

The Birth of Christ

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Steps on the Path

As man walks along the evolutionary path, his inner Light becomes gradually brighter and more glowing until he finds himself standing at the Portal of Initiation. Like a pilgrim, he has journeyed through ages and innumerable lifetimes with hard struggles, sacrifices and aspirations. Hard work and self-discipline have brought him to this portal. Initiation is an inner, private event which occurs when the candidate is ready because he has achieved certain levels of advancement, and then a major expansion of consciousness takes place. Hence, a deeper understanding of one's Soul purpose and connection to the Greater Whole can be sensed and grasped. According to the esoteric wisdom humanity has five major steps/initiations to pass before we "graduate" and leave the human kingdom. Initiation is a spiritual experiment that first took place approximately 18 million years ago to hasten the evolution on Earth.

At each initiation new levels of consciousness are entered and gradually mastered, the horizon becomes wider and reveals more and more of the Divine Plan, in which men eventually become conscious co-creators. It's important to bear in mind that an initiation will always produce new great opportunities and higher capacities to serve humanity. So service is the goal.

These five initiations are described in many Holy Scriptures and ancient Mysteries throughout the world, hidden in symbols and parables. The truth is always veiled to secure that only profound seekers shall find the sacred wisdom to prevent any misuse of the esoteric knowledge. The life of Christ can be viewed as an initiatory journey, in which the progress of the man Jesus mirrors the same tests and stages which every human Soul has to go through on our way home to the Father's

house. Those who have trodden the Path before us have all passed these initiation portals and much can be learnt from studying their lives and teachings.

1. Initiation

The Birth of Christ is not just an historical incident that happened in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago, but it is an inner mystical event that takes place in the individual heart as well. It's the spiritual Birth of the Soul coming into physical manifestation, which is the true meaning of Christmas. This Birth is intimately associated to the astrological sign **Virgo**. Virgo represents the Cosmic Mother, the matter aspect and the divine form in which a new consciousness can interiorly be born. The Virgin-mother is the personification of the immortal Soul that seeks to be expressed as the living Christ within the heart which produces profound psychological and spiritual awakenings in man.

The Bible tells us that Joseph, the husband of Mary, was not the father of Jesus who was born of a virgin. Allegorically, this means that the immortal Soul (Mary) was stimulated and fructified by pure Spirit, not by human flesh. Thus, Joseph will not represent the Father, but the mental principle. Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem, carried on a donkey, and prepared the physical birth place which was the stable. Prior to initiation the three lower bodies has to be brought into some alignment controlled by the mind. Initiation will not be possible unless the mental body is coordinated and properly functioning, that's why Mercury is the exoteric ruler of Virgo. So Joseph represents the highly developed logical mind which is wise and experienced, but not yet illumined by the Soul. The tamed domestic animals symbolize controlled and purified emotions and the stable represents the physical body. After the birth the concrete mind will become illumined by soul infused light and the first sparks of intuition can be received.

Virgo is astrologically associated to purification, diets, health and service. These qualities will naturally be demonstrated in the life of a person prior to the first initiation because this initiation is related to the form aspect and the physical body. Control over physical appetites must be attained to a high degree so that the candidate will not be enslaved by material and sexual greediness or addicted to excessive drinking and eating habits.

The three rulers of Virgo; Mercury, Moon and Jupiter

On a personal level, Mercury represents the intelligent mind, which acts as the illuminating principle of human life. As the Messenger of Gods, he connects lower and higher mind so that information from soul realm can be received and interpreted in the physical brain. On the probationary path the aspirants begin to orient their minds inwards through more analytical thinking, self- reflection and meditation. Mercury bridges a connection between inner, soul inspired communication and rational thinking so that the mind is able to function in two directions. Mercury is also a planet emanating the energies of the 4th ray, the ray of Harmony through conflicts, which causes numerous struggles between soul and personality in an aspirant's life. Material possessions and worldly power are not attractive any longer and so the candidate yearns for something finer. He is painfully aware of that his inner spiritual life must somehow come to fore in his physical life, but he is still not able or willing to do so. Planets in the 6th house and the 12th house could indicate what kind of crisis that will occur,

as the 6th house represents personality, daily life issues and responsibilities and the 12th house represents the soul and the spiritual life. These areas of life have to be synthesized. Conflicts between these two fields can go on for many lifetimes until the aspirant ultimately chooses to put the Soul into the driver's seat which will be about the time of the first initiation. Soul and personality are fused and brought into alignment, even though conflicts and battles between personality and soul will continue intensely until the third initiation is mastered. Nevertheless, Mercury gives the candidate ability to fuse and balance his inner spiritual life with outer life through conflicts and crisis. An intelligent, concentrated mind must be developed so that a bridge between soul, mind and brain can be established. Thus, illuminated ideas and intuition pours in from the Soul which produces increased beauty, harmony and creativity.

(Esoteric astrology 353-4) Mercury...Messenger of the Gods carries messages between the poles with speed and light. Mercury is the expression of the dual aspect of the mind as it mediates between higher and lower.

For practical use, look at Mercury's position in your own chart, which can give you an indication of what specific mental skills you have to develop to hasten the Birth. For example Mercury in Libra needs to learn how to establish right human relationships so that a balance between soul and personality can be attained. In this process one needs intimate relations and other persons to mirror one's own thought patterns. Libra is transmitting the 7th and the 3rd ray, which are both practical intelligent rays. Hence, qualities as right timing, organising abilities and following procedures (ray 7) along with abstract thinking, planning and strategizing (ray 3), will synthesize a strong mental body which is well prepared for the 1st initiation.

From a soul level, **the Moon is the esoteric ruler of Virgo**, which represents the womb, the cave in the heart and thus related to the physical form. The moon is our personality which veils our Spiritual Light, our true Self. Likewise, the moon in Virgo veils Vulcan and Neptune. Vulcan represents the Higher Will and the 1st ray which is very active prior to 1st initiation. In the mythology Vulcan was a God of fire and the blacksmith who made beautiful jewelry for the Gods out of raw material. In the same manner, our dense physical bodies need to be shaped and formed into finer, more transparent material. To shape something into form, you need heat, pressure and rhythmic hammering. This forging process of Vulcan is strongly felt in a person preceding the Birth of Christ. As Vulcan rules the crown chakra, a pressing and hammering sensation is often felt in this area as well.

Neptune, transmitting ray 2 and 6, represents the inner Christ. During 1st initiation the universal, inclusive Love from Neptune is felt for the first time, awakening the heart to oneness with all Life.

Practically, the Moon's position in the chart gives us information of some of the qualities our body/personality must be constructed of if Christ is to be brought successfully into manifestation. For example if we have moon in Taurus, we must fill our bodies with illuminating light (Taurus), endurance, persistence and willingness to manifest the will of God (Vulcan). Further, Taurus gives ability to construct and build physical and solid structures wherein the illuminating Light shines forth. The house position in chart indicates in what arena the new consciousness will come to fore.

On the hierarchical level, Jupiter represents the Cosmic Christ principle within all forms which makes an important connection between Virgo and the sign of Aquarius. Hierarchical ruler of Virgo, Jupiter, becomes the esoteric ruler of Aquarius. The "burden" of Virgo is released in Aquarius which means

that Christ consciousness can now be expressed more universally and globally. The evolutionary goal for man is group consciousness developed in Aquarius. As humans we go from mass consciousness in Cancer to Self consciousness in Leo which gives us opportunity to develop Christ consciousness in Virgo and eventually group consciousness in Aquarius. Christ lives in every individual, but Christ is also a cosmic principle existing in all nature and in all things. The moon, which is the esoteric ruler of Virgo, is lifted up to a hierarchical level in Aquarius which may symbolize that humanity as a whole will one day be lifted up and thus expressing universal Love and Wisdom. The moon, our personalities are so purified that they function as a perfect tool for the Cosmic Christ energies.

Three constellations related to Virgo



Each of the twelve zodiacal signs is connected to three other constellations, which enlighten our understanding of the threefold aspect of a particular sign. Each sign has three decanates which is related to personality, soul and monad, respectively. The theme of Virgo can clearly be seen in the constellation **Coma Bernices** which corresponds to the personality aspect.

Mythology tells us a story about an Egyptian queen, Coma Berenices, who cut off her long beautiful hair, as an act of sacrificial love, so she could get her beloved husband safe home from war. She wanted him so desperately, so she went to the temple of Aphrodite and placed her hair upon the altar. The king returned safely and they become united again. When she and the king went to the temple to see the hair, they found it removed. When they asked where it was, they were told to look upon the sky in the night. The hair had been placed in the heavens by Jupiter. Now it was a beautiful cluster of stars shining like a beacon in the night. Like Coma Berenices certain sacrifices has to be made in an aspirants life, sacrifice of outer glory and pride so that Soul can be seen and visible to all.

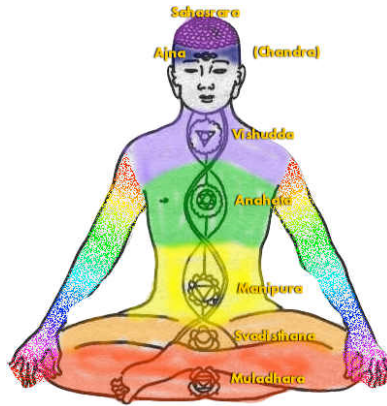
The constellation **Centaurus**, can deepen our understanding of the soul aspect of Virgo. The centaur, which is half man and half animal, is representing our untamed nature. When a person is ready to take the first initiation the cleft between soul and instinctual nature is starting to heal. Chiron is the healer, but he also links Virgo to Sagittarius. When the Soul is born physically in Virgo, the first glimpses of intuition can be registered very sporadically. In Sagittarius we might say that man is sitting on the horse, controlling it because the soul is now in command of the threefold personality, His instinctual nature is controlled and transformed into pure intuitional perception.

Bootes, which is representing the monadic aspect of Virgo, is one of the oldest constellations recorded, also mentioned by Homer in Odyssey. There are many versions about Bootes, but one common description portrays Bootes as the plowman who drove the oxen in constellation Ursa Major using his two dogs. The oxen were tied to the polar axis and so Bootes kept the heavens in constant rotation. North Pole is representing Shamballa and the Highest Will and thus related to evolutionary purpose, showing that the Christ principle is fundamental and connected to Divine

purpose in this Solar system. Bootes is also called the herdsman that can be associated to Christ as the Shepherd and the World Saviour. (Jupiter is exoteric ruler of Pisces).

To read more about the mythology of constellations; <http://www.constellationsofwords.com>

Chakras and rays involved



The throat chakra is very active during 1. initiation because energies from the sacral chakra must be lifted up to the throat and expressed in a creative and intelligent way. Sexual energies must be transmuted into higher and more subtle vibrations. Uranus and the 7th ray, which govern the sacral center, are actively involved during this period because they bring about a necessary reorientation and reorganization in the disciple's life, synthesizing spirit, consciousness and matter. As evolution carries on there will be transference of energies from the lower chakras up to the higher chakras following a line of least resistance.

All personalities prior to the 1st initiation is also influenced of Saturn and the third ray; Active Intelligence which governs the throat chakra. This ray makes it possible for the new born soul to manifest in the physical world.

Pluto and Vulcan ruling the base of the spine and the crown chakra, respectively, are very active forces during 1st initiation. Within our solar system Vulcan and Pluto are both expressions of the Will and the destructive forces. As rulers of the crown chakra (Vulcan) and the base of the spine (Pluto), we see how the Higher Will is pressing the Soul all the way down into the physical plane. When the 1st initiation is completed, the man is no longer on the probationary path. He has entered the Path of Discipleship.

Pluto and Vulcan are related to the two Pointers in The Great Bear (Merak and Dubhe). Merak, related to Vulcan, is representing God's Will, purpose and synthesis. Dubhe is representing lower personal will which is related to Pluto. These two stars point at the North Pole (Stella Polaris) and symbolize the reorientation process towards the Higher Will and the turning of direction of the wheel that takes place during 1. initiation.

Today, thousands of people have already passed 1st initiation. Hence, throughout the world in every country these people could be recognized as dedicated world servers working for unity, peace and for the betterment of humanity. They will have an inclusive, brotherly attitude and profound understanding of right human relations. 1st initiation is the first step into the spiritual kingdom; leading man from darkness into Light.

Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27)