

*Jewel of Immortality*

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The energy of Pisces forms the final gateway through which the human soul must pass to free itself from the wheel of rebirth. For those who stand poised and ready at this critical point of transition, a dramatic finale awaits in the smoke and darkness generated by Pluto, a mere speck on the outskirts of the solar system but with an impact out of all proportion to its size. Of those emerging from this ordeal, an ancient scripture says: ***Lost are they, and found; dead yet vibrant with life.*** Each of us will one day consciously face this 'death of deaths' in order to pass through the portal of initiation and claim the great gift of Pisces – ***the jewel of immortality.*** In the Piscean age, this Plutonic effect was symbolised by Christ's descent into Hell after the crucifixion before being resurrected into the 'life more abundant'. We will be looking at this in more detail after pausing to use tonight's mantram.

*I am a point of light within a greater Light.  
I am a strand of loving energy within the stream of Love divine.  
I am a point of sacrificial Fire, focused within the fiery Will of God.  
And thus I stand.  
I am a way by which men may achieve.  
I am a source of strength, enabling them to stand.  
I am a beam of light, shining upon their way.  
And thus I stand.  
And standing thus, revolve  
And tread this way, the ways of men,  
And know the ways of God.  
And thus I stand.*

It is said that Pluto "becomes active in the lives of those who are becoming alive in the higher sense, their lower natures passing into the smoke and darkness of Pluto...in order that they may live in truth in the higher land of light."<sup>1</sup> Pluto is the esoteric ruler of Pisces and functions in connection with the solar plexus centre; it reaches to the very depths of human nature, dragging all that hinders to the surface so that it may be destroyed. It is therefore not surprising to learn that Pluto is a custodian of first ray energy, the energy of divine embodied will. It is only in this period of human history that humanity is to any large extent beginning to respond to Divine Will as it comes to our planet via Aries, Vulcan and Pluto, and esoteric teachings cite this as a reason for the relatively recent discovery of Pluto.<sup>2</sup> We might also speculate that Pluto's recent reclassification as a dwarf planet could be a symbol of humanity's reaction to its devastating power and a subconscious attempt to reduce its influence.

According to Greek mythology, Pluto and his two brothers, Zeus and Poseidon, drove their father, the great God Chronos, from his throne and drew lots to see who would rule the different parts of the universe. Pluto drew the underworld, the world of the dead also known as the House of Hades. As this was situated beneath the earth, he was also appointed God of riches, for all precious metals are buried deep below the planet's surface. Here we see in myth and symbol, Pluto's effect on the unredeemed lower nature, leading to an over-fascination with the material world and a concentration of all of one's powers towards possessing, wielding and generally submerging oneself in material energy. Wealth is potential energy, a crystallised store of the earth's vitality which can be used to control matter in all its various forms for either good or bad.

This is reflected in two terms that have found their way into the English language through a subconscious tapping of Pluto's influence – 'Plutocracy', meaning rule of the wealthy, and 'Plutocrat', someone who uses wealth to wield power. When human ambition becomes concentrated on the accumulation of wealth for its own sake, the consciousness becomes dead and buried in material energy. It is an indication that the lower keynote of Pisces is ruling: *And the Word said, Go forth into matter.*

The Pluto of Greek and Roman mythology possessed a magical helmet that rendered him invisible on the rare occasions that he moved about on the surface of the earth. And in this powerful image perhaps we see Pluto's higher guise as a transforming agent, where a life ruled by that which is tangible and assimilated through the lower senses is traded in for the intangible life of spirit. Initially, a leap of faith is required to subject oneself to this transforming power, for the spiritual life is not discernible to the mortal eye. While the attractions of the material life continually impinge upon our senses, repositioning ourselves in this as yet unseen sphere of activity requires unwavering conviction and a valiant heart.

These qualities attune us to the invisible presence of Pluto through which the world of spiritual forces begins to reveal itself. Flashes of inspiration from this world of living energy start to vitalise and illuminate the mind and the material world seems a dull and meaningless place by comparison. However, it is later also realised that this spiritual world of light and energy has little meaning unless it is creatively expressed in the material world from which escape was being sought. Understanding dawns that the place of the disciple is at the centre of the cross of life, relating the two worlds to one another. So death in Pisces really means that the disciple is no longer at the mercy of the pulls and tugs of the elemental lives that constitute and manipulate matter – a new focus is found in the living light which is directed into substance in line with divine purposes. While still moving in the world of form, the disciple's role becomes one of observer and director of the building activities of these elemental lives and, through this creative directorship, two worlds are fused into one.

We will recall that the lower keynote of Pisces prompts a movement into matter, and this is equally true of the higher keynote: *I leave the Father's home, and turning back I save.* The difference in this latter case being that the return to matter is as a liberator rather than as a prisoner. It indicates a return to save those who are still susceptible to the lower pull of form life, this lack of freedom constituting the real definition of hell. In ancient myth this living hell is represented by the House of Hades into which *the shadowy spirits glide incessantly, down the long subterranean passage to the throne room where Pluto and his wife Persephone sit in state*<sup>2</sup> – a very difficult place to escape from. Enchantment with material energy obscures the light of the higher reality and so freedom is not sought, but instead the separative will and desire nature seek a personal heaven fashioned of material forms. This in turn leads to the fear of death, because forms are destined to die as we well know.

The fear associated with death has been promulgated down the ages by humanity's close identification with the outer senses. Naturally, if something disappears and cannot be detected by them, for many, it no longer exists. Only a shift in consciousness and employment of the higher senses reveals that the reverse situation is, in fact, the reality, and that death is a journey into greater states of livingness and inclusiveness. Unfortunately though, the fear of physical form death has led to the attempt to achieve immortality through the prolonging of life in extreme ways. With the advent of cryogenics, a thriving industry has grown up around the idea of freezing the human corpse at death and storing it until the technology exists to bring it back to life again. If such a practice were to become popular, there would eventually be no room in the world for children. The consequence of this would be a dearth of fresh ideas and the kind of hedonistic lifestyles that have signalled the decline of many civilisations down the ages. Fortunately though,

the jewel of immortality that lies deeply embedded within each human being is also the agent of death and liberation. When the life principle decides to withdraw from the physical plane, it removes itself from its point of anchorage at the heart of each of the energy centres in the human frame and no external force can then hold it down.

That is not to say that the advancements in extending the human lifespan are not to be welcomed though. As health care and preventative medicine gain in efficacy, the length and, more importantly, the quality of life could continue to increase considerably, and this will be to the soul's advantage, allowing more experience to be bought with each incarnation. However, the law of cycles dictates that after a certain amount of activity, a period of rest and assimilation is required in the same way that rest and sleep are required at the end of each day. Birth, life and death – appearance, activity and disappearance – are the laws of nature and cannot be overridden. The end of an incarnation is decided by the soul at which time the first ray in its destroyer aspect enters the scene, crystallising the form and assisting the inner life to make its escape.

True immortality is the gift of every human being and developing a continuity of consciousness that registers the subtler realms of divine manifestation will make this realisation possible. This means drawing on the energy of Pisces and the power of renunciation to detach from the world of form, whereupon the focus on self-preservation naturally shifts to selfless world service. Contact is then made with the true jewel of immortality that lies deep within and guarantees the preservation of individuality as successive fusions and identifications with the whole are undergone. These transformations concern the form of the soul on its own plane, which is portrayed as a lotus, its petals being formed of streams of whirling energy which unfurl in response to experiment, experience and expression in the world of form.

The jewel itself lies at the heart of the soul on its own plane and is described in *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* in the following words: "Concealed at the very centre or heart of the lotus is a brilliant point of electric fire of a blue-white hue (the jewel in the lotus) surrounded, and completely hidden, by three closely folded petals. Around this central nucleus, or inner flame, are arranged the nine petals in circles of three petals each, making three circles in all. These petals are formed out of the substance of the solar angels, as are the central three, – substance which is not only sentient as is the substance of the forms in the three worlds...but which has an added quality of 'I-ness' or of self-consciousness, enabling the spiritual unity at the centre (by means of it) to acquire knowledge, awareness and self-realisation....By the time the fourth Initiation is reached...the three petals at the centre are opening up, revealing the 'blazing jewel'. At this initiation...the three fires are suddenly stimulated by a downflow of electric, or positive force, from the Monad, and their blazing out in response produces that merging which destroys the entire sphere....The central electric fire becomes centralised in atma-buddhi. The thinker or spiritual entity stands free of the three worlds, and functions consciously on the buddhic plane."<sup>3</sup>

This destruction of the subtle body of the soul and the release of the inner life onto higher levels of expression finds a correspondence in humanity's discovery and use of nuclear power. In the nuclear process the outer form of the element similarly disintegrates and the positive energy hidden at its heart is released. This mirroring of the death process and translation of life to a new point of focus bears Pluto's hallmark, and so modern astrologers may be right in relating Pluto to atomic power. If so, again, an act of synchronicity seems to have taken place deep within the collective subconscious in the naming of a deadly component of the nuclear process Plutonium. Coincidences of this sort may appear as separate incidents in the world of form but they are really just different aspects of the same single event in the world of meaning.

Plutonium is a most powerful element and reflects the first ray qualities of Pluto – it is symbolic too that humanity itself has created this element, as it is not found in nature to any useful extent, and now it is humanity that must use it for better or worse. Plutonium, like Pluto, wields a tremendous potency for its size as we have seen from the devastating effects of the atomic bomb,

and the release of its energy can result in either negative destruction or positive transformation. Western culture is not used to thinking over extended periods of time but with the advent of radioactive materials, we now have no choice. There was a damning report into the Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria some years ago concerning the falsification of safety records in a factory producing plutonium fuels. And more recently, disclosures by the Food Standards Agency that increased levels of radioactive chemicals have been found in and around the nuclear dockyard have rightly raised local concerns for safety. Plutonium sits in the cells of plant and animal life, moving through the food chain and is impossible to destroy or neutralise, staying radioactive for thousands of years. These are not just issues in the UK but are indicative of those existing worldwide and that need to be thought through very carefully – humanity turns a blind eye to this at its peril. It is said that the mythological Pluto was blinded by Zeus so that he distributed his wealth without favour, and certainly the fallout from any abuse of nuclear power will show no favouritism either – it will be handed out to us all.

The amount of destructive power in the hands of the few is equalled by the amount of constructive spiritual power that humanity is now capable of releasing if a chain reaction can be activated under the right conditions. Pluto is one of the three outermost planets which are often referred to as the transcendental planets because they relate to the forces of transformation of the ego within the personality. Their power can be used for social and individual transformation by letting go of plutocratic institutions and selfish living. However, if the opportunities are not taken, the intensification of these anti-social patterns may continue to the point of destruction. If humanity can relinquish the negative thoughtforms created in the Piscean age, Pluto stands as one of the keys to a brighter future. As the esoteric ruler of Pisces, it can help us to react positively and spiritually to the ending of the Piscean age and to release humanity from bondage through renunciation and sacrifice.

The spiritual stimulation of humanity is growing apace. The conflict, pressure and crisis that results from resistance to transformation can now be seen on a world scale. With the help of all who are aware of what is at stake, a wonderful transformation can take place and a spiritualised human family will arise and steer the earth and the kingdoms of nature safely through the twenty-first century into increasing states of 'livingness'. Pisces is the sign of both death and life; of painful loss and joyful gain; it is the sign of farewells and renewals as the spiritual pilgrim exits the human kingdom only to re-emerge in the very heart of it. This reappearance is in the new guise of world saviour and through it the lifeline of Hierarchy is enabled to reach right down into the human kingdom and help reorient it to reality. The promise of Pisces is then fulfilled as "the servers become the saviours, and homeward turn".

1. *Esoteric Astrology*.pg 79. A.A.Bailey

2. *Greece and Rome - Myths and Legends* - H A Guerber

3. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*. pgs 761-762. A.A. Bailey