

ENTERING THE SPHERE

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All students of the science of triangles can deepen their understanding of how to work more effectively with the signs conditioning at any one time through a consideration and pondering of the labours of the Sun-God Hercules.

The labours are in essence a depiction of the path of discipleship which is taken up when the seeker is beginning to reverse himself on that path, responding to a different current, one that is opposite to that which the masses of humanity are resonating. Sometimes this turning is compared to that of a salmon struggling to swim upstream while all the other fish are coasting downstream, in synch with the normal flow of the current.

One takes up the labours because there has been a measure or a spark of soul influence coming into the field of awareness and, as a result, there awakens within the individual the ardent desire to turn another way and, as a result, he comes increasingly under the influence of the planet Saturn, the planet conditioning the mental plane and which conveys the quality of fixity of purpose and the ability “to stand” amidst the swirling forces.

Hercules’ light shone forth and after a long time was noticed by the “great Presiding One” whom we can take to be the planetary King, Sanat Kumara Himself. But He merely glanced in Hercules’ direction intermittently over, long, long periods of time.

As progress was made over the centuries Hercules came under the watchful eye of a Chela in the Light, a member of the Hierarchy and later a Master of the Wisdom, who looked his way and gave hints. Prior to his commencement of the Labours the great Presiding One stated:

“Obey the Teacher on the Way. Prepare for the last tests. Pass through each Gate and in the sphere which they reveal and guard, perform the labour which befits their sphere. Learn thus the lesson and begin with love to serve the men of earth.” Then to the Teacher went the final word: “Prepare the candidate. Give him his labours to perform and place his name upon the tablets of the living *Way*.”

The labours are sequential in nature, the strengths and qualities unveiled and developed in each one provide the foundation for the next testing ahead. And thus the warrior moves from strength to strength, his vision expands and he develops new tools and skills to draw upon.

In his introduction to *The Labours of Hercules*, the Tibetan noted that upon entering or passing through each gate, each labour, the disciple enters into a “sphere.” This sphere is only revealed to those who are on the path of return. This sphere it seems is a subtle vibratory influence emanating from the esoteric ruling planet of the sign ruling the labour--the esoteric ruling planet as it works out through the exoteric ruler that has been or is in process of being transformed. These planetary influences would, of course, color those individuals who are conditioned by any particular sign but also condition all those who are seeking to work with the solar energies throughout the course of the spiritual year.

So as we now work with Aries, we enter into the sphere of its labour conditioned by the esoteric ruling planet Mercury, working through the non-sacred Mars. Aries keynote demonstrates the strength of this combination -- "I come forth. And from the plane of mind, I rule." The powerful mental influence of this sign is also augmented by the inpouring Forces of Restoration overshadowing Aries which are concerned with the restoration of the human mind, as well as conveying healing to the animal kingdom through the inpouring of light from the spiritual Hierarchy.

It's always helpful when working with the planetary influences during any cycle to consider how the ruling planet might be conditioned during that particular time. Right now Mercury is just about moving into an exact alignment with the planet Neptune in the sign of Pisces. This can be a highly intuitive combination and is surely contributing to the group's ability to focus itself within the inner ashrams and become receptive at this time to the Plan as it is configured within the divine Mind of the spiritual Hierarchy at this beginning of the three spiritual festivals. The group whose mind is being illumined by the light of the soul, can become receptive to the inpouring energies and, through the use of the creative imagination, formulate those ideals which can then be generated into forms for the aid of humanity.
