

Wisdom Inspires Gratitude

SINCE THE SUMMER SOLSTICE has just taken place, let us remind ourselves of some astronomical facts. The twelve constellations, the twelve Divine Hierarchies, form the *natural zodiac* and are ever in the same relative positions. But on account of a motion of the pole of the earth, the Sun crosses the equator at a slightly different point each spring at the vernal equinox, and this shifting point is considered in Astrology as being the first degree of Aries, the beginning of what is called the *intellectual zodiac*, which thus changes from year to year at the rate of about 1 degree in 72 years, 1 sign in 2156 years, completing the circle of 12 signs in about 25,868 years. This backward movement is called "precession of the equinox."

From the materialistic viewpoint there seems to be no reason for this shifting of the zodiac, but from the position of the mystic it is not at all arbitrary, but necessary and in harmony with the spiral path of evolution adhered to in both star and starfish, observable everywhere in nature. After completion of each cycle, the intellectual and the natural zodiacs coincide (the last time being 498 A.D.), and a new world period commences, a new phase of evolution, a higher loop of the spiral whereon we are ever traveling towards God.

The procedure of regarding where the Sun crosses the earth's equator in the east as the first point of Aries, no matter where in the constellations it falls because of precession, is perfectly justified because the life-giving qualities ascribed to the Sun in Aries are observable as soon as it has crossed the equator; then the seeds sprout, the mating season commences, and the whole creation seems stirred by the solar ray to bring forth. Therefore astrologers say that the Sun is exalted in Aries.

On the same principle, the western node of the

Sun, the point where he leaves the northern hemisphere for the winter months, is called the first point of Libra, and Saturn, the planet of obstruction and suppression, is here exalted; he is the reaper with his scythe, he mows down the fruits of the solar ray, he suppresses life and joy, the gladsome voices of our feathered friends are hushed in his presence, and the earth goes down to its wintry grave under his withering influence.

So, we will express our thoughts and feelings of *gratefulness* to the Elder Brothers of the Rosicrucian Order, who have given to mankind, through their messenger, Max Heindel, such a wonderful Teaching, which unites Science—such as the aforementioned astronomical facts—to Religion—the precession of the equinox being the path of evolution whereon we are traveling towards God.

Regarding the Arts, it is our personal privilege to build the covenant which is mentioned in the Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews 8:10: "I shall put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts," inasmuch as we all have included in our different vehicles and veils a specific gift, given by each one of the twelve divine Hierarchies that form the natural zodiac. These divine Hierarchies have given their names to the intellectual zodiac—both zodiacs being part of the microcosmic man.

Let us recall what Max Heindel writes about gratitude, that we have been especially favored, far beyond our merit, by receiving the Rosicrucian teachings from our Elder Brothers. Needless to say they do not crave our gratitude, they are beyond that; but we may make more soul growth by being grateful.

This precious knowledge enables us to better fulfill our task and to progress more rapidly on the path of evolution, if we chose to do so, in accordance with our free will. □