

Lesson Four - Part 1

Getting Together the Information

Part 1: The Star that Befriends Us and the Constellation that Holds Us

In this lesson we tackle the routine calculations which are required to get at the information we need. There is nothing inherently complicated about the process of ascertaining the Star that Befriends Us and the Constellation that Holds Us, although as it is an activity that will be unfamiliar to many, practice may be necessary to build confidence.

Identifying the Star that Guides Us is more complex and if it is to be done with precision we will need to use trigonometry, and we deal with this in Part 2. As this branch of mathematics will not be accessible to many, a simpler short cut is also provided in Part 2 of this lesson which, whilst it lacks precision, will give a result and send thought and energy in the right direction, which is upwards.

Later on in this course, having identified which stars we wish to focus upon, we will leave intellectual activity behind and engage with the process of raising our vibrational levels.

You are reminded that we are calculating these positions based upon **the longitude of the Sun at midday when it is at its most elevated position**. Those who are confident with this kind of calculation will soon see how to progress the given formula to make it serviceable for other times of the day.

Do not confuse position with distance! We are not measuring the distance of the stars from Earth, but their position in the 180 degree sphere-of-observation which we have from our location on Earth. Consider the view from your window: you can see a range of things at varying distances from you and each other, but they are all contained within the 50 or so centimeters of your window frame, and this creates your view from where you are positioned. So it is with the window on the heavens which our location affords us.

Finding the Star that Befriends Us

Using the Sun tables, note the longitude and declination of the Sun on the day of birth.

Then using the Star Tables, find the star which is closest in terms of:

1. Longitude
2. Declination

Note its name and details. This will provide the basis for any research you might like to do on this star.

The point of these exercises is to be able to physically see the stars in order to build a relationship with them. The higher a star's declination the more elevated its position in the heavens. Bear in mind that whether one is in the northern or southern hemisphere, a planet with a declination of just 10 degrees N or S respectively is very high in the sky (unless the observer is near the planetary poles.) But to be 'overhead' a star has to have a declination as great as the latitude of the place of observation (e.g. 50 degrees N if observing from Brighton; 33 degrees S if observing from Sydney Australia).

Be sure to compare like with like. Do not:

- Use the Longitudinal position of one and the sidereal position (or right ascension) of the other;
- Northern declination with southern declination or vice versa.

Examples:

1. A person born on August 7th in Brighton UK (50 degrees 50 N) has the Sun at Leo 14 degrees, declination 16 degrees N.

Consulting the Star Tables (3) we find that the star Dubhe has a longitude of Leo 14, but its declination at 61N places it far higher than the natal Sun.

Acubens at Leo 13 with a declination of 12N is, overall, the closer star to the Sun (although Dubhe may well be a contender for the Guiding Star as we shall see in the next section).

This kind of a weighing up is called in the language of classical astrology 'judgment'. Eventually intuition will supplement this intellectual process.

2. Consider now the situation where a person born on August 7th lives in Sydney Australia 33 degrees S 52. Please note that if this exercise is to be done with strict precision, the effect of the time difference between Sydney and London upon the Sun's longitudinal position and declination would have to be considered, and the formula for this will be given in Part 2, but for the purposes of our present exercise we will simply take the data from the tables.

When we consult the Star tables, we find that none of the stars in the Leo sector of the sky have a southerly declination. (This situation reverses later in the Zodiac) Dubhe, although it is aligned by longitude, is below the horizon for the observer in Sydney, who cannot see any star with a declination in excess of 56 degrees N. (34 degrees S – 90 degrees) Acubens would seem to be the better choice.

The Constellation that Holds Us

In order to find the Constellation that Holds Us, convert the star's placement from longitude to sidereal placement (+5 -30), which means that the constellation it belongs to is Cancer. (In fact, Acubens is the alpha star of the sign Cancer.)

This means that Cancer and not Leo is the holding constellation.

This result does not replace the Sun sign and all that we know about the Leonine personality from conventional astrology; it is supplementary to it. In the context of the Constellation that Holds Us, you are advised to read Master KH's depiction of the signs as given in the Red Letters.

The lesson continues on the following pages with the complete set of The Red Letters followed by Part 2 of this lesson, which addresses the computation required to determine the Star to Guide Us.

The Red Letters

Letter I

My brother Aries,

See the possibilities and keep open the door

As complications and divisions are shed under this sign, Aries represents the door of return. In the next era it will become what Pisces has been to the present era: the sign of the spiritual aspirant.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings which form the brow centre of our Solar Logos, the place where the diversity within our solar system becomes unity, and integrated vision is restored. Their energy is that of unity through effort.

Your qualities are those of courage, directness and simplicity. These will become the qualities that will serve spiritual aspirants in the new era.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is Uranus.

The lamb is light and frisky; the mature ram is slower, more purposeful, but defensive. The rightful symbol for Aries is the young ram before the horns show.

Be light whilst you are young, my brother. Leave others to see the complications. Go on ahead, rejoicing in the life that flows through you and in the time that is available to you. This way you will keep hope alive.

Everything is in a state of becoming, mankind included. In our individual lives we hold Life; as we go on, we take on Life.

In the years ahead, show others how to move forward by encouraging them to see the adventure and the possibilities in the new. The destruction of the old creates fresh opportunity; without destruction there cannot be progress.

Be guided by your intuition. See what needs to be done and believe in yourself.

Your colour is vermillion, and the flames of the fire will always inspire and revive you.

Letter II

My brother Taurus,

Light and tend an everlasting flame

As those born under this sign tend most willingly, to what others have initiated in order that their creations may endure, Taurus, stands for stability and conservation. Your own act of creation is to lay the foundations that will support enduring structures and sustained effort.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings which form the throat centre of the Solar Logos, the energy of which is light through knowledge.

Your qualities are those of tenacity and determination. You demonstrate the benefits of perseverance, hence the association of the sign Taurus with the activation of the head centres and the development of the Third Eye, which for mankind, represents the fruits of spiritual endeavour.

You prize peace and harmony because these values permit growth, but you understand that ground has to be cleared before it can be cultivated.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is Vulcan.

The symbol for Taurus is the bull with its head lowered ready to dispatch the obsolete, the unwanted and the unwelcome in defence of what needs to endure.

In the years up to 2012, give thought to what must endure and secure its foundations. Gather together the seeds that you would sow in newly cultivated ground, whether in the body of the Earth or in the minds of men.

You will find it hard to come to terms with the loss and change that you must see in the coming years, my brother: console yourself with the quality of what can be built in its stead.

Your colour is white and you are inspired by light shining through clear glass.

Letter III

My brother Gemini,

Hold the space in which the story of man unfolds

Within this sign is held the knowingness that to go down into the darkness is as important as to come up into the light because, without the one, there is not the other. Those born under Gemini are enquiring and accepting of the human condition. You are not fearful of duality.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings which represents the heart centre of our Solar Logos, and their energy is the desire for duality.

Your qualities are curiosity, flexibility and tolerance. You move without prejudice between opposites, understanding that one needs the other to give it meaning. Thus, you engage fully and enthusiastically in the human experience – or should I say experiment? Through the arts and sciences, you build ladders for men to go up and down into new experiences and new awareness.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is the Earth itself, the place where, with its dualistic perceptions, the human kingdom labours, suffers and triumphs. You should understand from this, my brother that the Solar Logos holds in His heart, the Earth and all that belongs to it.

The symbol for Gemini is the Twins, representing higher and lower self.

In these times, which so many find troubled and uncertain, collect up the works that will keep alive remembrance and interest, in the nature of the human experiment. Through the arts and through education, remind your brother that without descent there is not ascent, not for man. As the Master DK likes to point out: a Master has come out of the very heart of darkness. If we had not, then we would not belong to the world of men, but to that of the angels. For man, there is but one way and all must walk it in his own way and in his own time.

Your brother knows this as well as you, but he forgets it, often wilfully, because he fears the price that he may have to pay for living more fully. Unlike you, he is quickly exhausted by life's variety and retreats into judgment and despondency.

Your colour is pale blue and you are inspired by the light of the planet Venus, which is sometimes the morning star and sometimes the evening star.

Letter IV

My brother Cancer,

Construct the forms that will carry life across the water

As the memory of all the forms that have preserved life is stored in this sign, Cancer is associated with preservation and perpetuation. Whilst Taurus nurtures new life, Cancer protects that which has to withstand the challenges of time in order to safeguard the continuity upon which man's sense of identity depends.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings which form the solar plexus of the Solar Logos, the energy of which is mass life.

Your qualities are those of psychic sensitivity and recall and respect for the legacy of the past, from which we have all come. For you, life is inseparable from the form through which it manifests and you are enthusiastic about incarnating, which is the taking of form, because this represents an opportunity to restore that which has been kept alive in memory.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is Neptune.

The rightful symbol for Cancer, at his time and for the future, is not the crab, but the ark, the vessel that carries form life over the waters.

In the coming years, your contribution is to create and protect the forms that will preserve what you wish to take with you in your journey through time and through the evolutionary process. Create the organisations that will assist survival. They too are forms. Your sign holds memory from mankind's history. There have been other inundations. How did the people of those times organise themselves? Draw on that memory and restore it to life. To you, my brother, falls the task of safeguarding the physical vehicle whilst Aries protects the spirit, and Gemini the soul of man.

Think out what you will need on this journey. Think what the dangers will be. Think for the most vulnerable, the old and the young, because they are connected: the old have the memories that may protect the young, who will inherit the memories and, in time, restore them. This is the secret of continuity and it is expressed in the glyph of the sign Cancer, which will not change.

Your colour is silver and you are inspired by the sight of light reflecting on dark water.

Letter V

My brother Leo,

Hold steady the flame whilst man writes his own story

The sign Leo is the most influential from the point of view of the human personality: what the Lion claims as its own shapes the process of the evolution of the consciousness of mankind.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings which form the pranic centre of the Solar Logos, the quality of which is supreme energy.

Your qualities are the capacity to live hard and to love deeply. You are driven to overpower and prevail over everything that confronts you. As you do so, you set the parameters of conscious, human experience.

My brother, you belong to the sign closest to my heart. When men stop fearing themselves they will stop judging others, and then they will see, as I do, that you demonstrate the point of it all. To be here in the physical world, surveying it as one who would become its master, fearful of nothing and loving it from the depth of your being, for the opportunity that it provides. From this place of love and gratitude arise strong, spiritual men.

The hierarchical ruler of Leo is the Sun.

In the years before and after 2012, claim territory for the continuation of the human experiment, both physically and in terms of new experiences for consciousness, by overpowering and mastering extreme conditions. You will never be defeated. You will absorb the extremes and enable human consciousness to assimilate them, providing new fuel for its flame. This you often choose to do through the performing arts.

The symbol for Leo is the mature lion, battle-scarred, but undiminished.

Show others how to find the fuel that will keep their flames alive through accepting every challenge. The Universe is an adventure. The events of 2012 will be an adventure: claim your share of it. Man's story is being written every day, with every life.

Your colour is saffron yellow and you are inspired by the light and heat of the Sun.

Letter VI

My brother Virgo,

Protect the life within the form

In time to come, when man is no longer resistant to schooling and refining his emotional nature, this sign will be the most revered because what the sign Virgo offers to mankind is the example of the feminine values that will balance those of Aries.

Those born under this sign belong to the creative hierarchy which form the sacral centre of the Solar Logos, the quality of which is materialising the ideal.

Your qualities are those of scrupulousness and integrity.

You sift and pick through what you find in your nature with a view to refining it and purifying it. In this way you prepare your vehicle to receive a higher vibration. You impose order so that there is not loss and wastage.

It is you who nurtures the frail spiritual child growing up in the rough streets of everyday life and who shows the way on for man when he has tired of earthly things. Under your care he grows up straight. He learns to be honest and scrupulous and to command respect.

The hierarchical ruler of Virgo is Jupiter.

The symbol of Virgo is a maiden with a wheat sheaf standing on the crescent moon, its horns downturned, indicating that form life has been mastered. Forget not that after 2012 there will be children born who will never see the moon that our Planetary Logos has surmounted.

Collect together all that you need to refine, protect and heal the body and soul: the plants and herbs that down the ages have assisted men, and the techniques and practices that strengthen and heal. Keep things in order and remind others of the need for cleanliness and hygiene in all circumstances because dirt and disorder demoralise and depress the spirit.

Even though men will not treat them so harshly in time to come, continue to look after their spiritual children as carefully as you would your own, for with them rests the true salvation of mankind.

Your colour is pale gold, the colour of new wheat, and you are inspired and revived by the sight of the Sun emerging from the mist.

Letter VII

My brother Libra,

Find the balance in the relationship between all things

From a place of respect for all things, Libra balances the individual and the larger whole of which he is a part.

Man has not yet got this balance right and so his efforts must continue. One of the reasons for the imbalance is that up until now, the expression of the sign Libra has not been sufficiently assertive. Owing to the quality of the spiritual ideas in circulation in modern times, those born under this sign have tended towards passive observation. Yet they must become initiators: Libra is a cardinal sign and must make its contribution to the moving forward of mankind.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings, which form the base centre of the Solar Logos. This level of being is the point of interface of the personality of the Solar Logos and our Planetary Logos, between the non-manifest and manifestation. The energy of this hierarchy of beings is force of mind.

Your qualities are moderation and mindfulness of other, regardless of the form the non-self takes. The hierarchical ruler of Libra is Saturn.

In human consciousness, the interface of the two Logoi has its lower correspondence in the alignment between the personality and its informing life, the soul; between self and other; between inheritance and potential. In the correct balance between these two is to be found the secret of human possibility. The individual is an opportunity, and Libra safeguards the sum of opportunity by getting aright the balance, in time and space, between the individual and the legacy of mankind, which is within and all around him.

When every relationship and every situation in every relationship has to be meticulously weighed, it is hard to conceive of a more fitting symbol for Libra than the scales.

In the coming years, study relationships of all kinds. See the imbalances and the equalities and observe those relationships that need to improve because, after 2012, new contracts with all three kingdoms in nature will have to be re-established. This is work for those born under Libra.

Your colour is emerald and you are inspired by pale, cool light.

Letter VIII

My brother Scorpio,

Reveal the light contained within the darkness

In this sign, all emotionally-based tendencies, which lead to separation, are processed. When man's lower principles are expelled as a part of the planetary Initiation, then the nature of the influence coming through Scorpio will change.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings which forms the heart centre of the Planetary Logos, the energy of which comes through the word, which takes flesh.

The sound 'cor' is central to the construction of the name Scorpio; and the core, as you are aware, is a synonym for the heart. At present, a stinging creature is wrapped round the heart, but in the future this will not be the case.

Your qualities are insightfulness and the ability to come back from the brink of self-destruction.

When the planetary body has dispatched its lower astral energy into another system and those of your sign are no longer defending the separated self in a climate of distrust, the symbol for Scorpio will change to the lily.

Yours will become the sign under which emotional experience becomes richer, more profound and better understood. The consciousness of man will not resist the experience, nor those who offer it to him. Will the name of your sign also change? This we will have to wait and see: Scorpio understands the power in name.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is Mercury.

In the years up to 2012, much of the separating of solar plexus energy into lower and higher will be done in the lives and vehicles of those born under your sign. It is for you to understand the process of creation in which you are agents and bear witness to the power of light over darkness, not only in human beings, but also in the world. You suffer much, but your triumphs are great and your words carry much transformative power. Help others understand the process of which they are a part. Our Universe was created from the light contained within the darkness.

Your colour is that of topaz and you are inspired by the sight of light glowing warmly in the darkness.

Letter IX

My brother Sagittarius,

Quest diligently so that you may live wisely

Sagittarius associates movement and change. For those of your sign, a new level of consciousness is something for which you break free from the habitual and the routine, and quest amongst ideas and experiences that are unfamiliar to you. The future of mankind depends upon what, for you, is second nature.

Your sign is connected to the hierarchy of beings which constitutes the solar plexus of the Planetary Logos, the energy of which is the energy of matter.

Your qualities are those of optimism and an intelligence that sees the point of aspiring to find unity underlying diversity.

The Hierarchical ruler of your sign is Mars. After 2012, Martian energy will be the energy used by man, not to gratify himself, but to advance himself. The symbol for your sign is the centaur aiming his bow and cantering joyously towards his opportunities.

For those of your sign, especially the young, 2012 is an opportunity long awaited, to escape the slavery and poverty of urban culture. Your quest has now to take in the search for new geographical locations and new ideas that will support changed lifestyles and new beginnings for mankind. These will be found far from what is familiar.

The esoteric ruler of your sign is the Earth itself, for which you feel much. You understand its need to heal and many of you are now trying to assist the planet prepare for its baptism. In time, where now they so often mock and criticise, people will give respect to your attempts to live more lightly on the Earth and to find a new lifestyle, and they will turn to you for guidance.

In the years ahead, find out where educated man can live harmoniously with nature and how he can support himself simply. Let this be both your learning and your teaching because Sagittarius is the sign of the teacher and those of your sign teach through example. My brother, let others see your hearts expanding with joy at the opportunity to start out on the next stage of man's on-going journey. They will gain in confidence from this.

Your colour is royal blue streaked with red, and you are inspired by the flames of the campfires that you love to build.

Letter X

My brother Capricorn,

Ground the plans and watch the hour

Capricorn has ever assessed the distance between what is and what needs to be. Your sign is the place of hard decisions, realistic appraisals and directed effort.

The sign Capricorn rules the human personality, the hierarchy of beings to which mankind belongs. The energy of this hierarchy is the will to manifest. It forms the throat centre of the Planetary Logos, in which place, at this time, is occurring a separation between the sheep and the goats. That separation is the result of conscious choice because this hierarchy expresses the principle of mind.

This is not the first time that this distinction between the sheep and goats has been made, as well you know. The goat can climb in order to find dry land, but first he has to choose to do this, leaving behind what is comfortable and familiar. Upon the ability to make such hard decisions will depend the survival of the members of the human family. Individually, each man has to be exposed to this test because it is his attachments, which weigh him down and turn him into a slave to materialism.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is Venus.

The symbol for Capricorn is evolving: the sea goat is becoming the mountain goat and, in time to come, the mountain - the symbol of man's aspirational nature - will replace the goat. In this way, another animal will be removed from the Zodiac, but it is the mountain goat which can climb to dry land that will take man through and on from 2012.

The glyph is metamorphosing in line with this. In times to come, the basic 'v' shape will reverse to depict the mountain, rather than the goat.

In the years leading up to 2012, those of your sign will assess the situation, lay out the options and put in place the arrangements. To you, my brother, falls the responsibility of timing and the setting into motion of the plans, and of keeping people to those schedules. Many will make decisions, but fail to act on them because man finds it hard to leave and harder still to let go. Be tireless in your efforts to drive people on and make plans unfold in line with intention, for this way man keeps faith with himself.

Your colour is the white blue of starlight and you are inspired by the blue of the flame.

Letter XI

My brother Aquarius,

As it is above, so it is below: share this knowledge

In your sign is held the secret of sustaining the development of human consciousness, because Aquarius knows how to attract the higher to the lower. If the higher, spirit, is inexhaustible - and it is - then the lower, knowing this, need never be without.

Those of your sign are connected to the creative hierarchy which forms the sacral centre of the Planetary Logos, the place where forms are built.

Your qualities are those of foresightedness, intellectual strength and inventiveness.

The symbol for your sign is and will remain the water carrier, pouring out life-giving water to a parched earth. The point to which I would draw your attention is the vessel that catches the water from that inexhaustible source: Aquarius knows how to arrange matter to form such a vessel. This knowledge underpins magic, white and black.

Up until now, Aquarians have been too busy exploring and exploiting the different ways in which this can serve the separated self. This motivation is wrong. The time has never been better nor the need greater than is the case now, to use the knowledge to serve mankind.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is the Moon.

Whilst Libra looks after the relationship between the past and the present, Aquarius looks after the relationship between the present and future. Those of your sign must look ahead now and anticipate your needs because it is upon this that the survival of human consciousness depends. What kind of understanding do you need to engage positively with what lies ahead, and to find purpose within it? Consciousness must find from within itself its own reasons for continuing to develop. Make your questions, vessels on the mental plane that will receive what you need to know, and as much as you need, in order to go forward confidently. Ask and it shall be given unto you: given, but not done for you, my brother. In the Age of Aquarius man saves himself with his own knowledge. Spread this message every way that you know how: the Age of Saviours is past.

The colour for your sign is silver/blue, a combination of which only a passive mind will make grey. You are inspired by the sight of light moving, scintillating and fracturing. The rainbow, the sevenfold fracturing of white light and universal symbol of hope is associated with your sign.

Letter XII

My brother Pisces,

Dream the dreams that inspire those who shape the future

What other signs perceive to be the future, for Pisces is the past. This sign holds impressions from another stage in the unfoldment of consciousness, one closer to Source, and this creates sadness for things that are no more. Your qualities are impressionability and sensitivity.

Those of your sign are connected to the hierarchy of beings which form the crown centre of our Solar Logos. The crown centre, of course, is linked to the base centre; in this case, the base centre of our Planetary Logos. This connection enfolds our solar system, and takes the energy of this hierarchy of beings, which is that of intelligent substance, from the highest down to the very lowest level.

The hierarchical ruler of your sign is the planet Pluto, which goes down to the depths where Alpha emerges from Omega. Your symbol is the two fishes, one emerging from the depths, the other entering it.

It is a strange role that you fulfil, my brother, one which sees you sacrifice contentment and satisfaction to keep alive, remembrance of things that mankind has never known, but its significance to human development is greater than you can ever suppose. With your dreams and yearning you arouse others to greatness and nobility. You provide inspiration and incentive to struggle and strive because, for now, this is what man must do in order to hold down his lower nature.

After 2012, the sign Pisces will become a place of refinement where artists and other creative individuals will hone and enhance their sensitivity, the better to serve mankind. Yet, on Earth, spirituality will then be shaped by the values of the sign Aries. Man's aspirational nature will engage willingly and eagerly with the task of transforming energy in order to move into the new, and passivity and submission will not then be associated with sanctity. In this planetary system the Age of Pisces will be over, but its echo will be heard in another, where the younger brothers of men and the animals come on behind, and it will raise the hearts of those who hear it, for they know it calls them home.

Until then, your dreams will be needed to keep spiritually-aware men strong, determined and civilised, and to remind them of their destination. Capture the echoes from a higher place in what you write, paint, speak and do for others, and shine light into the dark places in and around man.

Your colour is violet and you are inspired by the sight of that messenger from another world, the first solitary star of evening.

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