

# The Spiritual Effects of the Zodiacal Signs: Aries to Gemini

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## Abstract

This article examines the astrological signs of Aries, Taurus, and Gemini for their spiritual and esoteric implications. In a format designed to help the student readily apply the concepts of esoteric astrology to his or her astrological birth chart, the text explores each sign according to seasonal analogy, associated element and modality in traditional astrology, general themes according to the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey, portions of human anatomy and functions ruled, the associated Labor of Hercules, and the three levels of rulership as proposed by the Tibetan Master through Alice Bailey. In the final segment of each section, the author demonstrates the progression encountered from the earliest stages of evolution to the later more advanced stages. Thus, for each sign, the triple rulership system is discussed in tandem with progress on both the Wheel of Life and the symbolic crosses of evolution for mass humanity, disciples, and initiates.

## Aries, the Ram (March 20 – April 19)

When the zodiacal year begins for the northern hemisphere in early spring, the life force held in abeyance by nature during the winter is poised to burst forth into vital expression once again. Even against the still-chilly temperatures of late winter and earliest spring, the irrepressible life force pushes insistently, sending pointed green shoots upward from the soil and outward from the branches of trees and shrubs. With the increasing warmth and light following the Vernal Equinox at 0 degrees Aries, the plant kingdom erupts into a riot of color and form, contrasting starkly against the remaining greys and whites of winter. To much surprise, Aries has arrived, un-

abashed by its somber surroundings and filled to exploding with the bold colors and unstoppable life wave of earliest spring.

Similar to the emerging and reborn life of the early spring season, the drive of the soul incarnating under the influence of Aries insists on bursting forth into life experience, ready and willing to meet all things, seemingly undaunted by none. This bold stance obviously is at once the gift and the test of Aries, a sign known for its courage but also for its failure to take heed of surrounding conditions before charging headlong into action. Yet, souls incarnate under the influence for legitimate spiritual reasons. What might these be?

According to the esoteric astrological doctrine of Alice A. Bailey and the Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul, Aries is a sign “of strong and potent impulses, violent fluctuations, and exaggerated efforts.”<sup>1</sup> These words evoke the image of a spirit of enterprise so intent on progress that it leaps and careens, like a headstrong spring Ram, in this direction and that, putting more muscle and determination behind its soaring trajectory than is truly required. One of the three fire signs in the zodiac, Aries

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## About the Author

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connotes great enthusiasm, vitality, and courage. It would not be an exaggeration to say that fiery Aries as the initiating sign of the zodiac is so packed with drive, zest for life, and unnerving verve it can barely contain itself. This is so with good reason: as the first sign of the zodiac, Aries is symbolic of First Cause, that great impelling cosmic entity or mind power which conceives all and propels all into manifestation. Contact with and responsible reaction to this high origin is the driving reason why souls undertake incarnations influenced by the sign of Aries.

The sensing of divine ideas in the mind of the cosmic entity is the primary purview of the Aries function. Thus, the individual born with the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or planets in this sign is often powerfully propelled by ideas sensed from on high. He or she may be compelled by sudden overpowering urges to pursue this or that line of endeavor, only to be driven in an equally intense manner in yet another. Undisturbed by the sheer power of its sudden and often brief impulses, Aries is more intent on registering the high voltage of the motivating spark than it is upon follow-through. In fact, the ability to connect with inspiring sources is precisely the skill to be learned and internalized by souls incarnating under influence from Aries. Symbolic of the fire from heaven which powers all cosmic evolution onward, the red-hot sign of Aries derives its *raison d'être* simply from connecting with, registering, and riding on the surge of inspiration. In fact, Aries as a zodiacal influence deals with the whole process of inspiration, which is to say, the descent of spirit and soul light from on high as it enlivens and energizes the material forms below.

In the process of incarnating fire from heaven or channeling down spiritual light from the higher planes, the Aries influenced individual frequently brings to bear all the force it can muster in an effort to embody and be just like the First Cause itself, which is all-powerful and the very origin of power itself. Never a lazy sign, Aries; in fact, sensing the inexhaustibility of the divine energy from which it hails, the Aries influenced individual unquestioningly imagines itself to be in possession of equally

infinite resources of energy. Consequently, the Aries-powered soul finds itself ever ready to confront any test and rise to any challenge. Although such an attitude is essentially admirable, Aries is so keyed up and alert that sometimes it even perceives challenges where there are none. While it is true that Aries contains the power to overcome any obstacle, still, when this indefatigability rages wildly out of hand, Aries may waste its force in interpreting life and human relations as a war, fighting imaginary or unnecessary skirmishes all along the path.

Thus, the Aries-driven soul must learn not only to register and act upon inspiration, but also to moderate its responses to both the inner and outer worlds. As an accomplishment-oriented, and competitive sign, Aries fears inferiority and obscurity, two conditions it will endeavor to prevent with all its power. This is both the blessing and the curse bequeathed by the sign of Aries, a sign determined to avoid mediocrity and to arrive at meaningful attainment, whether personal or planetary. On the way to this accomplishment, Aries will hold back nothing, devoting all to the effort at hand, for Aries is privately driven by the specter of failing to prove its high abilities or of falling short of meaningful notice.

While seemingly inexhaustible energy resides in Aries, still it wants for the discipline and finesse that can carry its intentions through to accomplishment. Hence, the Aries-influenced individual many times starts projects or responds to challenges in a rush of confidence and enthusiasm, only to abandon them later when the white heat of first moments dies out and the routine work of implementing an inspired vision settles in. This pattern may pertain to the Aries-influenced individual in creative work, relationships, service, self-discipline, or any other area of life.

In traditional astrology, Aries is associated in the human anatomy with the head and brain. As the origin of the nerve impulses and glandular secretions which command the physical body, the brain functions for the human physiology just as does the sign Aries within the creative process of Deity. In the same way that

Ultimate Source or First Cause originates the ideas and energy flows which move outward to cause the material manifestation of the Cosmos, so also the head and brain act as the source and cause of thought and action in the human frame. As the receiving agency for the mental body on higher vibrational levels, the brain registers ideas, images, and impulses coming from much higher levels and transforms them into conscious thought and action. Just as Aries is the first sign of the zodiacal year and emblematic of the origin of all things, so also are the Aries-ruled head and brain of the human body the command center of the individual. Upon this region of the body does the soul make its impressions and from this region of the body therefore emanate the spiritual motivations for individual existence.

Reflective of all these Aries-related themes, the labor of Hercules associated with this sign by the Alice Bailey tradition is titled *The Capture of the Man-Eating Mares*. In this labor, Hercules is ordered by a higher authority to subdue a herd of wild horses that have been terrorizing the countryside. Raised by the son of war-god Mars, the wild horse pack (unlike regular grass-feeding horses) consumes the fresh meat of human bodies and contains mostly mares, who are finding mates and reproducing madly. The situation thus threatens to expand beyond control into a generalized attack on human community. Hercules is dispatched to gain control of the herd and sequester it in a secure enclosure.

Hercules selects a valued companion by the name of Abderis to accompany him in the adventure. As the labor begins, Hercules rushes forth with a great shout, ready at once to take on any battle. But only at length do Hercules and Abderis locate the dangerous mares, whereupon Hercules applies his legendary strength and miraculously bridles them all in preparation for leading them to an enclosure. Immediately pleased with himself for a speedy victory over such a daunting test, Hercules confidently hands the reins over to Abderis and struts ahead in pride. As soon as the back of Hercules is turned, the mares revolt in a savage rage. They turn upon and trample Abderis to death, break their bridles, and escape to con-

tinue their unrestrained reproduction and predation. Devastated by what he has allowed to occur, Hercules mourns the loss of Abderis and scolds himself bitterly for his inattention to duty. Humbled, Hercules returns to the herd of man-eating mares and efficiently subdues them on his own, bridling them and leading them to secure enclosure.<sup>2</sup> This time, he displays no pride in his deed.

In this vignette from classical mythology, all the themes of the Aries experience appear. There's the almost comic initial overconfidence, the inexhaustible energy supply brought to bear on any challenge, the immediate disinterest once the primary test is met, the inevitable dismay and painful regret when the results of impatience emerge, the consequent moderation of the raw Aries energy, and finally, the mature handling of the situation using a fearless yet responsible approach.

As the reader will note, this simple story encapsulates the essential problems and eventual masteries associated with the influence of Aries. All the characteristics of Aries are represented. According to the Alice Bailey tradition, the savage mares in this labor represent the unrestrained thoughts and emotions of the not yet self-disciplined individual.<sup>3</sup> Hence, the wild mares are none other than the ego-driven impulses of the lower personality nature, often given to warring with and on the surroundings and in so doing, constituting a menace to others. Hercules represents the disciple or spiritual seeker who must step into the situation of self and get a grip on his or her method of interacting with life. The first attempt to master the situation ends in disaster caused by the classic Aries faults of smug self-confidence, self-promotion, and sudden fits of impatience. The final and successful victory over the raging mares represents the steady application of self-discipline and the consequent reining in of unruly and even belligerent impulses, words, and acts.

Clearly, the nature of the experience of the soul under the influence of Aries depends greatly on the point of evolution attained and demonstrated in lives past. For the soul who has opted for the less evolved expression, Ar-

ies brings out and exposes the oppositional, irritable, and even belligerent attitudes of the self which sees itself alienated from and hence in contention with its surroundings. In this case, the soul is still following the direction of mass humanity on the Wheel of Life and therefore would be said by the esoteric astrological doctrine of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan to be progressing in the way characteristic of the mutable cross. The life path of such an Aries influenced individual is typified by the exoteric ruler of Aries, which is Mars, symbolic of struggle, conflict, animosity, needs for personal recognition, and the easily insulted ego, but also of persistence, endurance, industry, and valor. He or she will duel with life to the end in order to demonstrate personal validity.

For the soul who has determined to subject self to ethical and spiritual restraints during past lives, experience under the influence of Aries manifests differently. Symbolized not by the exoteric ruler but by the esoteric ruler of Aries, which is Mercury, the life path of the more evolved Aries influenced individual entails a meaningful encounter with the mind nature under the intellectual effect of Mercury and the rulership over the head and brain accorded traditionally to Aries. In the situation of Aries falling under the dominion of esoteric ruler Mercury, the purpose and result of an incarnation conditioned by Aries is to stimulate the mind nature, to render it vitally alive and responsive, and to reveal the world of ideas residing in and on the mental plane. In this case, the Aries is awakened to the world of thought and makes this his or her primary interest. Still, the individual may retain some of the contentious characteristics of exoteric ruler Mars, but these formerly troublesome characteristics are now somewhat subdued, expressed

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as nuanced wars of words and more diplomatically phrased battles of ideas, rather than as emotional and physical combat in the way of interpersonal violence and war.

The Aries individual on the fixed cross of self-discipline and discipleship can, therefore, be of great use to the Divine Plan in advocating and promoting evolutionary ideas, for he or she possesses both the drive and personal courage of Mars, which is necessary if he or she is to successfully endure the resistance to creative change often found in reactionary surroundings, and the mental focus of esoteric ruler Mercury. As a result, the Aries influenced individual focused on the mental plane becomes a promoter of ideas. He or she has shifted from the direction pursued by mass humanity on the Wheel of Life to the direction pursued by what Alice A. Bai-

ley and the Tibetan termed the discipleship or fixed cross path.

For the Aries-influenced individual who has already devoted self in many past lives to the path of discipleship as symbolized by the fixed cross, the impact of Aries manifests in yet another way entirely. Now on the symbolic cardinal cross, the Aries-influenced individual comes under the hierarchical ruler, Uranus. As a result, the experience of the advanced individual conditioned by this sign concerns the impelling of evolution through acting in the role of the initiator, the one who sets trends in motion. Aries-influenced persons of advanced evolutionary status may therefore impel or drive evolution in any number of ways, perhaps by activating the etheric energy centers of individuals and groups through occult radiation, or by sparking societal progress through leadership roles as they establish important organizations or assume positions of governance.

Aries is often found in the number one position, no matter the evolutionary level. This number one position is also the nature of life expression and service demonstrated by those upon the symbolic cardinal cross, the cross of divine causes. Thus, Aries on the symbolic cardinal cross or way of the initiate operates so as to advance evolution in some sphere of human endeavor. Needless to say, such an individual has long ago reversed his or her direction on the Wheel of Life, proceeding in opposition to the current of mass humanity with its fixation upon obtaining personal comfort. Instead, the Aries-influenced initiate sets his or her gaze on high goals requiring unrelenting effort. He or she is entirely engaged with propelling planetary consciousness to the next level of realization, as decreed by the Divine Plan.

### **Taurus, the Bull (April 19 – May 20)**

Representing the second stage of spring in the seasons of the northern hemisphere, Taurus the Bull symbolizes the segment of time in the annual cycle when vegetational growth slows down from its astounding speed under Aries to a more measured pace, filling in and rounding out the forms of plant life and establishing the presence of the spring season on a grounded, secure basis. As Taurus time unfolds, the animal kingdom moves more visibly and overtly into dramatic actions related to mating and reproduction. At the same time, prior reproductive activities result in the appearance of the young, and nature is filled with the signs and evidence of fertility. Thus, the great solid Bull of Taurus embodies the fecundating power of nature, the reproductive urge, and the ability to create material forms for the evolution of the indwelling lives.

Indeed, Taurus carries out the will of the spirit specifically by manifesting in tangible form the objectives of the intangible cosmic self. In the words of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan, it is Taurus that “forges the instruments of creative living or of destruction...”<sup>4</sup> In the individual, Taurus converts inner urge into outer physical plane occurrence.<sup>5</sup> One of the three earth signs, Taurus confers solidity and tangibility. Quite

literally, it is the fashioner of forms in the physical world. Whether these forms are to be used to create or to destroy, still it is Taurus that provides the substance for the job.

However, the process of converting spiritual idea into manifested substance would never occur were it not for the factor of desire. Thus, Taurus is not only the fashioner of forms, but is also emblematic of the internal desire that drives all manifestation processes. According to the esoteric astrological doctrine of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan Master, Taurus stands for the forces which bring the incarnational intent down from the mental plane to ground it in the plane of desire, the astral or emotional plane.<sup>6</sup> A necessary movement in the divine creative process, the transformation of mental idea into vital desire takes place under the potent influence of Taurus, also called the Bull of Desire, which name constitutes an acknowledgement of the considerable reproductive urge of the male ox in nature. Those who have lived around animals of the farm have a notion of what this means. Once a bull embarks on his springtime reproductive rites, there’s no dissuading him. His is the force of undeterrable intent, manifesting as unstoppable sexual desire. His virility is encapsulated in the Taurus symbol, a powerful bull poised and ready to assume his proper role.

The message of Taurus as aroused springtime Bull is simple: a thing must be wanted before it can exist on the tangible physical plane. Taurus embodies the gravitational desire power which draws a divine idea from on high in the abstract planes down into a slower rate of vibration known as desire, from which condition the concept or divine idea can precipitate into material form. Without this step in the divine creative process, everything would remain hypothetical, a swarm of good ideas circulating in divine mind. Taurus represents the necessary transformation of high potential into actual demonstrated reality through the agency of desire, a critical phase in the divine creative process. Thus, it can also be said that Taurus connotes the drawing power of Divine Desire, the magnetic force field that attracts substance to accrete and accumulate upon the etheric scaffolding of any intended form. Here is a

facility and function necessary for all to understand and properly express.

Taurus also transfers idea to manifested form in yet another way. Ruler of the neck, throat, and sound-making capacity of the vocal cords, Taurus connotes the power of sound as voice, speech, and musical tone. As students of Alice Bailey's esotericism well know, voice, speech, and tone or pitch play a special role in the manifestation of forms, whether sounded deliberately and ritually as occult mantram or casually and informally as everyday human speech and song. In either case, uttered sound provides a bridge from idea to material manifestation, transferring abstract idea energy into the more tangible sound vibration, which then itself impacts matter and causes it to be shaped accordingly.

Given that the sign of Taurus centrally concerns the power of sound, tone, speech, and word, it also concerns the power of occult creativity. According to the esoteric astrological doctrine, it is from the Taurus-ruled portion of the human frame that spiritual creativity is controlled, as the throat chakra determines the nature of the forms manifested.<sup>7</sup> In many cases, this gaining of control is as simple as guarding speech and making sure it is both harmless and constructive. In any case, the right use of the organs of speech, say Bailey and the Tibetan, constitutes the clue to the process whereby any disciple brings about change from personality to soul focus.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, Bailey and the Tibetan recommend that the Taurus-influenced individual use speech in such a way that it is directed, outgoing, spiritually motivated, and explanatory in nature.<sup>9</sup> It is therefore evident that whosoever would master the self under this sign must therefore also master the management of the sound-making capacity which emanates from the Taurus-ruled region of the throat chakra, thyroid gland, and vocal cords, seeing to it that his or her making of sound and use of creativity lines up with the highest sensed notion of divine desire on the earlier stages of the path and with the highest sensed notion of divine will on the later stages.<sup>10</sup>

In the world of daily human endeavor, Taurus shows up as the love of nature, land, cultivated

gardens, order, art, fashion, ornamentation, beauty, money, material security, predictability, order, and stability. It is that urge which drives all entities to plan ahead for the securing of conditions pleasant to the senses, such as attractive and effective shelter, comfortable clothing, adequate food, and objects of decoration. As an earth sign, Taurus naturally connects to the things of the senses. Focused on what it can touch, Taurus embodies and drives the desire for material security, inviting a love of possessions and the doting care with which they may be maintained through the cultivation of a well-groomed and manicured look. Whether it is laces, lawns, or Lamborghinis, Taurus lavishes time and patient effort on making all things look and function their best. Even the Taurus of modest means takes care to display his or her treasures in an appealing manner. After all, the things of the earth are priceless jewels to Taurus, worthy therefore of endless polishing so that they may shine with the luster of high-quality silver or precious gems. Value, both real and sentimental, figures highly in the estimation of this sign.

As is apparent, the form-loving side of the Taurus influence can, when exaggerated, lead quite easily to possessiveness, hoarding, greed, and exclusively pecuniary instincts. These and the sensuous side of Taurus make this a sign in which the soul is tested sorely upon the point of right management of desire and of tangible assets. Without giving into the temptation to practice profligate sexuality or to staking material ownership as proof of power and dominion, the soul must learn to use the forces of Taurus for the greatest good of all. Hence, the Taurus influenced person is tried again and again to prove that he or she may be productive, creative, and resourceful, but not crassly carnal, indulgent, or stingy.

As the esoteric astrological doctrine of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan states, Taurus is tricky because it feeds the desire for material advantages and for worldly power and success.<sup>11</sup> Obviously, Taurus tests the soul on the issues of sex, money, and possessiveness. These are basic survival factors tied in with the sacral and base of spine centers, and therefore regions requiring utmost discrimination in han-

dling. Once devoted to physical reproduction, the forces of the sacral center ultimately must be transferred to the throat center, the region ruled by Taurus. In this process, the striving seeker must face and master the more personal temptations of the Taurus archetype before he or she can implement the Taurus influence for the aims of the Divine Plan. Thus, the spiritual movement contained within the influence of Taurus is the transformation of raw personal desire into refined aspiration, and from thence into recognition of the impersonal Divine Will.<sup>12</sup> Once that sequence of transformation is accomplished, however, the form-creating power of Taurus can be placed at the service of the general good with excellent results, for "...the liberated Taurean is ever a constructive, planning, creative forward-moving force."<sup>13</sup>

Emblematic of all the Taurean themes just described, the labor of Hercules associated with this sign by the Alice Bailey writings is titled *The Capture of the Cretan Bull*. In this vignette, Hercules is as always dispatched by the command of a higher authority, this time to locate, subdue, and ride a sacred bull from the island of Crete to a holy city guarded by the three cyclopes, or one-eyed monster men.<sup>14</sup> Without much drama, Hercules succeeds in the task, manfully riding through choppy seawaters bareback on the Bull to deliver his mount as requested.

As is evident, the capture of the Cretan Bull stands as an allegory for the right management of the desire nature. Hercules astride the Bull symbolizes the higher intelligence of the soul taking command of the animal or physical nature and causing it to be devoted to higher purposes, as symbolized by the herding of the Bull to sacred ground. The higher purposes or the single eye of the soul might be symbolized by the one-eyed men, who individually and together stand for the undivided intent of the soul as it follows its purpose and mission. Thus, this labor depicts the ushering of the lower self into secure safekeeping under the supervision of the higher self. Hercules as emblem of the disciple makes sure this transfer takes place, personally riding on the back of the Bull of Desire until the Bull is permanently

brought to reside under the watchful eye of the soul.

Thus, the Capture of the Cretan Bull demonstrates the necessity for the disciple to learn the right management of all that falls under the nature of desire, including the Law of Attraction manifesting as the sex force.<sup>15</sup> This labor deals with the whole question of desire, the astral or desire plane, and the potency of the forces to be found on the desire plane.<sup>16</sup> The headstrong and sensual Bull embodies in one symbol all these impulses, bespeaking the intensity of desire, its seeming autonomy, and the close connection of desire with physical reproduction.

The Bull often wants its way no matter what else is happening. If challenged or crossed, the Bull is capable of mounting a terrifying show of force to overcome the opposition. Thus, in the unevolved Taurus-influenced individual, personal intent can overwhelm the needs of others; shows of rage may prove that ferocity lies within, still to be tamed. A fixed sign in the system of traditional astrology, Taurus stands its ground for good or for ill and is consequently known for its stubborn insistence on getting its way and its stolid resistance to change.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, fits of ill temper are often a problem with the unevolved Taurus-influenced person, as the individual demands that others serve his or her desires, no matter the surrounding circumstance.<sup>18</sup> Such a Taurus-influenced individual may be said to tread the Wheel of Life following the direction of mass humanity. He or she is therefore evolving at a relatively slow pace, symbolically depicted as being on the mutable cross, according to Alice Bailey and the Tibetan Master.

On this segment of the evolutionary path, the Taurus-influenced individual pursues the comforts and satisfactions of the body as though they were the primary reason for living. Spiritual glimmerings may beckon, but the Taurus individual evolving symbolically in the mutable cross fashion can't bring himself or herself to place much importance on abstract matters. Instead, the accumulation of personal wealth may well become the primary driving motivation, pushing other important considerations to

the side. In this case, the Taurus-influenced individual comes under the exoteric ruler of this sign, which is Venus, symbol of the pleasures of the flesh and the satisfaction of appetite. The Taurus-influenced individual ruled by exoteric ruler Venus may invest large sums of money on home decoration, delicious feasts, and the most flattering clothes, on courting social notice and hobnobbing with the privileged. To some, this constitutes success, and a level of personality fulfillment is experienced. Yet, all the while, the real sources of authentic existence suffer from inattention.

By contrast, the Taurus-influenced individual who has seen the light of the soul follows a different star. Having dedicated self to personal responsibility and alignment with the soul in lives past, he or she has, as a result, ceased following the mass direction on the Wheel of Life, has moved off the symbolic mutable cross, and has arrived at the stage of the symbolic fixed cross. Hence, he or she benefits from the steadying power of earthy Taurus, which on the discipleship path manifests as consistency of spiritual intention instead of the willful stubbornness of the personality-centered individual. Indeed, the gifts of Taurus on the discipleship path are many. According to the esoteric astrological doctrine of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan Master, for the evolved soul treading the Wheel of Life in the opposite direction to that pursued by the masses, the sign of Taurus confers the ability to adhere to soul purpose.<sup>19</sup> Instead of bouncing around in the field of life experience with no particular center of gravity, the Taurus-influenced disciple establishes spiritual priorities and keeps them in the forefront of the mind. Proceeding through life in this fashion, the Taurus-influenced disciple is enabled to produce a divinely illumed life expression.<sup>20</sup> This means that he or she wins the battle of incarnation by staying focused exclusively on the values and principles that he or she has identified as the next step worthy of attainment, and in so doing, tames the personality and uses it to reveal the light of the soul within.

As a result, the influence of Taurus is potent to produce discipleship accomplishments, such as the attainment of patience and poise, con-

sistency of effort, and the power of unwavering determination. Building competence in each of these fields over long periods of time, the Taurus-influenced disciple moves relentlessly and irresistibly toward initiation. When this is the case, the Taurus-influenced disciple proves that he or she has come under the esoteric ruler, which is Vulcan, in classical mythology the god of the blazing underground forge where tools necessary for life are forged. Just as Vulcan's work proceeds under conditions of great heat and pressure in the interior of the Earth, so the disciple's work in the world takes place under stress and trying circumstances that sorely test his or her resolve and skill. The Taurus-influenced disciple takes advantage of these adverse conditions to labor properly, demonstrating his or her commitment to the tasks at hand. Thus, Taurus to the evolving soul represents opportunity to make significant advances in the application of the spiritual will.

This focus on the spiritual will in Taurus intensifies as the discipleship path meets and merges into the path of the initiate. Once found evolving symbolically on the cardinal cross, the Taurus-influenced initiate is no longer occupied with expunging the fury, resentment, stubbornness, and territoriality of the unevolved Taurean expression. Further, the Taurus-influenced soul on the initiatory path has also transcended the need to develop patience and power under the esoteric rulership of demanding blacksmith Vulcan. Now the initiate comes under the influence of the hierarchical ruler, also swarthy Vulcan but with a new twist. With positive self-management and discipleship virtues firmly established, the Taurus-influenced individual draws from Vulcan at the hierarchical level a new synthesis of simplicity, directness, and focus. Now evolving symbolically on the cardinal cross, the Taurus-influenced initiate follows the reversed or initiate's direction on the Wheel of Life; he or she consequently devotes his or her power to the creation of a momentum that will drive all service projects through to manifested accomplishment. As Alice Bailey and the Tibetan Master Djwhal Khul have stated, the Taurus-influenced initiate takes the lead in con-



structive planning for the manifestation of the Divine Plan.<sup>21</sup>

At this point, the power of Taurus to generate desire has been transformed from carnal craving through the stage of spiritual aspiration to the implementation of the Divine Will.<sup>22</sup> For the initiate past the Third Initiation, Taurean power has thus become the ability to lock into the notion of a specific service objective, to persist on course until the goal is obtained, and hence to manifest Divine Will on Earth. Driven by Vulcan as hierarchical ruler of Taurus, this level of attainment under Taurus influence enables those at and beyond the Third Initiation to manifest the highest component of the Bull and its power to generate and sustain intention.

### **Gemini, the Twins (May 20 – June 20)**

**B**ridging between the delicacy of early spring and the full power of summer, Gemini provides a transitional phase leading from one season to the next. An air sign in traditional astrology, Gemini is the quintessential shape shifter. Like air, it can't be confined or pinned down. As one of the mutable signs in traditional astrology, it is given to movement and alteration as its preferred mode of functioning. Accordingly, the zodiacal sign of Gemini stands for change and adaptation. Souls who opt to incarnate under its influence have done so for a reason; they've decided to develop the capacity to be fluid, adaptable, and flexible. The very archetype of fluctuation and change, Gemini helps in this process as it confers the capacity to understand and identify with any perspective or position.

Deriving its name from the Latin term for a pair of twins, Gemini is symbolized by two brothers or sisters gazing at each other as if in deep communication. Indicative of exchange of information, Gemini concerns the process of communicating, speaking, talking, sharing perspective, and of receiving feedback in the manner of a freewheeling discussion. Central to this process is the mechanism of consciousness—the mind, brain, and nervous system—which provides the medium of transmission for

communication, knowledge, and ultimate understanding. It is this information processing system which the Gemini-influenced individual comes to acknowledge and even master through an incarnation under the sign that deals with the transmission of words and ideas, whether through common human discourse or through mental telepathy. In fact, Gemini as ruled exoterically by Mercury is the sign of the mind and of mental communication. This is the region of experience in which the Gemini-influenced individual has determined to focus.

The role of Gemini as awakener to the existence of mind and as refiner of consciousness is significant. The influence of this sign in Humanity not only cultivates awareness of the mind, but also works on the mind to loosen rigid points of view and to open the way for new perspectives. According to the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan, Gemini constitutes a critical function in the zodiac because it sets up the proper conditions for points of change and facilitates needed re-orientations.<sup>23</sup> Because Gemini is so all over the map, it is nothing if not a sign connoting diversity and multiplicity. Even though the seeming inconsistency of this sign may flummox the other members of the zodiac, still it fulfills an important role in the process of gaining cosmic understanding.

As a mode of functioning or thinking, Gemini indicates a state of mind that can tolerate and even embrace great differences of viewpoint. The Gemini-influenced individual does not mind trying on a new angle of vision for size. After all, it just might fit! If so, the Gemini-influenced person will adopt it so long as it provides new insight and information. Likewise, Gemini has no problem shedding a point of view found constrictive or inconsistent with the facts of life. The needed changes in consciousness that will allow for the evolution of the soul in Humanity flow directly from the influence of the sign of Gemini.<sup>24</sup> Thus, the influence of Gemini as a sign is surely connected with the expansions of consciousness and the evolution of the intellectual paradigms under which Humanity evolves. The ability to change and grow is critical for evolution, and Gemini is a major source of that power.

A mental sign linked to the world of words, ideas, and concepts, Gemini is fundamentally intellectual and social, a maker of the connections between notions, people, and philosophies. The act of making connection itself is the province of Gemini, which sign is said by Alice Bailey to be the very energy that establishes relationship. Symbolized by the two pillars united above and below, Gemini is that factor which mediates between the opposites, bringing them together even while the two disparate elements retain their identities. In so doing, Gemini is the go-between, uniting similar elements, which might otherwise remain discrete entities. Hence, as energy, Gemini is of utmost use and importance in establishing understanding and cooperation in the human community.

Ruler of the arms and hands of the human body, Gemini connotes this side and that, the right and the left, the two working together to form one whole.<sup>25</sup> By extension, Gemini implies the working relationship or cooperation that can exist between opposites or polarities. The alternating electrical charges which characterize the functioning of the human nervous system also fall under the rulership of Gemini,<sup>26</sup> again showing the close interrelation and functional partnership of the opposites, in this case the positive and negative charges of the cellular substance which enable the structures of the nervous system to carry information to and from the brain. In the esoteric astrological tradition, Gemini is also associated with the thymus gland.<sup>27</sup> Located near the physical heart and the heart chakra, the thymus gland is thus linked with the spiritual love vibrations channeled by this center. Love being the cosmic factor that brings and holds all things together; the rulership over this glandular center by relational Gemini restates the unification theme. Another esoteric factor serving to bring opposites together is the etheric body, which unites the personality vehicles and the soul. Thus, the etheric body as a uniting function is also ruled by go-between Gemini.<sup>28</sup> In sum, Gemini in the human body is represented by and rules the arms and hands, the nervous system, the thymus gland, and the etheric body. All these functions in the human body are es-

sential factors in establishing relationship within the human system and between the human system and its environment.

Relationship can only arise if duality exists, such that two or more units can come into interaction. According to Alice Bailey, the primary symbol of duality in the zodiac is that of Gemini, the Twins.<sup>29</sup> As a result, the soul electing to incarnate under the influence of Gemini gains under this sign a definite perception of duality as a force in cosmic evolution.<sup>30</sup> Cosmic duality implies the existence of polar forces, such as positive and negative, male and female, conscious and subconscious, manifestation and obscuration, life and death, and their resulting opposed electrical charges. Of these polarities operating in cosmic process, Gemini is both the symbol and the source. Through this sign, according to Alice Bailey, work the forces of attraction and repulsion—the contrasting charges of electrical potential—that either draw units together or push them apart.<sup>31</sup> Thus, the soul incarnating under the influence of Gemini takes on a life study of the polar opposites in existence, whether these manifest as male and female, day and night, or any other set of opposed conditions.

Between polar opposites passes the magnetic interplay that naturally arises between all oppositely charged entities.<sup>32</sup> This magnetic interplay not only creates the dramatic tension between distinct units, but also pulls them into closer and closer connection. Facilitating increasingly fluid interaction, the influence of Gemini ultimately brings about the resolution of duality into unity in this way.<sup>33</sup> Thus, while the Gemini-influenced individual observes the magnetic interplay that arises between the members of any pair of opposites, he or she also gains the opportunity to study not only duality in expression but its resolution into single identity. He or she witnesses everything from intensive division and strife in the daily world to the interaction of sublime forces on the higher planes as they generate the conditions necessary for cosmic manifestation and obscuration. In this way, the Gemini force field creates a showcase for the interactions between polar opposites demonstrating as magnetism so

strong as to obliterate distinction and drive all onward to a point of unity and merging.

The labor of Hercules associated with Gemini conveys this theme of opposites merging, but it does so in a fashion that is less than obvious. Titled *The Gathering of the Golden Apples of the Hesperides*, this labor sees Hercules dispatched by his higher voice to fetch the famed golden apples of a mysterious tree said to confer the gift of immortality upon those who consume its fruit. Growing in an idyllic and mystic garden guarded by the three muse-like nymphs called the Hesperides, the golden apple trees of the Hesperides were far out of reach for those unwilling to journey long to their location. Of course, Hercules was game.

The labor itself concerns his extensive pilgrimage to locate the tree of immortality and the tests of discernment and character that Hercules encountered on the way. In fact, there were five such tests, conspicuously matching the number of the human senses, perhaps suggesting that the five tests of the Gemini labor represent the tests undergone by the personality as it seeks to know the soul.<sup>34</sup> The tests involved recognizing a true teacher, subduing a serpent by removing it from its power base in the dark earth and raising it high to the sky, recognizing a false teacher, freeing Prometheus, and aiding Atlas to carry the weight of the world. The severity of these tests increased to the point that Hercules had nearly forgotten his quest for the tree of immortality. However, once Hercules had interrupted and even set aside his pilgrimage to the tree of immortality as he focused exclusively on the completion of each of the five tests, he easily located the garden containing the tree of immortality. Hercules was immediately greeted by the Hesperides maidens who willingly granted him the golden fruits without any further delay or effort. The mes-

sage seems to be that acts of service and right thinking constitute the real journey to immortality and serve to join the personality and the soul, thus leading to eternal life.<sup>35</sup>

According to Alice Bailey, it is precisely the unification of the soul and the body, which is the problem to be wrestled with under the influence of Gemini.<sup>36</sup> In other words, it is the merging of two fundamental polarities—the eternal and the temporal—that takes place under this sign. In the Gemini labor of Hercules, the search for the garden of the Hesperides and the tree of the golden apples leads to this unification. The lengthy hunt for the garden and its miraculous tree aptly symbolizes the search for the immortal soul that is conducted by the personality pursuing the spiritual path.<sup>37</sup> It's a familiar chase to all who have aspired to soul contact. The personality

longs for the uplifting connection with the soul, but seems to block its own desire for this union through stubborn and self-centered attitudes which lead it to wage petty battles and accumulate bitter resentments.

Thus, the two polarities of soul and body cannot come together until the lower rightly pursues the higher. In the Gemini labor, Hercules as the body or personality goes looking for its higher counterpart. On the way, Hercules is tested five times to see if he's worthy of the high encounter with the soul. These five tests consume years of time and effort, exhausting Hercules as the lower self to the point that he nearly forgets the object of the search. At last, Hercules as the body or personality demonstrates cognizance of the proper values, and the reunion of the lower and higher selves then takes place quite naturally.

This same process can be seen at work in a progressive fashion as the Gemini-influenced

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individual mounts from symbolic cross to symbolic cross on the path of discipleship and initiation.

Initially, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic mutable cross wanders in the fields of human experience, prodigal to its own soul existing unrecognized in the higher dimensions of being. At this point, the Gemini-influenced individual follows the direction of mass humanity on the Wheel of Life, driven by herd instinct and not really thinking independently.

In this first phase of experience in Gemini, the individual is buffeted about by the alternating conditions of existence, and does no more than register the fact that great contrasts are to be met in the sphere of human experience.<sup>38</sup> Much time may be consumed by the Gemini-influenced individual who mistakes the trees for the forest and who consequently buries self in mounds of useless information, cluttering the mind with unrelated bits of knowledge lacking any organizing principle. Littered with abandoned projects and forgotten intentions, his or her mental body evidences patterns of circular thinking which rarely arrive at a definite conclusion. As a result, the unevolved Gemini type has a mind filled with ideas, which infrequently find their ways into meaningful demonstration.<sup>39</sup>

To complicate the situation, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic mutable cross extracts from this sign only its most superficial effects, giving in to a tendency to switch direction with every passing alteration of the environment, pitching about like a rudderless vessel on a restless ocean.<sup>40</sup> To remedy this wasteful pattern, the Gemini must discover purpose by engaging with the soul, the great organizing principle in human psychology. Thus, the Gemini-influenced individual must first get a grip on the lower nature, emphasize the mental function, discriminate between the essential and the non-essential, and discover how to direct his or her thoughts along meaningful lines of endeavor.

Coming under the influence of Mercury as exoteric ruler, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic mutable cross struggles to

make the first necessary realization—that he or she has a mind and is capable of directing it. It sounds simple, but the quest stretches on for protracted periods, as the personality-centered Gemini succeeds in recognizing the mental aspect of self only to fall prey to the seductive glimmer of mind as an instrument for exercising superiority over others. Cunning and insincerity tempt the less evolved Gemini, who must experience the dismay of being misled and toyed with before he or she can see that simple sincerity and plain truth count for much. Meanwhile, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic mutable cross is often lost in the mental glare of admiration for his or her own cleverness, still unable to see that outsmarting, fooling, or elaborately deceiving others is no admirable use of the mind. Although he or she may accumulate much learning and factual information through formal or self-directed education, the Gemini on the mutable cross still has not firmly grasped the notion that mind is not intended to be the tool of the selfish ego, but rather is designed to function as the connecting mechanism with the higher self.

The Gemini influenced individual on the symbolic fixed cross, however, has long ago learned to respect the divine purpose of the mind nature and has acknowledged its intended role as a servant of the highest sensed spiritual principles. As a result, he or she renounces instinctual reaction and reverses direction on the Wheel of Life, no longer following the methods of the masses, who often accept appearances unquestioningly. Now possessing a degree of facility in consecrating the mind to the spiritual ideal, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic fixed cross resolves to employ the mind nature in the service of the higher self. He or she uses the mind as an organ of higher perception and of occult radiation, dedicated to the sensing and distribution of evolutionary ideas, either through conventional forms of communication or through telepathy. Coming under the influence of Venus as esoteric ruler of Gemini, the Gemini-influenced individual sets him or herself on a course of continual upliftment, developing a personal program to stimulate the mind nature

with appropriate educational and cultural experiences, the content of which he or she seeks to pass along to the environment in some meaningful fashion.

Where others see multiplicity and division, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic fixed cross perceives unification in process; consequently, he or she acts as an agent of mediation where division threatens, using his or her innate understanding of the relations between opposites to open channels for communication and understanding. Inspired by the elevating influence of cultured Venus, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic fixed cross embraces compassion and high-quality human interaction. No longer is he or she vulnerable to the specious seductions of the lower mind, for he or she has long ago curbed the self from using the mind as an instrument with which to prey upon, deceive, or subjugate others. Instead, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic fixed cross devotes him or herself to demonstrating how the mind nature may be used to advance the Divine Plan on Earth.

In the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic cardinal cross, the unifying powers of Gemini reach their greatest expression. Whereas the Gemini-influenced individual in the early stages of evolution under this sign had all the challenge he or she could manage simply in experiencing, identifying, and acknowledging the existence of the pairs of opposites, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic cardinal cross now witnesses and even facilitates the fusion or coming together of the polar opposites.<sup>41</sup> In so doing, he or she continues to evolve on the Wheel of Life in a direction opposite to the mass of Humanity with its tribal, sectarian ways, instead advocating principles of unity and commonality. Thus, the initially divisive and fragmenting influence of Gemini is transformed into an energy that can bring together apparent opposites and contradictions. Such a power is greatly needed in the management of global affairs in a world characterized by a bewildering diversity of beliefs, languages, customs, religions, and lifestyles.

From the curiosity-rich sign of the Twins, the Gemini-influenced individual of evolved status extracts and uses the acute mind power of this mental sign to develop and express a fluid, analytical understanding of Humanity and planetary circumstances.<sup>42</sup> For example, he or she might be involved in a mathematical or statistical discipline from which the trends of Humanity may be discerned. In this way, the Gemini-influenced individual on the symbolic cardinal cross would dedicate the intellectual and scientific gifts of this sign to the analysis of data and the identification of global trends for the betterment of Humanity.

Having passed the Third or Transfiguration Initiation, the Gemini-influenced individual now on the symbolic cardinal cross reaches the highest level of functioning under this sign and so comes under the radiation of the hierarchical ruler, which according to the esoteric astrological doctrine of Alice Bailey is the planet Earth.<sup>43</sup> Given that Earth in the esoteric astrological doctrine is considered a non-sacred planet, it is likely that Earth only stands in as a veil for the true ruler of this, the most sublime expression of Gemini. A likely candidate for the true hierarchical ruler of Gemini is Jupiter, Ray II agent of love and wisdom, and as such, a potent unifier of perceived opposites. In any case, at this most evolved level of expression for Gemini, the seeker knows past all doubt that his or her mind is to be used as an instrument of healing and unification, not as an implement of war, strife, division, or competition. Instead, he or she applies self to the use of the mind nature as a sending station for telepathic images and rays of energy which will provide relief, comfort, intellectual solutions, scientific discoveries, and practical answers for the technical and sociological challenges of human living. In this way, the Gemini-influenced seeker on the symbolic cardinal cross both observes and facilitates the fusion of the opposites, in contrast to his or her earlier stages of the Gemini experience in which he or she struggled merely to properly notice the pairs of opposites.

At last, the Gemini-influenced seeker on the symbolic cardinal cross will be involved with the use of the mind as an agent of inquiry into the Divine Mind itself, penetrating into the laws and mysteries of the cosmos as an advance guard on the leading cusp of evolution. He or she will fulfill the divine intention for Gemini, the sign of the Twins, the two halves making one whole, as Humanity reaches up through his or her quest to God and creation merges with Creator.

### Conclusion

As has been demonstrated, each sign of the Zodiac represents a distinctive set of assets and challenges. In Aries, the ebullience of emerging divine life explodes into expression, distributing the excitement of the creative process but also needing finesse and self-control for its higher manifestation. In Taurus, the power of substance captures the imagination, compelling in its capacity for transforming divine images into matter, but also needing direction away from sensual desire to bring forth its divine intentions. In Gemini, the mind nature emerges and reflects the fascinating world of ideas, but all the same, finds itself needful of wise discrimination if it is to achieve its divine objectives. In each of these three signs, spiritual progress takes these assets and challenges into consideration while simultaneously leading up the ladder of the triple rulership system, all the while ushering the seeker around the Wheel of Life and through the symbolic crosses of evolution. With the stages of spiritual refinement thus made plain for each of these signs, the spiritual seeker with the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or planetary groupings in Aries, Taurus, and Gemini thus stands better oriented to the grander purposes behind each of these astrological influences.

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<sup>1</sup> Alice A. Bailey, *The Labors of Hercules: An Astrological Interpretation* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1974), 27, 28, 30.

<sup>2</sup> Bailey, *Labors of Hercules*, 27, 28, 30.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 35, 37.  
<sup>4</sup> Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1951), 374, 375.  
<sup>5</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 375.  
<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 380.  
<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 397.  
<sup>8</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 398.  
<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 375.  
<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 107.  
<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 381.  
<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 397.  
<sup>14</sup> Bailey, *Labors of Hercules*, 39-40.  
<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 46 – 53.  
<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 41.  
<sup>17</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 375.  
<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 378, 397.  
<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 375.  
<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 378.  
<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 397.  
<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 381.  
<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 350.  
<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 345.  
<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 366.  
<sup>26</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 367.  
<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 352.  
<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 346.  
<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 351.  
<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 352.  
<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 347.  
<sup>33</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>34</sup> Bailey, *Labors*, 60.  
<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 60, 75, 76.  
<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 65.  
<sup>37</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>38</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 152.  
<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 364.  
<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 367.  
<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 152.  
<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 367.  
<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 163.