

- Men should take their knowledge from the Sun, the Moon and the Stars.
- ~Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)

The Decanates of Cancer – the Crab

- Cancer belongs to the Element Water
- It is of Moveable Quality
- The Keywords are “I Feel”
- Canis Minor ☾ – ☾ (♏)
- Hydra ☾ - ♋ (♏)
- Argo Navis ☾ - ♋ (♏)
- Canis Minor ☾ – ☾ (♏)

CANCER—1st Decanate (0 - 9°).

Solar Dates: June 22 to July 2

- Symbols: ☾ – ☾ (♏)
- Constellation: Canis Minor
- Description: A little yapping, treacherous, cur
- Keyword: Moods
- Spiritual Text: “The Wages of Sin Is Death.”
- Canis Minor is a small constellation that rises before Canis Major
- The most prominent star is Procyon, the 8th brightest star in the heavens, meaning ‘before the dog’
- The domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) is the oldest known domesticated animal sharing an inter-species relationship with humans for at least 15,000 years
- Much like the canine/human relationship, both Sirius and Procyon have highly-dense, white dwarf ‘companion’ stars
- Among astrologers who use fixed stars Procyon portends good fortune, wealth and fame
- Canis Minor can be found near the constellation of Orion on the back of Monoceros
- The Romans sometimes called this constellation *Cateluss* meaning ‘Puppy’ or *antecanis* meaning ‘before the dog’
- The Greco-Roman world has endless legends of dogs that might be syncretized with Canis Minor
- The mythographer Hyginus claims that Canis Minor represents Maera, the dog of Icarus who learned the secrets of making wine from Bacchus. When Icarus shared his wine with some unsuspecting shepherds, they rapidly became intoxicated. Believing they had been poisoned they fell upon Icarus and killed him. His faithful dog Maera, ran and alerted Erigone, Icarus’s daughter and led her to where Icarus was buried. Upon discovering his grave, Erigone hung herself from the tree under which her father was buried; Maera also died on his master’s grave. Touched by their devotion to one another, Zeus rewarded the trio with a place among the stars, Icarus became Boötes, Erigone, Virgo, and Maera transformed into Canis Minor. Zeus also placed a curse upon Athens to the effect that until the time that Icarus’s murderers were brought forth to justice the young maidens of Athens would also commit suicide in the same fashion.
- Another story of Greek Mythology is that of Actaeon the son of the priestly herdsman, Aristaeus
- One day when Actaeon was making his way through the woods with his

favorite hunting dogs he happened upon Artemis/Diana bathing in a stream. He knew he shouldn't be staring, but she was so beautiful he couldn't take his eyes off her.

- Artemis, who had a virginal reputation to uphold was infuriated at the thought of being ogled by a mere mortal and in her rage transformed Actaeon into a stag. In a panic, Actaeon ran from the scene of his crime and was immediately set upon by his own dogs and torn limb from limb.
- “The first decanate of Cancer is depicted in the sky by a little yapping cur— CANIS MINOR—a mongrel without courage or loyalty. By it the ancient masters sought to convey the thought that those born under this section of the sky are particularly susceptible to domestic intrigue. They have strong emotions and may easily be carried away by them. Consequently, they should put forth a persistent effort to cultivate the qualities of faithfulness and poise. Through the activity of the emotional nature, and their sensitiveness to all that affects life, they are often capable of remarkable poetic and dramatic expression. Unknown to themselves they are the mediums through which entities on the inner planes manifest. And because they are such perfect mediums they sometimes betray the trust placed in them, for they tend to yield to the temporarily strongest influence. They should learn to be positive and firm.”
 - *Delineating the Horoscope* – C. C. Zain
- “It should not be inferred from this, however, that people born from **June**

22 to July 2, are less faithful in their family vows than others. Their love of home and their devotion to it is even remarkable. The changeableness to which they are subject relates to their feelings. Their emotions are like the tides of the sea, flowing in during one period, shortly to turn and flow out during the next. Although the message the constellation conveys points to the dangers of moral laxity, the trait which most clearly distinguishes those born when the Sun is here is stated by the Key-word, which is **Moods.**”

- *Spiritual Astrology* - C. C. Zain
- “We can not do injustice to another, or like Herodias, harbor thoughts of revenge, without building into ourselves the nucleus of the very condition thought about. The plot, the very wish that injury may befall someone, builds cells of a similar quality within ourselves, which, because of their discordant composition, because given a feeling of malice, not only work from the four-dimensional plane to bring about the injury contemplated, but due to their essential vicious nature, also work to attract misfortune to ourselves.
- Both the ductless glands of the physical body and the thought-cells of the four-dimensional body, take their orders as they come. It is not within their ability to reason and make decisions; only to obey. If, therefore, the thoughts are evil, or the emotions run wild, they act as thus directed, unaware that destruction follows to their master.

The text which the decanate thus

suggests is: The Wages of Sin Is Death.”

- *Spiritual Astrology* - C. C. Zain
- David Duke
- 1 July 1950
- 11:37 a.m.
- Tulsa, OK
- 36 N 09, 95 W 59
- “I don't call myself a white supremacist. I'm a civil rights activist concerned about European-American rights.”
- David Duke

Hydra ☉ – ♋ (♁)

CANCER—2nd Decanate (10 - 19°).

Solar Dates: July 2 to July 12

- Symbols: ☉ – ♋ (♁)
- Constellation: Hydra
- Description: A huge water-serpent which extends its length a third of the way around the celestial sphere, all the way to Scorpio
- Keyword: Revelation
- Spiritual Text: “Not Through Slaying Desire, but Through Sublimating It to a Higher Plane of Manifestation Does Man Make Soul Progress.”
- The constellation Hydra, the water serpent, stretches through the heavens covering close to 90° of arc.
- It is so long that its head touches the Crab and its tail the Scorpion.
- Considering the size alone, stretching through ¼ of the heavens, there must be some importance to this constellation.
- The most prominent star, called Cor Hydra by Tycho Brahe and better known as Alphard is 2nd magnitude.

- Ptolemy assigned to it the qualities of Saturn and Venus, or wisdom and beauty.
- He also mentions that it had strong passions which could engender immorality.
- On the back of Hydra one finds two other constellations syncretized with decanates, Crater the drinking vessel, and Corvus the Crow.
- Together they form a story from mythology which we will discuss in our next class on the decanates of Leo.

- The Author David Ulansey in his book *The Origins of the Mithraic Mysteries: Cosmology and Salvation in the Ancient World* has identified the tripartite constellation of Hydra, Crater and Corvus to be central symbols found in Mithraeum, underground ceremonial chambers scattered across the ancient Roman world.
- In Greek mythology there is another story associated with Hydra, that of the 2nd Labor of Hercules. The Hydra was a nine-headed serpent, of which one head (the one shown in celestial maps) was immortal. This creature had been ravaging the countryside around the Springs of Lerna. To conquer the Hydra, Hercules first shot flaming arrows into the serpent's lair to draw him out. Then using his club made by uprooting an olive tree he bashed the heads of the Hydra, only to discover that two would grow in their place.
- Upon seeing that Hercules was being overwhelmed by Hydraz multiple heads, his nephew Iolaus sprang into action cauterizing the severed heads to prevent re-growth until only the immortal head remained.

- This Hercules severed and buried under a rock symbolized as the Pole Star.
- Hera sent a giant crab to bite at Hercules's feet and aid in his destruction. The Crab was also placed in the sky as the zodiacal sign of Cancer.
- HYDRA—the water-serpent—commences as the middle decan of Cancer and extends through the sky all the distance from this home constellation to Scorpio, the constellation of death. Representing the Scorpio, or sex, decanate of the domestic sign, those born under it possess much resource and energy, as well as being strongly emotional. The serpent is the symbol of creative energy and the water in which it dwells is the symbol of the strong emotions displayed by these people. So the traditional struggle of Hercules with this monster is not without significance, for it represents the struggle with sensual desires, as well as a struggle to overcome the limitations imposed by death.
- *Delineating the Horoscope* – C. C. Zain
- Thus we find that those born here have a natural aptitude for communion with those who have passed to the spirit side of life. And if they do not fall into the destructive forms of mediumship, but instead retain at all times full control of their bodies and minds, they are led, impressed, and guided from the spirit side of life in all their worthy undertakings.
- *Delineating the Horoscope* – C. C. Zain
- Hercules solved the problem of these abnormal growths by securing the aid of a companion, such a companion as befits a home. When he clubbed off one of the unseemly heads, Iolaus seared it over with a hot iron to prevent another from growing.
- The final head, however, was immortal, as is the desire for individual survival and significance. Wisely, therefore, instead of attempting its annihilation, Hercules buried it under a rock, symbolic of the “rock of ages,” the Pole Star, Truth.
- *Spiritual Astrology* - C. C. Zain
- Whatever may be the unseemly desires within the unconscious mind, they can not successfully be repressed. Merely to deny them expression is to have them show two different heads where there was one before. But their energy can be utilized, and made to perform constructive work by applying the hot iron of discrimination, sublimating it through wise appraisal which directs it to find full expression in more highly acceptable ways.
- Quite correctly the Individuality of man refuses to consider itself inadequate, inferior and of no consequence. The soul of each was brought into existence with a definite and essential work to do. Quite correctly also desires for expression refuse to subside. Whatever their nature they represent energies which diverted can be turned to constructive use.
- Any attempt to annihilate a desire, to merely ignore it, or to suppress it, fails, because the energy is still

within the finer body and must express either in acceptable or unacceptable ways. The text therefore is: **Not Through Slaying Desire, but Through Sublimating It to a Higher Plane of Manifestation Does Man Make Soul Progress.”**

- *Spiritual Astrology* - C. C. Zain
- George W. Bush
- 7 July 1946
- 7:26 a.m.
- New Haven, CT
- 41n18, 72w55
- “On September 11 2001, America felt its vulnerability even to threats that gather on the other side of the Earth. We resolved then, and we are resolved today, to confront every threat from any source that could bring sudden terror and suffering to America.”
 - George W. Bush

Argo Navis ☿ - ♀ (Ψ)
CANCER—3rd Decanate (20 - 29°).
Solar Dates: July 13 to July 23

- Symbols: ☿ - ♀ (Ψ)
- Constellation: Argo Navis
- Description: A ship that carries its crew across the tempestuous sea to safety
- Keyword: Research
- Spiritual Text: “Poise is the One Safe Haven of the Soul, therefore, Under All Circumstances Keep An Even Mind.”
- Argo Navis, the ship lies south of Hydra entirely in the Southern Hemisphere.
- The constellation is enormous, spanning 70 ° of arc.

- This led to 18th century astronomers finding it so unwieldy that they dismantled it into 3 sections.

The majority of the constellation falls in the Milky Way.

- The chief star of this constellation, Canopus, is the second brightest star in the night sky after Sirius.
- It is sometimes called ‘the spectral gem of the southern skies’.

It is not visible from latitudes above 37° N 18’.

- As in all Greek mythology, legends vary as to the builder of the ship: Jason Argus, Glaucus, and Hercules are all mentioned, however it gains its name from Argus.
- The fame of this ship varies from its being the first vessel to ever set out to sea, to being the ship that bore Jason and the Argonauts to the shores of Colchis in search of the Golden Fleece.
- Curiously, only the aft of the ship is pictured with keel and rudder, the prow of the boat is shrouded in mists.
- The fifty Argonauts were led by Jason, and aided by Athena, who created the bow of the ship from a piece of the oracular Oak of Dodona. This talking prow imbued Argo with the power of warning its chieftains. Upon capturing the Golden Fleece and returning to Greece, Jason beached the Argo as an offering to the sea god Poseidon. In his later years Jason returned to Corinth and sat beneath the decaying hulk of the Argo reminiscing on events past when the prow collapsed, killing him. This could be the reason that only the rear of the ship is pictured.
- The ancient Egyptians saw this as the barge that bore Isis and Osirus

through the deluge, and for Christian astronomers it became associated with Noah's Ark.

- ARGO, the constellated ship that gave foundation for the story both of Noah's Ark and that of the adventurous Argonautic expedition, pictures the third decanate of Cancer. There will be stormy seas in the lives of those born here, but a tranquil mind will prove an adequate bark to carry them to the shores of safety. They are restless and somewhat discontented. While loving domestic life, yet they are also eager to learn what is just below the horizon. Their curiosity, however, becomes an asset and leads them into fields that are all too little known. They are great lovers of Mother Nature, take keen delight in spying out her secrets, and in this kind of work find their greatest natural aptitude.

- *Delineating the Horoscope* – C. C. Zain

- Argo encourages rather than disparages the effort at research into the forces and regarding the entities of the invisible plane; a tendency outstanding among those born while the Sun is in the section of its annual cycle thus pictured. But it also offers wise council as to the method by which such voyages can be attempted in safety. Each mariner should keep his hand firmly on the helm. The text, consequently, is:
Poise is the One Safe Haven of the Soul, therefore, "Under All Circumstances Keep An Even Mind."

- *Spiritual Astrology* - C. C. Zain

- Ginger Rogers
- Virginia Katherine McMath
- 16 July 1911

- 2:18 a.m.
- Independence MO,
- 39n06, 94w25

The Decanates of Astrology – Class 4

