

What an illusion! What a fallacious dream! Of all the deceptive influences in the world there is none to equal the self-deceiving Neptune. Truly the German Empire has reached a critical stage wherein the illusory principle that "Might is Right" is involved. We have seen that the midheaven is the culminating point of the material world, we have seen also the real meaning of Mars as the culminating star. Now is to be witnessed a drama of which we already have the Programme and Book of the Words, and we know beforehand what the Last Act will reveal.

Pisces, equivalent to the twelfth house, we believe to be the sign of self-undoing *in the lower, as well as in the higher, sense*. Taking the whole of "The sign of the signs of the zodiac, (so far as they are related to animal-man), to represent some phase of the emotional soul, Pisces is the sign in which Mars is decidedly weak so far as the powers and virtues of Mars are concerned, such as courage, heroism, and strength. It is the sign in which the planet Venus is exalted; and from this standpoint it symbolises the dissolution of the emotional soul and the ending of the personal ego. Pisces is always a dual sign and is symbolised by two fishes swimming in opposite directions, which denotes the soul in its upward tendency towards the higher consciousness, and the

"The sign of
the Prophet
Jonas"¹

¹ Matt. xvi. 4. This sign is Pisces (see *Secret Doctrine* i. 717).

tendency downward once more through the cycle of necessity.

The influence of Mars in the sign Pisces on the midheaven in conjunction with Neptune is an exceedingly paradoxical one. It shows that the height ♂ ☿ ♀ in ♋ of ambition has been reached, but still there is a dissatisfied yearning for more than can be achieved or realised. It denotes a morbid craving for the unattainable, and an enormous wasting of energy to achieve that which is doomed to end in depression and despair. "Might is Right" may well be the false illusion shown by this position, and Mars, being accidentally instead of essentially dignified, shows the inevitable fall.

Looking at the influence of Mars in the horoscopes of those monarchs whose nations are now engaged in this world war, we see that Mars sets in the
 Nations at War
 horoscope of the Emperor of AUSTRIA, and is in square aspect to Jupiter, an influence sufficient to disturb the world's peace. The sign Aries sets, and Jupiter is on the cusp of the fourth house in the sign Capricorn. For Austria it is the *ending* of wars. (Map 2)

As to RUSSIA, note the position of Mars in the Czar's horoscope; it is in the ninth house and means the rebirth of his nation. Mars here is in square aspect to the Austrian Emperor's ruling planet, Venus, and falls in his seventh house. Russia was behind Serbia

all through the Balkan troubles. Mars, ruler of the ninth house in the Czar's horoscope shows that the Russian nation looked upon the struggle as a Holy War, and the War has certainly had a religious influence in the drink restrictions. (Map 7)

GERMANY had most of the Mars influence, it being the most elevated planet in the Kaiser's horoscope; and it is now evident that the world was 'glamoured' into believing that the Kaiser desired peace while the nation had been steadily preparing for war for many years. The Kaiser's horoscope is a deceitful one, yet while he wilfully deceived the world he also deceived himself. (Map 3)

To say that the horoscopes of monarchs have no national influence is to deny the truth of Astrology. If

Other Nations we look into the King of ITALY's nativity we find Mars and Saturn applying to the place of Venus in the Kaiser's map, and in square aspect to the Kaiser's midheaven. Italy will not support Germany. HOLLAND will be clever if she escapes being drawn into the struggle, but will be wise in remaining neutral, for she has more to gain by peace than war. SPAIN will also be lucky if she escapes, but may follow Italy. All these nations are now at what may be truly termed the critical stage of their evolution, and the spring and summer of this year will decide the fate or destiny of Europe. (Maps, 8, 9, 10)

How remarkably Cancerian the Kaiser has proved

himself to be, may be judged by his quoting the words of John Knox, "A man with God on his side is always in the majority." The Kaiser is certainly not with the God we have been taught to know as a God of Love, so that he must mean the God of War; and the God of Battles is at present most assuredly engaging the attention of the majority. But the Kaiser is only following in the footsteps of the old despots who had a tribal God, otherwise he would repudiate the Hymn of Hate, which exhibits the worst side of the martial red ray—its purely selfish and material influence. Yet after all the Kaiser is but a Pawn in the great game of life, and the god he calls upon so often has moved him on the path of destruction, and not on the road of regeneration; that is left for the Nation itself to work out later.

Now what is the Second Lesson of Mars? In the previous lecture we learned the first lesson as it applied to individuals. Here we give it as Lesson II. applied to nations. It is that LAW is superior to WAR.

"We all hate war. I have travelled a great deal about the world and I have seen all sorts of conditions of men and women, but I have never met any one or any body of men who hated war so absolutely sincerely as the best type of officer in the Navy and Army. Let there be no mistake about this. One of the false premises of the syllogism put forward by the modern school of pacifists is that preparation for war is provocative of war, and that admirals, commodores, and captains, generals, brigadiers, colonels and staff officers are panting for war. This is not a mistake; it is a lie."

ARNOLD WHITE in the "Daily Express" 22/3/1915.

LECTURE III.

SYNOPSIS :—The Setting of the Star of Materiality—The Changing World—Moral Victory or the Decline and Fall—National Super-Consciousness—The Ideal State—Unity at home and abroad—The Transmutation of Mars.

STARS rise, culminate, and set. We have in the previous lectures dealt with the rising and culminating influences of Mars, the War Lord. We have now in this third and final lecture to consider the influence of Mars setting. As before, we shall first deal with the individual influence, and then apply our ideas to the national aspect of its influence.

We have considered the first Adam, the animal or purely emotional man who is partly animal and partly human, as related to the first and eighth signs of the zodiac, Aries and Scorpio, signs that are directly connected with the brain and the generative organs, the signs ruling those parts of the body most active at the present stage of our evolution; Aries representing the male Adam, and Scorpio the female Eve. We

have considered the midheaven as the
 ♂ — ♄ — ♀ culminating *house*, and Capricorn as the
 culminating *sign* of the zodiac. We
 have indicated how the influences of the planet Mars are
 tempered by the green ray of Saturn, the ruling planet of
 the sign Capricorn, and have shown how man through
 the emotional soul is divided, so to speak, against
 himself or against that portion of himself which we
 term the rational mind. We have also considered the
 influences in the regenerate man, that is in the human
 as apart from the animal when his experiences bring him
 to the *end* of the "red ray" in the sign Scorpio.

We have now to view the whole subject from the
 standpoint of the setting star, when its culminating
 influence has waned, and is no longer
 ♂ dominant in the material world. For the
 moment we must consider the influence of
 the animal in man, in what may seem an arbitrary
 manner, in order to illustrate this waning influence of
 the planet Mars.

All men have been individualised from the animal
 kingdom either through the attractive power of love, or
 Love, through the separative influence of fear,
 or hate and similar differentiating agencies
 Hate which split off the emotional soul from
 the animal Group Soul to which it has hitherto belonged.

So far as the great majority of human beings are
 concerned, the planet Mars produces an effect that is

$\frac{3}{4}$ still three parts animal in its rudimentary
 $\frac{1}{2}$ or rising influence. When the culminating
 $\frac{1}{4}$ influence is reached, Mars is half animal
 and half human, for here the red and green
 colours are blending ; but until the green ray has wholly
 absorbed the red the animal tendencies are liable to over-
 ride the human. As the human becomes more and more
 pronounced, however, by a right attitude towards duties
 and by the recognition of responsibilities, so does the
 animal recede, and the life of the man becomes more
 decidedly human through sacrifice and service. In our
 last lecture some emphasis was laid on the exaltation of
 the planet Mars in the sign Capricorn, the house of
 Saturn, and we may profitably pause awhile to consider
 the two most prominent symbols of this sign.

In the symbolism of all the civilised nations of the
 earth we find the Crocodile and the Goat associated
 with Capricorn. In the Hindu zodiac
 Capricorn this sign is known under the name of
 "Makara," meaning that which informs
 the animal soul and makes of it a Rational Man. The
 secret meaning of this name is discovered through the
 words *Mara*, who is the unconscious quickener of the
 birth of the spiritual, and *Kumara* ; also in the pentagon,
 or the five pointed star. It is also the symbol of
 Ahamkara, or the *I*-making faculty which is so necessary
 for human evolution.¹ The crocodile is also found as a

¹ For a full explanation of the meaning and relationship of these

symbol for Capricorn in Egypt, where Horus stands triumphant upon the bodies of two crocodiles, one representing the powers of darkness and the other those of light. In the man-fish and the man-goat or fish-goat glyphs we have again the symbols of good and evil.

In the Biblical story of the scapegoat, two goats were presented to Yahveh or Jehovah on the day of atonement; and the one on which the lot fell

Scape-Goat had to be sent to Azazel in the wilderness, bearing the sins of the congregation.

(*Leviticus* xvi 7-22). The Day of Atonement signifies the *at-one-ment* when the purified spirit is united with the good spiritual forces. Taking the story as a parable, the scapegoat sent into the wilderness is the emotional soul that is not yet sufficiently purified and which therefore has once again to tread the weary circle of necessity in a physical rebirth; to gain, out of experience, the key of initiation which shall *quicken* the birth of the spiritual. All the symbols connected with the sign Capricorn reveal the mystery of the human soul born out of the emotional influence of Mars.

January, the month of Capricorn, derives its name from Janua, a gate, and Janus, the Roman god of doors and gates, who was represented with two

January heads looking in opposite directions. His temple in Rome was kept open in war

words, see references in *Secret Doctrine*, Index to Vols. i, ii (and separate index to Vol. iii) under headings:—‘Makara,’ ‘Mara,’ ‘Kumara,’ ‘Pentagon,’ ‘Ahamkara.’

time and shut in the time of peace—a very significant symbol of the sign Capricorn and its wonderful meaning. There is another strange symbol connected with Capricorn that we should do well to understand. It is the “Cave of Rising,” for it is connected with the birth of the Christ who was born in a cave at the Winter or Capricorn Solstice and represents the rising of the Sun when winter is over.

The turning point of all martial influences is when Mars is culminating, for it is exalted there to the zenith of its power, and it is then that the The Turning lower self is tempted and the struggle Point really begins between the man-animal and the God in man. This is the spirit striving with matter, and it is here that Saturn or Satan tempts the soul to test its true worth by showing it the power it may have over the whole of the material world. But if the material world is to be renounced, and the desire for worldly power and possessions exchanged for the light of wisdom and truth, then before the spirit of the Sun can rise out of the midwinter cave of darkness, the influence of Mars—so far as it represents the personal ego and emotional soul—must set.

To the human soul that has transmuted the animal nature, the world appears to change; the whole sense of proportion is altered, and there is an A Changing World entirely different standpoint. The senses, no longer masters, have been conquered

and made obedient servants, the moral tone is increased, and the personality falls below the higher self and becomes subject to it; in fact, self-consciousness gives way to a wider consciousness, in which the self embraces all other selves. Isolation and separation are known as forms of matter only, and the human soul in seeing all other souls as sparks of the One Great Flame becomes spiritualised, and knows, with an inner realisation, that there is only ONE SELF—the Divine Self.

Before we pass on to a consideration of national states of consciousness, we may profitably take a survey of the influence of the planet Mars from its rising to its setting so far as each individual is concerned as a part of the whole human family.

Passing through the ethers of space there is a vast wave of light, heat, and colour flashing like a great searchlight from the planetary sphere of the globe we know as Mars. This globe of light is permeated by the wonderful light of the Sun, and, if we may put it so, that light in passing through the Mars sphere is brought into relation, so to speak, with the red ray of the solar spectrum,—one of the three primary colours. As a creative principle it colours the individuality of every human being with a faint tinge of red, and that RED RAY gives birth to the emotional soul, and so links the divine being, or individualised self, to all things in the material

The
Red Ray

world that are influenced by the red ray of the solar spectrum ; the rate of vibration of which is farthest removed from the violet ray.

The Soul is said by some to be a sensitive point in the human brain, and Descartes placed it in the organ

known as the pineal gland. The brain is
 A Switchboard practically a switchboard between the
 main current of vital electrical forces coming from the planetary spheres, and the whole of the human body. This body is dominated by the soul which governs the organs of sense and is the animating principle of the base of the brain, and of the muscular systems ; and these are connected with the whole of the nervous system throughout the body.

What is it, then, that moves the various switches connected with the main switchboard in the brain ?

It is the THOUGHT of the man. It is a well-known fact to those who study the inner springs of human nature that Prana, or life, follows thought ;
 and its Operator to which we may add, that colour changes with the *nature* of the thought. All

thoughts of love and affection are rose colour. All thoughts of sensuality are a deep red of a coarse dark or muddy hue. Every thought we think carries with it a colour vibration, which is either fine or coarse according to the nature of the thought. Just as all the planets are moving in a great ocean of energy, and are kept at a certain distance from the Sun by a balancing of attraction