

Saturn-Gnosis
by Mstr. ...Hermes...

The term “Saturn Gnosis” refers to the occult, cosmological concept perceived and developed by Gregor A. Gregorius. This complex system describes, with the lore of the aeons and demiurges, the Age of Aquarius that has just begun under the Thelemic law. “Saturngnosis” was also the name of an occult periodical which was published within 1928-1930 by Gregor A. Gregorius in his capacity as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge FRATERNITAS SATURNI. The periodical and its succeeding organ “Blaetter zur okkulten Lebenskunst” (scripts of the occult art of living) published from 1950 to 1954 were concerned with the approaching Thelemic age on nearly 4000 pages. This article can therefore only refer to a few important points of this ideology in short.

The gnostic doctrine and its history began with Mani (Manichaeism) and Zarathustra. The central statement of the Gnosis was and still is that the world is divided into polarities, in light and dark, positive and negative. The creative energy, which is the origin of existence, was perfect and consummate. From this source emanated the creators of the universes and ages, the so-called Archons and Demiurges. But there happened to be a separation within the said creative energy and so the duality in the world came into being. From this philosophic starting point various doctrines were developed in the course of the centuries, so that today “Gnosis” is a collective name for different kinds of currents. But dualism still is a central topic, as well as the question of light and darkness. Within the Christian gnosis, it was always a question of “good” and “evil”.

In the following I do not want to consider those Christian categories, but Gnosis within the meaning of knowledge and perception. The opposite of it is Pistis (belief) what the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islamism) request from their followers.

The Saturn Gnosis implies that a man or a woman as microcosm is the reflected image of the macrocosm. Humans therefore possess the complete creative potentiality of the universe. This is expressed in the sentence “Every man and every woman is a star”. Now it is necessary to evolve this powerful and mighty potentiality within and to find the own true will. This is expressed in the Law of THELEMA which goes: “Do what thou wilt is the whole of the Law! There is no Law but: Do what thou wilt!” In the past ages quite a few people were able to perceive and to follow that, but there is a collective interest in the Age of Aquarius that will enable more people to translate the Law of Thelema into action.

The alternative is slavery and suppression by the dying Christian god, whose image has been maintained by the agony of his followers during the last 2000 years. The fading Age of Pisces has been ruled astrologically and/or astrophically by the realms of Jupiter and Neptune. But this power, or in the diction of the Saturn Gnosis, this Demiurge has come to an end.

The dawning Age of Aquarius is influenced by Saturn and Uranus. Uranus as a revolutionist is the symbol for the upheaval of the dogmata and self-made laws. The Demiurge Saturn symbolises limits as well as the expansion of the human ego and its evolution. Furthermore, Saturn shows the individual path of the ego according to the Law of Thelema. The Saturn Gnosis also describes that the solar principle, the ego, is an essence of Saturn. To say it metaphorically, the essence of Saturn is the sun, and the essence of the sun is Saturn. This analogy reminds of the symbol of Yin and Yang, each including the contrary principle within. So now we have reached light and darkness, a central term of Gnosticism. The Saturn Gnosis however is about to unite and to rule the principles of dualism up to highest standards.

Chelates (students) hence try to follow the way of the dynamic balance and to awaken cosmic qualities inside beyond of religious and moral terms such as good and evil. The principle of counter-polarity finds its expression in brightness – darkness, Sun – Saturn, and in the term of the Black Light. The Law of Thelema refers to the same with the concept of “Love is the law! Love under will! Love without compassion!”. This love means that everything is cross-linked, and also refers to the permanent act of creation from dual principles, the union of male and female. In the Greek Kabbalah, the number of Thelema is 93, and the Greek word is Agape (love). Hence, from the Kabbalistic point of view, will and love are related. And so is sex magic, which in effect means to work with polarities, considered as the strongest magical principle.

It is to emphasise here again that Saturn is seen as causal principle to bring the ego forward to highest grades. Saturn is not supposed to be a deity according to the Abrahamian model, but rather the principle of knowledge and awareness in full karmic self-responsibility. This concept may help us to liberate from our own limitations and let us become deities, or otherwise reflect our own prison when lacking maturity. The first case is referred to as the higher octave of Saturn, in the latter case, as the lower octave. The higher octave of Saturn is often called Lucifer whereas the lower octave is characterised as Satan in the meaning of the Tarot card “The Devil” (refer to Crowley/Harris tarot). It is certainly the aim of the Saturnian path to recognise the own divinity and to push up the ego by the perception of the true will.

This concept therefore represents the Left-Hand Path. This principle is of course diametrically opposed to what Abrahamian religions expect: Obedience, blind faith and humility. Regardless of the way the hopefully well-disposed reader will choose in karmic self-responsibility, in the end of the aeon everybody will stand before the strict judgement seat of Saturn. If the flame of Lucifer has been kindled inside, the threshold of the abyss to the divine realm will be crossed. Otherwise the person will be cast into the abyss as a slave of his or her own.

The decision is up to you!

Today, the following secret lodges are concerned with the concept of the Saturn Gnosis and its development:

Interesting Facts
about Saturn

Why Saturn?

Saturn astronomical

Saturn mythological

Saturn astrological

Saturn astronomical

Saturn is the second-largest planet in our solar system and is, with an equatorial diameter of approx. 120 600 km, almost ten times larger than the earth. The distance from its centre to the sun is more than 1 400 000 000 km and the sidereal circulation time is 29.458 years. Due to the rapid rotation Saturn is the most flattened planet of all and its polar and equatorial diameter varies considerably. The rotation time is 10 hours 14 minutes. Apart from traces of water, methane, ammonia and rock material, Saturn mainly consists of hydrogen and helium. Its surface temperature is -150°C, interior is a hot core.

The seven rings are doubtless most significant for the planet, circling round Saturn with a speed of 72 000 km/h. When Galileo first discovered the rings he was quite confused about the strange “handles” surrounding Saturn. It was not before the middle of the 17th century that Huygens recognised the system of the rings circling around the planet without any points of contact. The rings consist of billions of small ice and stone particles and are separated by divisions where ring material can also be found. The varying circling speed of the inner and outer ring particles avoids that the ring system unites to one huge satellite.

Furthermore Saturn is surrounded by numerous satellites, some of them contributing in keeping the rings in their course. Until 1990, there were 18 Saturn moons discovered and named: Atlas, Dione, Encelados, Epimetheus, Helene, Hyperion, Japetos, Janus, Kalypso, Mimas, Pan, Pandora, Phoebe, Prometheus, Rhea, Telesto, Tethys and Titan, the largest moon of Saturn and the only one with an atmosphere worth mentioning. Long time it was thought that Titan even was the largest satellite in the solar system until it was discovered that its surface under the thick atmosphere is smaller than Ganymede, the Jupiter moon. However, with a diameter of more than 5 000 km, Titan even compares to the size of a planet.

From the beginning of the 21st century the number of Saturn moons discovered positively exploded. Improved observations have triggered a hunt for new satellites of Saturn so that in the year 2013, Saturn had 53 named satellites and numerous more still waiting for official confirmation and naming. [TOP]

Saturn mythological

Saturn was the Roman god of agriculture, first appearing as Etruscan god of sowing, education and law. Sat is an Etruscan word for sowing but also for satiate. Due to the Greek influence Saturn's attributes have been assimilated with the early Greek deity of Kronos. In Greek mythology Kronos was the youngest son of Gaia (Earth) and Uranus (Heaven). They begot six female and six male Titans, all of them thrown into the Abyss (Tartaros) by Uranus. But Gaia contrived a plan and she could win Kronos over to help her.

Kronos castrated his father with a sickle that Gaia gave him, and Uranus' blood that was dropping to the earth produced the Erinyes, Giants and Nymphs. From his sperm which fell into the sea Aphrodite was born - in other version was Aphrodite a daughter of Zeus and the Titan daughter Dione.

Kronos took the throne and his Titan sister Rhea in marriage. Together they reigned the so called “Golden Age”, a period of incessant joy, where people lived carefree without any laws, wars and discord.

Kronos, predicted to be overthrown by one of his children, devoured five of his offspring right after their birth. But Rhea was able to preserve her sixth child Zeus from the fate of his other brothers and

sisters by outwitting Kronos and giving him a stone to swallow instead of the new-born child. And so could the prophecy come true, as so often in Greek mythology, at the attempt to avoid it. Zeus grew up hidden, returned and conquered the Olympus, overthrew his father and compelled him to vomit the five children he had swallowed. Zeus brought Kronos to Ogygia from where he is watching the deeds of his son in his dreams, waiting for the day to recreate and reign again the Golden Age.

The Romans more and more adopted the legend of the Golden Age, as well as the ritual feasts in honour of the deity. For example the festive days of the Saturnalia were soon identified with Kronos and fully Hellenised. In later history Saturn also appeared as god of time and death.

[TOP]

Saturn astrological

It takes Saturn 2.5 years to move through a sign of the zodiac and 29.5 years to run once around the zodiac. Saturn rules Capricorn and Aquarius. Its position in the horoscope indicates mental conflicts and uncertainties. Saturn makes rules, shows one's own limitations, represents structure, learning, knowledge and patience, and enables oneself to mature and to take responsibility.

In the following an astrological description of Saturn by Robert Hand from the book "Horoscope Symbols" (more information at the end of the text):

Saturn is central to an understanding of the individual and his awareness, though its importance is of a different kind from that of the Sun, Moon, and other personal points. Since Saturn is so slow-moving, its position in the zodiac does not distinguish one individual very well from another. Yet Saturn is an energy that concerns collectives, and the relationship of an individual to the collective aspects of life is one of the most important things we can know about a person.

One matter must be dealt with immediately. Saturn is undergoing a great rehabilitation nowadays, and most modern writers agree that it is not as malefic as was once thought. Just as Jupiter, once called the "greater benefic," can indicate difficult energies at times, it is also now recognized that Saturn can play a positive role. Yet its power for destruction is still great, not because it is intrinsically destructive, but because in many cases we do not know how to handle Saturn energy. Those who have studied planetary energies have learned to handle what is traditionally describes as "Saturn's malefic effects," but few have learned that Saturn's greatest threats to happiness come at precisely those times when it seems to be operating positively. In order to understand this, we must first understand Saturn's basic meanings.

In the course of this text we shall see that Saturn can be seen as the opposite pole of several planetary energies. This stems from the all-pervasive nature of Saturn. Before we look at Saturn's polar relation to Jupiter, let us examine the concept of polarity.

The experience of the universe that we share with each other is founded directly upon the principle of polarity: up-down, left-right, male-female, backward-forward, I-thou, I-it, good-evil, and so forth. In every pair of polar opposites, each member of the pair derives its meaning from the opposite member: each would be meaningless without the other. We all have noted that anything, no matter how pleasurable it might be at first, in excess becomes cloying and even unpleasant. We enjoy cooling off when it is too hot, warming up when it is too cold. And it is not just a matter of finding a balance. Most people need to go back and forth at least to some degree in order really to appreciate one or the other side of any polarity. This is true even of good and evil. At times, most of us enjoy doing what might be considered evil, but few appreciate unalloyed evil. Similarly, most people find those who are too good rather trying. I believe, along with the various schools of Eastern philosophy, that polarity is intrinsic to

the nature of the universe, and that it is proper for humanity to follow the shifting paths between polar opposites. This is the path of the Tao.

Reality itself gains its varied nature from the interweaving of polar opposites. Without them, there would be no reality that we could relate to, in fact, no existence. Even existence is polarized by nonexistence.

In the Jupiter-Saturn polarity, the individual pursuing a Jupiterian path reaches out to incorporate as much of the universe as possible. But if this were carried to completion, all existence would be incorporated within the individual. And if the individual were to be everything, in experience as well as fact, there would be nothing to experience outside of the self. Yet one's awareness of oneself is with reference to that which is not part of one. Not-self creates awareness of self; awareness of self creates not-self. When there is only self, the game of existence comes to an end.

For this reason, the universe resists the individual's reaching out. At some point, it says, "No! You cannot come any further." This is the energy of Saturn. It is the energy that maintains reality as we understand it. It makes the rules, sets the limits, creates the structure, and defines the nature of the game.

Saturn energy affects collectives because it represents that aspect of reality which arises from a consensus among human beings. Saturn energy does not represent truth or absolute reality. It represents a reality that is created socially, operates within a social universe, and has its greatest effects upon an individual in a socially defined context. Those aspects of reality that are purely personal are not so strongly affected by the Saturn archetype.

Saturn tends to direct the attention of an individual outside the self. It may represent others' opinions, others' needs, others' ideas of the truth, others' law, or more accurately, collective law, collective truth, and so forth.

The difficulty with Saturn comes from two sources, only one of which is widely understood. That is the one that has given Saturn its reputation as the "greater malefic."

It is not pleasant when reaching out to grasp something to be told it is not attainable. It is not pleasant to encounter one's limitations the first time (although it is pleasant to know them and live according to them without resistance). It is not pleasant to encounter rules that thwart one. Nor is it pleasant to encounter the natural but unlovely consequences of one's mistakes. Sometimes one's collisions with the rules of the game are so violent that they can kill, or at least destroy what one has painfully wrought over the years.

These, the well-known difficulties with Saturn energy, result from not understanding either one's own limitations or the rules of the game. While Saturn permits and even strengthens certain aspects of personal reality, such reality cannot come into conflict with social, collective, or consensus reality. When it does, the rules of collective reality work with an almost automatic quality, such that one seems to be only suffering the consequences of one's actions. From this come the ideas that Saturn brings what one deserves, or that Saturn is the Lord of Karma. This side of Saturn can be handled simply by becoming adequately conscious of the nature of the given situation. In fact, it is such encounters with situations that cause one to mature. Although Saturn here is often painful, it is actually quite creative and is necessary in human experience. This positive side of Saturn's energies has been brought out strongly in recent literature.

The truly serious problem of Saturn lies in the ideal of reality itself: namely, the equation of reality with truth. Reality seems immutable, orderly, and eternal. Yet life is so short that we cannot see whether or not at some fundamental level the rules of the game are slowly changing. But they may be. What we with our limited perspective think of as reality is not necessarily truth.

Nevertheless, we need this reality: the experience of living in a universe where everything is in flux, where no rule can be counted on, or where an understanding of yesterday provides no clue for understanding tomorrow, would be enough to send most of us to the madhouse. We depend on a reality

system for support, and even if we are at times unfamiliar with its rules, we are grateful for its existence.

Reality is structure, and so is Saturn. Reality is limitation, and so is Saturn, for everything is as much defined by what it is not as by what it is. If I took a chair and said "Let the essence of this chair fill this room," and it were to do so, we would lose the ability to perceive the chair. The chair is defined both by the fact that it occupies whatever space it occupies, and the fact that it does not occupy whatever space it does not occupy. Reality is created by a process of exclusion, of eliminating other possible realities. This aspect of exclusion is one of Saturn's most important attributes.

The existence of reality as we have described it is not the problem, however. The problem is our addiction to reality. I believe that there are many possible realities and that the world we share is only one of them. Even if you do not agree, it is obvious that within this reality there are many situations where it is possible to define reality in several ways.

Yet we cannot live with this: we create realities where there are none, simply for the sake of having structure. We exalt belief systems to the level of reality and then persecute others who do not share them. And even more important for ourselves as individuals, we needlessly limit our lives and our growth by excluding possibilities that might bring new life.

This is why aging is ruled by Saturn. As we get older we actualize more and more and thus have less and less potential. We run the risk of rigidity and premature death. Death ultimately can be understood as the time when all is actualized (at least in this life) and there is no more potential. One can come very close to this state without actually undergoing physical death. This is the real and very serious danger of Saturn.

Structure becomes rigidity, discipline becomes narrowness, order becomes a straitjacket, and too much patterning kills spontaneity. On another level, an individual's conformity to the consensus of any particular time in history comes to limit, define, and ultimately to strangle that person's creative potential. And this creative potential is the only hope for the future progress of culture. Every time we do what is untrue to our nature, acting not from a real necessity but rather to fulfill what others may expect of us, we commit a crime against ourselves that is peculiarly Saturnine. We move a bit more toward death, more of our potential becomes actual, and what is actual does not express what we are.

Like all energies, Saturn energy has its time and place. But, because Saturn issues are so central to social existence, we are likely to apply Saturn principles to situations where they are inappropriate. Being mature and able to accept responsibility is Saturnine; so is being guilt-ridden about one's inadequacies. Having a clearly defined image of who and what one is is Saturnine; but so is being so isolated from others that one cannot relate successfully. Alienation and one's sense of having a separate self are the same energy in different degrees in different situations. Knowing one's limitations is Saturnine; so is settling for too little in life. Being realistic is Saturnine; but so is compromising one's integrity and denying one's self-expression for fear of seeing what is really possible in the world.

As the planetary embodiment of the forces that shape our lives and give them form in the context of a social universe, Saturn is strongly connected to the symbolism of the father. Indeed, Saturn's symbolism is most clearly seen in myths about father-gods. The closest mythological representation of Saturn is not the Saturn-Kronos of Greco-Roman myth, but the Yahweh-Jehovah of the most ancient parts of the Old Testament. This god hands down commandments and demands obedience to them. He is just and righteous in a peculiarly rigid way that lacks mercy: to this god, obeying the letter of the law is more important than acting in gentleness or peace.

A strong Saturn often indicates a particularly powerful experience of the father principle (sometimes, but not necessarily, embodied in one's biological father). This father principle is experienced in all situations that call for learning a discipline, growing into a social role, or learning the rules. School is Saturnine. So are teachers and guide figures, and often one's boss or employer.

Saturn tends to focus one's concern on areas of life that need work - not only in the natal chart, but also as Saturn transits and progresses through the natal chart after birth, highlighting various areas of

the chart and forcing growth in those directions. Many of the major crises of adulthood are represented at least in part by Saturn transits. These are times when one has to make decisions and pass up one path in favor of another. In this way Saturn energies actualize our lives and at the same time limit future possibilities. Such a process is necessary, though it can have dangerous consequences.

Saturn only deals with normal, day-to-day kinds of consciousness. It cannot anticipate the unprecedented, nor can it deal with the energies through which new life and creative powers enter the universe. If Saturn is too strong, it will even deny the emergence of such energies. Herein lies another of the deadlier attributes of Saturn. It is the function of the next planet in the solar system, Uranus, to create disruptions in the orderly world of Saturn so that creative energies can flow

Saturn has also been associated with Satan and this, for numerous reasons.

First, many authors argue that the word Satan is derived from the word Saturn.

Second, Saturn is associated with the color black as well as Satan. Third, Ancients considered Saturn to be the farthest planet from the sun , the latter

being associated with the principle of Good. (Note that Pluto never was considered a planet). Saturn is consequently the celestial body that is the less

exposed to the sun's divine light and thus associated with the coldness of the

principle of Evil. Finally, the "great god Pan", the horned deity, represented

Saturn in ancient paganism. This half-man half-goat creature is considered the ancestor of our modern depictions of Satan.

"Pan was a composite creature, the upper part—with the exception of his horns—being human, and the lower part in the form of a goat. (...)The pipes of Pan signify the natural harmony of the spheres, and the god himself is a symbol of Saturn because this planet is enthroned in Capricorn, whose emblem is a goat"

– Manly P. Hall, Secret Teachings of All Ages So Pan was depicted with horns due to the fact it represented Saturn, the

ruler of the house of Capricorn which symbol is a goat.

Pan was the controlling spirit of the lower worlds. He was portrayed roaming through the forests, penis erect, drunk and lascivious, frolicking with nymphs and piping his way through the wild. We might say he ruled the lower nature of man, its animal side, not unlike Satan.

"Saturn is the opposite to Jupiter; his symbol is the cross above the sign of Luna. He is the Satan, the Tempter, or rather the Tester. His function is to chastise and tame the unruly passions in the primitive man."

– J.S. Ward, Freemasonry and the Ancient Gods