for even those things not directly under the influence of Mars have a sub-ray of the martial influence in them. Therefore into the red ray through all the sub-divisions of Mars the young ego puts forth his instinctual consciousness, owing to his connection with the animal world through his lower bodies, derived from the matter over which the Zodiacal Signs preside according to their varying qualities.

Now to follow the influence of Mars at its rising on the eastern horizon we must remember that the symbol of the Sun rising is that of the planet Mars, the Cross (matter) over the Circle (spirit), the Cross dominating the Circle



with the promise of eventual conquest by the latter. From the rising, or dawn, of a new day to the hour of noon we have two distinct motions, or connections, between the planet Mars and the Earth, symbolical to some extent with those conditions we term fate or necessity, and freewill or choice.

Through the diurnal motion of the earth by which she revolves once on her own axis in a day of twenty-four hours, all the heavenly bodies in the solar system, including the Sun and Moon, appear to rise, culminate, and set—to rise again when their cycle has been completed.

Two
Motions

This is represented by the mundane cross, + the cross of matter, with its four angles corresponding to the North, East, South and West points of the compass; it is a symbol of the crucifixion of spirit through matter. As these lectures are intended to be instructive as well as interesting we must consider separately the two distinct motions of the earth and planets, and as we are dealing with Mars in these lectures we shall consider that planet alone in these two motions. (i) The earth revolving upon her axis causes all the planets to be carried from East to West, while (ii) the planets in their motions along the belt of the zodiac appear to move in the contrary direction,—that is, according to the order of the signs from Aries to Pisces.¹

¹ These two motions will be the better realised if the reader takes the first opportunity of noticing the position of the nearly full

Following the motion of Mars week by week we find that it moves from Aries through the signs to Capricorn, which is termed the exaltation of this planet; Capricorn is also the 'culminating' sign of the zodiac, being the tenth of the zodiacal signs, and therefore corresponding to the tenth house of a horoscope. Mars moving from the first sign Aries to the tenth sign Capricorn is *one* motion, requiring a little under TWO YEARS to complete; but Mars moving from the first house to the tenth, or from the Ascendant to the Midheaven, is *another* motion caused by the earth's rotation and occupying but SIX HOURS. In both cases Mars may be said to culminate; in the one case *by rotation*, the earth's motion carrying it to the midheaven; in the other case *by revolution*, its own orbital motion taking it into the sign Capricorn. When in the Midheaven, irrespective of the sign, we use the term "accidentally dignified"; if in the sign Capricorn, irrespective of the house, we use the term "essentially dignified"; but if Mars were in the Midheaven, and also at the same time in the sign Capricorn we should say that the planet was both accidentally and essentially dignified. *From the standpoint of moral science the difference is worth*

Moon, at about the same hour on two successive evenings. He will find it some 12 degrees farther from the western horizon on the second evening. During the 24 hours it has therefore been moving from West to East.

careful attention, since it has an important bearing upon character and destiny.

Mars has general rule over the five organs of sense. In the physical body the senses are primarily summed up in the sign Aries, governing

Sense- the brain and the head as a whole.
Rulership

The range of the influence of Mars, so far as the physical senses are concerned, extends from Aries to Scorpio, the sign representing life and death; Aries denoting life in the living fire of the brain, and Scorpio death or regeneration in the living waters, or vital fluids, of the body. In the primitive and unregenerate man Mars has full dominion over the brain (as we saw in our last lecture) governing the cerebellum or base of the brain, in which all the driving forces of the passions and emotions are situated. The centres in the brain are connected with each sign from Taurus to Scorpio in a particular manner, these signs becoming sub-influences of the sign Aries and the planet Mars. In the sign Taurus the sense of smell is developed: it is the first of the earthy signs, and the sense of smell is generated through the nose, throat and sensorial organs at the base of the skull. In the sign Gemini, the first of the airy signs, the sense of touch is developed. In the sign Cancer, the first of the watery signs, the sense of taste is developed, Cancer ruling also the stomach and the digestive organs. In Leo the sense of sight is developed

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through the light of the Sun ruling this sign: note that Leo rules the *second* decanate of Aries, signifying self-consciousness. Virgo and Libra govern the internal organs of the brain, at present undeveloped, the pineal gland and pituitary body. The whole of the senses having their centres in the brain, Aries, the day or positive house of Mars, are summed up in the generative organs directly under the rule of the sign Scorpio. In generation the rudiments of the senses are projected through Scorpio, the negative or night house of Mars.

These eight signs under the province of the red ray of Mars represent the strong bow of Arjuna, but the arrow which he shoots from this bow, which a strong man alone can draw, is symbolised by the sign Sagittarius, the Horseman or Archer. Note well that Sagittarius rules the *third* decanate of the fiery sign Aries, signifying super-consciousness. It is the arrow of devotion which the regenerate man shoots from the physical to the celestial world.¹

When the race of Mars has been run through the senses and finds its passional expression in the sign Scorpio, it is either a question of continual generation, or

¹ The decanates are spaces of 10° or the third part of a sign, and bear rulership as follows:— γ , γ Ω \ddagger ; δ , δ ♁ ♃ ; Π , Π ♄ ♆ ; etc., the three decanates of any sign being ruled by the signs of the same triplicity taken in order, e.g., Ω , Ω \ddagger γ : hence the third decanate of γ is in many respects similar to the second decanate of \ddagger (γ - \ddagger = \ddagger - γ). In these sympathies lies one of the great keys of Astrology: (*Esoteric Astrology* p. 269).

Generation
 v.
 Regeneration

the upturning of the vital forces through
 regeneration; the continuance of the
 multiplication of the one into the many, or
 the return of the many into the One.

From Aries, the first sign, to Scorpio, the eighth sign, it is a continual expansion and circulation of the life forces, in matter or form, symbolised by the figure 8 or the circle returning on itself; and in each sign there is a continual pleasure of expansion, each sense adding to the delight and joy of the emotional soul. Pain comes only when the capacity of the sense organ for yielding pleasure is strained beyond its normal limit, bringing reaction and pain; the right use of the generative life affords ample pleasure for the average man or woman, but its *abuse* in any direction produces pain and sorrow. Each sign contains the germs of vice as well as virtue, but normally each sign is a mode of motion only, through which certain planetary vibrations find their line or mode of least resistance, such as the rotary, vibratory, and translatory modes of motion.

Having fulfilled the duties arising out of the normal use of the senses and realised, through the inner senses, the higher life, the man who is regenerated through Scorpio can bend the bow of Arjuna with sufficient strength to slay all his enemies, his lower selves, and shoot his arrow of devotion into the realms of the heavenly world. Scorpio is a sign in which we may find the ending of

Will
 v.
 Desire