

CHAPTER XI



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A Visit to the Sixth Liberal Art

How often would we dare repeat an oft-quoted definition of Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is a system of 'morality', veiled in allegory; illustrated by symbols.



OF COURSE THIS DEFINITION could equally well apply to most of the ancient Mystery School Teachings, the basis of which is still with us in many quiet ways. In Freemasonry, some of the very first symbols to which we are introduced are the 'Point,' the concept of Unity, and, in the case of the Arms of the Antient Grand Lodge (also to be found in the Royal Arch Banner), the symbols of the Lion, Eagle, Ox and Man. In the Middle Chamber there is a discourse concerning the Seven Liberal Arts, of which Astronomy is one. In the next few pages will be presented an outline of a possible relationship between the 'Point,' Unity and the Arms (Banner) noted above.

Regarding this Sixth Liberal Art, Astronomy, the NY Ritual of 1944 told us in the Middle Chamber Lecture that “. . . there is no people so barbarous as to fail to understand their [heavenly bodies] language . . .” In 1775, William Preston wrote in his “Illustrations of Masonry” that Astronomy is “. . . that divine art by which we are taught to read the wisdom, strength, and beauty of the almighty Creator in those sacred pages, the celestial hemisphere.” In this regard, let us begin with an Astronomical fact [paraphrased from *Ars Collegium*, Journal of the Onondaga Districts Historical Society, Spring Issue 1996, pg. 5].

The Circle of Space, the Heavens, when viewed from the Earth may be imagined as a Belt about 15 degrees wide, along which the Constellations travel. This Belt or Path is divided into 12 equal parts of 30 degrees of Space, one for each of our 12 months, and one for each sign of what is referred to as the Zodiac. The planets travel along this path from West to East through each of the 12 equal parts, or signs, in the following order:

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aries | 4. Cancer | 7. Libra | 10. Capricorn |
| 2. Taurus | 5. Leo | 8. Scorpio | 11. Aquarius |
| 3. Gemini | 6. Virgo | 9. Sagittarius | 12. Pisces |

The symbolism and allegory related through the zodiac, not as a mundane system of fortune-telling for personal or commercial use, but as a tool for the attunement (atonement, at-one-ment) with the Creator, has evoked many systems of philosophical thought over many millennia. A zodiac was inscribed on the vaulted ceiling of the Temple of Isis at Dendarah in ancient Egypt, about 100 b.c.e., with the unusual perspective of the observer being the center of it. The stars and constellations upon it are in the positions they would have been in around 700 b.c.e..

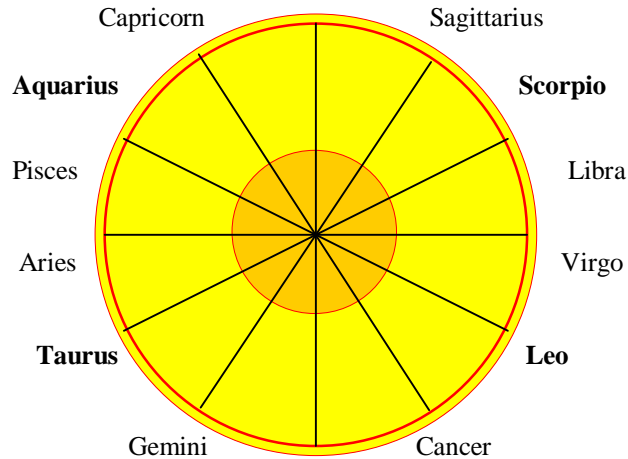
The zodiac, meaning a “Wheel of Animals,” presently consists of twelve signs, each ‘ruled’ by a corresponding planet. The signs are additionally divided into three groups of four, called ‘quadruplicities,’ which in their proper order represent the four elements of fire, earth, air and water. In tabular format this would all appear as follows:

	Sign	Symbol	Common Name	Ruling Planet	Element	Metal	Month
1	Aries	^	The Ram	Mars	Fire		Mar 21 - Apr 19
2	Taurus	—	The Bull	Venus	Earth	Copper	Apr 20 - May 20
3	Gemini	^	The Twins	Mercury	Air	Mercury	May 21 - Jun 20
4	Cancer	a	The Crab	Moon	Water	Silver	Jun 21 - Jul 22
5	Leo	b	The Lion	Sun	Fire	Gold	Jul 23 - Aug 22
6	Virgo	c	The Virgin	Mercury	Earth		Aug 23 - Sep 22
7	Libra	d	The Balances	Venus	Air		Sep 23 - Oct 22
8	Scorpio	e	The Scorpion	Mars	Water	Iron	Oct 23 - Nov 21
9	Sagittarius	f	The Centaur	Jupiter	Fire	Tin	Nov 22 - Dec 21
10	Capricorn	g	The Sea Goat	Saturn	Earth	Lead	Dec 22 - Jan 19
11	Aquarius	h	The Water Bearer	Uranus	Air		Jan 20 - Feb 18
12	Pisces	i	The Fishes	Neptune	Water		Feb 19 - Mar 20

Freemasonry and a View of the Perennial World Philosophy

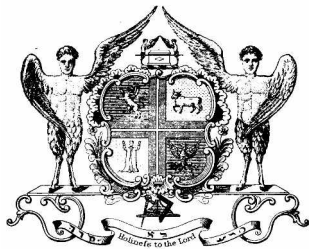
In the normal chart format, the Signs appear as below.

Figure 11.1: The Zodiac Wheel



With the chart now represented, it may be said that it takes about 2141.23 years (1 Solar year) for the sun to pass through one sign of the zodiac, or about 25,694.8 years (12 x 2141.23) (1 Sidereal year) for it to make one complete circuit of the zodiac.

Some researchers report that the alignment of the Sphinx to Leo and the three pyramids on the Giza plain indicate its construction to be around 10,500 b.c., while the sun was in Leo. We are now in the (dawning of?) the Age of Aquarius. The Age of Pisces began about 97 b.c. (Rudhyar) or 125 b.c. (Thierens). We are most definitely going through a significant cyclical transition.



With no apologies, we find the four italicized 'Fixed' signs of the Zodiac in the Arms of the Antient Grand Lodge (the Bull - Taurus; the Lion - Leo; the Eagle - Scorpio and the Man - Aquarius). This Seal was borrowed from the Arms of the 'Ancient & Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons' of England, which seal was chosen by Laurence McDermott (adopted March 1st 1775), which he in turn borrowed from Rabbi Jacob Jehuda Leon (1602-1675), who borrowed it from an unknown source. [ref. *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, Vol. 96, pgs. 146-169. See also Chapter IX of this book, "The Four Veils of the Royal Arch . . ."]

The Astrology to be found in the daily newspaper is a mere toy, compared to a more contemplative usage of it. These symbols, and all other symbols, however, present a paradox in the Light of the *Point* and *Unity*. The Dominicans and Franciscans are well noted for 'their' philosophical or religious belief that 'In Unity is Diversity; in Diversity is Unity (or Dumas' 'One for All and All for One')'. Where does this leave us with regard to TWELVE signs of the Zodiac or the Arms of the Antient Grand Lodge?

To begin with, we now have two things of note:

- The Arms of the Antient Grand Lodge is arranged in a quadrant, the quadrants being delineated by a cross.
- The Zodiac is a Wheel of Animals, a Circle of Space in the Heavens.

Masonry, for very good reason, speaks of Unity. A Cross is commonly thought of as a 'Four,' and the Zodiac is perceived as a 'Twelve.' Both a cross and a circle have a center, the center of which is a Point (which, according to the 1944 NY Ritual, ". . . has position, but not magnitude, and is the beginning of all geometrical matter . . ."). Let us consider this "Point" as being like a Mustard Seed -- a Seed.



SEED, IN SYMBOL, represents a potential for growth, a beginning, and as containing in its seed form the properties of its Father (masculine aspects) and Mother (feminine aspects) and all of the potential of the past, present and future, in the form of a 'Child' or 'Progeny' of the Father and Mother. The ancient Mystery Schools speak of the 'Mundane Egg,' the 'Great Mother-Father,' the 'Cosmic Egg,' the 'Widow's Son' (Horus, son of Osiris and Isis, in the Egyptian Mystery School, was a 'Widow's Son'), or of some similar primordial 'beginning'. In a more exoteric sense, this Egg or Seed could

be the onset of an idea: a plant, a building, a journey, a job, a marriage, a meal, or any other 'thing' which has the potential for being 'born,' of having a life cycle and of dying . . . of Time and Space.

When this 'seed' is viewed as a journey through the Zodiac, as a Unity, an interesting perspective of it may be seen, in terms of Cycles and Seasons* (allowing that 'time' may not actually be as we perceive it), as follows:

Of Cycles and Seasons

*You call me Master; you call me wise.
I am as you say, and more . . . and yet less,
for I only recall to your remembrance . . . that which you have forgotten.*

Of Cycles and Seasons – Lee Miller – 1982



1. **ARIES** (The Ram - ^): Every 'thing' born of man has a beginning, a middle and an end. This, of course, is not to be confused with the ancient teaching of 'I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning *and* the end.' Living, as we do for now in the world of man, a beginning is representable in the Zodiac in the sign of Aries, which from ancient times has represented 'new beginnings.' The time of any beginning is 'NOW,' or that time in which we find ourself. As a curious fact of life, the only actual time we can live *is* NOW. The past is always 'behind' us, as a memory, and the future is always 'before' us, as a hope (or in some cases a dread). In a manifest NOW rests the potential of each individual of the SEED which the moment brings, containing within it the past, the present and the future. This could be such a potential as:

1. I am in my car, approaching an intersection: do I turn right, left, or go straight.
Do I back up or stop dead in my path?
2. It is lunch time. Where and what shall I have for lunch, or do I skip lunch?
3. Lodge meets tonight. Shall I attend?

The ongoing process of Life is a continual flux of the potential brought by each NOW we live. This 'flux' or 'flow' is pretty much determined by our *perception* of our past and of our future (although there is a much deeper factor regarding this 'flux' and 'flow'). 'Where have I been, what has been my experience, what do the experts say, what does society say, what is the law, and/or what do I prefer' all tend to shape the NOW in which we find ourselves. In the Lodge we are asked, "Whence came you, and whither are you traveling . . .?" How many would be able to answer this question in exactly the words which we are *given* to use for this question . . . if the words were not *given* to us.? Without being given the response, what would OUR answer be to this question? Many of you have witnessed the act being "caused" to do something at a Door, or that brief moment of confusion until the Candidate is *given* the word(s) at the altar. The potential of the ARIES 'New Beginning' is an incredible miracle-in-living.

Having this potential, having arrived at a NOW, what is the next step?

In considering this next step we should reflect for a moment on what is the SEED, the potential, of the NOW we are experiencing. Is it *perceived* as a 'good' seed or a 'bad' seed. Perhaps we find ourselves with a gun in our hand, or some other allegorical situation which could be 'harmful' to 'us' or 'another.' In the case of any seed, however, as taught from most ancient times, what is harmful to another is harmful to us. This is but the smallest example of teachings concerning this seed in ARIES.



2. **TAURUS** (The Ox or Bull - _): This next sign is represented by an animal with four feet on the ground. It is known as an 'Earth' sign. In this regard it is a very fitting symbol regarding our SEED. In Aries, we addressed a small part of the 'potential' of the new beginning. In Taurus we find a PLACE in or at which to PLANT this seed. Obviously, if we opted in the first sign of Aries to do Nothing with the seed, the question of planting it becomes somewhat moot, except that by NOT planting the seed, perhaps we HAVE planted it in a way in which we are not aware. Sometimes by 'failing' to act on something, other things, great or small, occur by our failure to act. In this case the planting occurs in the fact that we ACTED on something through our not acting upon it.

Regarding a PLANTING in general, Taurus receives the SEED in its EARTH. We might then ask, "What kind of SOIL has been chosen in which to plant the seed.? Is it toxic waste? Is it fertile? Is it beneficent or detrimental for what it may yield? Has it been planted in such a manner or 'time' as to realize a sufficient potential for its maturation? A seed which is exposed to too much *water* may possibly rot and not germinate. One which is exposed to the *wind* may blow away or dry up. One which is exposed to too much *sunlight* may burn or dry up. One which is

buried too deep in the *earth* may die in its tomb, never to receive its nourishment or see the light of day. In verse, this has been expressed in a small section of the book, Matters of the Heart, *Love's Quest - Le Morte d'amour*, as follows:

. . . As the Oak, we, too, may see
the rhythms of our Earth,
and Know the way to flow with Life
which from our thoughts give birth.

The Sun will help to nourish it
or bake it 'til it's dead.
The Water, too, is food for it,
or rots it in its bed.

We build our hopes on thoughts of clay
pursuing what we 'need,'
forgetting that the Earth will claim
our every earthen seed.

The Air breaths Life into the seed,
or blows it to its death;
The Earth may be its source of Birth
or tomb of withdrawn breath.

But when we Know the Source of Earth,
and Water, Fire and Air,
these Elements cannot prevail
upon what we would dare . . .

Lee Miller - c 1982

* * *

The preceding is of course an allegory concerning the ancient elements of Air, Earth, Fire and Water, which are portrayed in our Grand Lodge Seal as the Man (air), the Ox (earth), the Lion (fire) and the Eagle (water). This SOIL, this earth in which a SEED is planted is very important to its maturation. The proper balancing of the Elements (daubing with untempered mortar), concerning the proper mixture of water, of air and of fire (light and heat), and earth is paramount to its survival in the most appropriate manner. Any imbalance could affect the growth of the SEED according to the nature of the 'imbalance,' relative to our expectations or the potential arising from such 'imbalance', whether 'expected' or not. It is well that we wear our apron with the flap up at this time until we are 'passed' or 'raised' to a greater awareness of the 'mortar' to be created with these Elements.



3. **GEMINI** (The Twins - ♊): The SEED having been PLANTED in the EARTH of Taurus, now finds itself flowing to the next sign, assuming the proper conditions and balance have been attained for it to reach this step.

A SEED can fail to germinate, but if properly planted it will germinate and spring to Life; the cells will divide and multiply [in a very precise geometrical progression] to produce a Child from the Marriage or Union of the Father (Aries, ruled by Mars) and Mother (Earth - Taurus, ruled by Venus). But before we would dare to think that this is becoming abundantly clear, we may wish to consider a few things. First, Gemini is the sign of the Twins, a logical representation of a cell dividing. Next, let us consider that no man has ever Created a seed (although he has manipulated genes 'for the betterment of mankind or for proprietary gain), nor has any man ever Created the 'Spark' necessary to produce LIFE. How then did we come to have this SEED and who or what gives it the 'Spark of Life' . . . the quickening.

Every sign of the Zodiac has assigned to it a 'Ruling Planet.' In the case of Gemini, the ruling planet is Mercury (Roman name) or Hermes (Greek name). Mercury, in mythology or allegory, is the Messenger of the 'gods' and may be found in our Lodge room as the Senior Deacon, who "attends to alarms at the inner door, receives and conducts candidates & carries messages from the W.:M.: to &c. Yes, it is in this sign that the SEED receives the spark of Life and begins to grow, assuming that the conditions of the previous two signs have been met. Be aware, too, of the 'Twin' aspect of each 'Child.' All too often we are aware of only a small part of the objective part of the 'Children of our thoughts or actions,' not being but dimly aware, if at all, of the subjective part. Many have written concerning the Father, Mother and Son, and raising the issue of, 'but what of the (twin) Daughter?' Surely, not everything that exists in merely in the 'third dimension.'

4. **CANCER** (The Crab - ♋): The SEED, imbued with life, now finds itself in the Earth-womb, being nurtured by the Mother by her 'amniotic' (from the Greek - *amnus* - lamb) fluid. Cancer is a feminine Water sign, 'ruled' by the Moon. Here the SEED is nurtured and protected in its embryonic state. Any disturbance to the process at this point could result in a 'premature birth,' an 'abortion,' a 'still birth' or some 'birth



defect.’ The fetus-seed must be carefully looked after so that it may safely pass through its first, second and third ‘trimesters,’ to produce a healthy child. This, too, is the ‘first birth’ of the allegorical ‘butterfly’ which later emerges from its *cocoon* at the time of its ‘rebirth’ from its walk-on-the-earth as a ‘worm’ (see 8. SCORPIO, below).



5. **LEO** (The Lion - ♌): All conditions being properly met to this Point, the SEED is now ready to be born, to attain to Infant status, and greet the Light of Day. LEO is a Fire sign, ruled by the Sun. This fitting symbol denotes the individualization of the root SEED in the world of man (small ‘m’). Even the tender shoot which breaks forth from the clod of Earth meets the Light of Day, the Sun, as it sets its ‘foot’ upon the Earth to begin its walk as an infant (according to the riddle of the Sphinx, on all fours, as an infant). Imbued within this symbol we may also find some other attributes of the Lion, such as courage and fearlessness, one of the primary aims of the Egyptian initiatory rites. Rise with the Sun, follow your [inner] conductor and fear no danger. Do we run from or fight with this Lion in fear, or do we learn to dance the Dance of Life with it? What is the Entered Apprentice in search of? Light. Has it received it? If it has traveled this far, yes.

6. **VIRGO** (The Virgin - ♍): Having greeted the light of day, the Infant-seed now grows as a Child-seed, discovering its self, its identity. It creeps, then crawls, then uprights its self to walk the earth, learning and exploring how to communicate with the world of man. It ranges not far; for its world is small, as it is still small. It is a Virgin to the world of man and all that it holds for the self. It is an exploration of the Senses and of Perception, of Testing, of Cause and Effect, of Duality. VIRGO is an Earth sign, Ruled by Mercury, but in a different way than the previous Earth, no longer being ‘in’ the Earth, but now ‘on’ it, learning to communicate (Mercury). It is also a sign of nurturing. Having risen to the Light of day, our child-seed is in continual need of nurturing from the very others that it is now discovering, a nurturing in body, mind and spirit.



7. **LIBRA** (The Scales or Balances - ♎, an Air sign, Ruled by Venus, the Initiator): The Balances denote a time of ‘Weighing,’ of Laws and Justice, and of ‘This and That.’ In the fullest sense the Virgin is now becoming a Fellowcraft in the art of Living, in the craft of the fellows. It is meeting ‘Others’ and learning to get along with them and the Elements. It learns that there are Means and Extremes, as portrayed by these scales, which it dare not exceed, for to transgress the Law could prove injurious to the Self, to ‘Others,’ or could prove fatal, thus ending the cycle of the SEED. Toward the end of the cycle of LIBRA, the very perceptive Youth-seed may possibly discover a very interesting aspect of the Scales. Let us ask that if 100 pounds of something were placed in one of the pans of the Scales, how much would one place in the other pan of the Scales to properly bring the Scales into balance? (your answer).

The answer, of course, is Zero Nothing. Nothing has to be placed in the other pan to properly balance the Scales, for if you were learning and Living the lesson of this sign, Venus - Love, then you would discover that every Scale of the nature of Libra has a FULCRUM, a BALANCE POINT, and no matter how much you may place in one of the TWO pans, the ONE balance point never moves. Stated another way, no matter how we perceive the Duality, the Unity is without beginning or end . . . the Alpha and the Omega. The ancient teachings are aware of what we call the Golden Proportion which is a *Three* Term Proportion, which may be expressed in *Two* Terms, denoting a *Unity*.

i.e. a:b::b:c
 let c = a + b
 hence, a:b::b:(a + b) . . . and etc. (see further proof in Chapter VI, Section I).

This is the only possible division of a unit or whole into a three-term geometric proportion which uses only two terms, an extreme term = *a*, and a mean term = *b*. This proportion was called ‘the division into extreme and mean terms’ and is the one named by the Greeks as “Phi.” (Robert Lawlor, Sacred Geometry, The Crossroad Publishing Company, New York, 1982. pg. 48.)

This ‘Phi’ proportion may be found throughout the ‘Basis of Freemasonry’ in both the Middle Chamber and Sanctum Sanctorum of King Solomon’s Temple, as discussed in Chapter VI.

The Cycle from ARIES to LIBRA is the journey of the SEED from the potential of its New Beginning to ‘Young Manhood.’ It has passed from all fours to ‘standing on its own Two feet.’ It is the allegory, in symbol, of the development of the SELF, in the Individual sense. At any given moment in life, the new beginnings which have at some Point ‘taken root’ are unfolding in some degree or another, remaining the progeny of the SEED from which they issued. In coming to maturation of the Individual, and Passing before and through (into) the ‘Pillars, Door or

Sword of Judgment' of the Balances, the Scales, of LIBRA (in Allegory), the story of the SEED continues, but first it must die.

Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die.

I Cor 15:36:
see Appendix V

* * *

Oh Death, where is thy Sting; Oh Grave, where is thy Victory?



8. **SCORPIO** (The Scorpion - ♏ ; The Eagle): The Scorpion, noted for its presence in the Desert, in such countries as Egypt, is, strange as it may seem, a Water sign. In ancient allegory, the Scorpion is related to the passage, "Oh Death, where is thy sting, O grave, where is thy victory?" (I Cor 15:55) In Masonry it is related to the slaying of GMHA at 'High Twelve,' and is associated with the 1st Ruffian specifically, culminating in 'Low Twelve' two signs from this one in Capricorn (at the Winter Solstice, also known as the Festival of St. John the Evangelist: the 'darkest day of the year - and the birth of the Sun - Son, bringing Light, by the strong grip of the Lion's (Leo, the Sun) paw, to the New Year).

Masonry teaches openly the precepts of I Cor 13, in the way of 'Faith, Hope and Charity,' especially the Charity [agape]. But if we would read on a bit further in the Great Light, as we are enjoined to 'seek therein,' we would find some most interesting words in I Cor 15, besides the ones just quoted above (see Appendix V).

The Scorpion, once dead, may next be found liberated as an Eagle, no longer bound to the Earth, but reborn, as it were, with the keen Eye of the Eagle, soaring free of the fetters of Earth, somewhat like the Phoenix arising from the ashes or the Butterfly emerging from its Cocoon (see Appendix XI, *Echoes from the Cocoon* – which has, for this special web edition, been transcribed below). In the course of this death, this Transition, the Self is no longer as we knew it, but has become an infant again, but now in the realm of the Universal Self, on its way to becoming a (Spiritual/Divine) Man, a Master, but there is yet more and further Light to acquire.



Echoes from the Cocoon

Hello out there, do you hear me . . .	Hear me	I should not have listened . . .	Listen . . .
It is dark in here . . .	in here . . .	It was just a silly Butterfly ! . . .	Butterfly . . .
Why does no one listen? . . .	Listen	But it flew with such freedom . . .	Freedom
I thought I had given so much to life . . .	to Life . . .	I feel like my death is near !! . . .	is near . . .
Why am I now in this cocoon? . . .	cocoon		
I have sought of love . . .	Love	I hate this cocoon ! Ohhhh ! . . .	Ohhh . . .
and have now a longing for it . . .	it . . .	and these growing wings are sore . . .	soar
It isn't that I doubt . . .	doubt	I wish I was back on the earth now . . .	now . . .
but now I see it not . . .	it not . . .	eating grass, as in days of yore . . .	You're
		Now I'm not at all free !! . . .	free !
I miss the good old earth . . .	Earth	Doesn't anyone out there hear me ?! . . .	Hear me . . .
and this cocoon now restricts . . .	restricts	Why does no one listen ?? !!!! . . .	Listen
I am crushed and suffering; Oh . . . my . . .	my	This cocoon is strangling me to death . . .	to Life . . .
This cocoon impairs my growth, too . . .	growth to		
I want to return to earth's light ! . . .	light . . .		

Lee Miller – © 1982



Note: When I finished writing the above poem, I happened to read only the Echoes, from top to end, and found a very special message. – Im

* * *

*If a man should Die,
What then shall he do?
If a Man should die
Shall he not fly?*

*Shall he not fly?
To what Time or What Place?
Or is it that he
Lives in all Time and Space?*

*A time that is Now
And a space that is Here.
A place of pure Light;
A life with no fear.*

Im

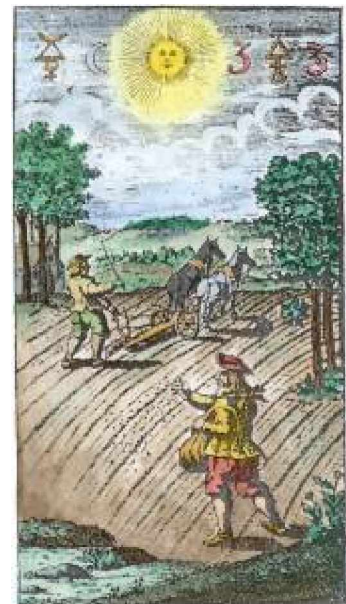


* 9. **SAGITTARIUS** (The Centaur - ♐): The symbol for this Fire sign, Ruled by Jovial Jupiter, largest of the planets, is a Centaur, poised with a bow and arrow, ‘aiming’ at a distant ‘Star.’ The Centaur, by its very nature, has as its lower body that of a four-hoofed animal. This alludes to the sacrifice of our animal nature which the self has been undergoing (the burnt offering at the Altar in the *outer* court of KST) in the subduing of its passions, and overcoming the vices and superfluities of life, as it metamorphoses (like the Allegorical Butterfly) into Man (again, See I Cor 15:40-45.) This ‘overcoming’ finds early expression as being ‘divested of all metallic substances,’ which has strong alchemical allusions to the transforming of base metals into Gold. Refer, again, to the chart above Fig. 11.1 and note the Metals associated with the seven ancient planets. The metal associated with Sagittarius’ ruling planet, Jupiter, is Tin, for example. A most interesting book, The Transmutation of Base Metals Into Gold and Silver, by David Beuther, Printed by Samuel Heyl of St Johns Church, Hamburg, **1718**, records the following related material:

Frontispiece engraving from David Beuther *Universal und Particularia*, Hamburg, 1718. >

“ . . . when we have such Seminal Metals and their Seeds, then we seed them in it and allow the sun to mature them. And during that time we have intense heat, then the sun can give by spending itself for a year what the sun might not be able to do in many hundreds of years. It is also true that it follows that the farmer who sows no seeds will have no crops; therefore, if we sow no *salt, alum, cinnabar, sulfur, lead, tin, iron, copper, gold, or silver*, but the philosophic, living natural gold, with creates the same nature and presents before your very eyes, after going immediately to work and then following all the needs of nature, requires such instrumentalities as nature has in the soil, . . . can bring along the entire process from beginning to end. . . . “

[See <http://www.rexresearch.com/beuther/beuther.htm> for the full text of the book. See also a more complete index of other works at <http://www.rexresearch.com/alchindx.htm>]



The upper portion of the Centaur is this new, emerging Philosophical Man. The Bow (feminine aspect) he holds *yields*, for if it did not the arrow (masculine aspect) could not fly. The ‘Star’ at which the Centaur directs the arrow, is that new Life-goal to which we are still but a reborn infant. The great secret of this sign, for he who has his Bow and Arrow poised at the ‘Star,’ is to . . . LET GO! Many arrive with their SEED at this Point and spend many long months or years POISED, but have not the FAITH to Let Go and to begin Living in the Unity.



10. CAPRICORN (The Sea Goat - ♄): What a strange symbol for the SEED to adopt at this stage: a Goat with the tail of a Fish, but no longer bound to the Earth (this is an Earth sign), which has found a New Earth, and it is to commence its new Work in the Sea of Life. For those who arrive at this Point of the Journey, it can be a bit new and strange. All the wonderful Allegory of getting your 'Feet Wet', 'Getting into it up to your Neck,' 'Getting Swept Away,' 'Getting in over your Head,' are part of the experiences of this sign. Under Scorpio, the Courage needed to face Death is now called upon once more in all of the New Work to be undertaken in the Sea of Life. Learning to get 'Into the Swim' here is a whole new Element. One of the Great Lessons here may be equated with placing a Drop of Water in the Sea and then trying to retrieve it. The Sea of Life at this stage requires a Faith commensurate with 'Walking on Water' and *more . . . !* One may look about them these past few years, especially *now*, and find many signs of our world entering this Sea. The Work has been different, and *Time has somehow changed* from the way we knew it in the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's. In the Sea of Life there is an emerging Compassion and a washing away of the old Self as we knew it. For some it is a struggle to keep afloat; some buck the tide, while others succumb to the Flow and get into the swim of things. The new Children are very much in the swim of this new tide, awaiting only the spark [May 2007] which will propel them in their role as the 'Peacemakers.'



11. AQUARIUS (The Water Bearer - ♒): This is an Air sign, Ruled by Uranus. The name tends to imply 'water' but it is a higher vibration of it, more akin to 'Air,' only more in the sense of Vital Air or Electro-magnetic Energy (note that its symbol may *look* like *water* waves, but that they could be more akin to *energy/air* waves), a much 'higher energy' than we were able to perceive in the 'air signs' of Gemini or Libra. We are all aware of the 'Dawning of the Age of Aquarius' and have been witnessing a decided shift from the Piscean world of steam engines, hydroelectric power, fossil fuels, transoceanic travel, transatlantic cable, and other 'watery' things, to satellite communications, atomic fuel, nuclear power, air transportation, and the information highway. The keywords of 'Dissolution of the old, outworn establishments and the rebuilding of the new' have never been more evident than during this 'Paradigm Shift' which has been witnessing borders fall, electro-magnetic technology advances at a new and rapid pace, equal rights [feminization] on many levels, the educational, medical and governmental dilemmas, and a host of related transitional experiences as we shift into this new Age. The SEED at this Point is entering the BROTHERHOOD OF MAN, a term which should be familiar to all Masons



Having entered the Sea of Life in the previous sign, and having gotten into the swim, the SEED and the AGE is on the brink of declaring the long awaited Brotherhood of Man, under the charge and guidance of the Great Brotherhood (or Ascended Masters from that 'undiscovered country . . .'). We have not yet, en masse, entered this phase, but are more closely attuned to getting into the swim of things. But the time is not too far distant when the Brotherhood of Man will be the theme for a cycle and season. The SEED that finds Life difficult in the Sea of Life may falter, and perhaps drown. This is not completely necessary, but it is happening all around us [literally in the case to the tsunami in southwest Asia, but not necessarily for the reasons that one may expect]. As Free Masons and Free Born Men, we may look within the Symbols of the Craft *and* when we are 'about in the World,' and discern this Great Work which is underway . . .

In getting from this sign to the next one of 'completion' the reader may wish to review how the 12 Apostles knew where the Last Supper was to be held, initiating the Piscean age of Christianity (Mark 14:13-15).



12. PISCES (The Fish - ♓): This Water sign, Ruled by Neptune, is the supposed sign of Completion wherein the SEED has become the FRUIT. It is the culmination of the Journey through the Zodiac of the SEED, but one of the strange properties of the Fruit is that it too contains a SEED, and if one were to consume these SEEDS in the eating, or cast them aside to their destruction, the propagation of the Great Work would also die. Having worked so hard to plant the Seed, to nourish and tend it to fruition, it would be a complete waste to not use the SEED of the FRUIT to continue the Good Work. Remember, too, that no man has never created a seed, but, as a husbandman and custodian, the Seeds of value which one finds in their path should be carefully nurtured for the benefit of the Brotherhood of Man.

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Freemasonry and a View of the Perennial World Philosophy

This allegorical journey through the Zodiac may be found throughout the three Craft degrees of Masonry, in three of the 'Higher Degrees' specifically, and the other Degrees generally. The 'seventh' degree has never, nor ever will it be written by the hand of man, for it cannot. It may, however, be Experienced. As a related point of interest, some Grand Lodges have fixed within their Constitutions (Rules of Order) “. . . a Committee of *Seven* to be known as the Custodians of the Work . . .” In ancient times the 'Seventh Place' was not filled by a man, but was reserved in honor of the 'unknown,' One God, such, also, as the Greeks built a Temple, among the many dedicated to this god or the other one, to the One, unknown, God.

We are all 'caused' to give Three Distinct Knocks at the Inner Door of Masonry, but is up to each of us to decide in our own way if, how or when we will *truly* Knock in the sense that is recorded in Matthew 7:7 (see Appendix V). There has been much discussed and much left unsaid on this subject of the Sixth Liberal Art. Words have been said, but the ancient teachings record that they need to be Experienced. The Journey of the SEED is a Journey we may all undertake, and that we *do* undertake in many ways in our daily life. This Journey is dramatized for our experiencing of it in the ritual of the Craft. There is much 'contained' in this Seed, this Point, and in the allegory of that which we 'Reap . . . we Sow.'

This then, in a brief summary form, is the conclusion of our 'Visit to the Sixth Liberal Art,' in which we have explored the 12 signs of the Zodiac. These signs, as stated at the beginning of this Chapter, appear around a circle of the Heavens, there being 30 degrees allotted to each sign of the Zodiac. But a Seed is a Seed; Unity is Unity. The Ancients spoke of our having come from the Center, and to the Center we will return (or *of* the Center we shall become Aware). What does the Zodiac look like from the Center, where the Twelve are One?

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity! . . .”



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* Much of this chapter was originally written as "Of Cycles and Seasons," by Lee Miller, Chancery Press. c 1982