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Hello, everybody. This is our seventy-ninth esoteric astrology adventure, and we have concluded our last difficulties that Christianity has experienced due to the bias of Saint Paul, which, as D.K. tells us at some point, tried to blend the ancient, as he calls it, blood religion of Jews with the new dispensation which the Lord Maitreya was offering humanity. And also Saint Paul brought in a number of Hellenistic features, given the way that he was trained. None of these were the intention of the original founder. We're contrasting here Neptune and Mars. The Saint Paul coloring was largely Martian. That of the Lord Maitreya, the Christ, the world teacher, was Neptunian because he is, in many respects, Vishnu, the first initiator, the initiator of the first and second initiations. So what is required is that we enter the new civilization, the manifestation of the new civilization and culture, by transmuting the sixth ray energy of Mars into the sixth ray energy of Neptune. And this is, in a way, the movement from a relatively gross and materialistic consciousness under Mars, a non-sacred planet, into a subtle, sensitive, psychic, and to a certain extent otherworldly consciousness provided by the energies of the subtle vehicle. So D.K. ends with the idea here that Mars is objective and full of blood, and we've certainly had enough of that recently, and Neptune is subjective and full of life. So that is the transmutation which must occur. We're here on page 217 in Esoteric Astrology. Okay, we continue then in the beginning of Esoteric Astrology adventure number 79, and it says here, "A great mystery is veiled and hidden in the above relationship, for Cancer, the eighth creative hierarchy." Eureka! So, here is a picture of the eighth creative hierarchy, also the fifth almost-manifested creative hierarchy, and very interestingly, it does show that the ray involved is the seventh ray. I suppose this is occurring on the seventh subplane of the cosmic astral plane, and hence its association with the seventh ray. It does not really give the hierarchical ruler, but we know the hierarchical ruler of Cancer is Neptune, and when we think of Cancer, of course, there is a very strong seventh ray and third ray influence coming through it. Now this is not the case for all of the liberated hierarchies. For instance, Aries has no fourth ray coming through it. Constellationally, Taurus no fifth, and Gemini no sixth, though when we look at planets we may get different rays coming through. But Cancer, constellationally, does have the seventh ray associated with it, and in a way, the desire element here is responsible for the manifestation of all life upon the cosmic physical plane. Interestingly, although this hierarchy is destined for the seventh subplane of the cosmic astral plane, it is not yet located there. It is still located on the cosmic physical plane. So there is a strong element of desire involved, and also of manifestational capacity. "A great mystery is veiled and hidden in the above relationship," I suppose, of Mars and Neptune, "for Cancer, Neptune is expressive of the seventh ray, which rules and controls the eighth grade of hierarchy, counting from below to above in this case. This is one of the five hierarchies whose names are unknown to us, and this particular one stands upon the very verge of liberation." In this case, liberation means release into the cosmic astral plane where the quality of pure love is found, at least as far as we are concerned, but also in a sense, and correspondence to the focus of evil on our own astral plane, a lesser type of evil, in a place that Master Morya in the Agni Yoga series calls Mara Kara, I suppose the home of Mara, who is the source of all illusion and the being that the Buddha symbolically fought under the Bodhi tree. At the same time, this hierarchy, being the fifth, I suppose, of the liberated or almost liberated hierarchy, so at the same time, it is closely connected with the mind principle, as it works out through the solar angels or through the human hierarchy. Well, this is a question. Do we mean that the human hierarchy is the hierarchy of solar angels? This is an important question. We'll look at the next diagram here, and we will see—yeah, that's about the right size—that the human hierarchy, hierarchy number nine, ruled by Mercury, connected with the number five, just as Venus is, we are told in the comments that the solar angels are found here. But from another point of view, the solar angels are found as, within the fifth creative hierarchy, their own true hierarchy, where they sacrificially present themselves in what is for them a very low form of expression within the dense physical body of the solar Logos. And this is something that they need not have done, but have chosen to do. And as D.K. says, they are not purely avataric, for they do have something to gain by this immersion in the dense physical body of the solar Logos. So anyway, the five of the Cancer-Neptune hierarchy is reflected, or sort of a higher correspondence of the five, of the Solar Angelic hierarchy, which interestingly enough is ruled by Venus—that is appropriate. But the solar angels have kind of a dual area of expression. One is upon the Buddhistic plane, which is a very complete form of expression, compared to what the members of the human hierarchy at large can now do. Not yet can we express upon the Buddhistic plane as the solar angels can. And yet we are also learning to express ourselves upon the mental plane, which the solar angels long ago mastered, and upon which they can express in great fullness, though at great sacrifice to themselves. So, this fifth, almost liberated hierarchy is closely connected with the mind principle, as it works out through the solar angels, and/or through the human hierarchy. The human hierarchy is Mercurian, and I think the planet that most represents the number five at this time is actually Mercury. Venus does, but not monadically, I feel. There's a soft line ray for the monadic expression of Venus, whereas for Mercury it's kind of a 5-3 ray. This is my speculation at this time. So this higher hierarchy works out through the hierarchy over

which Mercury presides, which is the human creative hierarchy. It's number four of the manifested creative hierarchies, and through the fifth creative hierarchy intimately associated at this time with the solar angels, or at least with a projection of their nature. It's kind of a dual hierarchy, and that is a mystery it does represent as well, the human personality, which is deriving more from the concrete mental plane, whereas the true expression of the solar angels in the dense body of the solar Logos is upon the higher mental plane. Anyway, the idea here is to see the connection between the almost liberated Cancer-Neptune hierarchy and the solar angelic hierarchy. There's also, I suppose, a connection between this almost liberated hierarchy ruled by Cancer-Neptune and the sixth manifested creative hierarchy ruled by Mars and the Moon, especially by Mars but inevitably connected with the Moon since they are the lunar lords. Cancer is definitely associated with the ocean, with the astral plane, and so is Neptune. So we have a much higher expression of this on the highest of our planes, the lower plane, and tending towards the lowest of the cosmic-astral subplanes. But the quality is similar. It's an astral quality. It's a quality which is meant to reflect the cosmic-astral plane into manifestation upon our dense physical, cosmic-dense plane, our cosmic-physical plane, and the astral plane, the systemic-astral plane, is meant to somehow absorb this higher love energy eventually from the cosmic-astral plane. Those who are on the second path, the path of magnetic work, are very much involved in creating the possibility for this to occur by the manner in which they send energy into our systemic-astral plane and draw off negative energy, substituting a higher energy for a lower power. This fifth, almost liberated, creative hierarchy is said here. It is related to the birth of the fourth creative hierarchy, in a sense not to be understood by anyone below the stage of the fourth initiation. So then we will not really understand this, but we can see that the very first incarnation of humanity as a group took place under Cancer, and that this fifth creative hierarchy is ruled by Cancer. So we see the very strong link. The solar angels are involved in the creation of the birth of the fourth creative hierarchy as human beings, and we can say that these solar angels are in a higher sense sponsored by the members of the fifth, almost liberated, creative hierarchy. Some theoreticians have even concluded that when we're talking about the fifth, almost liberated hierarchy, almost onto the astral plane, we really are speaking of the solar angels. Some have said that, but D.K. has assured us we will not solve the mystery, certainly completely, and sometimes I wonder even if partially. It's so complicated, he tells us. So this fifth, almost liberated, creative hierarchy is related to the birth of the fourth creative hierarchy, and I don't think that means as monads, but in the expression of these monads as human beings through egoic lotuses. That's the kind of birth I think we're talking about. Interesting that it's not to be understood by anyone below the stage of fourth initiation, with Cancer being the fourth sign, with this fourth creative hierarchy, fourth manifested as a creative hierarchy, human hierarchy, being ruled by Mercury distributing the fourth ray, it being also focused upon the fourth plane, with which Buddhist Neptune has much to do. So I think we see these number fours lining up, and at least numerically we have the inference why the complete understanding of this relationship cannot be achieved by anyone who has not achieved Buddhist polarization, which does occur at the fourth initiation. But says D.K., it is an interesting fact to remember, for it is in the connection between the sixth and seventh rays that potent desire for incarnation, that that potent desire for incarnation was aroused, which resulted in the fall of the angels. In primordial times, the fall of the angels here being a positive sacrificial descent, and not a fall through some sort of sin. We human beings kind of project our own rather matter-engaged sinful psychology upon these higher beings who are as far as humanity is concerned without sin, that is the solar angels. And the members of the fifth, almost liberated, creative hierarchy, probably far more sinless. So the descent was sacrificial and not the result of being cast out of heaven because of pride or other forms of sinfulness. Interesting, the Cancer sign gives us the seventh ray and this hierarchy is ideally positioned on the seventh subplane of the cosmic Cancer plane, hence the seventh ray, and yet Neptune is a powerful sixth-ray planet, and so we have the possibility of the descent through a powerful potent desire for incarnation. The incarnation part is the seventh ray and the desire part is the sixth ray. And this probably stimulated the solar angels in such a way that they came in sacrificially and made the incarnation possible. In a way they descended into the realm of Mars, producing the human personality ruled by Mars. So there's the relation between Neptune, a higher sixth ray, and the human personality connected with the solar plexus sixth ray, and connected with Mars, the entire personality and every aspect of it being ruled by Mars, interestingly. So that impulse from on high created this Martian being. It's kind of like an alignment between Neptune, Venus, and Mars in that order, with Neptune being a planet that offers a sublime impulse for the descent of the Christ consciousness of the cosmic Cancer plane, which these beings are certainly sensing, even if they are not fully liberated onto the cosmic Cancer plane, i.e. the members of the fifth almost liberated hierarchy are ruled by Neptune and therefore easily attuning with the Christ impulse, the true cosmic love of the cosmic-astral plane. This descends into the lower octave of Neptune called Venus, which rules what we call the solar angels. At least I think there are all kinds of solar angels of different magnitudes. And this makes possible the creation of that Martian vehicle, which we call

the personality, interestingly found upon the lower concrete plane of lower concrete mind, where Mars is said to rule. It's one of the planets that is ruling the five senses and the lower concrete mind, which is connected to the number five in a concrete sense. So we see the line-up, even though we may not understand the full import of this descent. We've been talking basically about the connection of Scorpio, ruled by Mars, to Cancer, ruled by Neptune. And there is—you know, we've been talking about the connection between the two hierarchies which are associated with the science, the almost liberated hierarchy associated with Cancer, and the hierarchy of human monads associated with Scorpio. So in a sense, interestingly, we are not only... we are hierarchically ruled by Mercury, yes, which is the hierarchical ruler of Scorpio, but we have a lot of Mars in our nature as well, and I suppose we're destined to produce, or to become in a sense, the Martian personality, this old expression working out in the lower dense physical vehicle of the planetary Logos. I oftentimes discriminate between the dense physical vehicle of the solar Logos, which includes 21 subplanes, systemic subplanes, and the dense physical vehicle of the planetary Logos, which I think includes 18 subplanes, 18 being the number of the Moon. So there again, Mars and the Moon are found together. There is a sense also in Kabbalistic numerology where Mars is associated with the number 9. Interesting that 1 and 8 add to 9, so we have a lunar number here. Well, there are many associations. You can think of the Moon as presiding primarily over the third ray or the most material aspect, and 9 is the number of the third ray, and we have the 18 leading to 9, which is Kabbalistic Mars. So anyway, we've produced in the lower world some kind of material reflection of these higher impulses, meant gradually to rise into receptivity to these higher impulses, which are Neptunian and Venusian, and they're altogether more spiritually civilized than the rebellious Martian instinct. I think we're told that we have a planetary Logos in whose psychology the principle of rebellion is strongly expressing. But I think that's because there is so much of the Martian influence still expressing in our planetary Logos, and we have to overcome this Martian influence and allow Venus to be the majority influence, and this we overcome at the Last Judgment, which is essentially a discrimination between Venus and Mars. It's a long way ahead, some millions of years ahead, and whether it occurs in the fifth chain round or the fifth scheme round is, I think, still to be determined. If in the fifth scheme round, it's much farther ahead than if in the fifth chain round. There seem to be different references which point in both directions, in either direction. I guess the important thing is, though, that Venus wins and Mars loses, and so the two fifths that are still responsive in the Martian sense are transported into another dimension temporarily, and then sent off for further education on the planet Mars itself, or at least within the Martian scheme. So this is an interesting connection between low desire and high desire. Neptune, in this case, representing the high desire, which is reflective of the type of divine desire of the cosmic astral plane, which is really love desire, and material desire is Martian in nature, and eventually through education by Venus has to rise into the fuller responsiveness to a still higher energy, which is Neptune. So this potent desire for incarnation was aroused, which resulted in the fall of the angels in primordial times. If the time had come for the opening of the planetary heart center, wherever specifically that is located as one of the chains to be considered the planetary heart center, this remains uncertain. Ours is the fourth chain, and the planetary heart center—well, let's just say the heart center is our fourth chakra. But from another point of view, the base of the spine center can also be connected with the number four. It is its number, and our particular planet is said to be the base of the spine center of the solar Logos, certainly not the heart center. But we're talking about the awakening of the heart center within our planet. So is it our particular planetary chain or another? I've speculated on this in the commentaries that I've made, written commentaries in "A Treatise on Cosmic Fire." The speculations do not arrive at anything conclusive, but they point thought in possibly productive directions. And then hopefully the true answer, intuitively received, will arrive for all of us. This sixth-ray influence coming from three angles—orthodox, esoteric, and hierarchical— and hence involving both Neptune and Mars, predisposes the race and individual man as well to become the one-pointed disciple in Sagittarius. So we have a sixth-ray influence. We have the orthodox Mars ruling Scorpio, the esoteric Mars ruling Scorpio, the hierarchical Neptune ruling Cancer, but also the esoteric Neptune ruling Cancer. So the sixth-ray influence is a desire influence, and in this case we're talking about the desire for incarnation in the dense levels of the cosmic physical plane, but impulse from above and involving the fall—the deliberate sacrificial fall of certain entities who have made high achievements and have certainly transcended the normal human state. So the sixth-ray influence comes from three angles—orthodox, esoteric, and hierarchical— and hence involving both Neptune and Mars, predisposes the race and individual man as well to becoming one-pointed disciples in Sagittarius. This one-pointedness, I suppose, is not only due to the Sagittarian influence, but is due to the Martian influence, since Mars is, interestingly here, the hierarchical ruler of Sagittarius. So basically what we're doing here is blending three signs together. We're looking at them in relation. We're looking at Cancer, Scorpio, and Sagittarius, which rule in that order a very high creative hierarchy, almost liberated. Then comes Scorpio ruling the human creative hierarchy, and then comes Sagittarius ruling the lunar lords, and it becomes necessary to

orient the lunar lords in a way that is not full of material desire, but which is aspirational. And both Mars and Sagittarius are capable of great aspiration and capable of orienting these lives in the proper direction. So if we want to become one-pointed disciples, Mars has a lot to do with our discipleship, which is full of fight, full of battle, regardless of our race. And that is the nature of discipleship, because we are, in a way, having to choose one of the higher—we're having to choose the higher of the pairs of opposites over the lower, and that frequently does involve a battle. Oftentimes it's a battle in the dark, and we do need the light of Mercury, revealing the intuition to help us battle in a more intelligent manner. So that is the whole story of Scorpio: not to battle with might and main and with ferocious strength in the dark, but to allow the dispelling intuition, the illusion-dispelling intuition of Mercury, to enter and clarify the situation. And thereby, much of the need for the strenuous battle is taken over by the discernment of the enlightened consciousness, which simply does not direct energy toward material desire any longer. So anyway, Sagittarius—this latter constellation is ruled by Mars, hierarchically, right?—bringing the man into control, into control or closer touch with the lunar lords, the sixth creative hierarchy. These are beings that I think did not really originate at all upon our particular chain, but are continuing their evolution from the previous third chain, called the Moon Chain, on our chain, and they're given an opportunity to rise in that way. Our particular chain, we are told, is the host not only of the failures of the Moon Chain, but of its own particular type of life. So it has a very complex evolutionary trajectory, and two forms of life are having to learn to accommodate each other. This complicates things very much in many ways, because these lunar and Earth lives are not only found in relation to the human kingdom, but they're found also in relation to lower kingdoms. In other words, the lunar lords from the third chain are in process of gradually becoming men, but so are the lives who are actually part of our fourth chain and are not lunar in their nature. They also are rising towards humanity. So we have two streams that are feeding into the possibility of becoming a human being. So this latter constellation, Sagittarius, is ruled by Mars, bringing the man into control or closer touch with the lunar lords. Certainly we have to control. Sagittarius is one of the major controlling signs. It has the clear vision of the future and can direct in a purposeful manner those lives which must enter that future in the proper way. So it's the guardian of the gate, and if we look at Aries as more the soldier, Sagittarius is more the general, let us say, with keen, far-sighted vision. And actually that particular constellation has a rather war-like tradition associated with it. So anyway, it is a controlling energy, and the lunar lords need to be directed. Students should study their charts with care, remembering to differentiate between the five hierarchies, which are the non-manifesting hierarchies, and by that he means non-manifesting... Let's call it this way... whoops, that's not exactly what I wanted. I'm trying to find... yes, non-manifesting on the cosmic physical plane. That's what we're talking about. We're not talking about non-manifesting, because it is manifestation on the cosmic astral plane for at least four of these hierarchies. And let us say that the fifth, almost liberated hierarchy is still manifesting on the Logoc plane. So let us say non-manifesting on the cosmic physical plane. Okay. And the seven hierarchies, which are in expression now, in expression on the cosmic physical plane, and of which the sixth creative hierarchy is a part. So we have the non-manifesting and manifesting creative hierarchies, but we have to understand that the word manifestation has to do with manifestation upon the cosmic physical plane. This hierarchy, from the larger angle of the entire twelve hierarchies and not simply the seven manifesting hierarchies, is the eleventh. So when it says this hierarchy, he switches, you see. Here we speak of the Sagittarian creative hierarchy directing, let's put it down here, directing the lunar lords. So it is the eleventh in a way, and I think we can see that, of course. We look closely, there are five above, and so this is six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven. So the hierarchy of lunar lords is the eleventh, interestingly, that sums to two. If you start from below, it's also two, suggesting the principle of love or of desire, that which connects, magnetically connects. And yet it is the sixth. So its numbers are two, and in another sense, eleven, and in another sense, even six, coming from above, one, two, three, four, five, six. So we have an eleven, which is a two, and a two, and a six. So we get the idea of the magnetic connectiveness of this hierarchy. Without the principle of desire, it would be impossible for us to put this world back together. It's been divided by a form of consciousness we call illusion, which separates one thing from another and has to be reconstituted as a whole through the factor of desire, and eventually a desire of becoming love. So this hierarchy, from the larger angle of the twelve hierarchies, and not simply the seven manifesting hierarchies, is the eleventh or the second. The sixth ray of devotion is consequently most powerful in this age or cycle. Now it's been powerful during the age of Pisces, some 2,160 years, which is not quite terminated, but we're in a much larger sixth ray cycle, which I understand still has 21,000 years to run. And that is an aspect of a still greater fourth ray cycle. So we can see how amazing and how complicated, and I suspect how beautiful, is this entire science of cycles. We're given just a little peek at some of the possibilities. But we certainly have enough to manage, as human beings, even considering the smaller cycles without considering the great planetary and sort of systemic cycles, which the members of the hierarchy have to consider. So the sixth ray of devotion is consequently most powerful in this age or cycle, and

hence the expression in every land today of its best and worst features. That's always the way it's going to be. We human beings have a choice. We are a fourth ray hierarchy in a certain sense, and always choice will be made. And we can... there's two types of angels in a way, you know, the good angels and the bad angels, and we can decide to put our energy on the side of the good angels, our better angels, as it were, as Abraham Lincoln said, our better angels. So the sixth ray is manifesting its best and worst features, and at the present time there's a tremendous recrudescence of the worst reaches of the sixth ray. Well, we can consider them fairly inhibitory as we look forward to the Aquarian age emerging, but perhaps they are giving... this recrudescence is giving a kind of opportunity to those who are still on this ray in their soul nature to rise in a way which may look quite horrible to us, but for them may be a progressive step. We always have to move on apace and look at things from a larger picture with a single eye, and perhaps the reason for some of the horrors of the sixth ray have to do with an opportunity to advance for those who are focused on this ray. So the best and the worst features are manifesting themselves, this being written I think mostly in the '30s, and there was just a kind of militant idealism operating throughout the Great War, and probably also in the interim, which was a period of preparation for the second phase of the war, of which the intense devotion to material things and the intense devotion to spiritual values are dramatic instances. So D.K. is seeing, from a higher perspective, an intense devotion to spiritual values, but at once an intense devotion to material things. And I think we see this interestingly working out in the psychology of the United States, which is a polarized Gemini personality, focused on the sixth ray. And there can be no question that although the devotion to material things is lessening in those who are more conscious, there are millions upon millions who are devoted to the acquisition of material things and to maintaining their prerogative thus to acquire. This seeming to them of greater importance than sharing with their fellow human beings. We remember that in the integration format of the sixth ray, we're told, the sixth ray type is told, "Love more your fellow men," rather than perhaps your ideals and the material things to which you are devoted. D.K. has so much to say in this particular chapter. You see how his style operates. It's certainly not linear, and since I'm trying to follow pretty closely what he's saying, I'm not presenting any kind of linear commentary either. It's a commentary which is meant to fertilize the occultly tending mind so that a growing synthesis in consciousness is possible, a unification of the linking of many strands of energy and patterns for which those energies are responsible. If I can serve some sort of mediatorial function here, helping students of these commentaries to link together many unsuspectedly related factors, then I will have done something of at least some value. Scorpio and Aquarius, it says, are also in a peculiar relation to each other. He is talking of Scorpio's relation to Cancer, so the almost liberated hierarchy and the human hierarchy are closely related, and he does relate to solar angels, interestingly, to our human hierarchy strongly. But now he goes on and looks for another relation and finds one between Scorpio and Aquarius, which relates to the human hierarchy, to the sign Aquarius, and to the hierarchy called the "Baskets of Nourishment," which is the lowest of the hierarchies, the elemental lives, the blinded lives. And here is a lunar relation. There must be a very close relation between Mars, the Martian hierarchy of lunar lords, and the elemental lives called the "Baskets of Nourishment," because both Mars and Aquarius are said to rule the dense physical bodies, so the elemental lives are involved with that, and the Moon is associated with the lunar lords. So there's kind of a crisscross here going on. Mars descending in its influence into the seventh creative hierarchy, systemic manifest creative hierarchy, and the Moon ascending towards the lunar lords. All of them—you know, Mars and the Moon represent that which is profane in human life, or outside the temple, outside the walls or gates of the temple. So Mars and the Moon definitely have to be overcome, as they are said to be at the third initiation when the man becomes not the entirely sacred human being, but a far more sacred human being with the ancient authority of the personality overcome. That is, Mars and the Moon represent the ancient authority of the personality, and they are overcome. So Scorpio and Aquarius are also in a peculiar relation to each other through the planet Mercury, which governs the human family being the hierarchical ruler, the hierarchical planet of Scorpio, and through Neptune, which rules Cancer, thus a governing expression upon the physical plane. Now, you know, there are different ways of making this connection. It says in this connection the Moon is given as the orthodox ruler of Cancer and the hierarchical ruler of Aquarius. And the six-ray connection, of course, is there with Neptune. Neptune is one of the hierarchical rulers of Aquarius. Well, let's say Neptune is one of the hierarchical rulers of Aquarius veiled by the Moon. So the Moon is the hierarchical ruler of Aquarius, but it veils all three of the normally veiled planets. It veils Vulcan physically, it veils Neptune emotionally, and Uranus mentally. So we have a Moon-Neptune connection, and the Moon connects us to Cancer, of which it is the orthodox ruler, and Neptune connects us with Scorpio via the sixth ray, as we have been seeing. So there is this strong sixth-ray Neptune connection between these three. He says, "I would here remind you that the Moon is usually regarded as veiling or hiding some planet, and of these there are three which the Moon may be veiling." I think that's a very big hint, a very big hint, because he's been talking about the Moon as the hierarchical ruler. So hint in the

Aquarian context. The Moon is simply the ruler in Cancer, although in a way it may veil the more material aspect of Vulcan. The Moon goes on as the esoteric ruler of Virgo to veil both Vulcan and Neptune, and then it has a still further veiling power in Aquarius, where I believe we can say it veils all three of the usually veiled planets: Vulcan, Neptune, and adding Uranus. So I think there's a lot about Vulcan that we can connect to the sign Cancer, because Vulcan is a planet which really pushes towards manifestation, towards the concretization and materialization of purpose and intention, and Cancer is a sign of manifestation. The Moon really gives no vibration of its own, no living vibration of its own. Perhaps a retrospective thought form association is triggered by the cycles of the Moon, but it makes you kind of wonder whether in Cancer the Moon is not in a sense veiling Vulcan, even in the orthodox aspect, just as we may infer that the Sun may veil Jupiter orthodoxly in Leo. Really, I don't think we should leave the Sun or the Moon as the sole rulers of any sign. Always planets must be finally the rulers. So he's asking us here to use our intuition to see what planet the Moon may be veiling in relation to any particular sign, and I suppose in relation to any human being who is at his or her particular level of evolution working through that sign. Here the intuition of the astrologer and of the esoteric student must be called out. Not all esoteric students of course are astrologers, but I think they generally know enough about astrology to derive some spiritual value from it. So these planets are Vulcan, Neptune, and Uranus. See, as he begins to discuss this, when talking about the Moon as the hierarchical ruler of Aquarius, we do get the very strong hint that all three are involved. When we talk about hierarchical rulers, the mind must certainly be involved because it is the illumined mind at the third initiation, which produces the initiate. The first time the initiate is produced, we are not initiated until we really take the higher degree, and it is there particularly that the hierarchical rulers are applying. Now whether we can use them specifically in relation to the mental vehicle of ordinary people, we have to be careful of getting too much data and forcing that data upon life when life itself does not testify to the correctness of the data. This is always a problem when there is a pattern in the mind, and we love that pattern and seek to show that it is real and so force that pattern upon what reality actually demonstrates. This is a great danger for astrologers always, or for any systemic thinkers. So here the intuition of the astrologer and of the esoteric student is called out. These planets are Vulcan, Neptune, and Uranus. These three create and influence certain aspects of the Mother Principle, the material form principle, which nourish and feed the life of the inner divine reality until the time comes when the Christ Child has brought forth the birth. So we can see he's talking about the preparation of the personality here. This is brought most closely to our attention in Virgo, where the material nature is purified and prepared and improved in many ways prior to the descent of the Christ principle. Through it, the animation of this material aspect, personal aspect, by the Christ principle. But we can see that Aquarius is also involved in the same process. Now Virgo is a mental sign, and its normal rulership and exaltation of Mercury, rulership by Mercury and exaltation of Mercury, shows that the mentality is strongly there. But also in Aquarius, the three aspects are nurtured and probably brought to the point when there can be probation of the soul, or by the—appropriation of the personality by the soul. So Aquarius, again, is one of those strongly mental signs, preparing the mind, nature, perhaps even more than Virgo does, for the appropriation of the higher soul principle. Or at least Virgo cultivates wisdom, of course, but I think Aquarius prepares the lower mind so that it can be truly illumined by the occult mind of Uranus, which has more to do with the soul, of course, than with the personality. So anyway, these three planets, and associated with the three aspects of the mother principle, which are the three aspects of the personality, nature, they determine or condition the physical, astral, and mental natures, thus creating the personality. So basically he's telling us these three planets are the real energies behind the personality, or expressing through the personality. These three planets are archetypally expressing through the personality. Okay. Now, they form a triangle of immense creative potency, upon which theme I will later enlarge when dealing with the science of triangles. So we're going to watch for these three veiled planets, Vulcan, Neptune, and Uranus. And I think we can find them, in a way, in the highest head center. How will that be done? Perhaps Vulcan rules the jewel within the center most, within the center of the twelve-petaled lotus within the head. Perhaps Neptune rules the twelve petals themselves, associating that with the second aspect of divinity. And Uranus rules all the thousand petals, the other petals, other than the heart petals within the head. They are definitely associated with the head centers. I think we can also look at Vulcan as the ruler of the seven head centers in general, wherever they may be found, whether within the head or in some superstructure above the head. That still has to be determined. It depends on the tradition we consult when we want to see the location of those seven head centers. And of course there are other areas that these planets are said to rule, with Neptune, the solar plexus, and Uranus the sacral center. But those are very low expressions of the influence of these synthesizing planets. They also must necessarily be found in relation to the heart and the throat center, and even higher as we go in relation to points within the head, which are the great controlling centers. These two great synthesizing planets in a way control all the lesser planets. And we could say that the twelve petal lotus within the head, with its particular jewel, are the

controlling points. And we should add as well... See, Uranus is interesting. It has a third-ray component to it, as well as a latent and coming first-ray component. Did I say first-ray? Yes, I did. So perhaps in the next solar system, Uranus takes its true place. Maybe Neptune, of the three synthesizing planets, is the most important in this particular solar system. You kind of wonder whether there hasn't been an intervention in this solar system by Neptune or whatever Neptune represents by its forces, just the way the solar angels have intervened on a lower turn of the spiral. Because we are told that Neptune doesn't really belong to our particular solar system. It's a mysterious statement. It doesn't particularly obey Bode's law in terms of its position from the Sun. It can be an intervening source. But I wouldn't even speculate as to how that intervention might be occurring. So anyway, this triangle is a triangle of immense greater potency, upon which theme I will later enlarge when dealing with the science of triangles. The point which I am here making is that through the influence of Mercury and Neptune—okay, both of them Buddhically related, right?—the group consciousness of the individual is developed because group consciousness is a Buddhist factor. And group consciousness develops through our cycle of initiations, during which Bodhi is constantly growing. So that, through the tests in Scorpio and the experience in Aquarius, the disciple emerges on the physical plane into the position of the world server. Now, it is Aquarius that rules the world server, but Aquarius also, interestingly, that is very strongly conditioning the matter, the elemental matter of the physical plane. And I suppose the strictly elemental matter of the other planes as well. I mean, the lunar lords are not simply found on the astral plane, they're found mentally and physically, and they are a higher form of life than the lower elemental lives, which are tiny little lives, and Aquarius rules over those. It rules over the physical elemental lives, and I suppose over the atoms of substance, but also it rules the atoms of subtle substance. But at the moment we see this emerging understanding of atomic energy coming in under Aquarius, and thus associated with Aquarius' rule of the atomic substance in a physically-etheric sense associated with Aquarius. I think the fact that we're going to realize that atoms are matter as energy is a very Aquarian realization. Aquarius being a sign associated much with ether, so matter, dense matter transforms into ether, and Aquarius has given us occult mind, occult scientific mind, Uranus, to help make this discovery. Okay, so he's linking these three to the influence of Mercury associated with Scorpio and Neptune associated with Cancer, and we found the ways in which we can relate Mercury, one of the decanate rulers of Aquarius, and Neptune, a veiled ruler, hierarchical of Aquarius. We found a way to relate Aquarius to Cancer and Scorpio. There are also stars which involve the science. So through the tests of Scorpio and the experience in Aquarius, experience in the outer plane, the disciple emerges on the physical plane, well tested, into a position of the world server, his lower ego having been dominated in Scorpio, so that it is put to death. It and all of its hydra-like tendencies are put to death so that there's a sufficient amount of selflessness and absorbed universal love to make the person the selfless server in Aquarius, and there I think we can see how important the veiled Neptune, the moon-veiling Neptune in hierarchical Aquarius would be. All world servers are decentralized workers. Decentralization means that we are no longer solidly fixed upon our lower egoic expression, thinking that we are in the center of the universe in a somewhat Leonian way, and that all things revolve around us. The centralized ego becomes smaller and smaller and smaller until it finally vanishes, and in a sense then is found everywhere. So all world servers are decentralized workers and are governed by the need and the reactions of the mass or group. Now, this is interesting because here is the serving Aquarian responding to the mass consciousness of Cancer, and serving those who are still involved in the limitations of this mass consciousness. And here is a very strong lunar connection, and also a strong Neptunian connection. The selflessness and Neptune go together because Neptune is instrumental in dissolving this rather material illusion of the lower ego as if it were something real, as if it were something substantial. It's really a false identity and Neptune is involved in vaporizing it, dissolving it, taking away its boundaries and making it less substantial, less of a material aggregate. And Neptune is involved in breaking the bonds which hold the lower ego together, so Neptune is involved in the de-aggregation of the lower ego. So all world servers are decentralized workers and are governed by the need and the reactions of the mass or group. This is... that is one of the reasons, okay, let me see if I can get this here, somehow. Okay, that is one of the reasons... whoa, I went down too far. Why when in training disciples are absorbed into a master's group. Well even the whole idea of absorption is Neptunian, it's osmotic, you know, you can pass... when your lower ego has become less of a consolidated dense factor, when it's been loosened by the energy of Neptune, it's possible for the true individual to pass into the master's group, to be absorbed into the master's group. The whole idea of the principle of the blotter is involved with Neptune too. So this osmotic... this ability to pass through a permeable membrane, this is the result of Neptune working upon the disciple. So this is one of the reasons why when in training disciples are absorbed into a master's group, which is integrally a collection of individuals who are imbued with a group idea and are learning increasingly to react to it. But first it's an idea and then later it becomes a way of life, right? And they are not just a collection of individuals but are an increasingly integrated collection of individuals,

and this certainly means that their lower egoic barriers, their personality barriers are being broken down. This is done through the dissolving power of Neptune among other things, and Neptune of course brings the tears of purification which have the effect of sensitizing us to other lower egos, to other souls, and thereby dissolving the ramparts of our own lower ego. structure. When I use the word "ego," I use it two ways. I try to say "lower ego" when I mean the personality and the lower identity, and of course the higher ego is the soul. So disciples are absorbed into a master's group, which is integrally a collection of individuals who are imbued with a group idea and are learning increasingly to react to it. In this world period and in a peculiar manner as far as the race, the Aryan race, to which the Western world belongs, Neptune is known esoterically as the initiator. Now races, as D.K. describes them, are largely a matter of consciousness, and the Western world is that world into which the occult consciousness is presently precipitating itself, moving from East to West. Interesting how the Eastern world is in many respects now imitating the materialism of the West, and the West is harvesting the best tradition of spirituality from the East. But this is as it's intended to be, with the rays of the West being the second ray of love and wisdom and the fourth ray of harmony through conflict. The personality ray of the East is the third, and we are moving away from that in its material sense. So there is a transition point between the fourth ray soul of the East and the fourth ray personality of the West, and that can move into the second ray soul of the East. Divine wisdom is moving into the West, and Neptune in many respects is a planet of deep divine intuitive wisdom, ruling as it does not only the Buddhic plane, but in a sense the monadic plane, and in another sense the cosmic astral plane. So Neptune is known esoterically as the initiator that connects it with the esoteric rulership of Cancer and the hierarchical rulership of Cancer, and it associates it, of course, with Christ, with the Lord Maitreya. It says in certain formulas, the great teacher of the West and the present world initiator, the Christ, is spoken of as Neptune, who rules the ocean, whose trident and astrological symbol signifies the Trinity in manifestation, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as one, and who is the ruler of the Piscean age. Neptune is that, but the Christ also is in a way the ruler of the Piscean age, and he is the one who deals with the elevation of emotional man. At the time of both the first and second initiations, important strides are made in the emotional development. The first initiation is not strictly a physical, etheric initiation, because the infusion of buddhi at that time of initiation suggests the power of Neptune, which is associated directly with the Buddhic plane. The soul absorbing ever more buddhi at each one of those first two initiations. So the ocean as well can be perhaps considered the ocean of matter, from which the initiation process frees the individual. So, two-thirds of that freeing are under the power of the Christ, who is representing, well, you know, it says, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." He is somehow the embodiment of the will, the love-wisdom, and also the animating Holy Spirit. He is the one who lifts us into an entirely new stage of subtle consciousness. This happens at initiation, and everything subtle, Neptune is associated with everything subtle and with the abstracting from materiality, which occurs as a result of the initiatory process and these first two initiations, particularly initiations with the threshold lifting, and the human being into an altogether more subtle state of appreciation of reality. So in certain ancient forms, it is the great teacher of the West, and the present world initiator Christ is spoken of as Neptune, who rules the ocean, either the astral ocean or actually all three of the material planes in the dense physical body of the planetary Logos whose trident and astrological symbol—well, okay, the astrological symbol of Neptune, of course, is the trident—signifies the trinity in manifestation and who is the ruler of the Piscean Age. He's also going to be, interestingly enough, the ruler of the Aquarian Age. The formula runs as follows, speaking esoterically. The fish goddesses who have leapt from earth, Virgo, to water, Pisces, unitedly give birth to the fish God, Christ, who introduces the water of life into the ocean of substance. These are cosmic etheric energies being introduced into the ocean of substance of the dense physical vehicle of the planetary Logos and perhaps even of the solar Logos, and thus brings light to the world. There is the sense in which Neptune does rule the ocean of light. Thus does Neptune work. So this is, however, he says, a great mystery revealed only at the time of the second initiation, in which the control of the fluidic astral plane is demonstrated. And, of course, Neptune is a planet of great fluidity, but the control, I think, is involved with the planet Vulcan, which I think we can find as an important controlling planet at each of the five initiations. Each of the five initiations. Okay, so, and especially, you know, bringing in a form of light, the control of the light of the soul, the entry of the power of the will over desire at the second degree. Okay, just, oh goodness, I've run over. All right, I'll just pause here for a moment. I usually try to end at the hour, or at least to signify the hour, but I guess I got caught up here.