

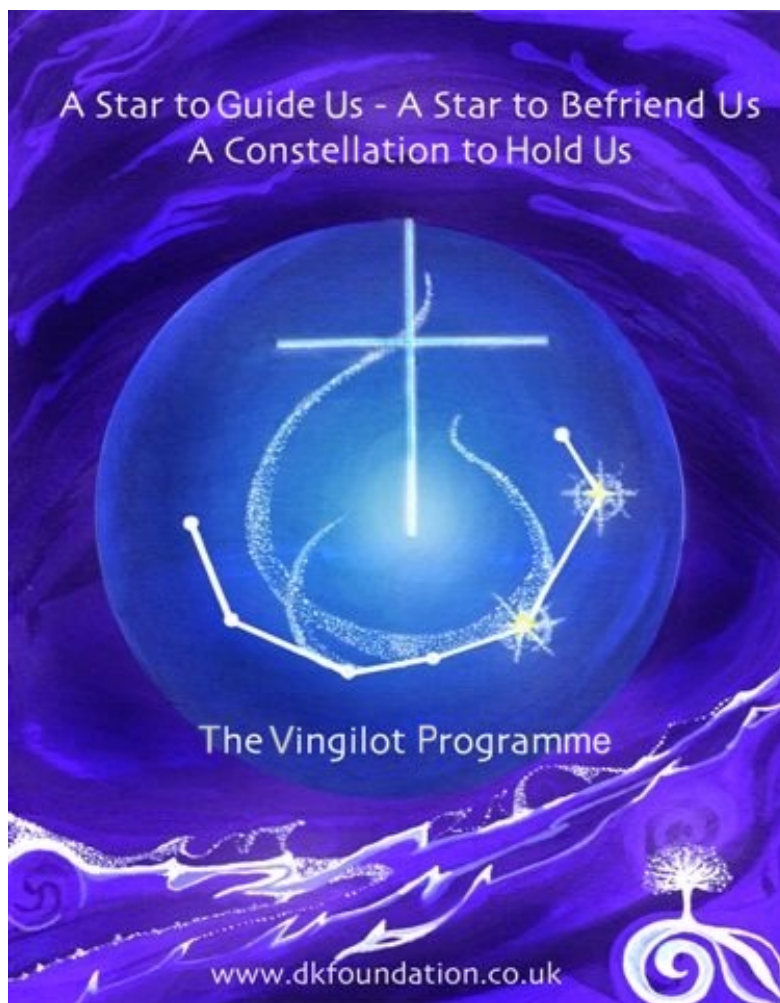
Opening the Heavens

The Vingilot System

'The loremasters of Men said that a Straight Road must be still, for those that were permitted to find it. And they taught that, while the new world fell away, the old road...still went on, as it were a mighty bridge invisible that passed through the air of breath and of flight (which were bent now as the world was bent)...'

J.R.R. Tolkien

Akallabeth



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Today is Candlemass, and in the predawn darkness, the star Deneb Adige is shining high in the Northern sky.

The skies above Brighton are heavily polluted with light, and so from where I sit at my desk, Deneb appears to be alone. In fact, it is the alpha star of the constellation known as Cygnus, the Swan. In winter, in the hours before dawn, this constellation moves through the Northern quarter of the visible sky.

The Southern sky which I can see from the back of the house is dusted with stars, winter and summer, but it is of the nature of North to be spare and solitary. North has always been the direction that has drawn me.

Deneb, this seemingly solitary star, has shone into my North-facing rooms on all clear winter mornings for the thirty years that I have lived in this house, just as it did, presumably, for all the unknown people who lived here before me. I consider I have a relationship of significance with it, and indeed, with those with whom it connects me.

Some 100 miles away from Brighton in Glastonbury is an overgrown grassy hillock, not far from Wearyall Hill. The grass there holds the memory of the sea which once covered the fields that stretch away from the hillock. This, tradition maintains, is the site of the community founded by St. Bride who moved from Ireland to Glastonbury. St. Bride is frequently pictured with a sea bird; Deneb Adige, the principal star of the Swan is located in the Piscean sector of the heavens.

Candlemass on February 2nd is also St. Bride's Day. At midday when the Sun at Aquarius 13 degrees holds the Midheaven, Deneb Adige will be overhead to anyone or anything standing on St. Bride's Mound. Of course it will not be visible in the midday light, but it will be there nonetheless. The stars do not go out, no matter what we were told as children.

In this way, through this star, I feel connected to St. Bride, who has been a symbol of considerable importance to me in life. It creates a celestial path between Brighton and Glastonbury which the mind can follow effortlessly.

Such paths are made from relationships that we make in time and space with people, things and places for which we can create a stellar profile.

In the Sagittarian sector of the Glastonbury Zodiac some years ago now, a DKF student showed me a piece of stone which was criss-crossed by a myriad of straight, thin, silver lines. I knew then that they were star paths recorded in the stone's substance and had significance for the astrology of the future.

We each have a star to guide us, a star to befriend us and a constellation to hold us. These three features create a vessel which may be able to lift us off the physical plane, if

only for a while, and place us on these straight stellar paths to travel and to gain insight and feel inspiration.

With the **Vingilot** programme, I aim to show how these vessels may be created.

This work is dedicated to my young Sagittarian friend, The Elf, who understands well that when the lines of the World are bent, we must find the Straight Road, and whose conscious way of living and meticulous artwork inspire so many.

Suzanne Rough

