

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

# The Zodiac, Key to Man and to the Universe



Izvor Collection



P R O S V E T A

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# **The Zodiac, Key to Man and to the Universe**



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## Chapter One

# The enclosure of the zodiac

Initiatic Science teaches that we live out our lives immersed in the ocean of fluidic matter known as astral light. This fluid is so sensitive that it bears the record of everything that occurs in the universe: the most insignificant gesture, the slightest, most superficial emotion, every fleeting thought that goes through our minds are all recorded. According to esoteric tradition, astral light is an extremely subtle substance emanated by all creatures, from human beings, animals and plants, to the rocks of the earth and even the stars in the heavens. It is this fluidic matter that Hermes Trismegistus referred to as *telesma*, saying, *'Its father is the sun, its mother the moon. The wind carried it in its womb; the earth is its nurse'*. Of course we should not think that the sun (fire), moon (water), wind (air) and earth of which Hermes speaks are no more than the four material elements familiar to us all: he is speaking of the fundamental cosmic principles from which all matter was created.<sup>1</sup>

The Hindu name for this fluidic matter is *akasha*; others know it as cosmic electricity, the primeval serpent or *fohat*. But it doesn't really matter what we call it, and it is totally impossible to define or name all the different forms it has taken since the beginning of the world. This is because every creature capable of thought, feeling and movement that exists or has ever existed is constantly impressing new vibrations on it. Its exact nature is extremely mysterious, and whatever is said of it will always be both true and false. But this we can say with certainty: it is capable of recording absolutely everything that happens in the universe. And the proof that everything is recorded can be seen in the fact that clairvoyants can read from an object events that have occurred in its vicinity. They can even read in it the destiny of someone who has held that object in their hands for only a minute or two. Of course, I'm speaking of authentic clairvoyants. The very existence of clairvoyance such as this is a powerful argument: if the scientists who put all their faith in materialism took it seriously, they would have to modify their understanding of the nature of matter.

This fluid, therefore, this *akasha*, in which everything is recorded, in which everything is reflected, reaches to the limits of the universe, and these limits are represented for us by the belt of the zodiac. The space that lies within that belt is

the zodiacal enclosure, and it symbolizes the space set aside by God in which to create the world. Initiatic Science tells us that the order in which the twelve signs of the zodiac are placed (Aries ♈, Taurus ♉, Gemini ♊, Cancer ♋, Leo ♌, Virgo ♍, Libra ♎, Scorpio ♏, Sagittarius ♐, Capricorn ♑, Aquarius ♒, and Pisces ♓) reveals the sequence of the different stages of creation.

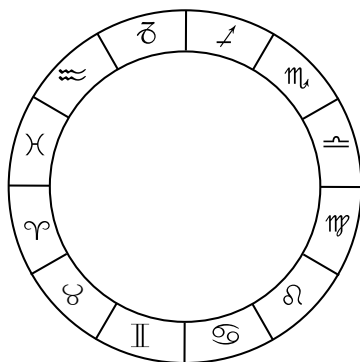


Figure 1

Aries is the first sign in the zodiac, the sign that sets everything in motion. Aries is the indomitable, irrepressible force bursting out like leaf-buds in spring. To this raw, untamed force, Taurus adds its contribution of matter, but matter which is as yet formless, an inchoate mass of undifferentiated elements. A building site covered with untidy heaps of the raw materials needed to

build a house is a good image of the stage in which Taurus is dominant. But all these elements have to be used to make something, so after Taurus it is time for Gemini to start organizing all the disparate elements by establishing a network of communications: ladders, wheelbarrows, pulleys and cranes, to move the materials into place ready for the building to begin.

With Cancer, the time has come to lay the foundations: a solid base of 'reinforced concrete'. In nature this base is the central germ or core around which all the different elements converge and cohere. Leo then brings its influence to bear by introducing centrifugal force into the combined elements, and with the intervention of Leo comes a rise in temperature and more intense activity, culminating in an explosion, and the whole mass begins to glow and irradiate in space.

Then Virgo comes onto the scene and declares that it is time to order and organize all this and sets to work to put everything into its rightful place. But order is not enough: the aesthetic element of beauty and harmony is needed, and it is Libra that introduces this element. With Libra we have reached the seventh day (the seventh sign), and work pauses for a while, allowing the workers a period of rest and refreshment.

It is at this stage, in the prevailing holiday atmosphere, that some of the workers give way



to sloth and indolence, and the first signs of disintegration begin to make their appearance. Scorpio comes onto the scene, upsetting the existing balance and introducing a climate of hostility, but is followed immediately by Sagittarius with its gift for reconciling individuals with each other and with the heavens. Sagittarius channels all these seething energies and directs them upwards to the service of a higher order of activity (this is the symbolism of the bow and arrow held by the centaur).

Once the world is properly organized and all its parts functioning smoothly, there is a tendency for things to crystallize and harden under the influence of Capricorn: life falters and begins to seep away. At this point it is the turn of Aquarius to set in motion the dynamic forces of the spirit, thus saving everything from destruction by 'over-materialization'.

The world knows peace at last with the coming of Pisces, and in this climate of peace and universal harmony, life becomes ever purer and subtler until all things melt and flow back into the primeval ocean.

Those who penetrate the realm of the zodiac become subject to the constraints of time (periodicity and cycles) and space (localization within the zodiacal enclosure). Only pure spirits are free of

the fetters of time and space, but as soon as they incarnate they enter into the zodiacal enclosure and are caught up in the magic circle of implacable destiny, which shackles even the most luminous beings, even the greatest sons and daughters of God.

This reality is reflected in the human body, where the spirit is imprisoned: the whole body represents the circle of the zodiac, and each organ or member corresponds to a particular sign.

Aries ♈ : the head

Taurus ♉ : the neck

Gemini ♊ : the arms and lungs

Cancer ♋ : the stomach

Leo ♌ : the heart

Virgo ♍ : the intestines and solar plexus

Libra ♎ : the kidneys

Scorpio ♏ : the genital organs

Sagittarius ♐ : the thighs

Capricorn ♑ : the knees

Aquarius ♒ : the calves

Pisces ♓ : the feet<sup>2</sup>

In order to free themselves from the coils of the serpent that holds them prisoner, humans have to free themselves from the cycle of reincarnations.


At the moment of birth, a child's etheric body, which is as soft and malleable as warm wax,

receives the imprint of stellar influences, and later, as the wax cools, this imprint can never be effaced. So, when a child first draws breath, the heavens put their seal on its etheric body and fix the horoscope in which the child's destiny is written. The only way for humans to free themselves from the limitations imposed by the stars presiding at their birth is by a conscious effort to restore the bonds that bind them to God. In this way they can escape from the law of necessity and put themselves under the jurisdiction of the law of grace. But this freedom we all aspire to is only obtained at the very end, and this is why it is said to be the crowning glory of the spiritual life. It is also why initiates are portrayed with a shining halo of light surrounding their head to show that they have risen beyond the circle of earthly limitations.

And now let's look at the practical consequences of this reality, the zodiacal circle, in our everyday life. Suppose that you are walking through mountainous country, with peaks and rocky cliffs all around you, and you shout out loud: what happens? The mountains send your words back to you: the sound of your voice strikes against a hard surface and bounces back, like a ball bouncing as it hits the ground or, if you throw it against a wall, coming back to strike you. These are physical laws, and physical laws reflect and reproduce spiritual laws. If you call out, 'I love

you', you will hear the echo repeat, 'I love you, love you, love you.' But if you shout, 'I hate you', from all sides will echo the words, 'I hate you, hate you, hate you.'

You must understand that the same patterns are repeated over and over again in life. Humans emit a ceaseless flow of waves, beneficial or harmful, produced by their thoughts, feelings and actions. These waves journey through space until they come up against the outer limits and bounce back to strike the sender in the form of rewards or punishments. This is the return shock, the rebound, and those who know this law take care to send out only waves of light, love, kindness, purity and warmth. They know that one day, sooner or later, they are bound to reap the same blessings in return. They are happy, successful,<sup>3</sup> fulfilled human beings, and they think that God is rewarding them. Not a bit of it! God doesn't know anything about it. He is far too busy with much more important things: he doesn't have time to watch what we do and add up the score to see whether we should be rewarded or punished. He has established a certain number of laws within and around us, and it is these laws that reward or punish us.

The circle with a dot in the centre  is the pattern on which everything in the universe is built. Take any organism, a cell for instance: at the centre is a nucleus surrounded by protoplasm,

and the whole is wrapped in an outer membrane. Take a fruit: in the centre you have a core or stone, then the surrounding pulp, the juicy, edible flesh and, on the outside, the soft or hard skin. Every living organism exists on the same pattern, with a centre or core, a surrounding space in which life circulates and, finally, a skin that serves as a limit or boundary, enabling the law of echo reflection to come into play.

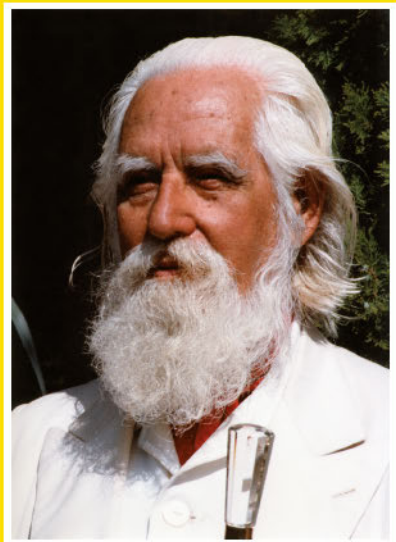
Now it may well happen that the distance between the centre and the periphery is so great that the 'voice' has to carry a long, long way, and years go by before it bounces back from the outer boundary. But the fact that the rebound is not felt immediately must not mislead you into thinking that it will never come. It will! There's no escaping it. But it may come much, much later, perhaps only in some future incarnation, because the outer limit, the wall against which it bounces, is so far away. And this is how we can explain the destiny written in our horoscope: it is the consequence of our past actions.

The atom and the solar system are identical in their basic structural design: a circle with a dot in the centre. And the area surrounding the central dot represents space. Without space matter cannot exist, whereas the spirit does not need space. The power of the spirit lies in the fact that it is a point without extent or dimension and so can be

actively present everywhere.<sup>4</sup> So everything that occurs travels out through the space occupied by matter until it bumps up against its outer limits and starts on the return journey to its starting point. Everything we do and think, therefore, comes back to us after travelling through matter to the outer limits of space and back. It is matter, not spirit, that reflects the echo. Spirit acts and matter reacts. Matter responds to an impulse. Its role is to stand up to spirit, to oppose and limit it, to imprison it even. And the zodiac is the belt, the wall, that surrounds and imposes a limit on our universe, just as the serpent of matter holds the spirit prisoner in its coils.

### Notes

1. See *'Et il me montra un fleuve d'eau de la vie'*, Synopsis Coll., Part XI, chap. 2: 'Les racines de la matière: les quatre Animaux saints'.
2. See *Angels and other Mysteries of the Tree of Life*, Izvor Coll. n° 236, chap. 11: 'The body of Adam Kadmon'.
3. See *The Book of Divine Magic*, Izvor Coll. n° 226, chap. 11: 'The three great laws of magic: 3. The law of the rebound'.
4. See *The Symbolic Language of Geometrical Figures*, Izvor Coll. n° 218, chap. 2: 'The circle'.



*The Bulgarian philosopher, teacher and spiritual Master, Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov (1900-1986), moved to France in 1937. His work deals with the many aspects of initiatic science, but he says, 'Through my teaching, I want to give you some fundamental knowledge about human beings: how they are constructed, their relationship with nature, the exchanges they must make with others and with the universe so they can drink from the springs of divine life.'*

This volume by the Master Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov is not an astrological handbook. The Zodiac here discussed is the Book of Books in which everything is recorded, and the constellations and planets are the hieroglyphs, the sacred letters which reveal, to those who know how to decipher them, how mankind and the world were created, how they evolve hand in hand and how their inner structure is identical. Every human being who becomes aware of his kinship with the universe begins to feel the need to cultivate his inner life in order to rediscover, within himself, that cosmic plenitude symbolized to perfection by the circle of the Zodiac.

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