

Theosophy in the Sign of Pisces

The Teachings of H.P. Blavatsky
On the *Imperishable Sign* of Pisces

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The Constellation of Pisces (Art by Photowall)

* *In the decade of 2020, Neptune, Saturn and other planets indicate a renewal in human karma. Is the transition from Pisces Age to Aquarius Age about to be completed?*

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* *The decades of 2020 and 2030 are a good time to examine what Theosophy has to say about the mysterious sign of Pisces, and its constellation.*

* In “**The Secret Doctrine**” (SD), Helena P. Blavatsky mentions the number 12 as being “very sacred”. And immediately after that she seems to identify such a number with the twelfth and last sign of the Zodiac, Pisces.

* Let us examine her exact words:

* “Pythagoras, and after him Philo Judæus, held the number 12 as very sacred. ‘The dodecahedron is a perfect number’. It is the one among the signs of the Zodiac, Philo adds, that the sun visits in twelve months, and it is to honour that sign that Moses divided his nation into twelve tribes, established the twelve cakes (Levit. XXIV, 5) of the *shewbread*, and placed twelve precious stones around the *ephod* of the pontiffs. (See *De Profugis*.)” (The passage is in the lower half of p. 649, [The Secret Doctrine, volume I](#).)

* A calm examination of the above sentences shows that HPB is associating the number 12 with Pisces. And if we take into consideration what she writes (for instance), about the Dodecahedron in other passages of the SD, we see that the number 12 and the sign of Pisces have profound correlations to many different aspects of the cosmic cycles.

* A dodecahedron is a polyhedron with twelve flat faces. The best-known dodecahedron has 12 regular pentagons. HPB says in the SD that the number 12 plays a key role in the building of the Universe:

* “It was taught in the *inner* temples that this visible universe of spirit and matter is but the concrete image of the ideal abstraction; it was built on the model of the first DIVINE IDEA. Thus our universe existed from Eternity in a latent state. The soul animating this purely spiritual universe is the central sun, the highest deity itself. It was not the *One* who built the concrete form of the idea, but the first-begotten; and as it was constructed on the geometrical figure of the dodecahedron (Plato, ‘*Timæus*’), the first-begotten ‘was pleased to employ twelve thousand years [twelve thousand ages] in its creation’.” (“[The Secret Doctrine](#)”, [volume I](#), p. 340.)

* It may be argued, and rightfully so, that the words used by Blavatsky in the passage about Pisces that is quoted above, is not very clear. No one would expect complete outward clarity in occult passages dealing with the mysteries which involve the approach to the great initiations. Each student must use his own discernment, until he is able to listen to his higher self. The higher self does not need to use words.

* Regarding Philo, Boris de Zirkoff, in his edition of the SD, gives a more precise bibliographical reference: “*De Fuga et Inventione, by Philo, xxxiii*”. But such an indication perhaps will not help much. For the record: there is an English language translation of the work, titled “On Flight and Finding” - published by Loeb. There is also a Latin-French edition, dated 1976, now out of print.

* Blavatsky pays a considerable attention to Pisces all along the section to which the first passage above mentioned belongs (p. 649, vol. I). The section is entitled “The Antiquity of the Zodiac”.

* Pisces, says Blavatsky, is linked to Christ, but not exclusively to him, since it is related to every great saviour of mankind.

* A little later, on pages 653-654 of volume I, HPB writes that the constellation of Pisces “**shines as a symbol of all the past, present, and future Spiritual Saviours who dispense light and dispel mental darkness**” (p. 653). The entire passage seems to put the sign of Pisces in a special place. It strengthens the idea that the Zodiacal signs are referred to as Numbers in Pythagorean language: and the number 12 refers to the sign 12, or Pisces. She says:

* “Why see in the *Pisces* a direct reference to Christ - one of the several world-reformers, a Saviour but for his direct followers, but only a great and glorious Initiate for all the rest - when that constellation shines as a symbol of all the past, present, and future Spiritual Saviours who dispense light and dispel mental darkness? Christian symbologists have tried to prove that it was that of Ephraim (Joseph’s son), the *elect* of Jacob, that therefore, it was at the moment of the Sun entering into the sign of the Fish (*Pisces*) that the Elect Messiah, the [*Ichthus*] of the first Christians, had to be born. But, if Jesus of Nazareth was that Messiah - was he really born at that ‘moment’, or was he made to be so born by the adaptation of theologians, who sought only to make their preconceived ideas fit in with sidereal *facts* and popular belief? Everyone knows that the real time and year of the birth of Jesus are totally unknown. And it is the Jews, whose forefathers have made the word *Dag* signify both ‘fish’ and ‘Messiah’, who, during the forced development of their rabbinical language, are the first to deny this Christian claim. And what of the further facts that Brahmins also connect *their* ‘Messiah’, the eternal Avatar Vishnu, with a *fish* and the Deluge, and that the Babylonians made of their *Dag-On*, equally a fish and a Messiah, the Man-Fish and Prophet?”

* Are all Messiahs and their disciples somehow connected one way or another to the Man-Fish, the Pisces-sign, “the fisherman”? Why are Jesus’ disciples *fishermen* or *fish-men*? Blavatsky proceeds:

* “There are those learned iconoclasts among Egyptologists, who say that when the Pharisees sought a ‘*sign from heaven*’ Jesus said, ‘*there shall no sign be given but the sign of Jonas*’ (Mat. xvi. 4). . . . The sign of Jonas is that of the Oan or fishman of Nineveh. . . . Assuredly there was no other sign than that of the Sun reborn in *Pisces*. The voice of the Secret Wisdom says those who are looking for signs can have no other than that of the returning fish-man Ichthys, Oannes, or Jonas - who could not be made flesh.”

* The short **Book of Jonah**, in the Jewish and Christian Bibles, has more than one useful lesson to theosophists who have an interest in universal or *oceanic* Compassion. “If you do not dedicate your whole life to fulfilling your true dharma and duty, you will unavoidably fail. Through suffering the Ocean of Life will teach you to discipline yourself and strengthen your spiritual willpower. Then you will succeed.” The challenge is well-known in the world of Pisces.

* Blavatsky proceeds:

* “It would appear that Kepler maintained it as a positive *fact* that, at the moment of the ‘incarnation’, all the planets were in conjunction in the sign of Pisces, called by the Jews (the Kabalists) the ‘constellation of the Messiah’. ‘It is in this constellation’, he averred, ‘that was placed the *star of the Magi*’.” ([The Secret Doctrine, volume I](#), p. 654.)

* Thus it is clear that according to Blavatsky the Jonas episode - the story of the Man-Fish or Pisces - teaches us occult lessons. Let us see other aspects of the Pisces mystery. The starting

point of the Kali Yuga occurs on 18 February, 3102 BCE. Around such a date, every year, the Sun leaves Aquarius and enters Pisces. There is a long discussion about 18 February in the Secret Doctrine, which has an enormous significance in both astronomy and esoteric philosophy. The point here is to underline the fact that the date of 18 February is connected to the birth of the first degree of Pisces, which presently occurs *about* 19 February.

* In her writings, HPB uses to refer *en passant* to occult things of great importance, leaving such hints to be seen (or not) by different generations of students. On page 579, in [The Secret Doctrine, volume II](#), one can read this footnote:

* “When the Sun passes away behind the 30th degree of *Makara* [*Capricorn*] and will reach no more the sign of the *Meenam* (Pisces) then the night of Brahma has come.”

* The same idea appears on pp. 376-377 of [The SD, volume I](#) :

* “Vamadeva Modelyar (*Modely*) describes the coming ‘night’ most poetically. Though it is given in *Isis Unveiled*, it is worthy of repetition. ‘Strange noises are heard, proceeding from every point These are the precursors of the Night of Brahma; *dusk rises at the horizon*, and the Sun passes away behind the thirteenth degree of *Macara* (sign of the Zodiac), and will reach no more the sign of the *Minas* (zodiacal *Pisces*, or Fish). The gurus of the pagodas appointed to watch the *rasichakr* (Zodiac), may now break their circle and instruments, for they are henceforth useless’.”

* And more:

* “Gradually light pales, heat diminishes, uninhabited spots multiply on the earth, the air becomes more and more rarified; the springs of waters dry up, the great rivers see their waves exhausted, the ocean shows its sandy bottom and plants die. Men and animals decrease in size daily. Life and motion lose their force, planets can hardly gravitate in space; they are extinguished one by one, like a lamp which the hand of the chokra (servant) neglects to replenish. Surya (the Sun) flickers and goes out, matter falls into dissolution (pralaya), and Brahma merges back into Dayus, the Unrevealed God, and, his task being accomplished, he falls asleep. Another day is passed, night sets in, and continues until the future dawn.”

* Every year, the Sun is by the thirteenth degree of Capricorn-Macara around 4 January.

* On pages 263-264 of [The SD, volume I](#), we see HPB again placing Pisces on an especially high level, and calling it “**the imperishable sign**”:

* “... What have ‘Fish, Sin and Moon’ in the apocalyptic saying of the Stanza to do in company with the ‘Life-microbes’? With the latter nothing, except availing themselves of the tabernacle of clay prepared by them; with divine perfect man everything, since ‘Fish, Sin and Moon’ make conjointly the three symbols of the immortal Being.”

* She proceeds:

* “This is all that can be given. Nor does the writer pretend to know more of this strange symbol than may be inferred about it from exoteric religions; from the mystery perhaps, which underlies the *Matsya* (fish) *Avatar* of Vishnu, the Chaldean Oannes - the Man-Fish, recorded in the imperishable sign of the Zodiac, Pisces, and running throughout the two

Testaments in the personages of Joshua ‘Son of the Fish (Nun)’ and Jesus; the allegorical ‘Sin’ or Fall of Spirit into matter, and the Moon - in so far as it relates to the ‘Lunar’ ancestors, the Pitris.”

* On volume IX of the **Collected Writings** of H. P. Blavatsky, p. 233, there is a reference to the conjunction in Pisces and “the constellation of the Messiah”.

* In her essay “**Facts Underlying Adept Biographies**”, HPB quotes **Isis Unveiled** and says that the coming of the Messiah, according to the Jewish sage **Isaac Abrabanel** - who was born in Lisbon in 1437 - takes place in the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in Pisces. See p. 153, last line. The passage also refers to the Caldean Man-Fish, or Man-Pisces. The Messiah is DAG, or Fish. (See the **Collected Writings** of HPB, vol. XIV, pp. 153-154.)

* Let us refer now to the practical lessons that emerge from such a study. Naturally, all readers of the present article have the sign of Pisces somewhere in their astrological charts, which represent an approximate photo of their souls for the present incarnation. Jupiter and Neptune, the planet-rulers of Pisces, are also there. And so is Saturn, the master of the Law and Justice. Each celestial body and every inhabitant of the Sky interacts with all the others. Having a Pisces Factor in his or her soul, every reader of the *Aquarian* can help therefore the work of the World-Saviours and be in syntony with Them, according to his practical possibilities. Each sign and every planet is a tool that can be used by the souls to reach a higher level of perception, and awaken to the universal rule of selfless help.

The Double Task of Pisces and Virgo in the Theosophical Movement

* The goal of the present report is not to solve the mystery of Pisces. It aims at getting together some scattered information on the Occult side of the Pisces sign and its Constellation. This limited task should be a means to make it easier for the *Unworded Higher Levels of Consciousness* of earnest readers to work in silence towards the right view of things, and to slowly help prepare the advent of due insights, which of course can only take place *strictly according to Merit and the Law of Karma*.

* Having said that, another aspect of the mystery around Pisces is the connection between the Fish and Virgo. The two signs are in mutual opposition. Every opposition tends to form the same kind of creative and complementary *yin-yang interaction* as we have in every Full Moon between the Moon and the Sun.

* The United Lodge of Theosophists - which played an important role in the history of the movement and in the origin of the Independent Lodge of Theosophists - was founded on the 18 February - a date connected to Pisces. On the other hand, the theosophical movement itself was actually not created on 17 November, as presently suggested in public, but on 7 September 1875, under Virgo.

* On this well-documented fact, see the article [New York, September 7th, 1875](#), the final part of which is entitled *Theosophy, Virgo and the Pleiades*. You might want to read also [The Lesson of the Sun in Virgo](#).

* It seems, therefore, that the theosophical movement was born to work on the Pisces-Virgo polarity of healing and universality; of particularity and totality; physics and metaphysics,

Earth and Heaven. Of course, the date of November 17 also has importance, and its influence - by the way - is in full harmony with Pisces.

* Before closing the present enumeration of *points to ponder*, a basic fact should be mentioned. Another especially sacred sign, **Taurus** - where the [eighth day of May](#) is situated - makes a sextile to Pisces and works through the same element as Virgo, that is, Earth. Taurus expands the harmony between Pisces and Virgo. Pisces represents the infinite cosmic waters; Virgo stands for our small precarious planet - whose future, however, is luminous.

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Helena Blavatsky (photo) wrote these words: “**Deserve, then desire**”.

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