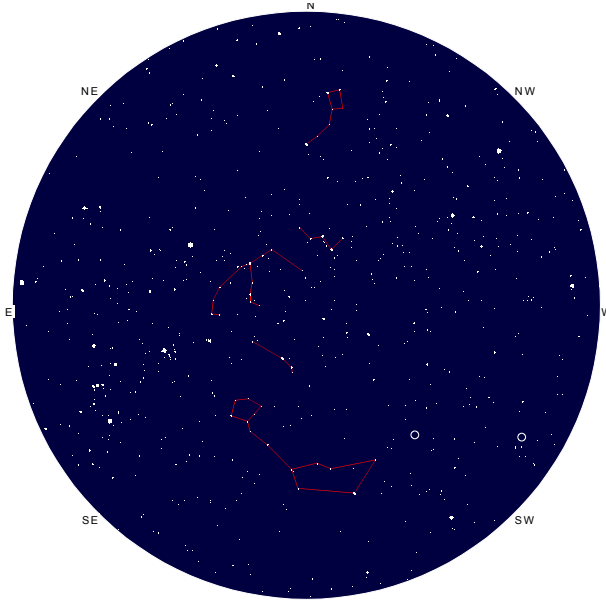


*“She was, in the Talmud, “The Spirit of God that hovers over the water like a Dove, which spreads her wings over her young.” She was the Shekinah, a mystic word often variously typified as a Lotus, a Rose and Egg, and by symbols that were oval, as a Cup, a Boat or a Moon.”*

*Valentia Straiton– ‘The Celestial Ship of the North.’*

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## PERCEVAL IN ARIES



**ELEMENT:** Fire sign (as are also Leo and Sagittarius).

**QUALITY:** Initiating. Beginnings. Will or Power expresses itself through the great creative processes. In the early stages, activities are directed toward the material side of life; later, toward the spiritual.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Libra. An air sign (balance).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, Mars; Esoteric, Mercury.

**DECANS:** Cassiopeia, Cetus & Perseus.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; *“Let form again be sought.”* From the angle of Soul; *“I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule.”* (from *“The Labours of Hercules”* by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

Perceval is reared by his mother, Herzeloide,<sup>(4)</sup> in a Welsh forest, away from society and shielding him from all knowledge of knighthood. This is because her husband, Gahmuret, was disinherited after being wounded in combat. When his two brothers, also dubbed knights, were killed in combat, Gahmuret consequently died of grief.—One day, five knights ride through his mother's lands and Perceval thinks that they are Angels. Perceval, while withholding their request for directions, harasses the Knights with questions, until the knights reluctantly describe to Perceval what their knightly arms and trappings are for. Perceval discovers that one of them has recently been knighted by King Arthur at Carlisle.—When Herzeloide finds out that her only surviving son has learnt of knighthood, she is distraught. To prevent him from ever achieving this aim, she endows him with the most unworldly advice. This includes: to serve ladies and maidens always, but to do them no dishonour by taking no more than a kiss. Then, if a kiss is offered, to go no further except to take her ring and purse. She then dresses Perceval up in a ridiculous looking deer-skin tunic with a pointed cowl. Perceval, thus attired, sets off to Arthur's court to be dubbed a knight.

## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH ARIES:

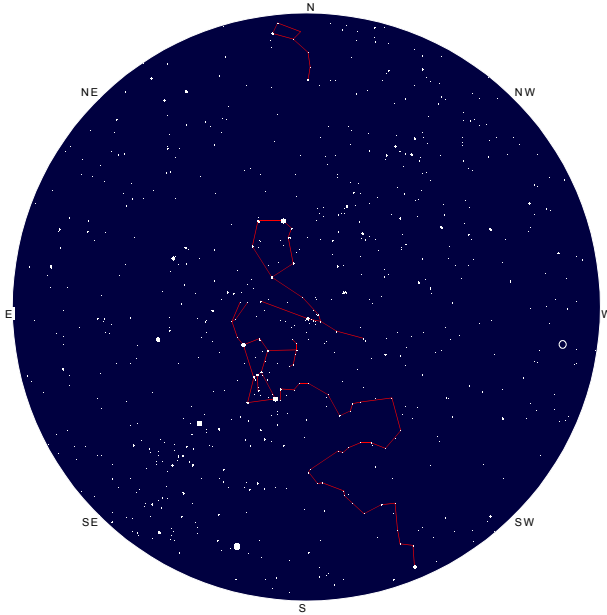
Perceval has set out from his Mother's lands after encountering some of Arthur's knights in the forest. The dialogue with the knights suggests that he is being kitted out after Perseus with his winged sandals, sword and shield.

The constellation of Cassiopeia is that of the woman throned, or the dominant woman that is Perceval's Mother, from whom he must break the possessive bond. The sea monster Cetus symbolises the unworldly advice given to him by his Mother.

The theme for Perceval in Aries then, is breaking the bonds, defining his aim, overcoming the 'brood mares' of his right brained biased mind, that initially prevents him from asking the

‘Grail Question.’ Then having returned full cycle, to free the woman chained, Andromeda, as ‘the Grail Maiden;’ and to heal the ‘the Wounded King,’ Cephus, by asking the Grail question and by mending the broken sword.

## PERCEVAL IN TAURUS



**ELEMENT:** Earth sign (as are also Virgo and Capricorn). Quality Quality: Desire, for the mass of men; will or directed purpose for the disciple.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Scorpio, water sign (conflict of duality; desire overcome; triumphant discipleship).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, Venus; Esoteric, Vulcan.

**DECANS:** Orion, Eridanus & Auriga.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; *“Let struggle be undismayed.”* From the angle of Soul; *“I see and when the Eye is opened, all is illumined.”* (from *“The Labours of Hercules”* by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....On the way to Arthur's Court at Carlisle, Perceval comes across a vermilion tent embroidered with gold. Inside the tent he surprises the maiden Jeschute;<sup>(4)</sup> and after eating a pie and drinking her wine, he then kisses her and acting on his mother's advice, also forces the ring from her finger.— When her lover, the Duke Orilus de Lander,<sup>(4)</sup> returns to his tent, he disbelieves Jeschute and accuses her of being unfaithful to him. He punishes her by making her go naked and on foot until the fool who has taken advantage of her is found.

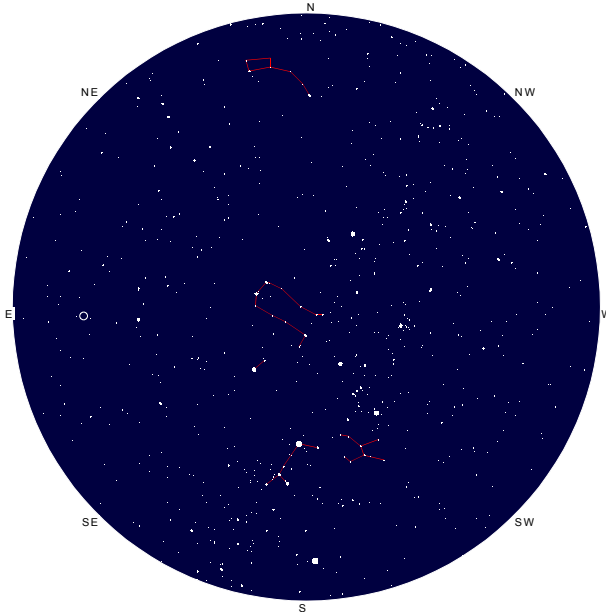
## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH TAURUS

....Perceval as Orion continues on his journey through the constellation Eridanus "*the river of the judge,*" which is the river of Souls coming into incarnation and who must learn; "*as a man sows, so shall he reap.*"<sup>(1)</sup>

He encounters in Taurus, Auriga 'the charioteer' and Capella as 'cornucopia.' Instead of just taking the food and wine, he also, acting on his mother's false advice, "*let struggle be undismayed,*"<sup>(1)</sup> wrestles the ring from the maiden's finger. Because of this the maiden is judged by her lover the Duke or charioteer, thus misinterpreting the meaning of the ring, as Aldeberan- the eye of the bull, "*I see and when the eye is opened, all shall be revealed.*"<sup>(1)</sup>

Perceval has vanished without a care under the pretext "*If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light (Mat. 6.22)*"<sup>(1)</sup>

## PERCEVAL IN GEMINI



**ELEMENT:** Air sign (as are also Libra and Aquarius).

**QUALITY:** Duality. Love-Wisdom. Fluidity. Control of every pair of opposites. The underlying love of Deity reaches our solar system through Gemini.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Sagittarius. A fire sign (one-pointedness; preparation for initiation).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, Mercury; Esoteric, Venus.

**DECANS:** Canis Major, Canis Minor & Lepus.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; *“Let instability do its work.”* From the angle of Soul; *“I recognize my other self and in the waning of that self I grow and glow.”* (from *“The Labours of Hercules”* by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....When Perceval arrives outside of Arthur's Court, he encounters a knight in red armour mounted impatiently outside, who gives Perceval a message to be taken inside. The message is thus addressed to "the worthless king Arthur;" for it is Ither – the red Knight<sup>(4)</sup> who is making a claim on Arthur's lands and has stolen a golden goblet from his table. Perceval acknowledges not a word of this, rides inside the hall and accidentally knocks the hat from King Arthur's head on to the table.—Perceval then asks to be knighted and demands to be given the armour of Ither – the Red Knight. Sir Kay mocks Perceval by telling him that if he wants the armour so badly then to go and get it for himself. Arthur is enraged by Kay's mockery at Perceval's expense. Meanwhile, a maiden who has not laughed for six years suddenly bursts into laughter. Kay slaps her and at the same time, kicks the court jester into the fire. This is because the jester had prophesied: "the maiden will not laugh until she sees the one who is to be the greatest of all knights." — Perceval then rides from the court and encountering the Red Knight, he wastes no time in throwing his javelin through his eye, thus killing him. Perceval cannot prise off his armour and Yvonet has to show him how it is unlaced. When Yvonet returns to Arthur with the stolen cup, the jester prophesies that Perceval will avenge the kick that he received from Sir Kay.

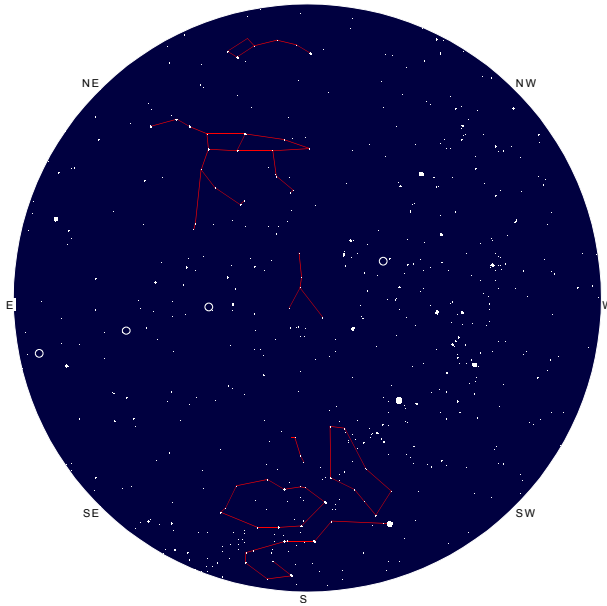
## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH GEMINI:

....Perceval encounters the Red Knight who has insulted the Queen Guinevere and is making a claim on Arthur's lands. Perceval challenges him and pierces him through the eye with his javelin, thus causing him to fall dead from his horse. This is signified by the blood red star in Lepus which signifies "*the red of material desire.*"

In the zodiac of Denderah, Lepus is called Bashitibeki; “*falling confounded!*”<sup>(1)</sup> The bright star Arneb in Lepus is called in Hebrew; “*the enemy of the coming one.*” The three other stars in Lepus are “*the mad*”, “*the bound*” and the “*deceiver,*” which further describe the nature of the Red Knight.<sup>(1)</sup>

Perceval in Gemini is here acting as Canis Minor with Arthur as Sirius, Canis Major – the Prince. He takes the burden from Arthur as Hercules from Atlas in the third labour and thus wins “*the apple of Wisdom that is written as Service.*”<sup>(1)</sup> It is to be alluded from the maiden who hasn’t laughed until she names him as “the one who is to come.”<sup>(3)</sup> Kay then becomes another aspect of Arneb who is now “*the enemy of the coming one*”<sup>(1)</sup> in that he mocks Perceval and slaps the maiden.

## PERCEVAL IN CANCER



**ELEMENT:** Water sign (as are also Scorpio and Pisces).

**QUALITY:** Mass sensitivity; for the average man, mass identification with form; for the disciple, service for the masses.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Capricorn. An earth sign (spiritual awareness after struggle; birthplace of the Christ).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, the Moon; Esoteric, Neptune.

**DECANS:** Ursa Major, Ursa Minor & Argo.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; “*Let isolation be the rule, and yet the crowd exists,*” from the angle of Soul; “*I build a lighted house and therein dwell.*” (from “*The Labours of Hercules*” by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....Perceval rides on, with the red armour fitted over his deer-skin tunic, until he comes to a flat land beside a river towards the sea. Because he cannot cross the river he rides along the bank until he sees a strong castle with towers “being born” from the jagged rock, rising from the bay. Here he encounters a nobleman – Gorneman de Gohort,<sup>(3)</sup> who is dressed finely in a rich robe.—Perceval courteously greets the nobleman and tells him that his mother told him to do that, giving the impression that he is a simpleton. When Perceval tells him his story however, Gorneman recognises something of his true qualities and potential and trains him in all aspects of knighthood, thus undoing his mother’s false advise.— Perceval then departs to seek his mother whom he has left inconsolable.

## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH CANCER:

.....At the court of Gorneman, Perceval is trained as a knight in arms and learns the ways of the world and society. He is now developing his *left brain* thinking more and has also achieved in part, the transformation of instinct to intellect. On a later round, Perceval will encounter ‘the Quest of the White Hart’ or Doe, that is also of the fourth labour of Hercules. This then will complete the final transformation from intellect to intuition, as symbolised by the chasing of the Hart.

After his knightly training, Perceval refuses Gorneman’s offer to stay at court and marry his daughter.<sup>(4)</sup> It is the Cancerian temptation to stay as part of the mass or herd that is also symbolised in the Cancerian Decans of the Great and Lesser Bears. These constellations were formerly known as the sheepfolds of the heavens, with the magnetic north star, Polaris acting to draw the herd in.

Instead Perceval must take leave and follow his destiny, as also did Jason in the ship Argo, that stretches across the heavens from Cancer to Capricorn. The search for the Golden Fleece in

Aries is indeed another Grail symbol. In “Kircher’s Egyptian planisphere this ship was shown to have two galleys (as in the two sheepfolds) and the prows were headed with ram’s heads and one of the sterns with a fish’s tail.”<sup>(1)</sup>

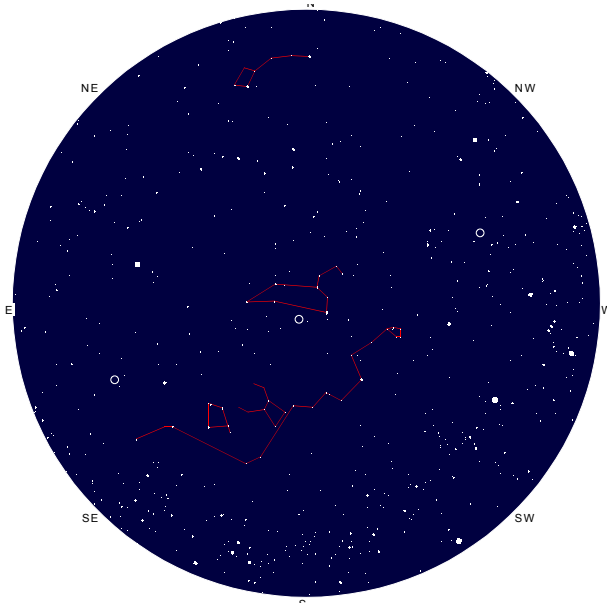
In another sense we are in Cancer as the gate of Humanity and mass incarnation. In this voyage, the Persona communes and makes contact with the Soul before reaching to the Light of the Monad, as the transfiguration on the Mount in Capricorn, as the gate of Ascension. This requires some degree of individuality.

The decision to continue on the Quest is of the Higher Interlude that is reached at the culmination of the Quest of the White Hart, the grasping of the fleeting intuition, and this also corresponds to the monthly Soul cycles of the (see Virgo section for full description) Lunar Zodiac. <sup>(5)</sup>

Perceval is still however, on the involutory arc or Earth Zodiac <sup>(5)</sup> until Virgo. This then, will become Perceval's first ‘involuntary’ Soul contact with his ‘Cave Centre’ <sup>(2)</sup>, or ‘The Fountain of Life Giving Waters of the Third Ventricle’ - the Ajna being the Pineal or Grail/ Stone. This is really a microcosmic interpretation of the Grail vision at the Court of the Fisher King.

In Cancer the Soul is still overshadowing as Higher Interlude, though will become Conscious Soul Incarnate when the wounded King is healed in Pisces/ Aries at the end of the Grail Quest.

## PERCEVAL IN LEO



**ELEMENT:** Fire sign (as are also Aries and Sagittarius).

**QUALITY:** Sensitivity leading to individual awareness. Emergence out of the herd.  
Self-consciousness. Self assertion.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Aquarius. An air sign (group awareness, world service. Rulers: Exoteric and Esoteric are the same, the Sun.

**DECANS:** Hydra, Crater & Corvus.

**KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; *“Let other forms exist, I am because I am,”* from the angle of Soul; *“I am That and That am I.”* (from *“The Labours of Hercules”* by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....Perceval takes leave of his host and rides on through a lonely forest and amid a wasteland of rivers, he reaches a castle, though still finely situated by the sea. Here it is the maiden Blancheflor,<sup>(3)</sup> Gorneman's niece, who has offered Perceval lodging.— On his way through the courtyard, Perceval notices that all the people are impoverished and starving.— That night Blancheflor enters Perceval's room while he is sleeping and climbs into bed with him. Perceval wakes and she tells him that the castle has been under siege, for a whole winter and summer, by Enygeron the seneschal of Clamadeus of the Isles.<sup>(3)</sup> He has also killed or imprisoned most of her three hundred and ten knights.—Perceval vows to do battle with Enygeron and the next morning, defeats the knight. Enygeron begs for mercy and Perceval grants it on condition that he present himself as prisoner to King Arthur; with a message also to be given to the maiden that Kay struck - that she will be avenged. When Clamadeus hears about this he sends, through the tactics of his advisor, twenty of his knights as a decoy for Perceval. Some four hundred knights and one thousand foot soldiers also arrive from behind to further besiege and starve out the castle.—Perceval defeats the twenty knights and retreats back inside until the foot soldiers arrive. A ship then arrives unexpectedly, selling food and provisions, and so Clamadeus' plan to starve out the castle is foiled. — Clamadeus instead challenges Perceval to do combat and Clamadeus is defeated, begs for mercy and is then, after releasing all his prisoners, sent to King Arthur. He must also bear the same message to the maiden regarding Kay.—The defeated knights ride on to Disnadaron in Wales, where being the festival of Pentecost, Arthur is holding court. The two knights relate to Arthur that they have both been defeated by a knight in red armour, although they didn't know his name. They also relate the message to the maiden who laughed that Kay will be avenged. Arthur further chastises Kay for driving away the red knight with his mockery, while the knights Gifflet and Yvain are asked to escort the defeated knights to the chambers, where the Queen's maidens are playing chess. Here the message is given to the maiden, who has by now recovered from the blow.—Meanwhile, Perceval departs

from his love Blanchflor, although the now finely dressed monks and nuns are sorry to see him go. He tells them that he is to search for his mother and that he will return.

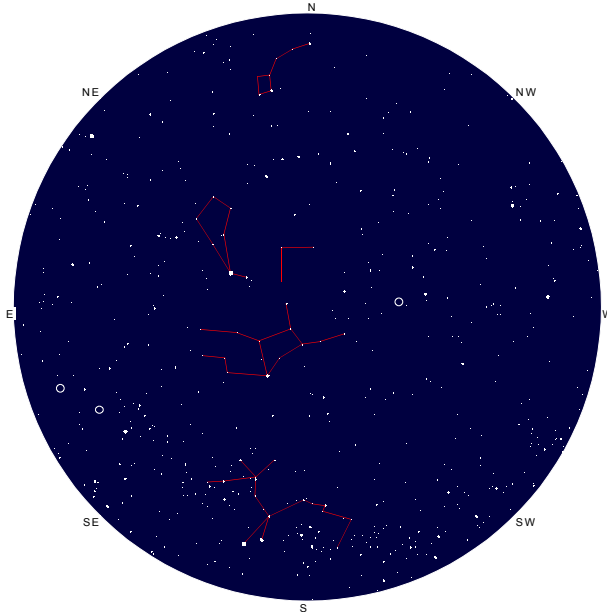
### THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH LEO:

.... Before the Grail vision is met, Perceval is still destined to meet his beloved as the besieged maiden Blanche-flor and thus achieve his full knightly strength and status in the world and his full Persona individuality. This is symbolized by Regulus in Leo, which is one of the four heavenly rulers, or lawgivers, of the fixed signs. The others are: Aldeberan; Taurus, Antares; Scorpio and Fomalhaut, for Aquarius.

Perceval takes on Blanche-flor's suffering as seen in the constellation Crater, the cup of suffering, and in so doing defeats Enygeron, who is "*Corvus the black raven of materiality who pecks at the constellation of Hydra.*"<sup>(1)</sup>

In the zodiac of Denderah and next to the lion who is treading down a raven pecked serpent, there is a "*plumed woman who holds two cups; those of experience and of penalty.*"<sup>(1)</sup> Thus Enygeron, before being defeated by Perceval had said: "It often happens that the one whose not to blame pays the penalty."<sup>(3)</sup> Both Enygeron and his lord Clamadeus after him are both defeated and sent back to Arthur with a message to Kay; that the maiden who laughed will be avenged.

## PERCEVAL IN VIRGO



**ELEMENT:** Earth sign (as are also Taurus and Capricorn). Quality Quality: The unique service in Virgo is that both the form and the spirit are nurtured, shielding "Christ in you the hope of glory".

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Pisces. A water sign (Christ consciousness revealed as a World Savior).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, Mercury; Esoteric, the Moon.

**DECANS:** Coma Berenices, Centaurus & Bootes.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form, "Let matter reign." From the angle of Soul, "I am the Mother and the Child. I, God, I, matter am." (from "The Labours of Hercules" by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....Perceval comes to a fast flowing river where he notices a boat, anchored fast, in which two men are fishing. He asks them the best place to cross and the fisherman (who is really Anfortas<sup>(4)</sup> 'the Fisher King') tells him there is no place to cross for twenty leagues, either up or down stream. Instead Perceval asks for lodging and he is directed up through a cleft in a rock where he is told: he will see a house in a valley near to a river and a wood. —When he reaches the cleft he sees nothing and chides the fisherman. He then notices the top of a tower in a nearby valley and rides towards it. Seeing that it is really a magnificent hall, he no longer chides the fisherman and instead praises him.—Perceval rides across the drawbridge and is immediately met by four boys, one of whom disarms him; one takes his horse and feeds it oats; while the other two dress him in a mantle of scarlet. He is then taken to his lodgings, while the boy waits until summoned by his lord. When Perceval returns into the hall he witnesses a rich nobleman (who was the fisherman) seated upon a bed and explains to Perceval that he is sorry that he cannot get up to greet him.—While Perceval relates his adventures, a boy arrives and presents a sword to the nobleman, who then draws it from its scabbard. The boy says the sword is a gift from a fair haired girl who is his niece and is to be given to whoever he sees fit. The nobleman recognises the Sword that is unique, in that the craftsman who made it had only made three; and that it cannot be broken except in only one way, that no-one knows. The nobleman sees that the Sword is destined for Perceval and hands it to him.— While they are talking, a boy passes through the court holding a white lance that is bleeding from the tip. Perceval, because of Gorneman's advise not to ask questions or talk too much, fails to ask the meaning of this. Meanwhile more boys enter the hall holding candlesticks, each with ten burning candles, while a maiden follows holding a golden grail adorned with precious stones. The light from the grail is so brilliant that it dims the light from the candles. Another maiden follows bearing a silver dish and they pass the bed before disappearing through another chamber. Again

Perceval, remembering the words of Gorneman, cannot ask the meaning of the vision.—They carry on dining until bedtime, until Perceval retires to his lodging. Perceval awakens at daybreak and finding the hall empty and deserted, he rides out over the drawbridge, which then closes abruptly behind him. Regretting his failure to ask the grail question he shouts: “Hey!, whoever raised the drawbridge talk to me! where are you? There is something that i wanted to ask you!” But no-body would answer him.

## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH VIRGO

.....Leaving Blancheflor behind, and promising to return after reuniting with his Mother, Perceval stumbles upon the Court of the Fisher King and witnesses the Grail procession. It is synonymous with his ‘Cave Centre,’ an etheric space in the third ventricle of the brain where it is said, land, air and water meet.(2) It is located behind the pineal gland or Ajna centre.

Perceval’s failure here to ask the Grail Question echoes the sixth labour of Hercules, which was also the first failed test in that he killed Queen Hippolyte from which he was supposed only to retrieve the girdle. This was the girdle of Hippolyte; another Grail symbol of all inclusive love, that had been given to her by Venus. The ‘dolorous’ wound is here struck by the hero himself. It is through lack of qualities such as empathy, responsibility, love and understanding and he must realise the consequences of his actions before he can pass on.

Similarly Perceval must develop these qualities within himself as the process of the now awakening Christ consciousness is being precipitated as communion through the constellations Leo as sun wafer disc, Virgo— the sign of synthesis, Libra— the Priest and through to Scorpio as the now receptive cup of the Persona.

Virgo is also the virgin mother who bears the seed of Christ consciousness that will gestate through midwinter Capricorn and ignite as Spirit through spring Aries, before incarnating through the gate of Cancer. This is also symbolised in the branch of fruits

that Virgo holds; “Behold, I will bring forth my servant, the branch (Zechariah 3:8),”<sup>(1)</sup> or the ear of corn that is Spica.

The constellations of Coma Berenice and Centaurus speak also of sacrifice and submission of the animal man respectively. That he must sacrifice his individuality that came to its full expression in Leo. Perceval however is now seen in the heavens as Bootes, and so the promise of restoration is still heralded as; “here is the one who is to come.”<sup>(1)</sup>

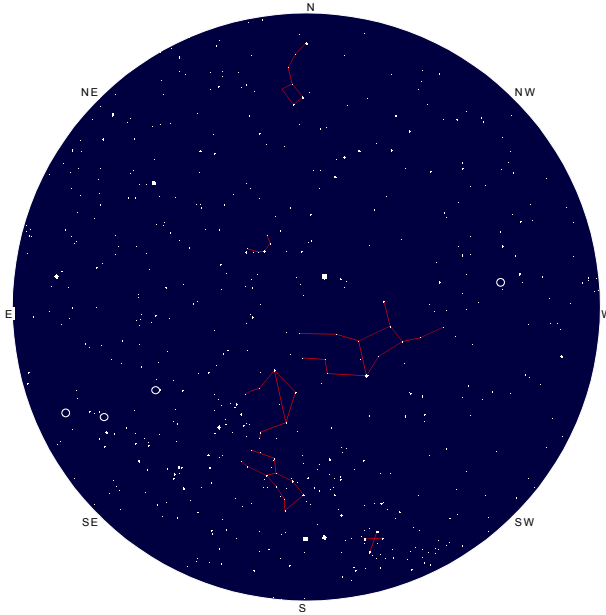
The Court of the Fisher King or Grail Castle really exists on the cusp of Pisces/ Aries; where the springtime correspondence is between the subtle dimensions of light and dark that also exists just before dawn, as between sleeping and waking. So the attribution here of the Grail vision to Virgo is really a clue that Perceval is on the Lunar Zodiac; that is with the Sun in Virgo and Full Moon in Aries. Thus Perceval comes to the Grail Castle five times which is to signify the five initiations of Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, Crucifixion and Ascension.

Also, Perceval’s initiatory journey around the zodiac can be seen to follow three stages. Firstly that of the Earth Zodiac<sup>(5)</sup> as highlighted by the Ascendant. The Head– Ajna Centre or brain that receives impressions from the environment as does a developing child during its formative years. In this case as the development of the Soul as Spiritual childhood whereby the stellar forces are streaming in to guide Perceval unconsciously.

Secondly Perceval makes three rounds of the Lunar Zodiac.<sup>(5)</sup> This is after his first vision of the Grail that has initiated something within him so that he is now receptive to the cycles of the Soul as it tries to make contact with his persona in the form of external events and wake up calls.

Thirdly as the Stellar Zodiac<sup>(5)</sup> which is the full Transfiguration and Crucifixion whereby he finally mends the broken sword of his Mental body. He is then able to become a Grail Guardian in full consciousness of the zodiac cycles as they relate to the (Solar) precessionary round. A true Lord of the Aeon.

## PERCEVAL IN LIBRA



**ELEMENT:** Air sign (as are also Gemini and Aquarius). Quality

**QUALITY:** Equilibrium. An interlude where duality is known and the life of Soul and form is balanced (Law, Sex, Money).

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Aries. A fire sign (subjective, latent consciousness, will to incarnate).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, Venus; Esoteric, Uranus.

**DECANS:** Southern Cross, Lupus & Corona Borealis.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; *“Let choice be made.”* From the angle of Soul; *“I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force.”* (from *“The Labours of Hercules”* by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

..... Perceval heads towards a forest where he spots fresh tracks made by horses and considers that they are made by the ones he needs to speak to, regarding the grail. Instead he comes upon a maiden weeping beneath an oak tree. This maiden, Sigune,<sup>(4)</sup> is lamenting over a knight who now lays dead in her lap. The knight is called Schianatulander,<sup>(4)</sup> who's head had been cut off that morning by the "Proud Knight of the Heath."—When Perceval tells the maiden about the men in the boat and the court where he has lodged, she recognises the description as the Court of the Fisher King. She relates to Perceval that he is called the Fisher King because he was wounded through the thighs by a lance, and that since he is crippled, he passes his time fishing from a boat. Sigune asks Perceval whether he saw the bleeding lance or the grail and dish. Having replied in the affirmative she then asks Perceval whether or not he asked why the lance bled, or what was the meaning of the grail, or whom was served from the dish? Perceval admits that he didn't ask and Sigune then asks him his name, that he guesses is Perceval the Welshman. Sigune then chastises him as Perceval the Wretched, saying that a great good would have come to the king and to the land if he had but asked the significance of the Hallows. Sigune then reveals herself as Perceval's cousin and tells him that his mother is dead, having died of grief when he left.—Perceval expresses his regret and tries to make up for it by offering to track down the knight who had killed her lover. Instead Sigune asks him about the sword and warns him not to put his trust in it, for it will betray him and shatter into pieces when in greatest need. Also the only man who can repair it is one named Triboet.<sup>(4)</sup>—Perceval rides on until he comes across a skinny and wretched palfrey, with an equally torn and dishevelled maiden riding in the saddle. She instantly recognises Perceval as the Welsh boy who had stolen her ring, although Perceval cannot remember her.—The Proud Knight of the Heath then draws up and tells Perceval that he is looking for a Welsh boy who stole his lover's ring and then had his way with her. Perceval confesses to stealing the ring although says that he did no more. Perceval and the Proud Knight do

combat and the proud Knight is vanquished. Again, as with Clamadeus and Enygerion, he is sent to King Arthur with the same message - that the maiden who Kay struck will be avenged.—The Proud knight, having restored his lover to finery, sets off at once to King Arthur’s court. The Proud Knight finds Arthur at Carleon in Wales, and relates how he was vanquished by a Knight in red armour.—Gawain recognises the description as that belonging to Perceval, while Arthur once again admonishes Kay for driving him away and they all vow to set out in search of him.

## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH LIBRA

....The lost and bewildered Perceval now comes upon a grieving maiden who is holding a dead knight in her lap. Upon listening to Perceval’s story she reveals herself as his maternal cousin. The knight to whom she was engaged, has been killed by the Duke from whose lover Perceval stole the ring, and so has mistaken him for Perceval. The situation can be interpreted through Lupus, as *“the wolf nature (Perceval’s karmic actions) who has devoured the Soul nature, but now the wolf is dying out.”* (1) Also the Southern Cross (Crux) is seen as *“the cross of matter receding.”* (1)

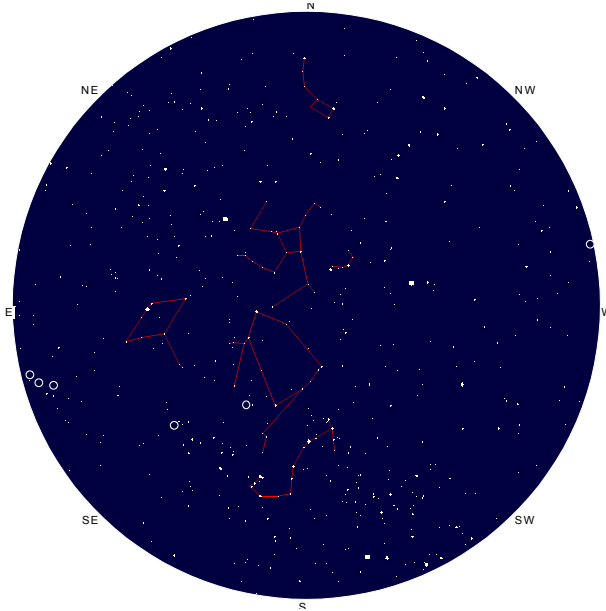
Here Perceval’s cousin first reveals to him his name that means, “Pierce the Vale.” It introduces the Libran quality; *“I choose the way which lies between the two great lines of force.”* (1)

Perceval must also, before moving on, encounter the now naked and bereft maiden from whom he stole the ring and must also joust with the Duke who has imposed the punishment on the maiden.

This signifies that Perceval is now redressing his previous actions, first initiated in Taurus as Eridanus— the River of the Judge, that first spoke; *“as a man sows, so shall he reap.”*(1) The constellation of Corona Borealis signifies the restoration to sovereignty of the maidens, by both the handing back of the ring and the bringing of the Duke to justice, for killing the knight

who was engaged to his cousin and for punishing the maiden who was innocent.

## PERCEVAL IN SCORPIO



**ELEMENT:** Water sign (as are also Cancer and Pisces). Quality: Conflict. Test. Trial. Triumph. Points of crisis. Moments of reorientation. Turning point in the life of humanity and of the individual. Hercules became the triumphant disciple in Scorpio.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Taurus. An earth sign (desire, and growth of Soul light).

**RULERS:** Exoteric and Esoteric, the same, Mars.

**DECANS:** Serpens, Ophiuchus & Hercules.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; *“Let Maya flourish and let deception rule.”* From the angle of Soul; *“Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant.”*  
(from *“The Labours of Hercules”* by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

..... Early one morning Perceval comes to a frozen and snowy meadow near to where the company of King Arthur and his Queen, Guinevere, are camped. He sees a flock of geese overhead and a falcon swoops on one of them, thus causing it to fall from the sky and break its neck on the fall. Perceval rides over to the fallen goose and muses over the drops of blood on the snow, which reminds him of his fair loves face.—Several knights awake from their tents and seeing Perceval still in contemplation, deem that he is asleep on his horse. The knight Saigremor “the Rash” runs to the pavilion of the sleeping Arthur, in order to rouse him and to tell him about the sleeping knight on the heath. Arthur tells Saigremor to go and bring back the knight. Saigremor challenges Perceval and is unhorsed. Kay takes his turn and is also unhorsed, thus breaking his arm and collar bone, just as the jester had predicted. Arthur is unhappy about Kay’s injuries and has a physician attend to him.—A more diplomatic and understanding Gawain offers to bring back the knight by subtle tact, which enrages Kay.—Gawain canters up to Perceval and reveals himself as a messenger of the King. Perceval tells Gawain that he has already unhorsed two knights who tried to take him captive; that he was busy musing on the bright red drops of blood in the white snow that reminded him of the fresh colour of his fair love’s face. Gawain calls his contemplation courteous and so Perceval responds by asking if Kay was with Arthur. Gawain tells Perceval that he is the second knight who he unhorsed and that his joust broke his right arm and dislocated his collar bone. Perceval is now satisfied that the maiden has been avenged.—When Perceval is brought back to King Arthur he asks him his name, to which he replies: Perceval the Welshman. Arthur acknowledges that the prophecy of the fool has been fulfilled and Guinevere also acknowledges Perceval as a proven knight. He also greets and embraces the maiden who had laughed and makes a promise to her; that he will not fail to come to her aid should she ever need him.

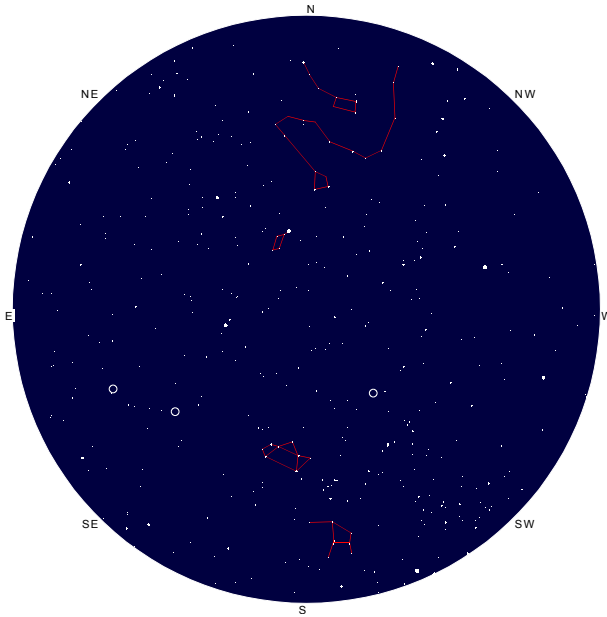
## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH SCORPIO

....Arthur and his knights of the Round Table have now set out to look for Perceval and find him leaning upon his lance while mounted upon his horse, contemplating some drops of blood in the snow, caused by a falling dove killed by a hawk in mid air. The drops of blood remind him of Blancheflor as “her blood red cheeks on the white of her skin”<sup>(3)</sup> and so he will not answer to the calls and requests of Arthur’s knights.

In Scorpio Perceval must choose between the personality as in; “*I am having such a difficult time, my environment is against me, my home conditions are difficult, but I will get my crown some day*” and the Soul as in; “*Keep your eye on the eagle; call down fire; do not look at the ground; be centered in divinity.*”<sup>(1)</sup> In other words Perceval is looking at the red star- Antares which is “*the desire behind every manifestation of Divine Life.*”<sup>(1)</sup>

The constellations in the Decans of Scorpio suggest the same in that as Ophiuchus, Perceval is treading on Serpens (he unhorses Kay, thus avenging the maiden who laughed) while looking towards Corona, who represents Blancheflor– his lady crowned as Queen. As the constellation Hercules, Perceval is “*fixed on Aquila– the eagle who is of the Soul*”<sup>(1)</sup> and which guides him onwards in his Quest for the Grail.

## PERCEVAL IN SAGITTARIUS



**ELEMENT:** Fire sign (as are also Aries and Leo). Quality: Focused direction. One-pointed activity. In the early stages, satisfaction of desire; in later stages aspiration for the goal of initiation.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Gemini. An air sign (eventual control of fluidity and pairs of opposites; fusion, synthesis, at-one-ment).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, Jupiter; Esoteric, Earth.

**DECANS:** Lyra, Ara & Draco.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; *“Let food be sought.”* From the angle of Soul; *“I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another.”* (from *“The Labours of Hercules”* by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....The King and Queen lead Perceval back to Carleon, where they celebrate for three days; while on the third day an ugly maiden, Cundrie,<sup>(4)</sup> arrives unexpectedly at court. Cundrie rebukes Perceval for not having asked the questions concerning the lance and the grail. She also tells him that had he done so, the Fisher King would have been healed of his wound and brought peace and prosperity to his realm. Though because he has failed to ask, then the lands will instead be laid waste.—Cundrie tells also of the Proud Castle where great honour in deeds of chivalry can be won; and also of the peak of Montesclair, where a maiden is besieged. That any knight wishing for the greatest esteem in the world can attempt to free the maiden and so win the ‘sword with the strange straps.’—Gawain leaps up and says he will go to Montesclair and free the maiden; while Gifflet says that he will go to the Proud Castle. Perceval however speaks quite differently in that he will never hear of any of these things until he knows who was served from the grail or has learned the truth about why the lance bleeds.—While the knights are still preparing for their quests, Guinganbresil enters and accuses Gawain of treachery because he had killed his lord without challenging him first. He charges Gawain to appear before the King of Escavalon in forty days, to have his treason proven in a joust. Gawain sets out amid great lamentation, grieving and despair.—(The adventures now turn to Gawain).—Seeing a band of fine knights riding across a moor, Gawain asks a Squire who they are. He is told that it is Meliant de Lis<sup>(3)</sup> on his way to a tournament being held by Tybaut of Tintagel<sup>(3)</sup>. Meliant has asked for the love of one of Tybaut’s daughters, who had then chastised him for not being able to prove his knighthood. Tybaut’s daughter has thus given to Meliant, the conditional terms that he must challenge her father in order to win her love.—Gawain rides to the castle at Tintagel, for there is no other road. The knights begin to ride out, while all the ladies watch the tournament from the castle towers. Some of the ladies see Gawain, who finding that the only road through the castle is barred, is forced to sit beneath an oak tree with his baggage. The ladies mock Gawain as being a peddler or

money-changer.— Tybaut’s daughter is focussed on Meliant, as the best of the knights, while the younger daughter, Obilot<sup>(4)</sup> ‘The Maiden with the Little Sleeves,’ recognises Gawain as the better knight. The maiden is then struck across the face by her older sister for her “insolence.” The ‘Maiden with the Little Sleeves’ then approaches Gawain and appeals for him to champion her in the tournament, by offering to Gawain one of her sleeves as a token. Gawain accepts and beats Meliant in a joust thus winning a horse, which he then presents to Obilot. Gawain vows to always serve her should she ever be in need of him, then departs.—Later, Gawain comes to a castle, where a young man, seeing that Gawain is a potential love match for his sister, offers Gawain lodgings in her tower. The two meet, speak of love and start kissing. A vassal sees them kissing and recognises Gawain as the man who had killed her father. The tower is attacked by a mob and Gawain defends himself by throwing chess pieces. The young man, who knows nothing of Gawain, returns to tell Guinganbresil, who, along with the King Escavalon, ride out to stall the mob.— Escavalon is forced to postpone the challenge for another year, since Gawain had been given lodging without his knowledge. Instead, Gawain is sent to retrieve the bleeding lance on the terms that he must return it to him within a year or face imprisonment. It is to be returned to Escavalon because it was written that the bleeding lance will one day be used to destroy the land of Logres.

## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH SAGITTARIUS

....The hungry and bereft Perceval returns for a time to Arthur’s court, “*let food be sought*”<sup>(1)</sup> and forgets his Quest. He is given a wake up call by the sharp rebuke of an ugly maiden who turns up unexpectedly at court. She reminds Perceval of his Quest by admonishing his failure to ask the Grail Question and so he is shamed into regaining focus, “*I see a goal.*”<sup>(1)</sup> Perceval vows with all his heart to return to the Quest of the Grail, whereas

Gawain is falsely accused by Guigambresil, the Seneschal of Escavalon.

Here in the story, the Grail Knights change roles as alter egos and whereas Perceval is now guided under Aquila; "*I am Spirit flying straight for home,*"<sup>(1)</sup> Gawain must swap with Perceval's guide Cygnus; "*I am the Soul crucified in matter from which I shall release myself.*"<sup>(1)</sup>

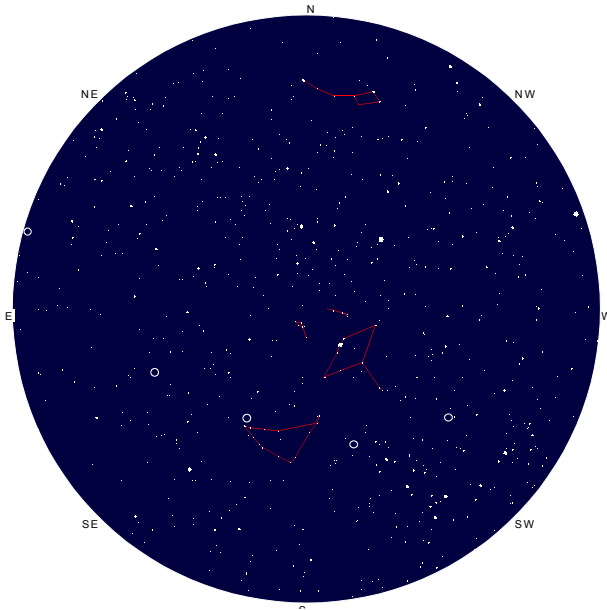
In other words, Gawain is that part of Perceval who is working through the solar plexus to heart centered polarisation, initiated by the first contact within the Cave or Ajna Centre - as the Grail vision in Virgo.

In another sense Gawain has been put back to the fifth sign Leo, signified by the pentacle emblazoned upon his shield, and whose ruler is the sun. In some texts, Gawain's strength waxes towards midday with the sun. His original name Gwalchmai 'Hawk of May' is also suggestive of the Hawk that circles towards the Sun as Soul. Although as the Spirit, Aquila takes a more direct flight.

The constellations in the Decans of Sagittarius are suggestive of Gawain's adventures before the story later returns to Perceval. These are Lyra- "*the aspirant makes music with his life*"<sup>(1)</sup> as the love affair with the daughter of the lord who he has supposedly killed in a joust.

The siege laid on them both in the tower by the mob is also suggestive of the clamour of the Stymphalian birds in the ninth labour of Hercules. Ara- the Altar, as the sleeve that is offered to Gawain by the 'maiden with the little sleeves,' in request of his service. Draco as the wise dragon lord Escavalon, who gives Gawain the task of retrieving the bleeding lance.

## PERCEVAL IN CAPRICORN



**ELEMENT:** Earth sign (as are also Taurus and Virgo). Quality: Extreme characteristics of the worst and best types. Ambition. Crystallization. Struggle overcome. Transfiguration. Initiate consciousness. “The unicorn of God.”

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Cancer. A water sign (first door to incarnation).

**RULERS:** Exoteric and Esoteric, the same, Saturn.

**DECANS:** Sagitta, Aquila & Delphinus.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; “*Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide.*” From the angle of Soul; “*Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back*”. (from “*The Labours of Hercules*” by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

(Perceval's tale resumes)..... Five years have passed in which Perceval has never entered a church and has forgotten his quest for the grail. Instead he has sought deeds of chivalry and within the five years, has sent sixty worthy knights as prisoners to Arthur's Court.— As Perceval is riding one day across a wilderness, he comes upon three knights and ten ladies, all in hair shirts, bare-footed and penitent. They reprimand Perceval for carrying arms, for as he learns, it is Good Friday. They have just come from a Holy Hermit in the forest and learning of this, Perceval, weeping, asks the way to the Hermit.—The hermit tells Perceval that it was through the sin of leaving his mother in grief that has prevented him from asking the question about the bleeding lance and the grail. The hermit, who is really Perceval's uncle, now reveals himself as the brother of his mother and also of the one served from the grail; who is the father of the rich Fisher King. He stays with the hermit for two days, who advises him to do penance, while on the Easter Sunday Perceval receives communion.—(The tale turns to Gawain)— Gawain, riding up a hill, comes to an oak tree, beneath which he finds a maiden lamenting over the dying knight Greoreas<sup>(3)</sup>. Gawain rouses the knight, who promptly warns him that he is on the border of Galvoie, from which no knight can cross and return; though if he does return and finds him dead, he asks him to see that his lady comes to no harm. Gawain promises to fulfil his request.—Riding on through the border, Gawain comes to a walled city by a sea port with a castle. He rides into the castle and across a bridge to the city centre. Here, in a courtyard beneath an elm tree, sits the haughty maiden, Orgeluse,<sup>(4)</sup> gazing at herself in a mirror.—Gawain offers to be of service to the maiden, although her response is to belittle Gawain, while at the same time asking for her palfrey that is in a garden across a narrow plank. The people of the city lament and warn Gawain that he risks humiliation if he goes along with her requests. Gawain ignores them and although he retrieves the palfrey, the haughty maiden will not let him help her mount. She tells him instead that she will see him disgraced before the day is out.—Gawain returns with the maiden following him, to heal the

dying knight, which he so does with herbs. When the knight Greoreas is recovered, he then recognises Gawain as his mortal enemy and stealing his horse Gringalet, he rides away with his lover, thus leaving Gawain with the skinny packhorse. The haughty maiden laughs, then mocks and belittles Gawain all the more.—They ride on until they come to a wide river, across which is a strong castle on a cliff, with five hundred windows from which ladies are watching. The haughty maiden climbs into a boat, ridiculing Gawain in view of the ladies. She tells him to get in quickly before he is defeated by Greoras's nephew, who is fast approaching on Gawain's horse. Gawain turns to face him and although still seated on the skinny packhorse, easily defeats him in a joust.—The haughty maiden has meanwhile disappeared in the boat.—Gawain sees a pilot with another boat approaching, who offers him lodging and tells him that the castle is under an enchantment, although he doesn't know who is its lord. The next day the pilot acts as host to show Gawain around the castle. They come to the room with the 'Bed of Marvels' and Gawain is warned that it is enchanted.—Gawain, having ignored many pleas to the contrary, goes to lie down on the enchanted bed. He is then rewarded by a volley of crossbow bolts that stick in his shield and then suffers an attack from a ravenous lion, which he duly kills.—Gawain, upon overcoming the enchantment, is now met by the hostess Clarissant,<sup>(3)</sup> who tells him that he is to be master of the castle and never to leave. He is later taken to meet the queen, who asking him whether he is of Arthur's Round Table, questions him about the sons of King Lot.—Gawain then sees a maiden with a fully armed knight riding across the meadow below and is warned not to approach them. Gawain once again ignores all advice and is rowed across the river to meet them. The knight asks the haughty maiden who it is approaching and she tells him that it is the knight who had brought her here the day before. The knight recognises Gawain as the one who had crossed the borders of Galvoie without his leave and vows to disgrace him; whereas Gawain meets the joust and wounds him in the chest.—The maiden, still refusing to acknowledge Gawain's prowess, instead leads him to the Perilous Ford, telling him that her lover used to leap it everyday.

Gawain jumps the ford remembering that it is said that whoever leaps the ford will be renowned as the greatest knight in the world.— On the far bank Gawain meets the Knight Guiromelant,<sup>(3)</sup> or Gramoflanz,<sup>(4)</sup> who tells Gawain that the city he has just come from, with the Haughty Maiden of Nogres, is Orquenie;<sup>(3)</sup> that the knight he has just defeated is the ‘Proud Knight of the Narrow Passage,’ who defends the border of Galvoie; that the enchanted castle is called the Rock of Canguin;<sup>(3)</sup> and that the lady of the castle is Ygerne, mother of Gawain.— Guiromelant hates Gawain because his father, King Lot, had killed his father; while Gawain himself had killed his cousin. Upon finding out that he is really talking to Gawain, he challenges him to a joust in seven days, when King Arthur will be holding court at Orquenie.—Gawain returns across the perilous ford to the Haughty Maiden who has now changed in her demeanour towards him. She then explains to Gawain why she has all along been haughty towards all knights. It is because the knight Guiromelant had killed her love in a joust and then sought to gain her love for himself. Gawain returns with her to the castle and then presents to his sister, a love token from Guiromelant, which is a gold ring with a cut emerald.—As they sit talking together on the Bed of Marvels, his sister as yet doesn’t know that she is really talking to her brother Gawain; who all the while relates to his sister what Guiromelant has said about her brother. Clarissant is shocked by this and says that even though her brother doesn’t even know that she has been born, that she nevertheless wouldn’t wish to see Gawain harmed.—Gawain then sends a boy with a message to Arthur and the Queen Guinevere, who are now holding court at Orquenie, for Pentecost. It is to tell Arthur about the challenge from Guiromelant and to come to the Rock of Canguin on the fifth day of Pentecost, along with the whole court.

#### THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH CAPRICORN:

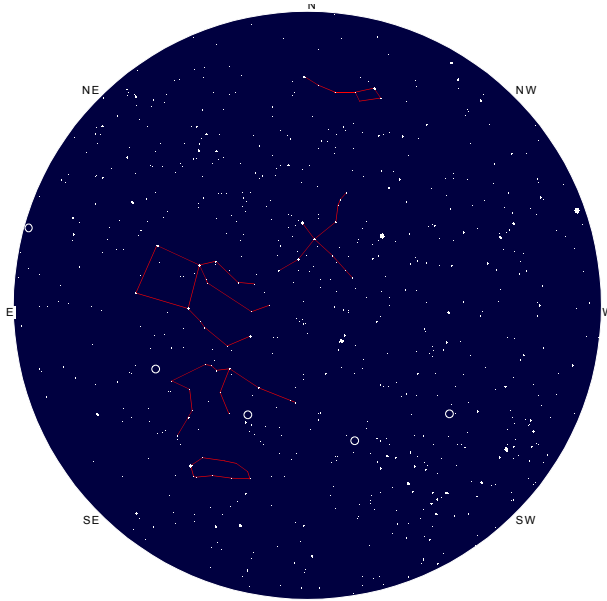
...Gawain meets the haughty maiden “the wicked girl from hell” who leads him through the adventures of the bed of marvels and of leaping the perilous ford (Delphinus).

These adventures parallel the tenth labour of Hercules– the slaying of Cerebus - the guardian of Hades. In Wolfram’s version the Hades figure is Clinschor who has bargained with the haughty maiden (as Persephone) now called Orgeluse of Logres, that until she finds a champion who will break the enchantment of the bed of marvels, her treasures will be in his keeping as joint ownership.

Orgeluse also wishes for her champion to challenge Gramoflanz ‘the Green Knight’ whom has previously killed her husband in a joust, thus making her haughty towards any knight. When Gawain succeeds, the wicked maiden reveals the reason for her haughtiness in that she has led many a knight down this road for this end. That also the King Anfortas ‘the Fisher King’ was wounded through the groin by the lance while in her service to defeat Gramoflanz. This happened because Clinschor had stole the lance while Anfortas was off guard as he was tempted by the love of Orgeluse. In this knowledge Gawain returns to the Grail castle and again witnesses the Grail procession.

He asks the Questions but because he cannot mend the broken sword the full revelation is withheld from him. Falling asleep he wakes up in a marsh with his horse tethered to a nearby tree. In a desolate mood he ascends a mountain and remembers that he must return to Escavalon, “*lost in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.*”<sup>(1)</sup> Concerning the Decans; the constellation of Sagitta– the lance of cosmic love, is also known in Hebrew as “*the desolate one.*”<sup>(1)</sup>

## PERCEVAL IN AQUARIUS



**ELEMENT:** Air sign (as are also Gemini and Libra). Quality  
Quality: Will to serve, first the lower self, then the higher Self.  
World service. Individual consciousness transmuted into group  
consciousness.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Leo, A fire sign (individual awareness; urge  
toward selfknowledge; eventual self-mastery preparatory to self-  
less service).

**RULERS:** Exoteric, Uranus; Esoteric, Jupiter.

**DECANS:** Pisces Australes, Pegasus & Cygnus.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form;  
“*Let desire in form be the rule.*” From the angle of Soul; “*Water  
of Life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.*” (from “*The Labours of Her-  
cules*” by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....Upon seeing the messenger arrive at court and fearing the worst, Arthur, the Queen and the whole court fall into a display of lamentation, grief and despair. When the message is received however, the court soon returns to joy and relief. The messenger tells that Gawain has been challenged to single combat and that he would like the company of Arthur to come and defend him against the charge of treachery.—Arthur, the Queen, his knights and all the court set out amid trumpets and fanfare to defend Gawain. When Queen Ygerne sees the great host setting up camp in the meadow below the Castle, she is alarmed, and summons Gawain to explain why there are men and horses on one side of the meadow and ladies and maidens on the other. She also reminds him of the terms of his promise to tell his name after seven days was passed. Gawain reveals his name and Ygerne rejoices, embraces and kisses him, revealing herself as Arthur's mother and her daughter as being Gawain's mother. When Clarissant hears this news, she falls into a great lamentation. This is because her brother knows all about her love for Guiromelant and that conversely, Guiromelant wants to kill Gawain. Ygerne however, is relieved when she finds out that they are not being besieged and that it is in fact only her son, Arthur, down in the field below.—Gawain asks permission to take leave and speak with Arthur. He then relates to Arthur that it is his mother and the wife of king Lot who own the castle, having moved there after the death of their husbands. That night, Ygerne summons five hundred newly dubbed knights to stand at the windows of the castle with their jewelled armour, thus shedding such a brilliant light upon the company of Arthur, that they are convinced it is noon and that they are being bewitched. Gawain then convinces Arthur to go into the castle and to take the Queen and three maidens, but no more.—When Sir Kay finds that Arthur is not in his tent they are terrified. At daybreak Arthur returns with the five hundred newly dubbed knights and fifty ladies and maidens.—Gawain is now fitted with his armour for the challenge and approaching the Perilous ford, they see Guiromelant's army approaching, some ten thousand strong.

Arthur in turn summons fifteen thousand of his own men.— Sir Yvain and Gifflet son of Do(3) are sent as messengers to Guiromelant, who will not relinquish the challenge.—Gawain and Guiromelant do battle and they fight until noon, by which time Clarissant has begged King Arthur to intervene and to stop the bloody battle. Arthur cannot interfere because the Codes of Chivalry prevent this, although he tells Clarrisant to run out and beg them to stop on the grounds of her love for them both.—She courageously does this and Gawain says that unless her lover withdraws his accusation of treachery, he will not offer him his sister for a wife; that unless Guiromelant agrees to these terms, then the battle must resume on the morrow.—When Gawain returns the next day to resume battle, he finds that Guiromelant and his sister have already been married. Gawain rides away and vows never to return to Arthur because of this betrayal. Instead he remembers that he has delayed too long in returning the bleeding lance to Escavalon, and seeks instead the court of the Fisher King.—Riding through a wood Gawain comes eventually to a river and with no place to cross, so he rides along the bank until he catches a glimpse of a tower. Riding towards the tower he finds the drawbridge already lowered and so enters once more, to the court of the Fisher King.—Gawain witnesses the procession, and this time he asks the significance of the grail and of the bleeding lance. He is then presented with a broken sword and is asked to put the two broken pieces together. Gawain achieves this, although when he is asked to pull on the sword again, it breaks apart again. Gawain is told that he hasn't yet achieved enough as a knight to know about these mysteries and falls asleep. He wakes in the morning to find himself in a marsh with his arms and equipment and his horse is tethered nearby.—Gawain returns to Escavalon to yield himself as prisoner, while on the way he meets Disnadaret, who challenges him to joust to avenge his father's death. Gawain asks for the battle to be postponed, since he is already delayed for another battle with Guinganbresil at Escavalon. When Gawain arrives there, he finds that he has to fight them both together.— A cousin of Gawain happens to be present and sends a message to Arthur, who then immediately sets out with his court to Escavalon to make peace.—Arthur arrives and peace terms are

discussed and agreed upon.—Arthur gives two of his granddaughters to the knights Guinganbresil and Disnadaret, who are Tancree le Petite and Beatris respectively.—Later a mysterious knight rides past the pavilion of Queen Guinevere without acknowledging her or taking any leave. Sir Kay rides out to bring back the knight, who protests saying that he is on an urgent mission. Kay tries to take the knight by force, although is unhorsed and has to ride back in shame without him. Gawain then sets out and successfully brings back the knight by more diplomatic means. When however, they are nearing the pavilion, the knight starts to bleed profusely. Since he is dying he bids Gawain to take his horse and ride out to fulfil his mission. Then, because of the shame of having a knight die while under protection, Gawain vows to do this.

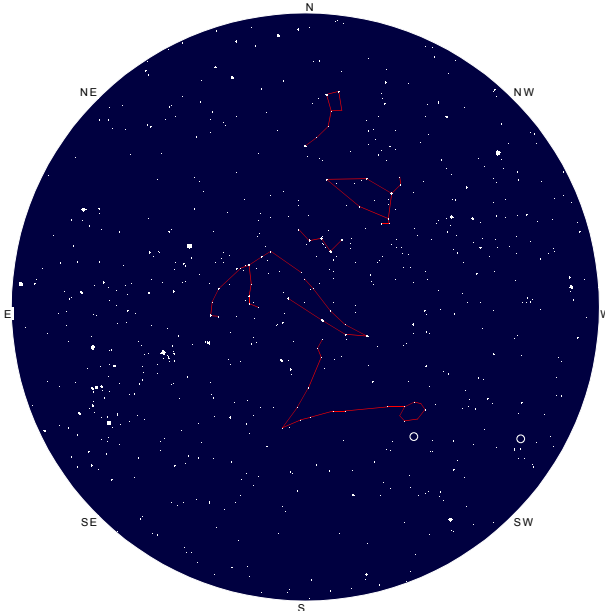
## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH AQUARIUS

.....Peace is made between Gawain and Escavalon by Arthur's intervention. The polarities inherent within the situations between Gawain and Guiromelant, Gawain and Guinganbresil and the court of Arthur and the enchanted court of Ygerne, represent those delicate balances being brought into play during the first stirrings of spring, when the sun is in Aquarius. The shining of the jeweled armour and the many exchanges given, may reflect these sun and earth polarities. The tarot card 'The Star,' also attributed to Aquarius, is depicting a maiden with a foot in both worlds – being land and water, or this world and the otherworld. The vessel of water being poured onto the earth, by the maiden in the card, is again representative of that release of Aquarian consciousness that is also paralleled in the Hercules' eleventh labour – that of cleaning the Augean stables.

As a result of the resolution of these polarities, Gawain returns to Arthur's court to serve under the Queen Guinevere. He is now in part, a Serving Master in Aquarius. It is said that the ruler of Aquarius is the star of the "*new law of suffering, illumination and love.*"<sup>(1)</sup>

It is in the taking on of the dying knight's mission that he traverses the three Decans of Aquarius. As Pisces Australes; the fish who suffers through illumination, as did the knight who was prevented from fulfilling his mission by Guinevere. Pegasus becomes the dead knight's enchanted horse who carries Gawain to the chapel where he experiences the demonic black hand. Cygnus, as we shall see, transfers Gawain as the World Server in Aquarius to Perceval as the World Saviour in Pisces.

## PERCEVAL IN PISCES



**ELEMENT:** Water sign (as are also Cancer and Scorpio).

**QUALITY:** Duality. Fluidity endowed with instinctual consciousness. Mediumistic. Polarized mind unawakened. Intuition dormant. Death of the personality. Release of the Soul from captivity. Christ, the World Savior.

**POLAR OPPOSITE:** Virgo. An earth sign (matter; Christ in the cave of the heart). Rulers: Exoteric, Jupiter; Esoteric, Pluto.

**DECANS:** Band or Girdle, Andromeda & Cephus.

**MOON MEDITATION KEYWORDS:** From the angle of form; “Go forth into matter”, from the angle of Soul; “I leave my Father's home and turning back, I save.” (from “The Labours of Hercules” by Alice Bailey)

## SUMMARY OF THE QUEST:

.....Gawain, having journeyed out upon the knights horse, encounters a violent thunderstorm. He reaches a chapel by a cross-roads, in the midst of a great forest, where he takes shelter. At once, a mysterious black hand appears through a window behind the altar and snuffs out the candle; while at the same time Gawain hears a loud groaning voice. Crossing himself, he rides out of the chapel only to find that the storm has abated.—Gawain rides on until he reaches the sea and although tired and hungry, the horse nevertheless carries him along a causeway, stretching out to sea, where Gawain sees a light and then comes to a hall.—In the hall of the Fisher King and once again failing to mend the broken sword, Gawain witnesses the procession of the grail and the lance. He asks again about the bleeding lance and this time he is told of its significance, although falls asleep as he is being told of the meaning of the broken sword.—Gawain awakes to find himself by the sea on a cliff with his arms beside him. He notices that the wasteland has been partly restored because of his questions about the bleeding lance; although if he had asked also about the grail then a greater good would have been bestowed on the land.

## THE PATH OF PERCEVAL THROUGH PISCES

..... Gawain is still caught up in the mysteries of the Grail as he crosses himself thus escaping from the deadly encounter with the mysterious black hand.

The horse now takes him as far as the the sea where he arrives before a long causeway. Having espied a light at the end of the causeway he decides to ride toward it despite the raging of the sea which makes Gawain afraid. He takes faith however and rides down the causeway which is ‘the band’ connecting the fish in the constellation of Pisces.

This leads him once more to the court of the Fisher King where this time Gawain asks about the lance and the sword but falls asleep without asking about the Grail.

The role of Gawain in following Cygnus has in part, fulfilled the mission of returning the “*eternal living waters*”<sup>(1)</sup> to heal the Wasteland. This has come about by asking the meaning of the lance and the sword. The Grail Quest however, is still to be taken to its culmination by Perceval, who by mending the broken sword also heals the Fisher King of his wound.

Through this Perceval becomes in turn the next Grail King, joined also by his son, who, in Wolfram’s version, is known as Lohengrin– the Swan Knight. It is he who rescues ‘the woman chained’ who is now the daughter of the Duke of Brabant. In the later Vulgate Cycle, it is Perceval’s sister Dindraine who leads the Grail Knights to the ship that will take them to the Grail. This concludes the Quest in that it reunites the Grail family as the constellations Cephus and Cassiopea with Perseus and Andromeda, who now become Grail King, Queen, Knight and Maiden.

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