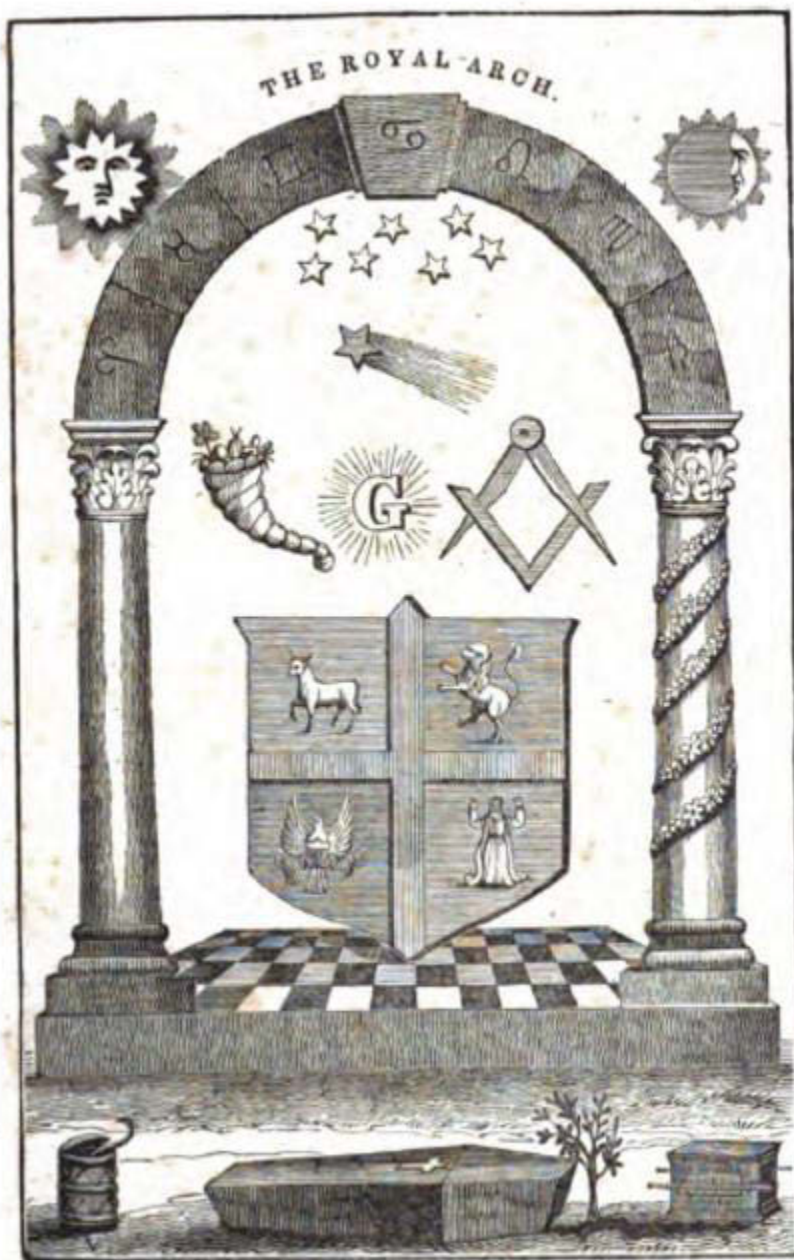


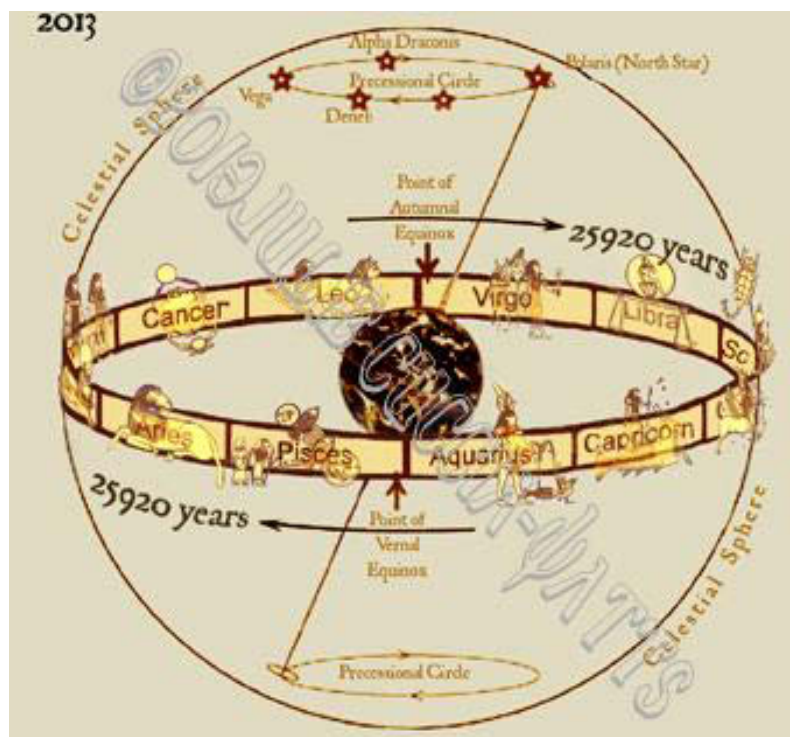
# Associations between the Royal Arch and Astrology

Ronald Naumowicz IV° SRICF



In compiling his famous star catalog (completed 129 BCE), the Greek astronomer Hipparchus noticed that the positions of the stars were shifted in a systemic way from the earlier Babylonian (Chaldean) measures. This indicated that it was not the stars that were moving but rather the observing platform—Earth. Such a motion is called precession and consists of a cyclic wobbling in the orientation of the earth's axis of rotation. Precession is caused by the gravitational influence of the Sun and the Moon acting on Earth's equatorial bulge, with the planets exerting their force to a much lesser degree.

The first astronomer recorded to have continued Hipparchus's work on precession is Ptolemy in the second century. Ptolemy compared his own observations with those made by Hipparchus, Menelaus of Alexandria, Timocharis, and Agrippa. He found that between Hipparchus's time and his own (about 265 years), the stars had moved  $2^{\circ}40'$ , or  $1^{\circ}$  in 100 years ( $36''$  per year; the rate accepted today is about  $50''$  per year or  $1^{\circ}$  in 72 years). Realizing each sign of the zodiac consists of thirty degrees, and the sun loses one degree every seventy two years. It would be fair to state the sun regresses through one entire constellation in approximately 2,160 years, and through the entire zodiac in about 25,920 years. This is known as the Great Year.

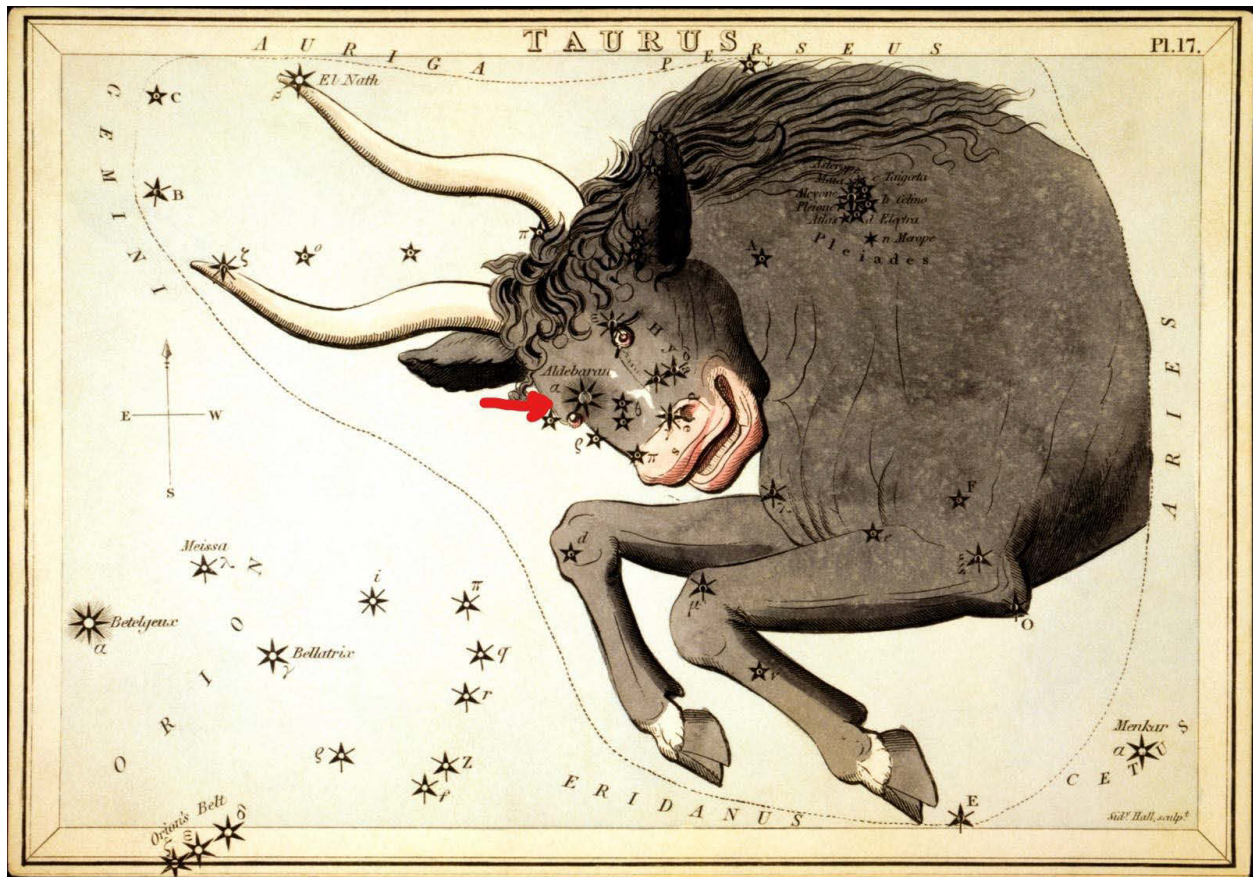


Now that we have a basic understanding of our earth's rotation, let us take a moment to place our year and seasons in the proper perspective. Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar in 45 BC, where he set 25 March as the date of the spring equinox. Pope Gregory XIII created the modern Gregorian calendar. He wanted to conform to the edicts concerning the date of Easter of the Council of Nicaea of AD 325, which means he wanted to move the vernal equinox to 21 March, which is the day allocated to it in the Easter table of the Julian calendar. This was when the dates became fixed to our calendar.

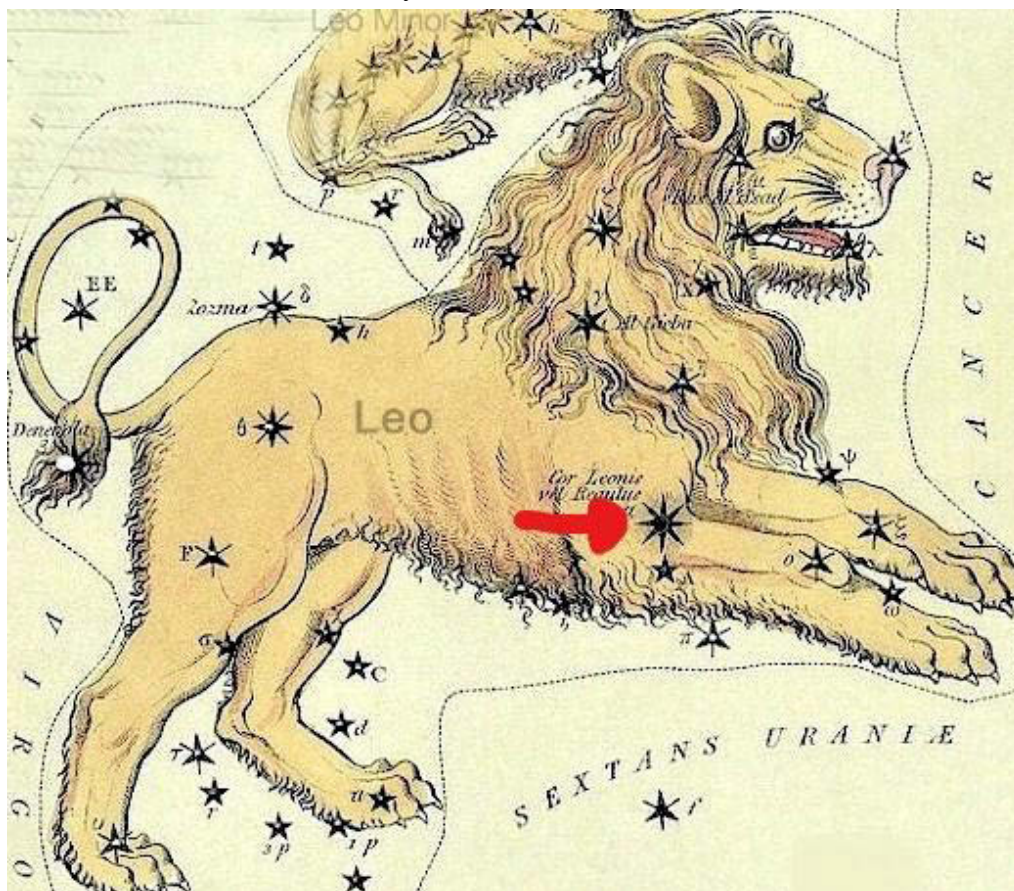
Prior to this time, many countries had their own manner of identifying and recording events and many of them had no corresponding similarities. As Masons, we have many different dates and years we track, for example:

- ∴ *Anno Lucis*, which adds 4000 years to the current date
- ∴ *Anno Mundi*, which adds 3760 years to the current date
- ∴ *Anno Hebraico*, which uses the Hebrew year that starts on 17 September, the 1<sup>st</sup> of Tishri
- ∴ *Anno Inventionis*, which dates from the building of the second temple; in 530 B.C.
- ∴ *Anno Depositionis*, which dates from the completion of Solomon's Temple and adds 1000 years
- ∴ *Anno Ordinis*, which dates from the organization of the Templar Order in 1118

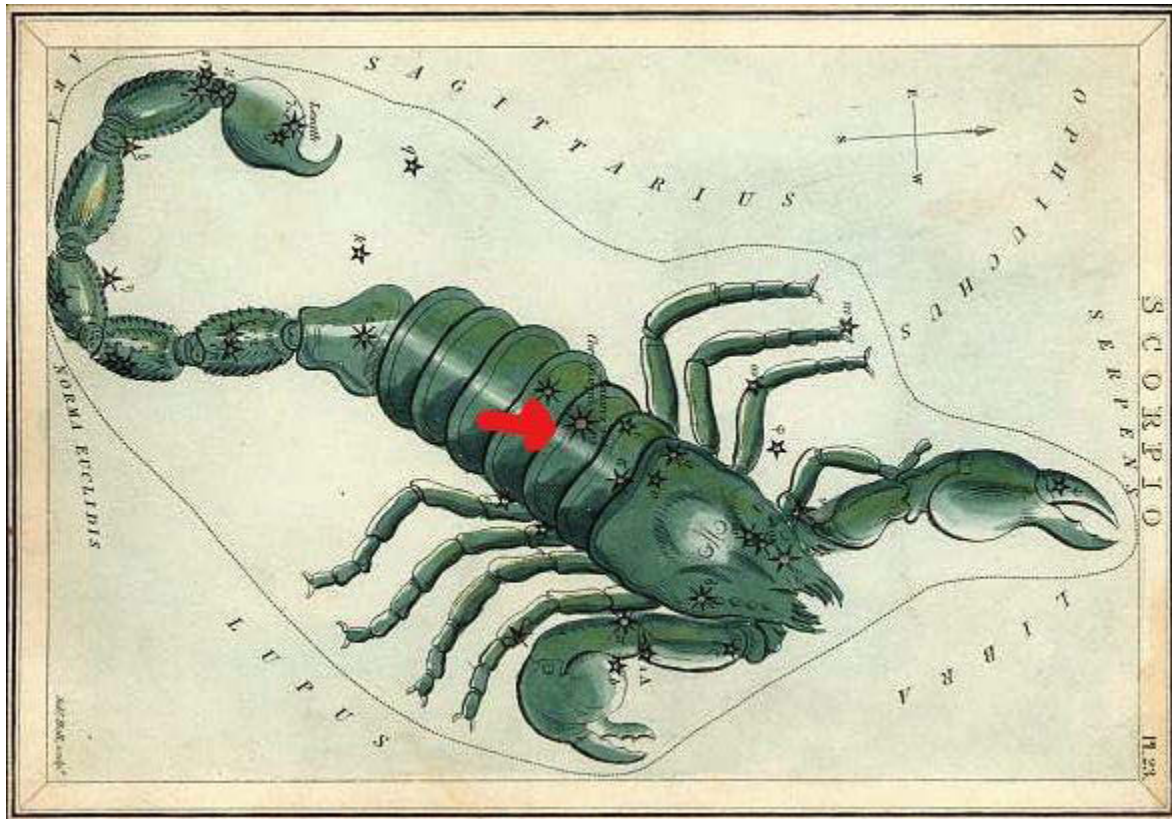
In several cultures, notably Persian and Iranian, the year always began on the Vernal Equinox. Both the vernal and spring equinox divided a Judaic 360-day midpoint length of year into four equal quarters having 90-days each. The vernal equinox occurs in springtime when the ecliptic intersects the celestial equator, with the autumn equinox occurring in the fall. One single day each quarter aligns with each Royal day-star. These Royal Stars are so named because during the fabled pyramid age of Egypt, these luminaries held tremendous influence. Endowed with almost archangelic power, these legendary stars of antiquity are **Aldebaran**, **Regulus**, **Antares** and **Fomalhaut**, and in the epoch of 5,000 years ago they were considered to be guardians of the four corners of heaven and watchers of the directions, forming a heavenly cross near the ecliptic and signified four cardinal points in the ancient year. We will define them in order of when they appear during the year.



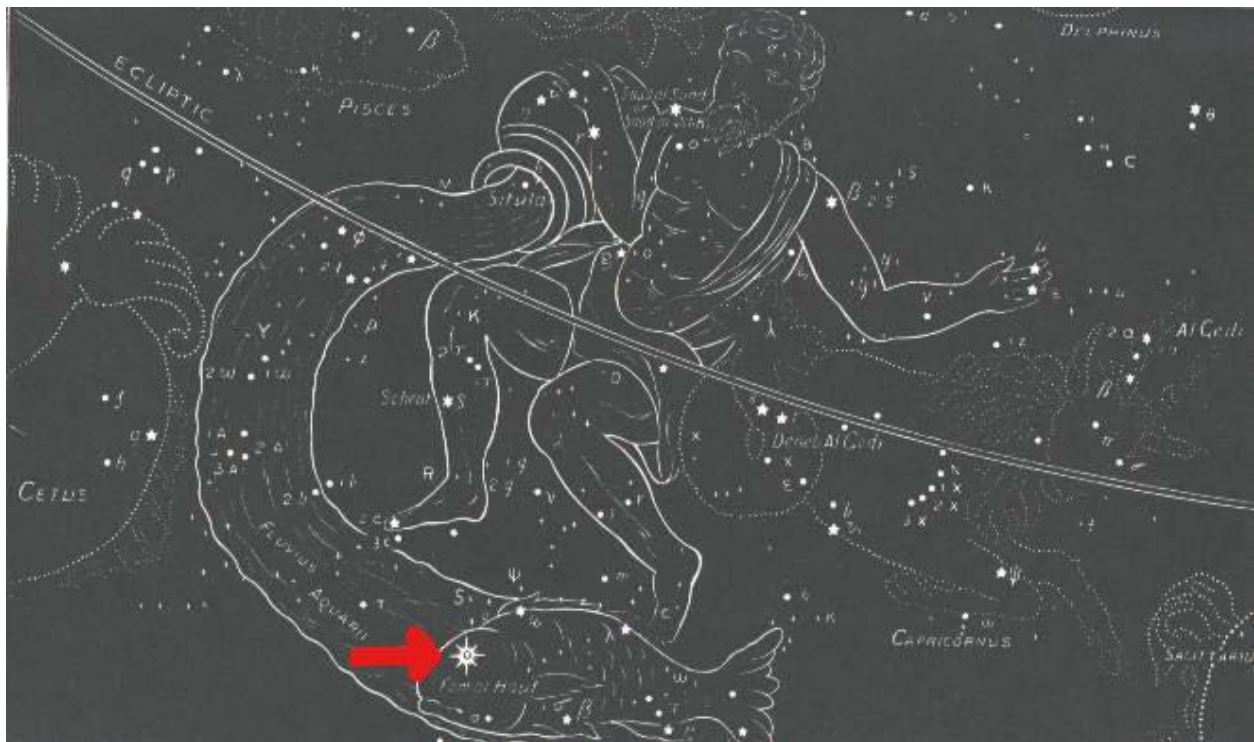
**Regulus** was known as the Watcher of the North and the star of the Archangel Raphael. The name in Persian, is (نشاندۀ دست سلطان یا شاه، ناخالص فلز الاسد، قلب ستاره), which translates to, “Regulus, the king or sultan puppet”. Depending on the particular graphical representation, Regulus is located either as the heart of Leo the Lion, or on the right foreleg of Leo (i.e. on the Lions Paw). It is also considered the leader of the four stars and introduces the summer solstice. As it is the brightest and strongest star when the Sun is at its strongest, it is naturally placed in the Keystone of the Royal Arch. The Keystone in our Degrees is acknowledged as the most critical and strongest part of the arch. In ancient texts, there are engravings on both sides. The front side we are well versed in the meaning therein, when it was introduced in the Mark Master Degree. On the other side we find a point within a circle, or Circumpunct, ☉, which when associated with Astronomy it denotes the Sun. The Keystone then becomes a symbol of the Sun at the Summer Solstice, or the summit of the Royal Arch of the Heavens. Classically associated with the Kerubic (fixed) constellation Leo and assigned the tribe of Judah, with the lion as its emblem. For those that have studied the Sephiroth Circles, it is also the symbol for TIPARETH, which we will cover in more detail shortly.



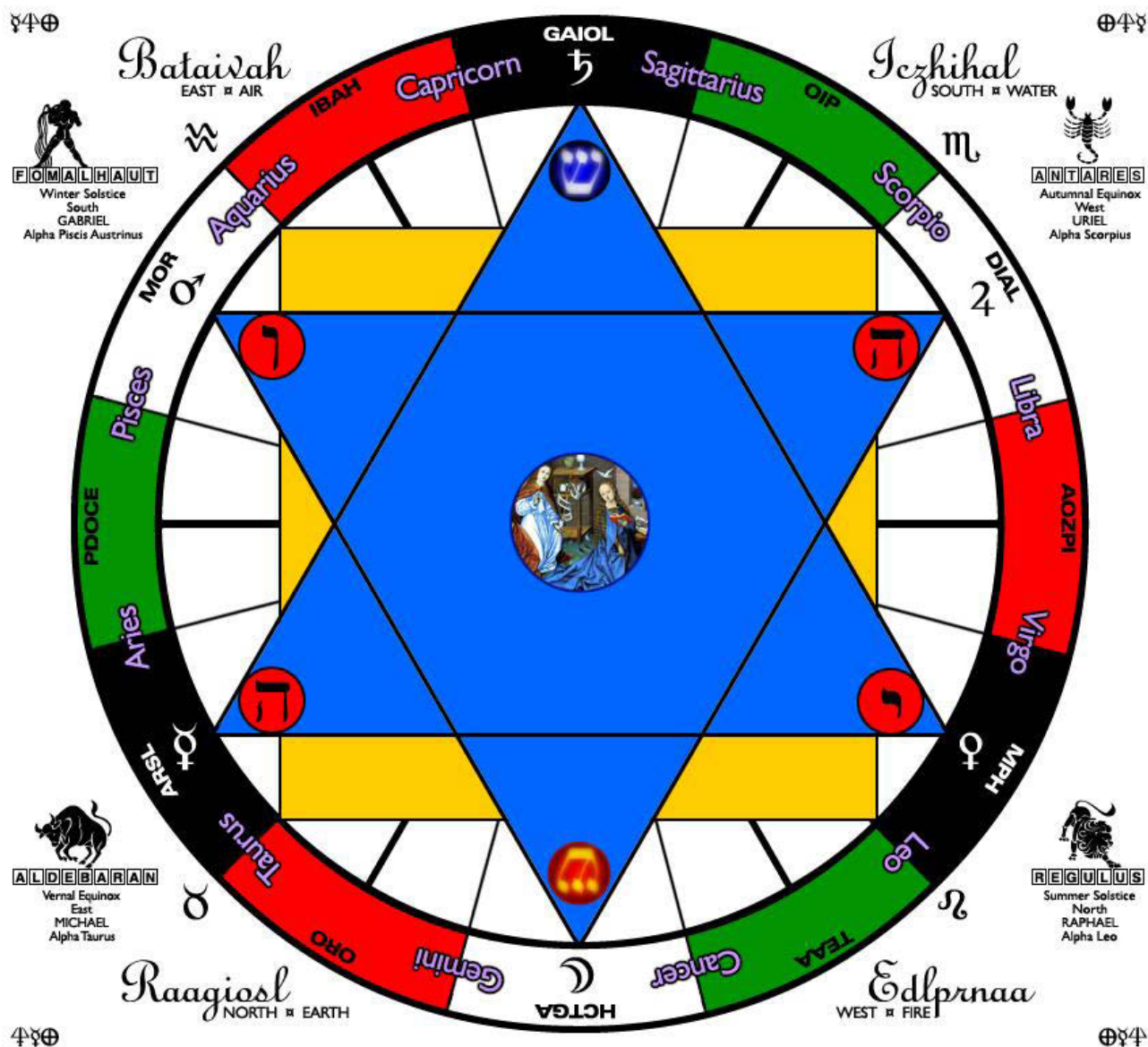
**Antares** was known as the Watcher of the West and the star of the Archangel Uriel. The name comes from the Greek (Αντάρης), meaning Against Ares; the Greek name for Mars. It is a red star that is sometimes confused with the planet Mars. Antares is located in the constellation Scorpio representing the Scorpion, the Phoenix, and the Eagle. Antares introduced the autumnal equinox. Classically associated with the Kerubic (fixed) constellation Taurus and assigned the tribe of Issachar, with the bull as its emblem.



**Fomalhaut** was known as the Watcher of the South and the star of the Archangel Gabriel. The name comes from the Arabic Fom al-Hūt (م ف ح و ت ال) meaning *Mouth of the Whale*. The star is located in the mouth of Pisces Australis, the Southern Fish, not to be confused with the two fishes of the constellation of Pisces. The Southern Fish is depicted with its mouth open drinking the water flowing from the jar of Aquarius the water bearing Man. Fomalhaut introduced the winter solstice. Classically associated with the Kerubic (fixed) constellation Aquarius and assigned the tribe of Rueben, with man as its emblem.



These four Royal day-stars provides us with Archangel Raphael in the North, Archangel Gabriel in the South, Archangel Michael in the East, and Archangel Uriel in the West.



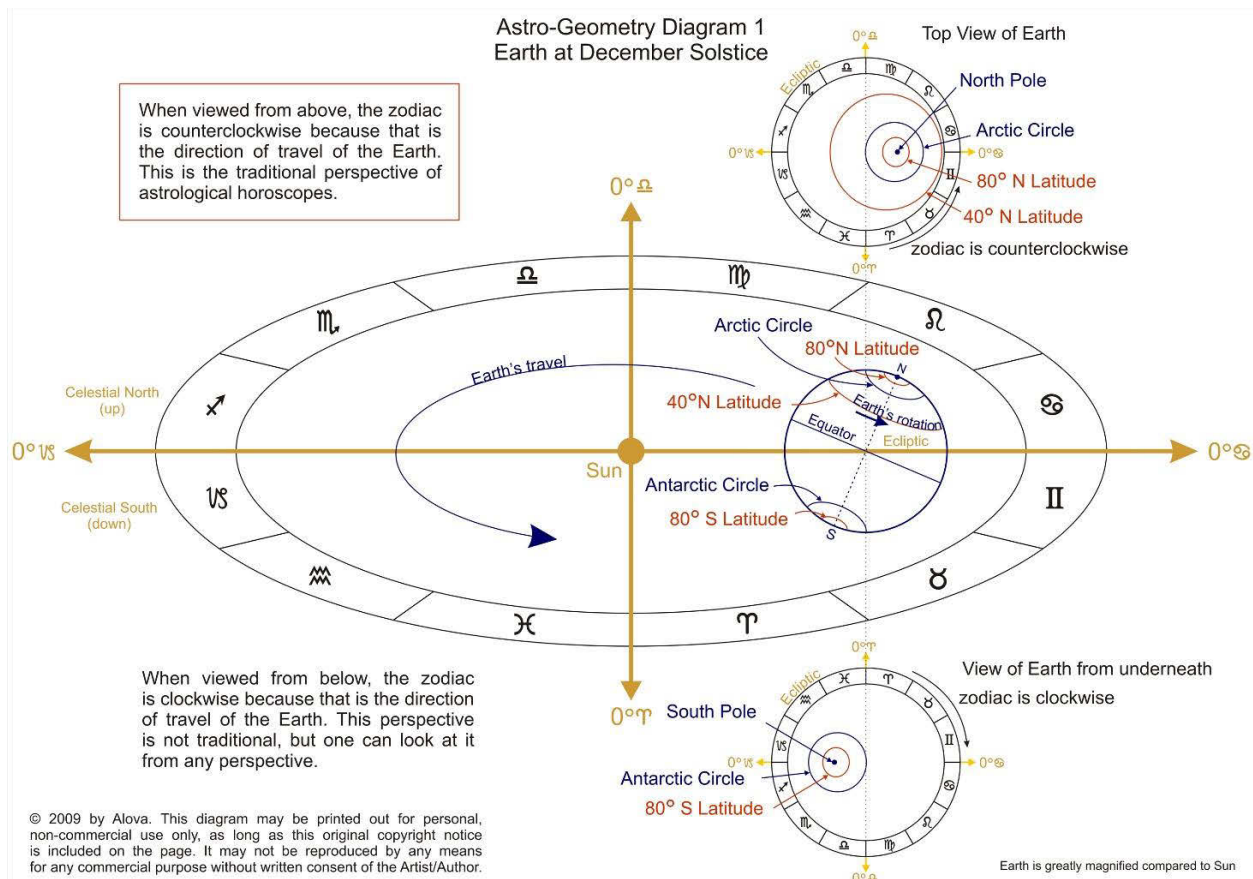
Here is an illustration that depicts the four Royal day-stars and their position at the time this graphic was made. Due to precession, the stars will change from time to time with the constellations they align with.

I was able to locate a site that identified which years they conjuncted the Sun during an equinox or solstice to help identify when they first started using this system.

- Fomalhaut Winter: BC 2621.
- Aldebaran Spring: BC 3053.
- Regulus Summer: BC 2326.
- Antares Autumn: BC 3052.

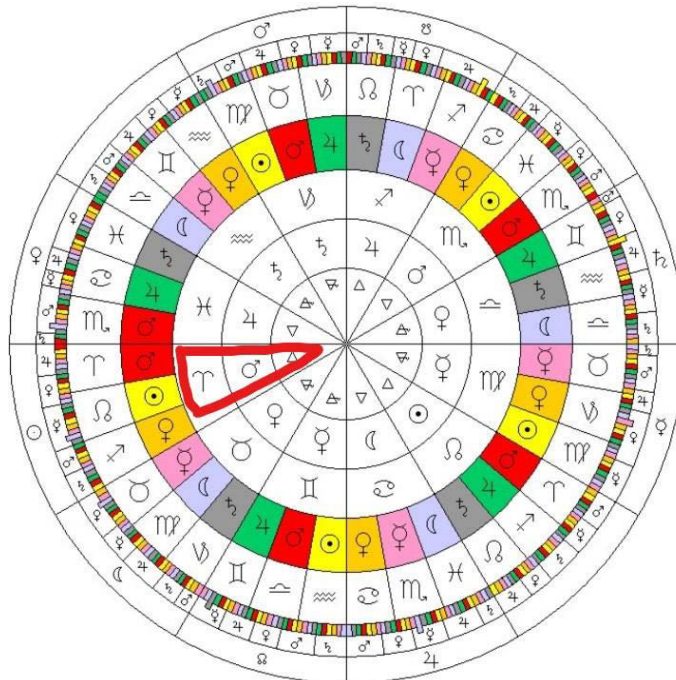
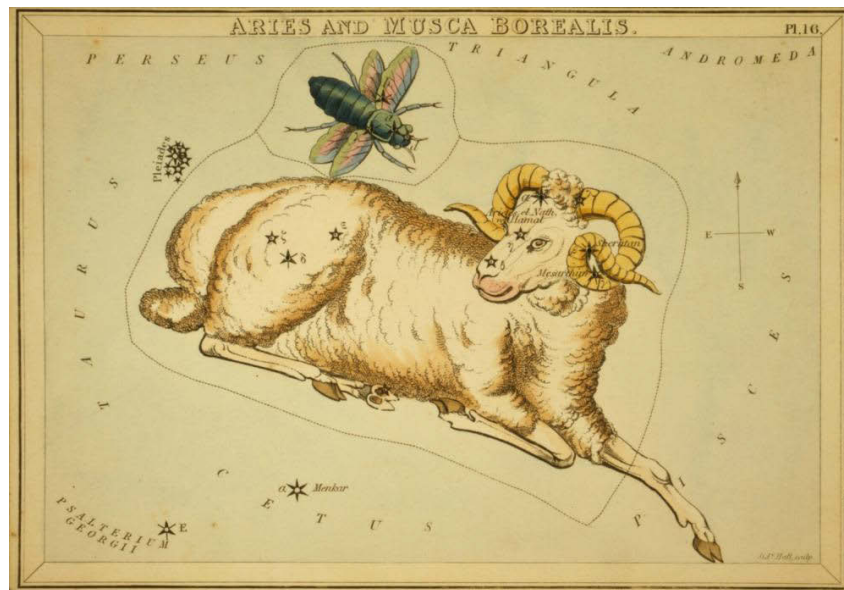
Now, let us reexamine the Royal Arch graphic we started with. In examining the Royal Arch graphic, we will start with the left pillar. Aries would be first, followed by Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, and Libra. With these astrological symbols and basic knowledge of cardinal points, we could lay out cardinal directions. We can start by labeling Leo as North, as it is the highest point visible on the arch. The difference in the graphic you see is caused by the precession we spoke on earlier, in this case North aligns with Cancer instead of Leo. This shift also affects the other cardinal points as well. East would then align with Taurus and West would align with Aries. We have North, South, East, and West; however, the astrological signs are in the wrong order. It may be this layout was created for instructional purposes and not accurate astrological positioning.

When we look at the Earth from far above the North Pole, the Earth moves counterclockwise around the Sun. This is why the zodiac runs counterclockwise. The Ecliptic plane is the flat plane containing the Sun and Earth, and the zodiac is our way of expressing what direction a planet or star is in, as shown here:

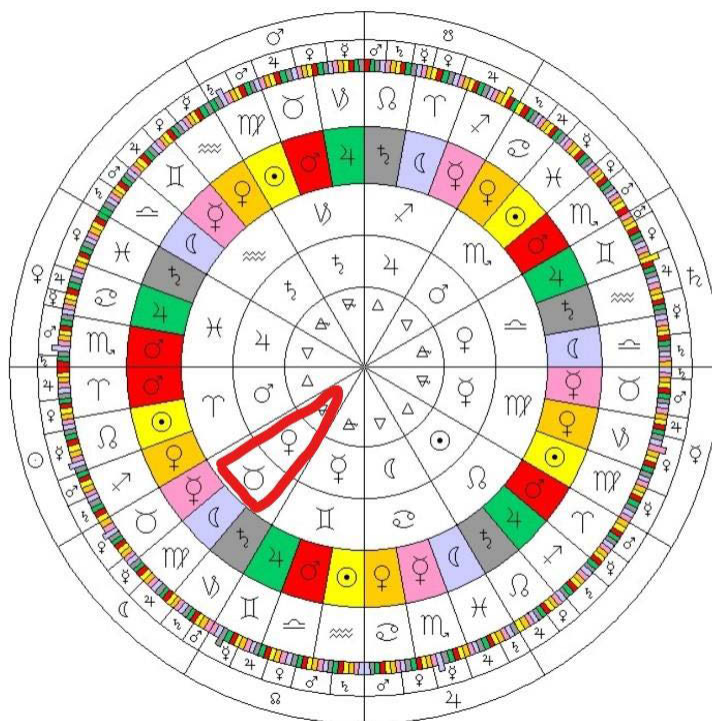


If we wanted to look at the Earth and solar system from the South side, the zodiac would run clockwise. (Incidentally, since ancient astrology looks at the zodiac as counterclockwise, it is evident that astrology developed in the Northern hemisphere.) The Earth rotates counterclockwise when viewed from above the North Pole. So from hour to hour, a Place moves from left to right along a line of latitude when viewed from the Aries side with the North Pole up. Information obtained through an article written by Alova on Astro-Geometry and can be found here <http://www.astrowisdom.net/articles/astro-geometry.php>

**Aries ♈ the Ram** occurs from March 21 – April 19 and is ascribed to the tribe of Naphtali. It is also when the Vernal Equinox occurs in the constellation. Aries is ruled by Mars ♂. In classical astrology Mars rules Iron. The element associated with Aries is Fire 🔥. Mars is associated with the sephiroth GEBURAH, and its color is red. Symbols are the pentagon, the Tudor rose of five petals, the sword, the spear, the scourge. Godfrey Higgins states: “This Constellation was called the ‘Lamb of God.’ He was also called the ‘Savior,’ and was said to save mankind from their sins. He was always honored with the appellation of ‘Dominus’ or ‘Lord.’ He was called the ‘Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world.’” In this instance, the *Lamb of God* is a title given to the Sun, who is said to be reborn every year in the Northern Hemisphere in the sign of the Ram.



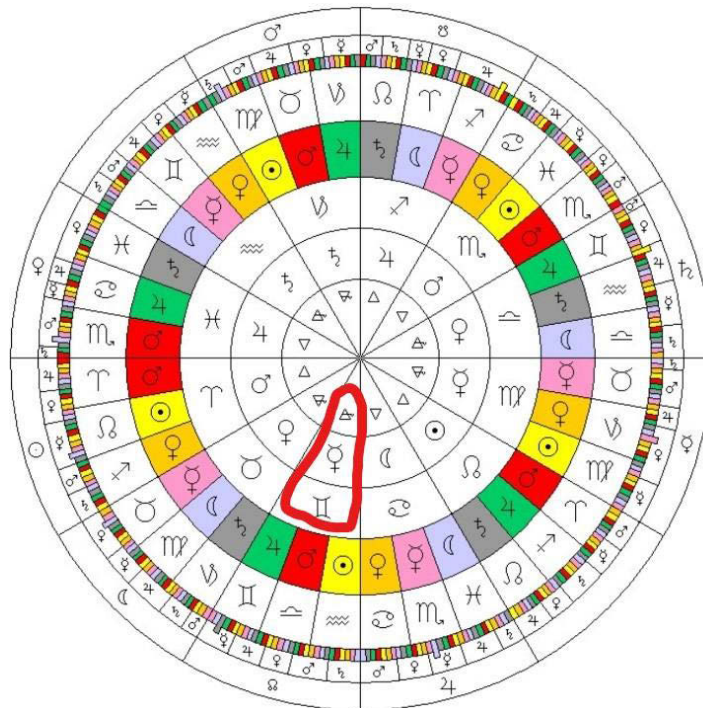
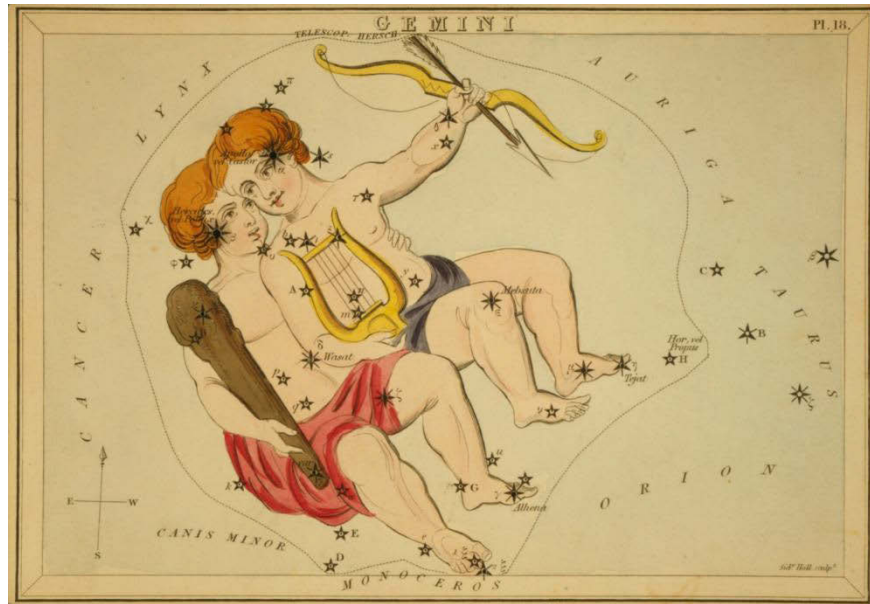
**Taurus♉ the Bull**, or Ox occurs from April 20 – May 20 and is ascribed to the tribe of Issachar. Taurus is ruled by Venus ♀. In classical astrology Venus rules Copper. The Element associated with Taurus is Earth ♄. Venus is associated with the sephiroth NETZACH, and its color is green. Symbols are the girdle, the rose, the lamp.



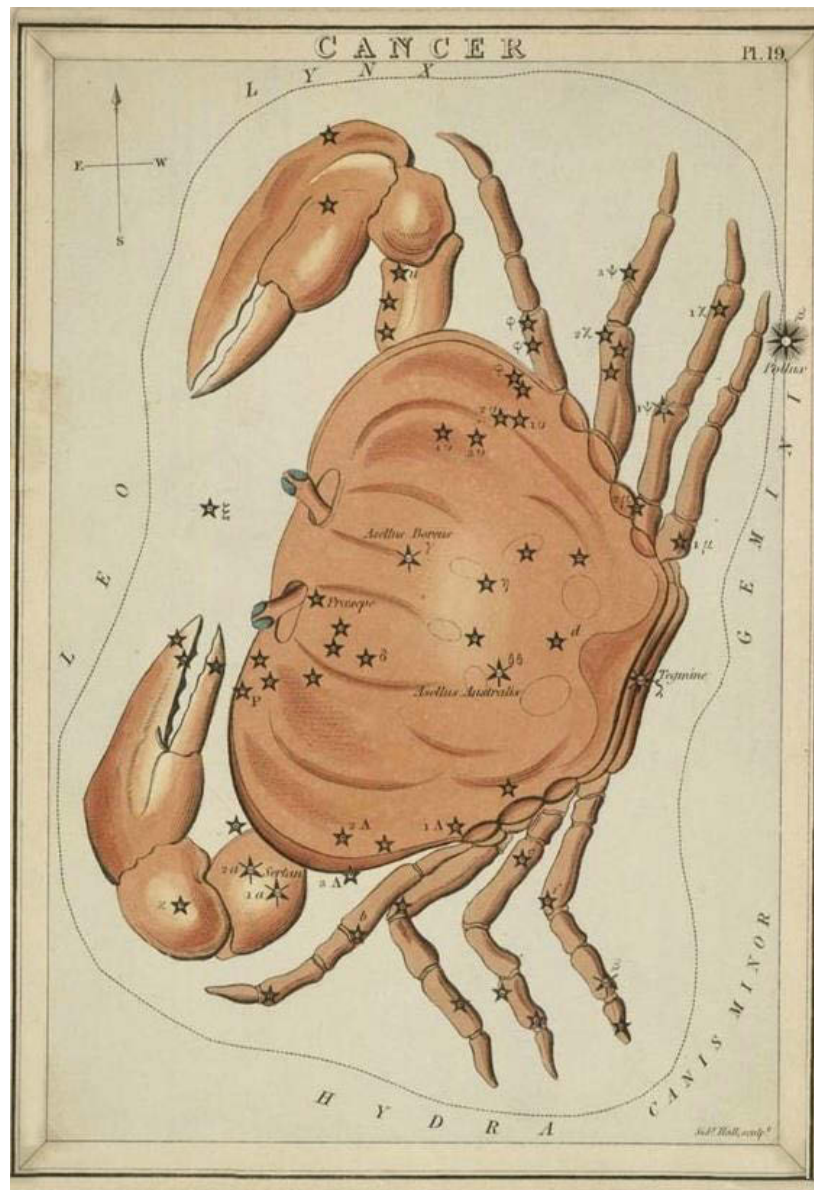
**Gemini ♊ the Twins** occurs from May 21 – June 20 and is ascribed to the tribe of Simeon.

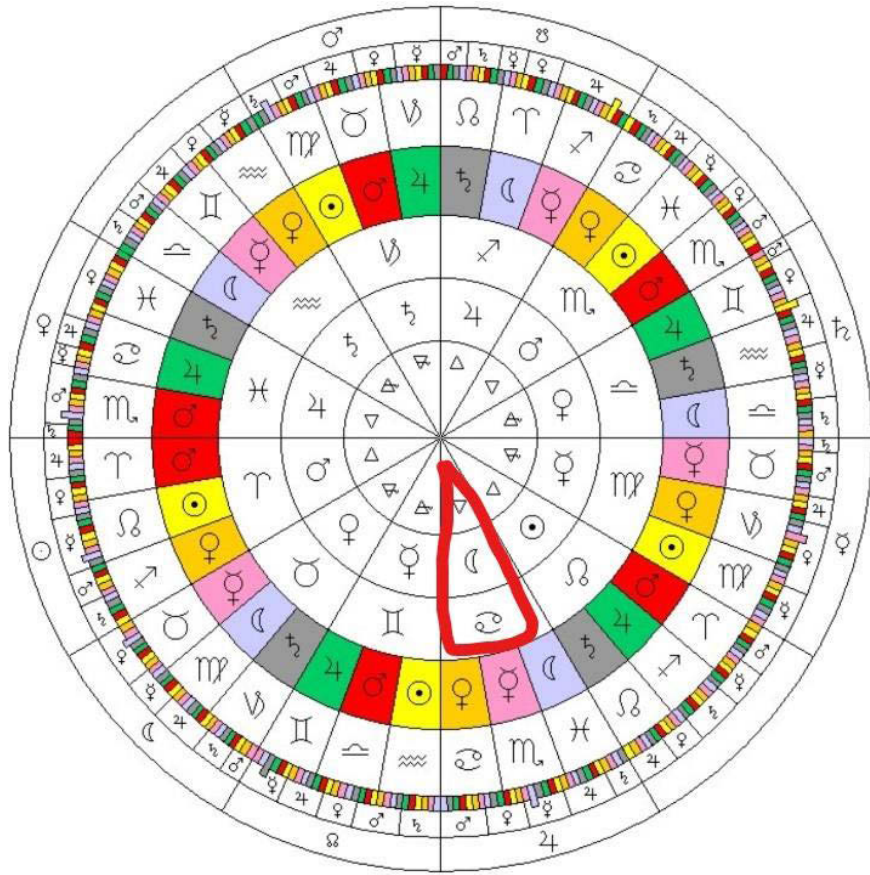
Ruled by Mercury ♿. In classical astrology Mercury rules Quicksilver. The element associated with Gemini is Air ♎. Mercury is associated with the sephirot HOD, and its color is orange.

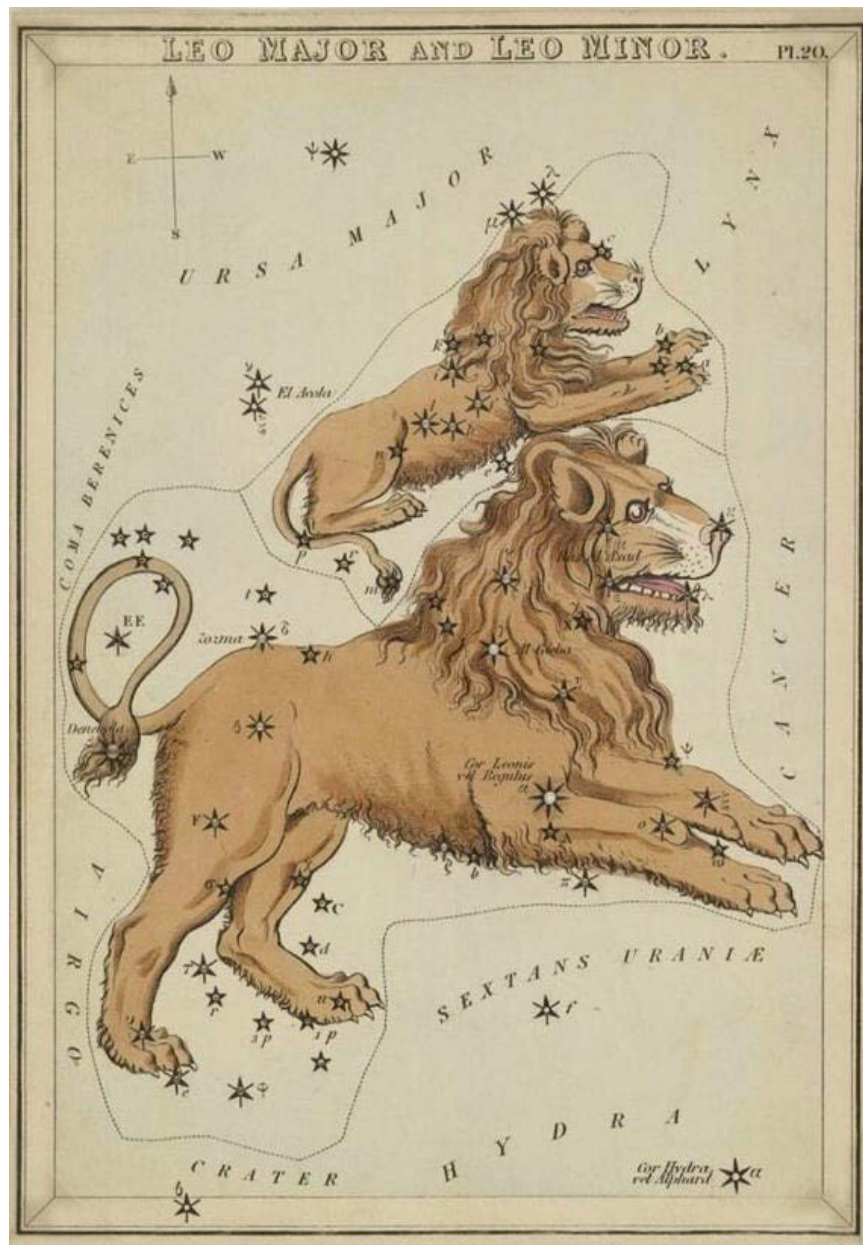
Symbols are names of power, the Masonic Apron.

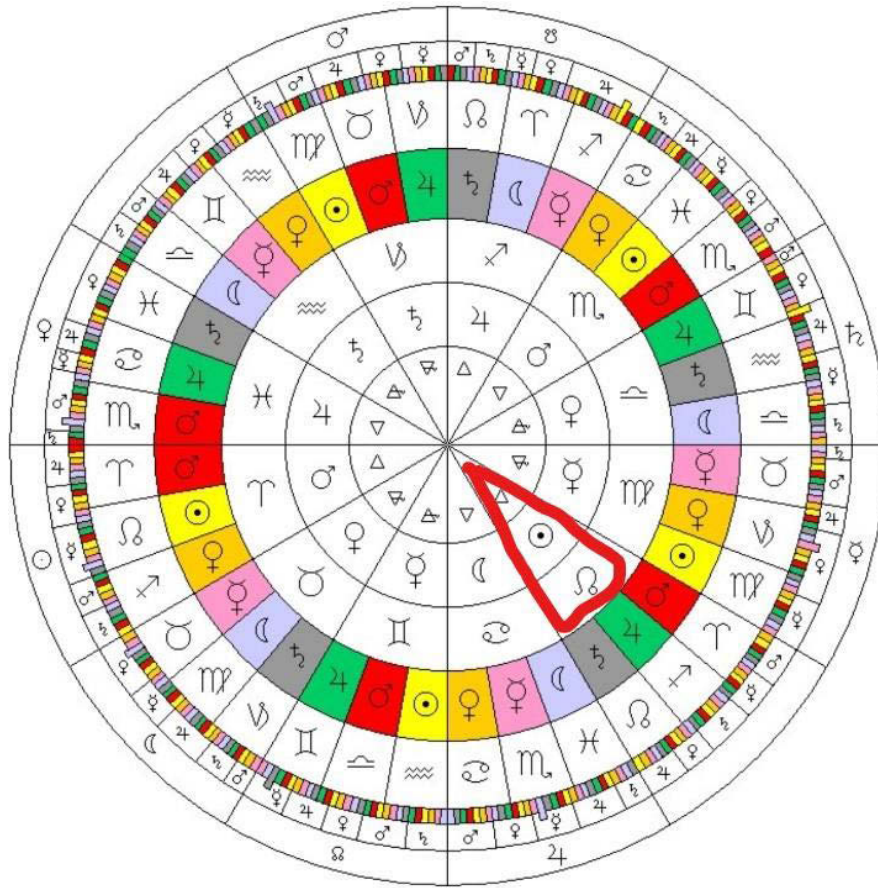


**Cancer ♋ the Crab**, occurs from June 21 – July 22 and is ascribed to the tribe of Joseph. It is also where the Summer Solstice is regarded as occurring. It is evident that the constellation of the Crab is represented by this peculiar creature because the Sun, after passing through this house, proceeds to walk backwards, or descend the zodiacal ☾ arc. Cancers are ruled by the Moon. In classical astrology, the Moon rules Silver. The element associated with Cancer is Water ♊. The Great Mother of the heavens in ancient times. Moon is associated with the sephirot YESOD, and its color is violet. Symbols are perfume, sandals.

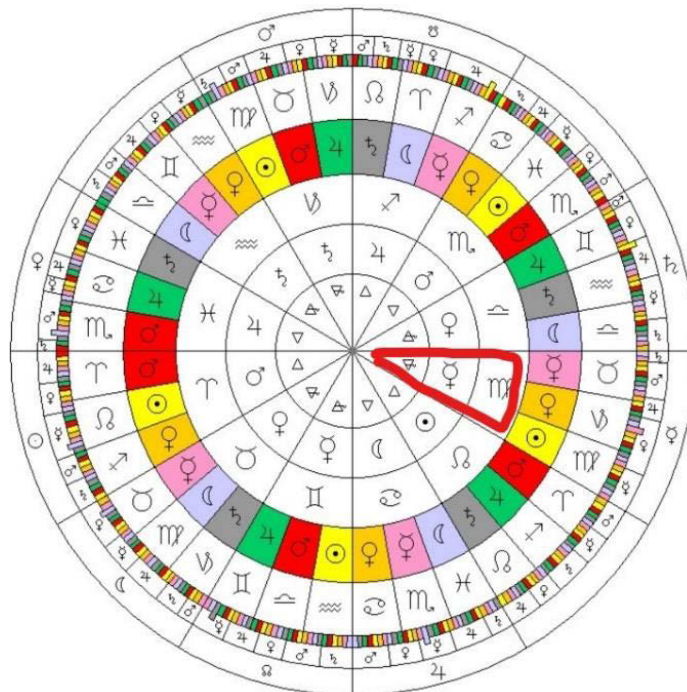




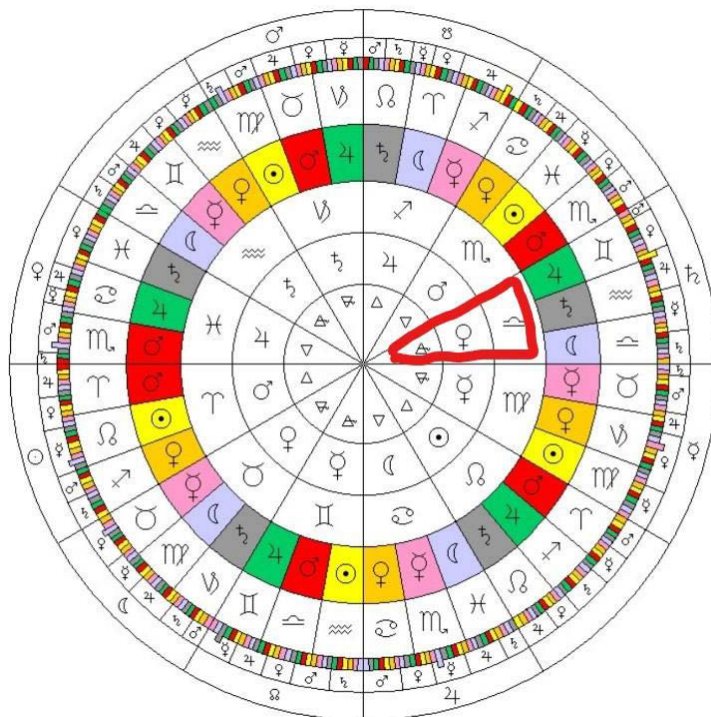
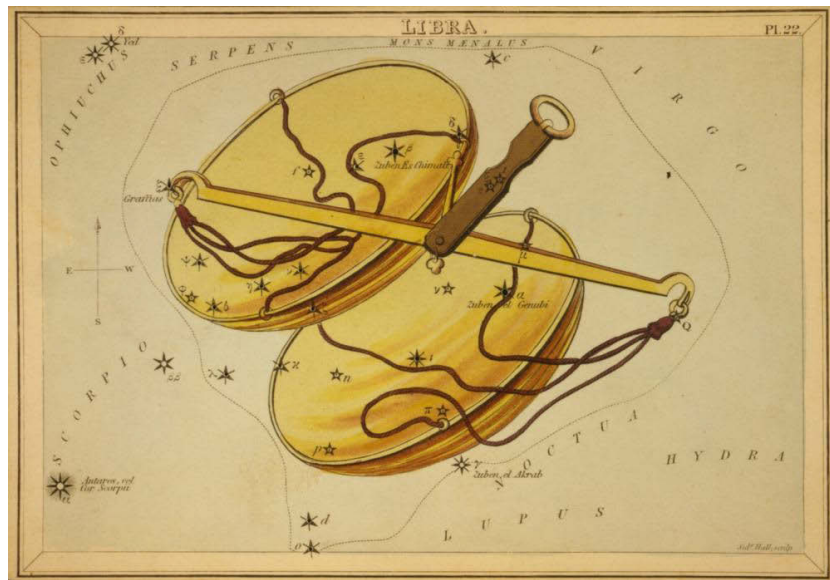




**Virgo ♍ the virgin** occurs from August 23 – September 22 and is ascribed to the tribe of Asher. Which is represented by a female figure, a maiden or virgin. In some Masonic circles, she is said to be holding a sprig of acacia and is attributed to the tribe of Naphtali. Virgo is ruled by Mercury ☿. Mercury, in classical astrology, rules Quicksilver. The Element associated with Virgo is Earth ♁. Virgo is associated with the sephiroth HOD, and its color is orange. Physical Representation: The sphere of MERCURY. Symbols are names of power, the Masonic Apron. The sun enters Virgo at the end of the growing season.

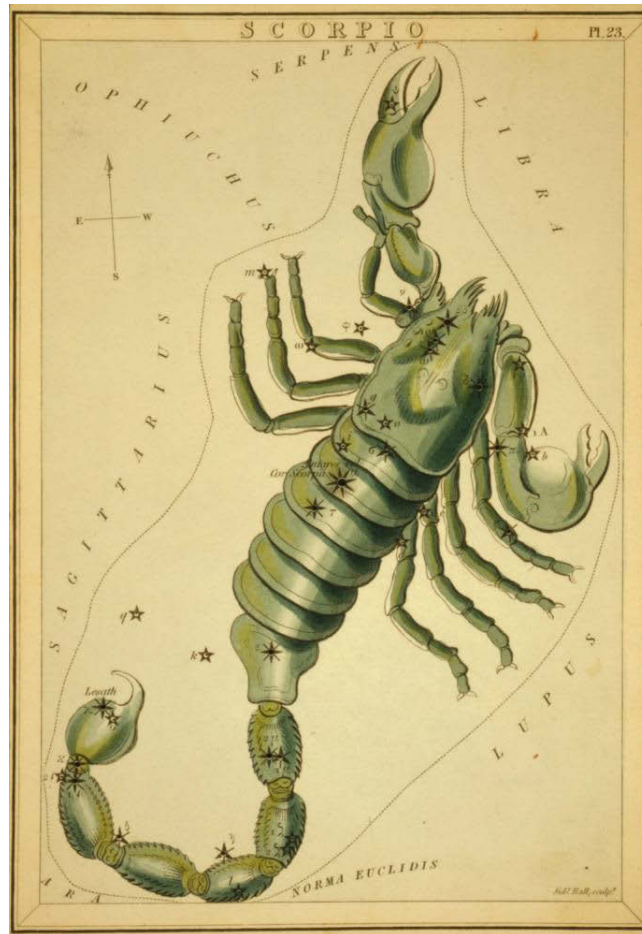


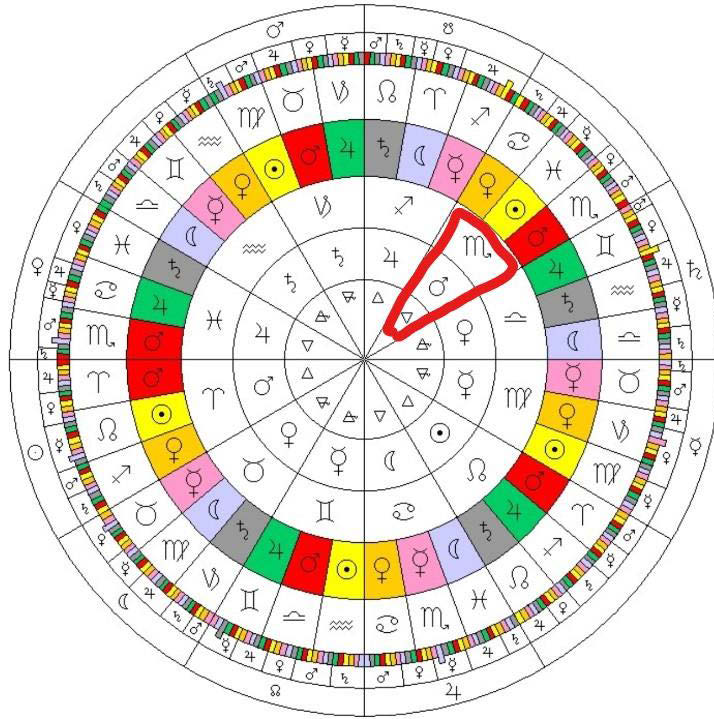
**Libra ♎ the Balances**, occurs from September 23 – October 22 and is ascribed to the tribe of Levi. It is also when the autumnal equinox occurs. The scales start out being equal, then begin to tip as the solar globe began its pilgrimage toward the house of winter. Libra is attributed to the tribe of Asher. Libra is ruled by Venus ♀ and in classical astrology, rules Copper. The element associated with Libra is Air △. Venus is associated with the sephiroth NETZACH, and its color is green. Symbols are the girdle, the rose, the lamp.



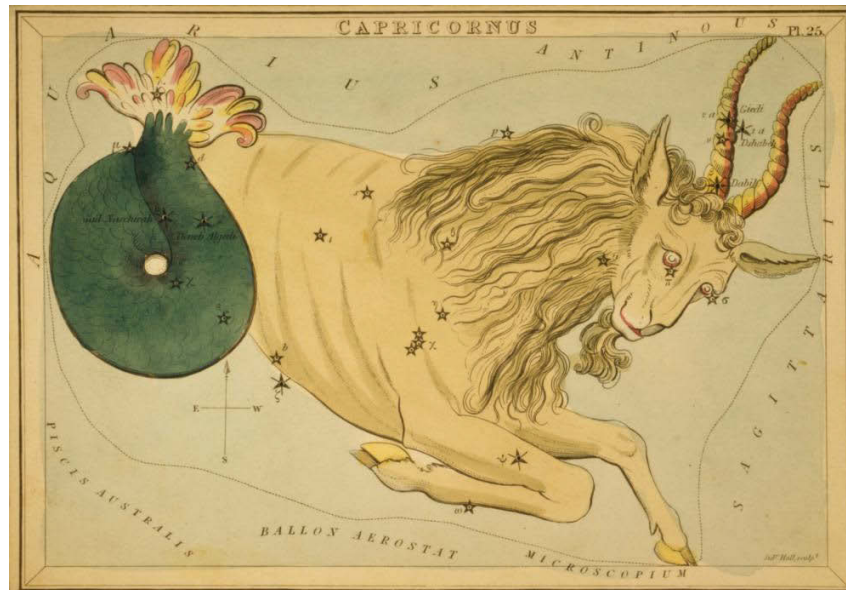
**Scorpio ♏, the scorpion** occurs from October 23 – November 21 and is ascribed to the tribe of Dan. The element associated with Scorpio is Water ♀. In the Hebrew zodiac it is referred to as Dan. The brilliant red star Antares in Scorpio refers to the celestial vulture or Eagle, as seen on Royal Arch Banners and anciently marked the autumnal equinox.

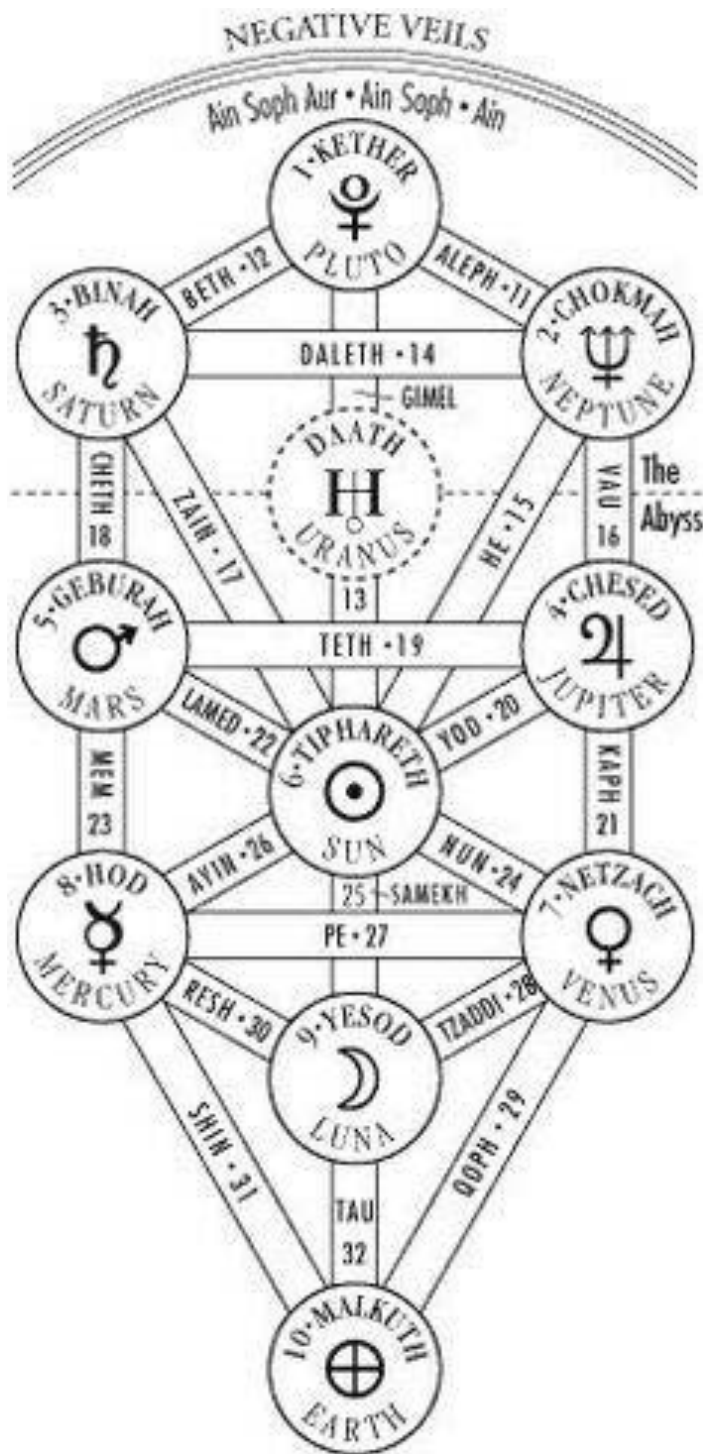
**Mars (♂ - ancient).** Associated with the sephirot GEBURAH, and its color is red. Symbols are the pentagon, the Tudor rose of five petals, the sword, the spear, the scourge.





**Capricorn♑**, the goat, is ascribed to the tribe of Benjamin and is where the winter solstice takes place, and was called *The House of Death*, for in winter all life in the Northern Hemisphere is at its lowest ebb.





Here is a picture of the Kabbalistic Tree of Life with the planetary information on it. From here, you can see how integrated and important our planetary influences are, and where they break out on each level.

There is a wealth of information available to help one learn to traverse the nodes towards self-enlightenment. Several elucidations have already been presented by the craft that cover this. With some minor open source research and papers such as this, one will be well suited to start their path.

The Fraters also stand ready to assist you in your quest.

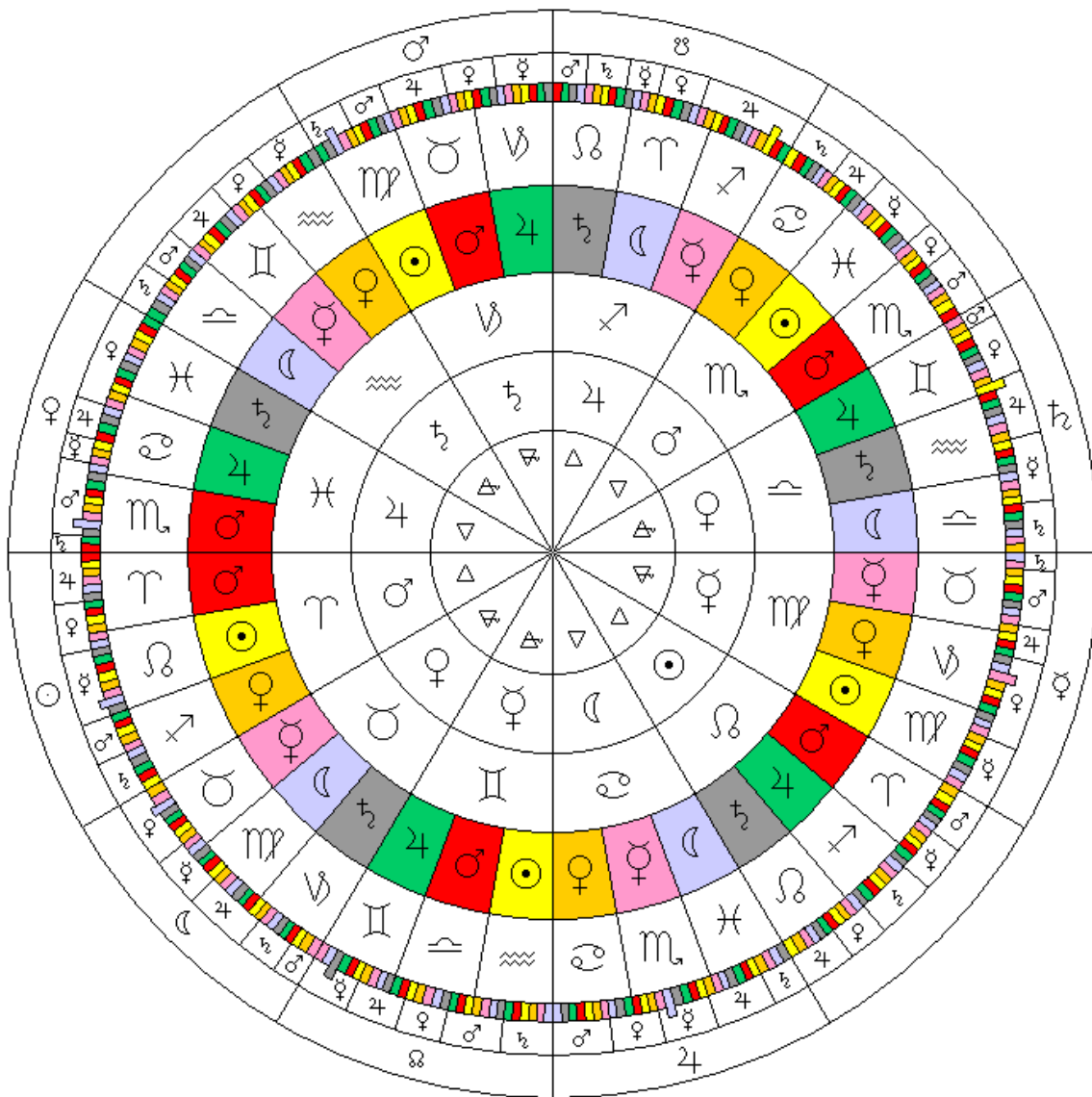
The Tribes of Israel vary quite a bit in their assignment between scholars. For this paper, I chose to use The Unspoken Bible and their work on The Stars of Israel. They included the biblical quotes with references. They can be found at [http://usbible.com/Astrology/stars\\_of\\_israel.htm](http://usbible.com/Astrology/stars_of_israel.htm)

Another interesting reference is The Llewellyn Journal's article on Astrological Attributions of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. They have a lot of compelling information, such as the following: Here's what Pike has to say about it (in his discussion of the 25th Scottish Rite degree of "Knight of the Brazen Serpent:):

"There is no more striking proof of the universal adoration paid the stars and constellations, than the arrangement of the Hebrew camp in the Desert, and the allegory in regard to the twelve Tribes of Israel, ascribed in the Hebrew legends to Jacob. The Hebrew camp was a quadrilateral, in sixteen divisions, of which the central four were occupied by images of the four elements. The four divisions at the four angles of the quadrilateral exhibited the four signs that the astrologers call *fixed*, and which they regard as subject to the influence of the four great Royal Stars, Regulus in Leo, Aldebaran in Taurus, Antares in Scorpio, and Fomalhaut in the mouth of Pisces, on which falls the water poured out by Aquarius; of which constellations the Scorpion was represented in the Hebrew blazonry by the Celestial Vulture or Eagle, that rises at the same time with it and is its paranatellon. The other signs were arranged on the four faces of the quadrilateral, and in the parallel and interior divisions.

Additionally the site states, "But one might consider that, although the progression of the signs is clockwise on a horoscope, it is counterclockwise in the heavens as seen from earth. This fact is reflected in the Golden Dawn's Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Hexagram, where one begins with Leo in the East and progresses to Taurus (not Scorpio) in the South.

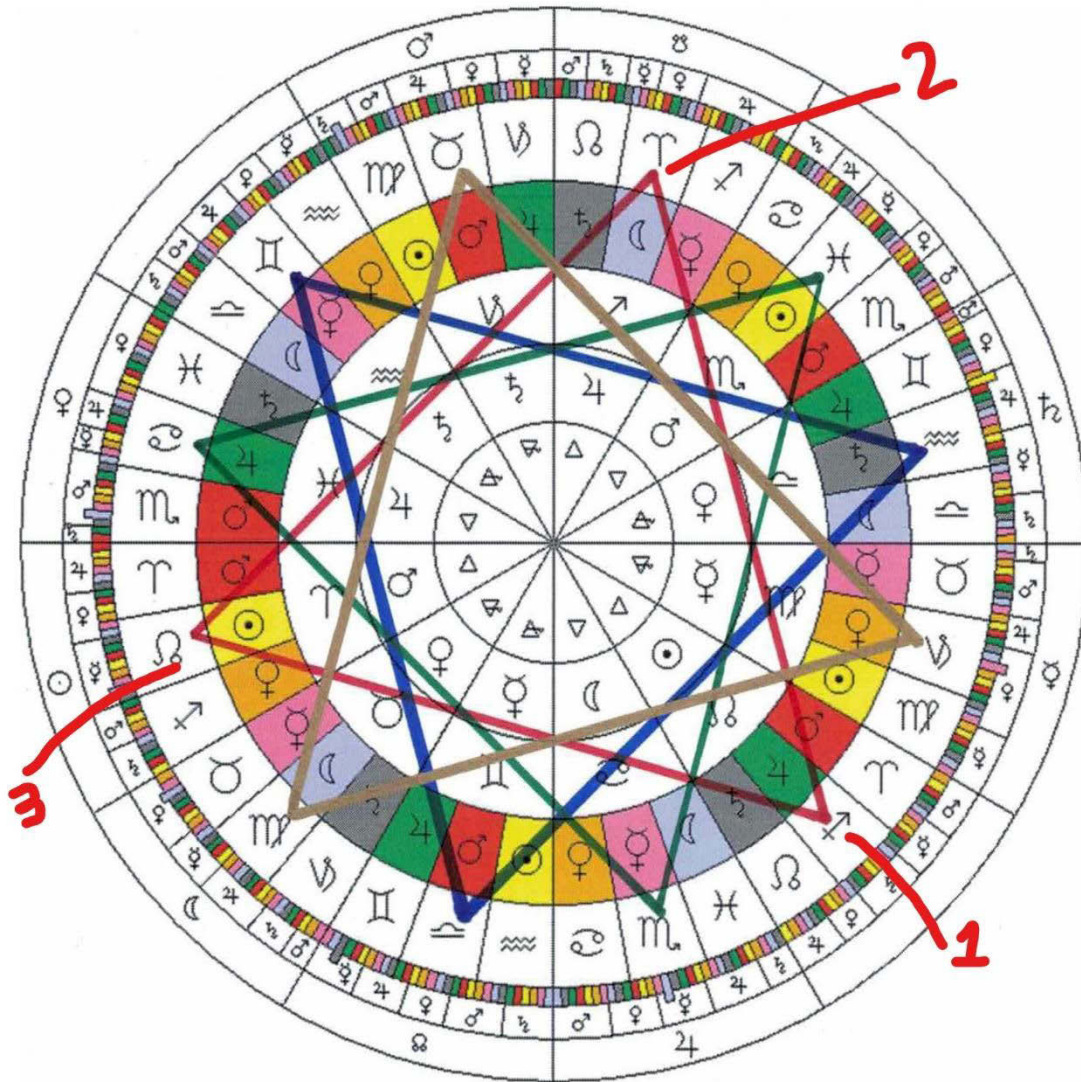
Their website is: <http://www.llewellyn.com/journal/article/472>



In reviewing the Zodiac Wheel, one can easily be led astray by all the information presented here. Starting at the innermost point, are the four elements. Followed by the planetary influence for the signs, and the Zodiac signs. Within the center ring, we find a Tetragrammaton.

- Y (י YOD) is the letter for Fire  $\Delta$  and has three constellations, Leo, Aries, and Sagittarius.
- H (ה HEH) is the letter for Water  $\nabla$  and has three constellations, Cancer, Pisces, and Scorpio.
- V (ו VAV) is the letter for Air  $\triangle$  and has three constellations, Gemini, Aquarius, and Libra.
- H (ה HEH) is the letter for Earth  $\nabla$  and has three constellations, Taurus, Capricorn, and Virgo.

Collectively, they are known as triplicities as each one spans three planets. These elements also represent the bottom four sephirot, Malkuth to Earth, Yesod to Air, Hod to Water, and Netzach to Fire. They play a key part in the Rosicrucian First Order initiation. This should also be very familiar to those that remember the Key Lecture.

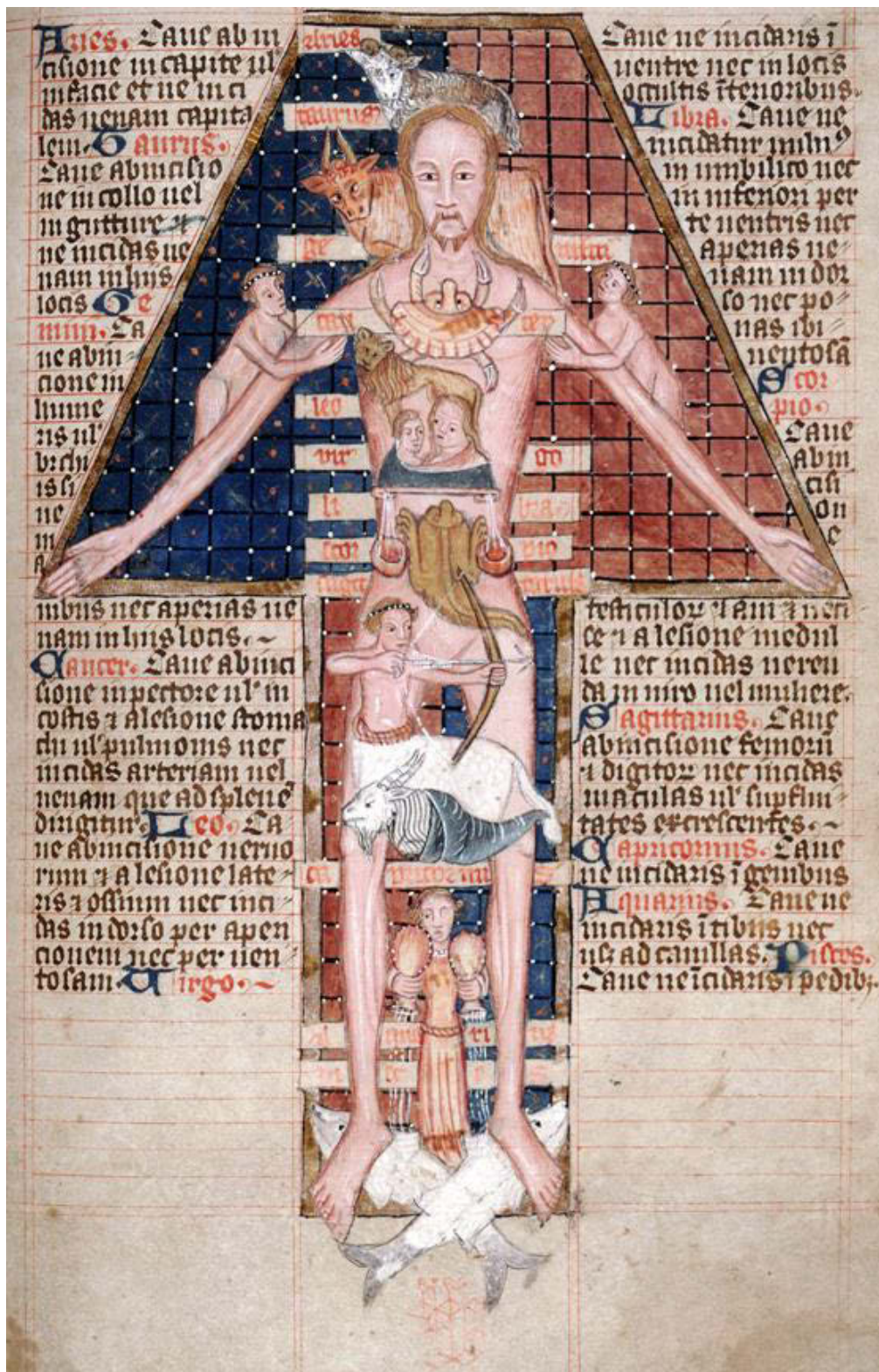


The fourth ring, with colors, identifies the Decanates, which are the planets that sub-rule each Deacon of ten Degrees. To aid in identifying them, I have added a color key. Red – Mars, Yellow – Sun, Russet – Venus, Mauve – Mercury, Blue – Moon, Grey – Saturn, and Green – Jupiter.

The fifth ring, without any colors, contains the breakouts for the three Deacons (traditional), each one covers ten days. On this picture, I have added the triplicities to help in understanding how the Deacons work. The red triangle is for the Fire element, the blue triangle for the Air element, the green triangle for the Water element, and the bronze triangle for the Earth element.

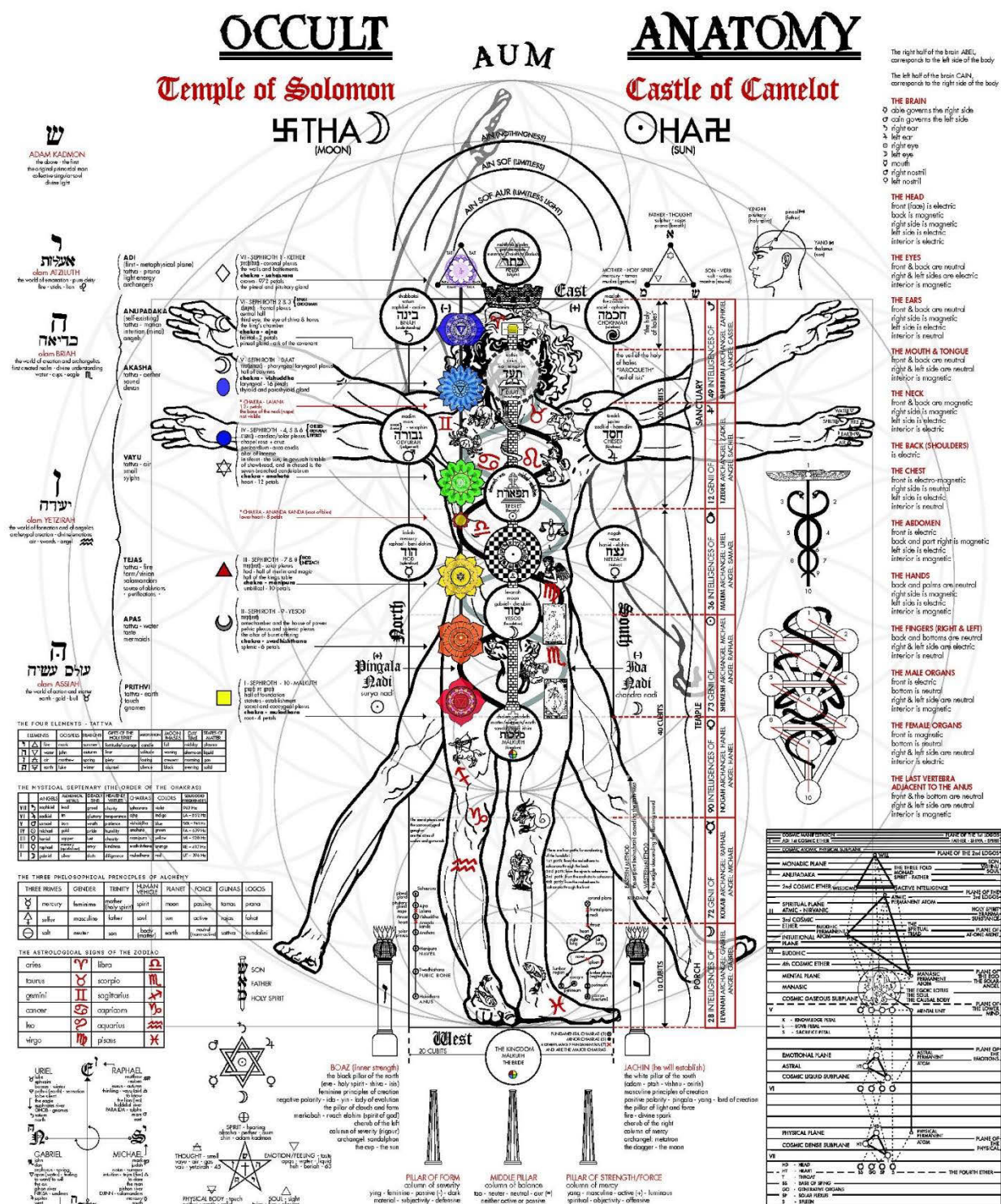
For an example, Let us look at Leo in the red triangle (number 1). His element is Fire and the first Deacon is his, as that's when he is the strongest. Ten days later Sagittarius starts influencing as it is the next sign in the triangle (number 2), and following another ten days, it is Aries as it is the third sign in the triangle (number 3).

The Celestial Bodies, including the heavens and Zodiac, have such a great effect that they are well documented in our history. There are references to their use in healing our mind and body, as seen in this ancient Latin manuscript:





This picture more clearly illustrates the point, and is one of my favorites.



As one can see, there is a great deal of information on how to help, improve and awaken key points in the body. This is provided as an example of several paths one can choose in their quest to improve themselves.

During this quest, we found Constellations, Planets, with Sephiroth and elements associated with our Royal Arch. Personally, I find the Royal Arch Degree is amazing, and I have gained a great deal of enlightenment in preparing this information for your review. Through it, I have presented you a small glimpse of what is available to you in this Degree. My hope is that somewhere during my elucidation of this article, I may have kindled a spark of interest whereby each of you may find your path to become a better man, Mason and Companion through it.

I would also like to give credit to the articles that started this search for my enlightenment. One was The Mysticism of the Royal Arch, by W.: Brother Lt.-Cdr. C. R. Manasseh, PM. London Grand Rank – London Grand Chapter. Another was Exposition of the Mysteries, or Religious Dogmas and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians, Pythagoreans, and Druids. Also: an Inquiry into the Origin, History, and Purport of Freemasonry, in 1835, by John Fellows, A. M. Both of these articles created an interest in learning the truth and finding answers to the questions that arose from reading their articles.