

An Essay upon the Symbolic Centre of the Earth.

Being an explanation by R.W. Frater Dr. W. C. Blaker, VIII^o, 9^o, of the Floorcloth presented by him in 1917 to the Metropolitan College for use in the Second Part of the Ceremony of the Zelator Grade.

The border of four coloured bands, black, yellow, blue and red refers to the Four Elementary states—Earth, Air, Water and Fire,—which are related in reverse order to Yod, Heh, Vau, Heh, the four letters of Tetragrammaton, the Kabalistic IHVH. Within this border is seen the Blue Eupyrean vault of the heavens, wherein exists the pure and Divine Radiance by which spirits and bodies become manifest.

In the midst of this immensity, according to Zoroaster, is the First Principle of all things, Ormazd or Ahura Mazda, Who diffuses Himself everywhere, but it is there that he is manifested after a more glorious manner; around his Throne are an infinite number of Intelligencies and Powers of different orders and degrees, who carry out his mandates.

In the midst is an Ocean of Light, the reflection of which we now term the Sun, whose brightness, as revealed to human sight, is but obscurity when compared with that Light which illuminates the Eupyrean.

At the four corners are the Constellations of Orion, Leo, Cassiopeia, and Ursa Major with the Pole Star in the North.

There are seen also the Symbols of the Planets in their respective houses or positions with regard to the Signs of the Zodiac of which they are the Rulers; but instead of using the negative side of the Chief Planets in the so-called Night-houses, there are here substituted the

recently proposed forms of Vesta for Luna; the Earth for the negative side of Venus; Vulcan for Mercury; Pluto for Mars; Uranus for Saturn; and Neptune for Jupiter. The use of these Secondary Planets is according to the plan adopted by some of the modern astrologers and this scheme avoids an exact repetition of the symbols.

The four corners of the Black Square which is here outlined are in contact with Four Zodiacal Signs related to the Elements, viz., the Signs of Leo (Fire), Aquarius (Air), Scorpio (Water) and Taurus (Earth), and indicate their combined operative influence. This Square also represents the Sacred Cube by means of which the Ancient Magi were enabled to unlock the mysteries of the Macrocosm.

As is well known, this figure also represents the Geometrical Square under which Pythagoras communicated the Ineffable Name of God to his chosen disciples.

With regard to a symbology of the Signs of the Zodiac, some writers have assumed that:—

- Aries* reflects the Energy and manifested Life of the Deity.
Taurus. His peace and immutable Law.
Gemini. His Joy and Gladness.
Cancer. His patience and long suffering.
Leo. His Majesty and Glory.
Virgo. His Purity and Holiness.
Libra. His Beauty and Harmony.
Scorpio. His Power and Justice.
Sagittarius. His Wisdom and Goodness.
Capricornus. His Threefold Nature, i.e., Fatherhood, Motherhood, Sonship.
Aquarius. His Immanence, i.e., all underlying Truth.
Pisces. His Transcendence, i.e., Unifying Love.

Within the Circle of the Zodiac the groundwork is White, which colour being Synthetic, contains all colours within itself, in the same way as God contains within Himself all things in the Solar System.

The Circle being the most perfect Form, without beginning and without end, represents the Creative Principle, perfect in all its parts, attracting towards itself with a Threefold Potency, all those who are sufficiently evolved to feel its influence, and when in due time we return within that Perfect Circle, then and only then, shall we feel the true Glory of its radiance. The Circle also expresses Limitation, and the Signs of Zodiac which are placed on the outer ring serve to indicate the various influences which combine to press forward our Evolution.

Under the influence of the Three Essential Qualities (or *Gunas*, as they are known in Hindu Philosophy) each part of the Zodiacal Circle becomes triple, or throws off two modifications of itself. This triplicity is symbolised by the Equilateral Triangle, the apex of which is placed on one of the four points of the Square, its base then, with the apex, divides the Circle into three equal parts and when four such triangles have been drawn, the Circle will have twelve equal divisions, which form the Twelve Houses and give the position of the Twelve Zodiacal Signs.

The first Triangle is that of Fire, with its apex in Aries (Sunrise). The element Fire implies impulse, vitality and energy. It also affords indications in general outline of personal appearance, character, fortune and health. Thus we find a fiery vital energy and impulse underlies it and acts through it in various forms of emotions and instinct, and in the average man may possibly typify something even much higher than these. Fire implies also all that is above and beyond air, both in matter, in planes and in consciousness. It stands for the energising all-permeating life of the Universe everywhere, and is the mainspring of Evolution and progress. It corresponds to the mental plane in general and to the next highest—the Spiritual or Buddhic plane—in particular. It indicates a state not yet evolved in humanity, one far above intellect and carrying with it Love and Understanding. This condition is expected to appear in the next or Jupiter period of the Great Sepotenary of the World's Evolution. Today, in the average man, apart from its significance of Vital Energy, it seems to have a closer affinity with the state of Consciousness indicated by Water, than even those of Earth or Air.

The Second Triangle is that of Air, with its apex in Libra (Sunset). This element is associated with various forms of intellect. The influence of the Airy Sign, Libra is the most active and the most moveable; it separates and differentiates through its activity, and yet at the same time unites opposites in its character, in the Mind; as it were holding the Balance between them. Air cosmically signifies the Third or Mental Plane, the true home of the Soul.

The Third Triangle is that of Water, with its apex corresponding to Cancer (Midnight). The watery element may be interpreted as a mental subdivision of the emotional psychic phase of consciousness. Water signifies the next-interior plane to the physical. It is variously termed the Astral or Psychic plane—Hades the purgatorial zone. It is the plane from which all souls are born into physical bodies, and to which all return at death. In terms of consciousness it bears relation to the feelings, desires, appetites, passions and emotions, from the

lowest and most animal, to the highest and most refined. It corresponds to the Astral or Kamic body which is the seat of these feelings.

The Fourth Triangle that of Earth has its apex in Capricorn (Noon) This element carries with it the idea of vitality, action and doing, as distinct from feeling and thinking, and with reference to man it means the physical body. Earth is the lowest and outermost of the elements, and in terms of consciousness it implies mere existence, quite apart from self-consciousness, intellect, or emotion.

The Black Central Circle symbolically represents the centre of the Earth upon which the Initiate or Aspirant stands with his arms extended to the North and South desiring to approach the Radiant East and rejoice in the Light of Perfection.

Thus we see here symbolically displayed the foundations which the Creator had laid and the various agencies by which, and ways in which Nature works for the benefit of Mankind: all these laws and forces have been well and wisely ordained and established, and we all feel and experience their power.

So it is well to bear in mind that these heavenly bodies, combined with the influence of the Four Elements, are everywhere equally near, and that nothing ever happens to us that we are not fitted to bear, though at the time it may be we are not fully able to comprehend the beneficence of the design.

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