

The Great Wheel Turns and a New Age Is Born

Dr. John A. Bellman

When the moon is in the seventh house, and Jupiter aligns with Mars, then peace shall guide the planets and love will steer the stars. This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius ... (From the musical, HAIR.)

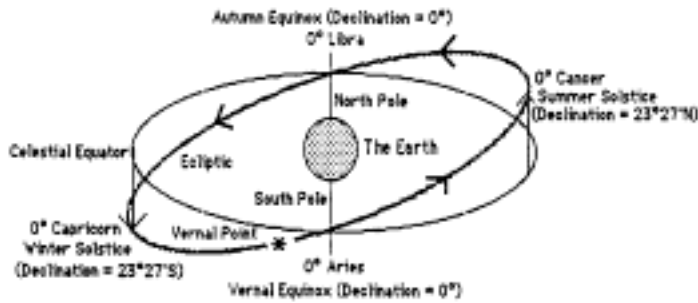
Every form is the physical symbol for a higher truth. This "Law of Correspondences or Analogy" as it has been called, is the basis of all esoteric and occult thought. It is summed up in the axiom: As above, so below; as below, so above. The fact that we perceive something on the phenomenal plane insures us that there is some one emanating cause or life that determines the quality and form of that particular appearance. This is true for a universe, a solar system, a planet, a man or an atom. Each of these forms is the expression of some life and manifests some level of conscious activity. Astrology is a science of the evolution of that consciousness within the form nature. In the human kingdom, it is the Soul that is expressing the consciousness aspect behind the forms that we can perceive. Through a series of many incarnations within the human family, that form nature is evolved to such a degree that it perfectly mirrors the inner reality. Thus, a Son of God and a Master among men is born. This is the goal for each of us and the plan that has been presented by the great teachers who have attempted to show us the way. All were interested in the evolving consciousness or Soul and Its manifestation through the forms of this Earth plane for the purposes of love, service and brotherhood.

Astrology allows us to view this process in a symbolic fashion. Each planet, constellation and subsequent planetary placement conveys to the mind of the intuitive astrologer much information as to the nature of the next step to be taken by the Soul in any particular

incarnation. It must be remembered however that astrology deals only with potential energy. The point of evolution or the amount of practical experience gained by the Soul in question will always determine the final quality and appearance of the manifested life. On a greater scale, there are cycles and rhythms that affect the human race as a whole. These may be likened to racial incarnations that are operative for a little over 2000 years. In astrology, these "incarnations" are referred to as the Planetary Ages of Man and today we are witness to the birth of man on a global level into the sign of the Water Bearer, Aquarius. As with the individual however, it will be up to the en-souling life of the human kingdom to determine the quality and form that this New Age will manifest.

This greater passage of the Zodiac is based upon an astronomical phenomenon known as the Precession of the Equinoxes. The Vernal Equinox occurs each spring when the Sun, in its apparent orbital path (Ecliptic) around the Earth, crosses the Celestial Equator in a northerly direction. On that day it spends an equal amount of time both above and below the horizon. The Vernal Equinox is therefore defined by the intersection of these two cosmic planes (Celestial Equator and the Ecliptic) and establishes the fixed reference point of O Aries for the Tropical Zodiac. See Figure below:

THE VERNAL POINT AND THE EQUINOXES



Our Zodiac of Signs therefore has little to do with the astronomical belt of the 12 Constellations of Stars. They are linked in name only, and hence the Tibetan Master's statement that astrology is basically an illusion. At certain points in time, however, coincidence or alignment between the two wheels occurs. About 2100 years ago, the Vernal Point (astronomical O Aries) and the point of "O" degrees of Aries (as defined in the above figure) actually corresponded. The rotation of the earth about its own axis creates wobble and the planet does not return to exactly the same spot (Vernal Point) on the ecliptic at each Vernal Equinox. It slips backwards through the signs at about a rate of 1 degree every 72 years. Therefore, since that time the Vernal Point has occurred somewhere within the Sign of Pisces. It is this effect of the Earth's axial and orbital rotations that brings about the Greater or Sidereal cycle of the Zodiac and thus takes about 26,000 years to complete.

This lesser Zodiac is known as the Tropical Zodiac and concerns itself mainly with the form side of nature. Let us state that in another fashion. Whether or not the Sun is actually in Pisces or Aries on or about March 21 of each year, spring becomes the "phenomenal appearance." This correlates well with the form aspect and provides many answers for most astrological research and delineation. The greater Zodiac is known as the Sidereal Zodiac and as stated above, seems to provide the impetus for changes on a much grander scale. It could be said to affect mainly the consciousness within the form or perhaps, the Soul. Since most people are not aware of, or

in touch with this aspect of their beings, its effects may be less obvious or esoteric. The effects are nonetheless real, and can be seen within the greater groups, spiritually minded individuals and the race as a whole. The element of time is very important and one should never forget that in the lesser cycle the Sun moves through the Tropical Zodiac once every 365 days. In the greater cycle it takes 26,000 years for the same occurrence and in a different direction (ie. Aries to Taurus via Pisces). These two Zodiacs therefore must have effects of differing magnitude and focus within the life of this planet as a whole and the multitude of individual lives that it contains. We stand now on the verge of a New Age or "incarnation" for mankind. We are rapidly passing out of the influence of the constellation of Pisces and entering into that of the constellation of Aquarius. This transition provides both special B opportunity and exciting challenges.

The Age of Pisces actually began about one hundred years before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Astrologers are at odds over the exact date, but the Tibetan Master, D.K. provided a very important piece of information regarding this calculation to Alice A Bailey in February of 1940. In an unpublished paper, He stated; "177 years must go by before we enter what you call the first (or Third Decan, JAB) decan of Aquarius." ¹ Remember that the precession of movement is a retrograde and that we will experience Aquarius beginning with the 29th degree of that sign and then move "backwards" through it. This accounts for the variance in the numbering of the decanates above, and also inspires deeper research into the Tibetan's doctrine of Zodiacal reversal and differing decanate rulerships, based upon directional movement about the Wheel during certain periods of our evolution. Regardless, however, of position on the Path, we may calculate the ayanamsa or the mathematical difference between the Vernal Point and O of Aries to be exactly 30 degrees at the Vernal Equinox of 2117 A.D. for it describes an astronomical and mathematical verity.

Changes in consciousness rarely if ever

occur along fully demarcated lines. They are gradual and usually inclusive of previous states. I feel that there is a definite crossover period whenever such a transition as this is being made. During this crossover period there are certain points of crisis that some might call erroneously endings or beginnings, but in so doing, they lose the picture of the synthetic process. The birth of Jesus around 6 B.C. and the Jupiter/Saturn conjunction that occurred in Pisces coincided with a major turn of the Wheel and the beginning of a Grand New Cycle. The Age of Aries was giving way to the Age of Pisces and a complete new round of the Sidereal Zodiac was beginning. In the preceding 26,000 years, mankind had been preparing to take this step and within 500 years of Jesus' birth, many of the founders of the present day religions were born. The Buddha, Zoroaster, Lao-tse, Confucius and Jesus had appeared in order to prepare man for this momentous evolutionary step forward. The significance of that period cannot therefore be denied.

The Age of Aries gave birth to the self through the development of racial consciousness and the Hebrews were the outstanding exponent of that development for that period. At that time, man learned to band together for protection and for the propagation of his own genetic heritage. In the Age of Aries, therefore, man had come into contact with his own ego structure. God was made in the image of man and the power of his life was greatly increased. Thus he was able to survive as a unit to take the next step forward.

In the Age of Pisces the separatist mind and the integrated personality were developed. Man grew by being exclusive, which is a natural offshoot of the racial consciousness of Aries. Life had been "grounded" in Aries and now it was being defined and subsequently confined and isolated in Pisces. Man needed boundaries and limits in order to safely grow and develop. Fanatical devotion to various people, organizations or movements became the keynote of the Age. The selfhood of Aries was not lost, it was only expanded. The mystics and leaders of the Age of Pisces had fostered

Man's idealism and had trained him to sense the vision. Now, even that vision has proved to be incomplete and we stand on the verge of another transition. The boundaries that were once seen as protective and guiding have become limiting as the Age of pure electric reason has begun to illuminate our thinking and expand our awareness and apprehension of Truth.

With the discovery of the ruler of Aquarius, Uranus, in 1781 until the present we have seen this "tendency to enlightenment" rapidly gaining momentum. During the past 200 years, our lives have been irrevocably altered by the illuminating beams of this electric planet. How many people living at that time would have believed that by 1991, we would have airplanes, nuclear power, genetic engineering and space travel? I doubt that they could even have conceived of such things. What then does that say for us, as we look to the future with awe and wonder? The Age of Aquarius will dramatically reveal the equality of man, the brotherhood of the nations and the omnipotence of the Soul, through the development of the intuitive mind. Intuition is the comprehensive grip of the principle of universality. When it is functioning, there is lost the sense of separateness and it is replaced with a complete identification with all beings. This is why Aquarius is known as the sign of Universal Brotherhood and representative of the One World Family. The Water Bearer pours forth his illuminating beams upon all men equally. He can do so, however only because he has learned the Truth through the devotion and idealism of Pisces. What he has added to this apprehension is the intuitive grasp of "wholeness" which is developed under the influence of the planet, Uranus.

One can readily see therefore why the development of science has proceeded so rapidly under this influence. The rational mind which developed during the Age of Pisces provided only one-half of the picture. The mysteries eluded us because we could not grasp the inner reality, nor could we see the entire synthetic process. For example, we may look at a table and see only a table through the

eyes of the concrete, rational mind. It would take scientific advancements (Uranus) in physics and chemistry and their widespread teaching and acceptance to open wide the door to the inner realms. Let us be reminded that Aquarius, Leo and Sagittarius are the transmitting triad of the Fifth Ray of Scientific Mind into our systemic sphere of receptivity. Our vision is always limited by the factual content of our rational minds. With the aid of science, broader vistas have appeared before us, and the possibility of coupling intuitive apprehension and concrete thought have become possible. Now, with the intuitive mind, we still see the same table, but we also can see the tree from which the table may have been taken and the life that is still contained within the molecular structure of the form itself. The intuitive, comprehensive and synthetic attitude of the true Aquarian provides this type of vision. It brings us closer to the SOURCE or CAUSE behind all. There will most certainly still be a clash of some ideological expressions, but we hope, pray and meditate that the Spirit of Brotherhood and Cooperation will prevail.

There are many people who are strongly influenced by the Piscean vibration and who will not readily accept this new tendency toward synthesis and unity. They are still operating under the dogmas and separatist attitudes that were necessary for that time period, but are now outdated. We are standing only on the cusp of the Age of Aquarius and we must allow for a mixture and a blending of both the incoming and the outgoing vibrations. Aquarius can tend to be radical and eccentric in its expression, even as the intuition is revolutionary when compared to the concrete mind, but let us not forget that the greatest goal is synthesis and union. May we who are sensitive to these inspiring new energies alienate no one in our expression of Truth and allow perfect freedom of manifestation to all. Only in this way will the development of mankind be balanced and harmonious.

The keynote of the Sixth Ray and the Piscean Dispensation may be summed up in the words, "The Vision which Discloses

Reality." All of the Rays of Attribute are involved with the manifestation of the God force through the matter element. They permit the various qualities or attributes of God to become manifest in time and space (Rays III and VIU, to achieve balance in that manifestation (Ray IV) and then even to develop the capacity for self-study and scientific analysis (Ray V). It is the Sixth purpose of Deity or the Ray of Abstract Idealism, however which permits and fosters the recognition of that God-Force or Quality as it is hidden and locked within the forms of nature. It is therefore closely linked with the sense of vision (occultly speaking) and the identification of that which is the same as oneself within the environment. This creates the condition known as devotion and along with the Second Ray, the Sixth Ray consequently manifests the energy of cohesiveness or unity within our universe.

The Sixth Ray of Vision, dominant for the past 2000 years, has enabled us to become sensitized to that which "lies beyond" and yet "within" the forms which we see and contact physically. We have therefore learned to "see" our transcendent Deity as both imminent and near. In this discovery we have also found that same God living within the confines of our own beings. It is this concept of "Recognizing Truth" which is the foundation of all Faith and basically all religions. For this reason, the Sixth Ray Type will very often be found involved in some religious or philosophic endeavor. It has association with the sixth sub-plane of the cosmic physical plane (Astral Plane) as well and therefore can focus itself deeply within the emotional nature of all sentient beings. The outcome of this previous Sixth Ray Cycle has been the sensitization of the desire nature of mankind to that which is true, good, upright and moral. Christianity has been one primary medium for its expression as it has stressed these characteristics through the teachings of the Sixth Ray Master, Jesus of Nazareth. It has however been quite emotional and at times definitely moved within the realm of fanaticism. For those who disbelieved or even questioned, the Crusades and the

Inquisitions enacted a most horrible punishment. Travesty is ever the price of imbalance in any direction, regardless of motivation, and the Sixth Ray has a peculiar penchant for this type of "imbalanced" expression.

The Sixth Ray influence served positively to attract men's minds towards an ideal, such as that of individual sacrifice or service, and the mystical visionary was the greatest achievement of this period. It also produced the great idealistic religions with their vision and necessary narrowness. This narrowness was needed however to safeguard infant Souls until the Fifth Ray (coming into incarnation around 1775 A.D.) could perform the needed stimulation of the latent mental principle in man. For certain occult reasons related to the Deva evolution itself and the Astral Plane Raja-Deva, Lord Varuna, the Astral Body is usually the most potent vehicle in the personality. For these reasons, the Sixth Ray has had a peculiarly dominant effect in both positive and negative directions. At this time however, there are sufficient numbers of Aspirants and Disciples upon this Ray Line of Force to offset much of the negativity, as well as to capitalize upon the crystalizing effects of this Ray as it rapidly wanes in power. It is stated also that the Master Jesus in cooperation with Lord Varuna is still attempting a reorganization of the Christian Churches so that they may be of use in the New Age, for He is karmically linked to their destinies. Their fate has yet to be determined.

As the Age of Aquarius waxes in Power and the Seventh Ray replaces the Sixth, there will necessarily be a shift in polarization from the Astral to the Mental planes for humanity as a whole. There is not the need for the masses to remain under the control of the "thinking few" for the masses are now beginning to think as well. The individual does not need "Mother Church" to guide and direct because the individual conscience has been sufficiently developed. The Church has served her purpose but now it is time for her to change and evolve, or succumb to a relative extinction. It is this outcome of the New Age

that is strongly sensed by some of the more Orthodox Christian Movements and therefore results in the almost violent attacks against any who support the newer basic tenets of Aquarius. Anything that is new or different or not in line with their Piscean view of the Truth is considered wrong and is called the "Work of the Devil." Threats of hellfire and damnation may have motivated the people of Salem to burn the innocent at the stake, in the name of God, but Science has rooted out most of these "so called" demons as fiction and has even put the "Devil" in his place. Now, I do not in any way negate the effects of Cosmic Evil within our world, but the unthinking hysteria and fear caused by those Sixth Ray and Piscean groups who refuse to change and expand their recognized version of the Truth must end. The Tibetan states that an un-evolved Sixth Ray type can be far more destructive than even the First Ray, for there is less wisdom to be found and the fanatical adherence to the ideal lies along the emotional line of least resistance for the majority. It may be likened to the mob-psychology of mass hysteria whether evoked in the soldiers of the Crusades or the Nazis of World War II. The end result is still the same; namely the manipulation of mass emotions until fanatical frenzies are achieved. The energies of religious revivals, prayer meetings and even political conventions, etc. usually lie along similar lines of force.

I have chosen to present some of the harsher aspects of the Sixth Ray forces and Piscean attributes because of their strictly emotional impact. The power of this Ray is incredible and it still functions far more potently than most occultists even believe or would like to admit. I use it even now to stimulate your vision and produce greater service within your lives. The Tibetan states, "Sixth Ray people need handling with care, for they are too one pointed and too full of personal desire, and the tide of evolution has been with this type for a very long time."² He even goes so far as to state that no person with a Sixth Ray Personality (unless highly developed upon the Path) should be permitted to head any powerful organizations due to the

inability to act inclusively and the tendency to emotionalism and fanaticism.

Whether we have an operative Sixth Ray vehicle within our own personality mechanisms is not however the point. Let us never forget that the Astral Body is located upon the sixth sub-plane of the cosmic physical plane and therefore has close association with the outgoing Ray of Fanatical Desire. Each and every one of us is at times subject to that level of emotionalism that precludes rational thought. This is both fostered and stimulated by the Sixth Ray itself and the emotional polarization inherent in the Constellation of Pisces. We have but to examine our world today to witness the negative aspects of this Ray in full force. Our Astral Bodies may be easily swept up by the tide of devotion, whether in meditation or on the battlefield. The energetic focal point is the same in both scenarios. It is not until the Disciple has well nigh achieved the Second Initiation that freedom from this non-thinking emotional condition is to be had. And yet, paradoxically enough, it is the Sixth Ray that governs the Treading of the Path itself. Without the vision, to produce the devotion, there is no reason to resist the temptations of the material world and move forward into the realm of Soul Consciousness. It is only in the balance of desire and mind however that real progress is made and the emotional mystic becomes the mental occultist. The Sixth Ray and Pisces therefore fostered the Vision, but the Seventh Ray and Aquarius shall bring it into physical manifestation through the power of the focused mind and its ability to bend matter according to the Will of God. This will be the crowning glory of the dawning Aquarian Age of Man. The Tibetan states, "One Ray prepares the way for another Ray, and the reason for the manifestation of one Ray or another is dependent upon Divine Plan and Purpose. It is not often that two Rays follow each other in numerical sequence, such as is now happening. When this does happen, there eventuates a rapid following of effect this today can provide the basis for an assured hope.

Each day we take one more step out of

Pisces into Aquarius and the Sixth Ray forces give way to those of the Seventh Ray. It is imperative that there be those people who can fulfill a bridging function between these two groups of energies. There need not be crisis, misunderstanding and imbalance if we operate from the level of the Soul, whose nature is pure, detached Love. Remember, all things manifest on more than one level simultaneously. There may be the highest level of Aquarius with its tendency toward brotherhood and service, or there may be the lower, with its expression of eccentric and radical behavior patterns. It is up to each person to decide how to individually manifest the energies at hand. It will most certainly depend upon the evolutionary point of achievement and the amount of experience thereby garnered, but if we are open to the essence of our Highest Selves, the mistakes will be fewer and the ultimate synthesis greater. I challenge you, therefore, to learn all that you can about Pisces and Aquarius and the Sixth and Seventh Rays. Examine how they have operated in your own life and then make a decision as to how you are going to manifest them in the future. The opportunity for personal growth is immense, but let us not lose sight of the growth of the human race and our beloved planet Earth. Let us pledge together now that we shall manifest only the highest and the best of the energies at hand and bring in this New Age of Aquarius with illumination, understanding and love.

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John A. Bellman received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan in 1987 and majored in Psychobiology as an undergraduate. He presently works for Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. He practices astrological counseling with an emphasis on personal and group preparation for the New Age of Aquarius. His specialties include Psychological Astrology and Esoteric Astrology via the Blavatsky/ Bailey Teachings and he is currently working on a book emphasizing Esoteric Astrological applications in the clinical setting.