

# ASTROLOGY

## *The Common Signs*

### *Introduction*

**G**EMINI, SAGITTARIUS, Virgo, and Pisces are called common signs; their intrinsic nature is best expressed by the keyword, flexibility.

The forces working through the cardinal signs impinge upon the dense body and stir it into action. The influences of the fixed signs rouse the desire nature, giving stamina and persistence in action. The power of the common signs is mental and spiritual; it gives purpose to action and incentive to nobility of life.

Therefore people influenced by stellar forces focused principally through cardinal signs are the workers of the world; not the toilers, but executives, who accomplish things industrially, and who bring into concrete existence great schemes (or small) of value to the world's work.

People ruled by the forces of fixed signs have the insight to plan improvements, also the patience and persistence to work them out in detail. They are therefore inventors who originate the ideas later practically applied by people of cardinal signs.

People of the fixed class lack ability to make their inventions commercially usable, a task for which the cardinal class is eminently fitted. Thus these two classes work hand in hand, and between them they have transformed the wilderness of the world to a condition of comparative comfort. Their efforts toward improvement are continually carried on, and in time the primitive desert will be made to bloom like a rose.

As material success depends on ability to cope with material conditions, the cardinal class is particularly fortunate, for it is the chief executive factor in the world's work and reaps a ready reward thereby. The fixed class is not so prominently

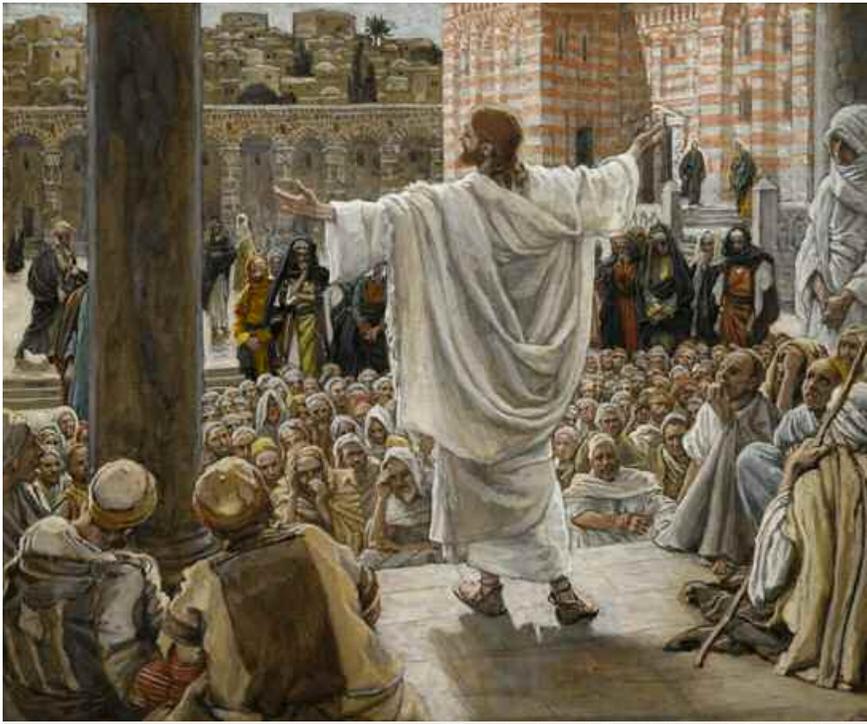
before the public. It labors in laboratories and works experimentally to complete the processes and perfect the models which are later used in manufacture. Therefore its members also are potent factors in life, and share the material and financial success of the cardinal class.

The common class is a sharp contrast. Forces focused through common signs are mental; therefore people ruled by them are averse to strenuous physical action, which is the forte of the cardinal class. They labor only when lashed by the whip of necessity. They are also incapable of the slow but sustained effort put forth by the fixed class and are easily discouraged by obstacles. Thus they are leaners and not lifters. Toilers who do the bidding of the inventive and executive classes are recruited from people ruled by common signs.

There is one sphere, however, where people with common signs shine, according to their ability to think. Being averse to work they have created a vantage ground where they may reap the benefits of the toil of others, and of their inventive faculties and executive skill. To do this they become promoters who bring inventor and manufacturer together, agents who mediate between buyer and seller, peddlers, venders and all other middlemen who go between producer and consumer and live on a commission; also literary men who devote their talent to the written word belong to the class actuated by the lower phases of the force in the common signs.

The cardinal class is active, the common is restless; the fixed class is rigid, the common is flexible. Unstable as reeds in the wind, those of the common class are swayed hither and thither; nothing appeals to them permanently; they desire nothing





Watercolor, James J. Tissot (1836-1902), Brooklyn Museum

### ***Jerusalem, Jerusalem!***

*Standing in Solomon's Porch, Jesus has the town beneath Him, and Mount Zion rising above the western porch. On the right is the southern side of the Temple buildings. As the sun draws toward the west, Jesus foresees that the city will before long in her turn desert Him, and He mourns over its approaching fate. The above is one of a series of 356 watercolors by the artist on the life of Christ.*

also felt that yearning, parental love when He stretched out His arms over Jerusalem and said: Oh, how oft would I have gathered you to my bosom as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings! Love grows by voluntary service, and the more we aim to serve others, the more readily we shall cultivate the highest of all human qualities.

Upon observation it will be found that there are two distinct subclasses ruled by the common ray. One, composed of younger souls, has not yet found its bearing in the world; they drift about upon the sea of life without energy or ambition, and are buffeted by the waves of adversity for the purpose of awakening them to a sense of responsibility and forcing them to take part in the world's work. In time they will graduate into the cardinal and fixed classes, driven by inner ambition instead of by outside coercion.

The other subclass has graduated from the industrial school of material life, and is preparing itself for spiritual work. It is thus in a transition

stage, out of tune with the finite and not yet in tune with the Infinite. We may realize their plight in a measure when we observe a youth in the years between boyhood and manhood; awkward, a laughing stock for boys and men alike, every word he utters provokes a sneer or a patronizing smile because of the changing voice. His ideas being too great for acceptance by younger companions and too visionary for older heads. He is an anomaly, and his nature becomes hypersensitive on account of the attitude of those around him.

Likewise the child-man who is about to graduate from the material world to work in the spiritual realms is out of place under the policy of our common life. He aims the bow of Sagittarius at the stars, but is weighted down to earth by the animal nature. The might of mind is great if we use it

practically. Edison earned a crown of spiritual glory by lighting our streets and thus discouraging crime. Morse, Marconi and Bell have soothed the souls of millions by bringing good news of a loved one suffering thousands of miles away. Once they dreamed of these things, but they did not stop at dreaming; they worked to realize their dreams.

The class ruled by the common signs is too prone to talk of "luck"; but as Lucifer says to Faust:

"How closely 'luck' is linked to merit,  
Does never to the fool occur;  
Had he the wise man's Stone, I swear it,  
The stone had no philosopher!"

Astrology ought to impress the older subclass with the fact that merit is the basis of success in any line, material or spiritual; that study and dreams alone will never raise us above the present condition; but that when by service we lift others, we also elevate our own status in life and evolution. □

—Max Heindel