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The Easter Story

By the signs in the sky

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Contents

The Christian Easter calendar
What about the Easter Bunny?
Easter explained, by the signs in the sky
Easter in the age of science
Astrology-fact-check: The meaning of Easter
Aquarius has two rulers: Saturn and Uranus
Lower-Pluto's disinformation is widespread
In nature's laboratory...
The benefits of cooperation
The benefits of competition
But at Easter...
The Uranian order of facts
Passover – from Pisces to Aquarius

The Easter Story

Easter, today, is a very significant date within Christianity.

It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God, on the third day after his crucifixion and gives to those who believe the gift of eternal life in heaven.

The Bible, a Piscean Age reference book for life and living, doesn't mention Easter but it does provide explanations for the Easter celebration. According to the New Testament, Easter is three days after the death of Jesus on the cross.

But people believe what they don't know from personal experience. Most take their beliefs for granted and Easter is a worldwide tradition involving many customs that people believe to be Christian.

Easter embraces Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. And, as it's celebrated today, it's a Piscean Age tradition but its origins date back into the ancient past.

So, what is the real origin and meaning of Easter and how did rabbits, eggs and hot cross buns become associated with the Easter celebration?

The Christian Easter calendar

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is chiefly marked by feasting and celebration and occurs between February 2 and March 9, depending on the date of Easter.

Ash Wednesday commences Lent. It takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday and marks the first day of a period of fasting, abstention, repentance, prayer and self-restraint.

Ash Wednesday comes from an ancient Jewish tradition involving penance, fasting and the wearing of ashes on the head. It's believed that the ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. Today, as the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Lent is the six week period leading up to Easter. It's frequently seen as a season of fasting, prayer and solemn observation. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday. It's one of the most important times of the year for many Christians, particularly those within the Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox traditions.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week – the final week of Lent. It commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday.

Maundy Thursday is the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the Christian Bible.

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

Easter Sunday commemorates the resurrection of Jesus.

For Christians the meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death.

His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. And Easter symbolizes the complete verification of all that Jesus preached and taught during His three-year ministry.

Easter Monday is a day of fun, relaxation, Easter parades and Easter bonnets. It's a public holiday in some countries.

What about the Easter Bunny?

Well...there are no references in the Bible to the Easter bunny and Easter eggs – the most familiar symbols of Easter.

The exact origin of the Easter bunny is clouded in mystery and there are many websites searching for answers – to no avail. It's not known why eggs became associated with Easter.

Easter explained, by the signs in the sky

Shrove Tuesday precedes Easter and occurs just before Lent, while the Sun is still in Aquarius – the zodiacal sign of humanity. It is a carnival in which pancakes play an important part.

These pancakes represent the form of the disc of the Sun, and in pre-Christian times the Saxons offered the pancakes to the sun as a sacrifice. The practice signified the desire to be forgiven their trespasses and to start a period of purification in preparation for a new life at the commencement of the vernal year (around March 20 when the Sun enters Aries).

Ash Wednesday follows Shrove Tuesday. This is the day on which the Saxons threw ashes on all they met, and placed ashes on their foreheads as the symbol of their repentance for sin.

Aquarius, the sign of humankind, in which the Sun sojourns at this time, is represented by the key phrase, I Know; and it is only when people attain knowledge of good and evil that they can repent.

The baptismal urn figures in the Aquarius constellation as the cleansing influence prior to a new birth.

Wednesday is a Mercury day; Mercury rules intelligence and is exalted in Aquarius.

So the message written in the sky, by the constellation Aquarius, shows that moral obligations are personally accepted.

Lent is a period of expiation and penance during the time the Sun passes through Pisces, the sign of sorrow and imprisonment, until it is reborn in the sign of the Lamb on Easter.

Pisces is pictured by two fishes; and at this time of the year (in the Northern Hemisphere) the food store is lowest, having been consumed during the winter months. The herds are famished and too poor for food so it is often a time of dearth and famine for agricultural peoples. Fish is the only food available.

Lent also symbolizes the psychic purification and material privations that frequently must be undergone to attain spiritual illumination.

Palm Sunday commemorates the passing of the Sun into Aries – the sign of the Ram. The Sun has triumphantly conquered the Vernal Cross, or is just about to do so.

Virgo, the analytical and scientific sign opposite Pisces, is pictured holding a palm frond in her uplifted hand. The frond symbolizes harvested information. And when Pisces sets, or dies, this symbol rises in the east triumphant.

Palm Sunday is, therefore, a day symbolizing not merely the triumph of the Sun over the winter – and the human soul over the restrictions of matter – but also of the harvest of intelligence over the darkness of superstition.

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday; and it's the custom on this day for those high in office to wash the feet of the poor.

Pisces relates to love in that Venus, the planet of love, has its exaltation, or highest influence, there. And it's a water sign that rules the feet.

It is governed by Neptune, with Jupiter, the planet of Thursday, its co-ruler.

The feet symbolize understanding; and the ceremony thus signifies the understanding of the law of the sacrifice of personal pride for universal good.

Good Friday is a corruption of Gottes Freytag, or God's Friday. It is dedicated to the suffering and burial of the sun god.

Friday is the day of Venus; and Venus is not only exalted in Pisces, it rules the marriage sign, Libra.

As Good Friday immediately precedes Easter – when the Sun is in Aries and the Moon past the opposition – the Moon has passed over the cross of Libra, on which the Sun was crucified the preceding fall, and is in opposition to the Sun from the sign of marriage.

A cross is a marriage of two lines; and in the zodiac the solstitial colure crosses the line where summer and winter are married in the form of a perfect cross.

(The *solstitial colure* is the meridian or great circle of the celestial sphere which passes through the poles and the two solstices: the first point of Cancer and the first point of Capricorn.)

So, a marriage of the Sun and Moon is clearly present on Good Friday just preceding Easter.

Friday, ruled by Venus, is dedicated to affectional affairs and all over England, as indicating the relation of the cross to marriage, Good Friday is ushered in by the cry of 'Hot Cross Buns'.

They're called 'Bull Cakes' in many countries and in America they're biscuits that have a cross traced on their tops.

In ancient times they were offered in Egypt, bous (buns) being the sacred ox, Taurus.

In Chaldea they were offered to Astarte.

They were offered to Ma by the ancient Mayas of America, were used as Passover cakes by the Jews, and have been found in the ruins of the ancient Roman town, Herculaneum.

The circle with the cross in it is now used by astronomers as the symbol of Earth; and the Bull, exaltation of the Moon, is the first earth sign of the zodiac.

Easter is a modern adaptation of the old name of the Moon, which the Chaldeans called Ishtar, became Astarte to the Greeks, Eoster to the Saxons, and was finally designated by the term now used for her chief annual festival.

In this festival her greatest power, as signified by her special exaltation in the beginning of Taurus, is celebrated as chief aid to the function of the Sun.

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full Moon occurring on or after the 21st of March. If the full Moon happens on Sunday, Easter is celebrated one week later.

At this full Moon, because the Sun is in Aries, where its creative energies are strongest, the Moon must be in Libra, the sign ruling marriage and eggs.

Eggs, consequently, play a vital role in that spring festival dedicated to the redemption of the world by united man and woman, even as it is deemed to be rescued from winter through the offices of the united Sun and Moon.

These eggs are commonly colored in various hues to signify diversity in the expected harvest.

They're hidden about and must be hunted for, even as other seeds are placed in the Sun warmed dark ground at the beginning of Taurus, where they later germinate and thrust green shoots through the surface into the kindly light of day.

Bunnies are also part of the ceremony; for although they do not lay eggs, as at Easter children are sometimes led to believe, they are unusually prolific, and are symbols of the power of the earth to bring forth.

The Taurus decanate of Taurus, where the Moon has her finest power, is pictured in the sky by Lepus, a rabbit, whose outstanding characteristics, in addition to rapidity of reproduction, are fleetness and timidity.

The Moon, which is so finely situated in this rabbit decanate of Taurus, rules the mentality and the proper application of the human mind.

The rabbit at Easter time is associated with the power of the mind and the power of woman to cooperate in the rescue of the soul from destructive forces, and in its rejuvenation in a more spiritual life.

Easter Monday is the day after Easter; and on this day it is the custom in some countries for the leaders of neighboring villages to choose sides and shoot for a calf's head breakfast.

The last decanate of the sign of the Ram (Aries) is the Sagittarius, or Archer, decanate.

Sagittarius is pictured in the sky as a huntsman.

From the Sagittarius decanate the Sun passes into the beginning of the sign of the Bull; hence, the shooting for a breakfast of calf's head. And in some regions the day is celebrated by a hunt.

Easter in the age of science

In the age of science Easter had its origins in the age of belief.

In the beginning, since Jesus actually arose on a Sunday, some Gentile Christians began celebrating Easter on the nearest Sunday to the Jewish Passover. And in ancient Rome different congregations celebrated Easter on different days.

But Good Friday – the Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary – may coincide with the Jewish observance of Passover. And the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (AD 306-337) didn't like this contingency.

During his reign Christianity began to transition to the dominant religion of the Roman Empire and Constantine wanted Christianity to be totally separate from Judaism. He didn't want Easter to be celebrated on the Jewish Passover, so in 325 AD, at the Council of Nicaea, a special day was set aside just to celebrate the Resurrection. It required the feast of the resurrection to be celebrated on a Sunday and never on the Jewish Passover.

So Easter today is a Piscean Age Christian construct.

But it's not found in the Bible, so where did it come from?

The vast majority of ecclesiastical and secular historians agree that the name Easter and the traditions surrounding it are deeply rooted in pagan religion, but the origin of the word is unknown and without a definite origin Easter doesn't have a definite meaning. Its meaning today simply reflects its new Christian (Piscean Age) orientation.

That said...Easter is an ancient festival, separated only by time and culture that has its origins in the sky.

Astrology-fact-check: The meaning of Easter

At Easter the Sun, planet of those in authority who have been chosen or elected to direct the enterprises of a community or nation, is in the sign Aries, where it exerts its finest powers.

Aries is the sign of leadership, and the Sun exalted in Aries represents leadership of the most effective kind.

And each year Easter takes place when the Moon, symbol of all the people, moves into Libra, the sign of partnership.

Not only are the people partners in the great enterprise of life, but the full Moon indicates they are partners with their leaders, represented by the Sun directly across the zodiac in Aries and shedding its rays not on part, but all the Earth-turned surface of the Moon.

Easter is the Sunday following this full Moon and astrologically it indicates that the people of the globe, the leaders and the workers, and those gifted in various ways, have united in a common cause to make this world a better place in which to live.

Easter is the time when the benevolent forces of spring gather to themselves sufficient power to take the offensive against the cruel forces of winter, which strive to subjugate the whole earth to icy bondage.

It is the time when the Sun and Moon cooperate to liberate the fertile vitality of seeds which under the grip of cold Saturn have lain numb within the soil for so long.

It is the time when the Great Teacher of the Piscean Age was released from the tomb where the enemies of kindness and tolerance had placed him that there might be no one left daring enough to question their teachings or dispute their dictatorial authority.

And it is the time, at this transition into the Aquarian Age, when those possessing the enlightened knowledge of astrology and extrasensory perception should unite in a mighty effort to roll away the stone of atheistic materialism which is in the process of turning off the spiritual lights and imprisoning all the people of the world in darkness and ignorance.

Aquarius has two rulers: Saturn and Uranus

The doctrine of selfishness and racial superiority is a cunning Saturn doctrine.

It is based on the belief that economic superiority and skin color are the all of physical life. It exalts the individual who practices grabbing and getting and is unscrupulous in the exercise of strength and intelligence. And Saturn is the cold and unfeeling ruler of the sign Aquarius which will dominate this incoming age.

Aided and abetted by Lower-Pluto's inversion, disinformation, misinformation and false teachings, it has already imprisoned a portion of humanity behind the stone of greed and atheistic materialism.

But Aquarius, and the Aquarian Age, has another more powerful ruler which should displace the usurper, Saturn.

That ruler is clear seeing, fact-finding Uranus.

Uranus brings out the humanitarian side of the sign; and given the opportunity its influence, a blessing from the Aquarian urn, will roll back the stone of atheistic materialism.

Uranus – you see – has a penetrating light which exposes the shams on which the authority of the materialists are based, and which reveals how facts have been inverted to bolster up a doctrine which denies you a soul, and gives selfishness the place of highest virtue.

Lower-Pluto's disinformation is widespread

Wherever a fact of nature can be found, provided it does not indicate there are inner-plane astrological forces, or an all-pervasive Deific Intelligence, or life beyond physical death, these materialists grasp it.

And then they follow the time-tried policy of dictators of suppressing all the inferences not favorable to their ideas by presenting only those implications that go to strengthen their theories and authority.

By way of example, let us take one of the facts they so repeatedly stress, evolution.

You would think to hear them tell it, that evolution was merely the result of natural selection due to ceaseless strife and the ruthless elimination of the unfit.

You would think that competition and the survival of the ruthless and strong, was tragically the whole story of evolution.

And you would think, from the way they phrase it, that struggle, violence and brutality was the most important thing.

But they have suppressed the most significant part of the picture; the part which shows that in progress and evolution the principle of cooperation is even more important than the principle of competition.

They have exalted one side of the influence of Pluto, the power of coercion and have belittled the other, the power of cooperation.

One would think they had never heard of specialization of parts and division of labor.

In nature's laboratory...

Nature sets a limit on the size and unaided strength of any individual.

The single cell, however great its struggle and competition, can only grow so large and so strong. And if this principle of brutal strife were the whole of evolution, physical life on Earth would not be the complex thing it is today.

But single cells found that they could gain mutual advantages by living and working together. And it was this principle of cooperation, stimulated no doubt by competition, which enabled organisms of many cells to come into existence.

For instance, in the human body there are various types of cells, and various organs.

Each type of cell does its own kind of work, and each organ, in return for the advantages it receives from the other organs and cells, performs its particular function.

Through specialization some cells and some organs do work that others can't, and they do it more efficiently than were no such specialization present. To the extent each organ and each cell contributes to the welfare of the whole body there is proper division of labor.

But when, as takes place in certain diseases, some cells begin to compete with other cells, and forget that their ultimate welfare depends on the welfare of the whole, we have a similar state in the human body as exists in the world today.

We have a selfish Saturn growth disorder called cancer, which if permitted to become dominant, destroys everything.

The benefits of cooperation

In the evolution of civilization the family became a cooperative unit, with specialization of parts and division of labor, because cooperation allowed each individual comprising the unit to gain advantages.

The tribe was a further extension of the Upper-Pluto cooperation principle and in time tribes joined cooperatively to become a nation.

And ants, bees and other social insects have also found this principle of all for one and one for all more effective than the extension of individual might. And modern industry proves its superiority by making the craftsman, who can build a machine from start to finish, obsolete.

The modern assembly line, on which mass production depends, is an exemplification of the benefits that may be derived from the Upper-Pluto principle of cooperation. And Easter is symbolically an exemplification of this same principle.

At Easter, in the spring, seeds are waiting in the earth for the benevolent rays of the Sun of spiritual truth to warm them into joyous growth. But so long as the winter of selfishness and the blizzards of terror and fear prevent that Sun from shining through, the seeds will lay dormant, and may even rot in the ground.

What are these seeds?

They are the germs of the harvest which will feed the New Civilization.

They are the conviction that a civilization worthy of the name must provide all the people of the world with freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of expression and freedom of worship.

These are the seeds which have been sown.

These are the seeds which now await sufficient warmth from the Sun of truth to enable them to sprout, and grow, and mature into the four golden grains which will nourish the New Civilization: A civilization not built on the principles of competition and struggle alone, but which broadens the application of the principle that permitted life to become more complex than the single cell.

The New Aquarian Age Civilization will apply the principle of specialization of parts and division of labor which imbues all human beings with the desire to cooperate and contribute their utmost to universal welfare.

The materialist would have you think that such cooperation would nullify the principle of competition and struggle.

Not so!

No more so than the creature of multiple cells was able to avoid struggle.

But the struggle then will not be to defeat other people.

It will not be the struggle to gain unfair economic advantage.

It will not be the struggle to impose an unjust and cruel will upon others.

It will be a struggle to contribute more for the benefit of the world as a single organic whole.

Competition will still exist, but it won't be the competition for food, shelter and money, but the competition with nature to compel her to provide more abundantly for all.

The benefits of competition

Those who preach the doctrine of competition to support their desire for predatory aggression fail to point out that the most valuable competition has been between individuals and nature.

No person was made poorer when a new, drought-resistant strain of wheat was developed.

No person was made poorer by the finding of the Comstock Lode or many other valuable deposits of metal.

No one was made poorer when it was found that gasoline could be made to drive an internal combustion engine.

No one was made poorer when renewable energies could be made to run the electrical appliances and devices in the modern Aquarian home.

Nor was it at the expense of others when Edison produced the phonograph and motion picture, or Marconi the wireless telegraph, or John Logie Baird the television.

Surely people want to struggle, and need to struggle.

Edison, Marconi and Baird all struggled, but there is nothing in biology, and nothing in evolution, to indicate that an individual should struggle to bring other individuals under his or her control or jurisdiction.

On the contrary, the evidence reveals that humanity's progress depends upon the Upper-Pluto principle of cooperative effort; and that this struggle should be, as all groups which persist have found, to adapt the common environment to the needs of the whole.

The struggle should be, if humanity is not to sink into selfishness and greed, to give increasingly of the four freedoms to all people.

The seeds of these freedoms have been planted.

But the blizzards of unjust aggression and economic disadvantage still howl over all the Earth.

Icy Saturn is still supreme in its influence over Aquarius.

But at Easter...

...the benevolent forces (of nature) gain the power to take the offensive against the cruel powers of winter and the harsh dogmas which Saturn has encouraged.

The grip of inhuman winter must be broken.

The seeds of the four freedoms must be encouraged to grow.

The stone of atheistic materialism and the policy of selfish grabbing must be rolled away so that the humanitarian side of Aquarius may find expression.

When the Sun crosses the vernal equinox the Moon receives on all its Earth-turned face the warming solar rays.

The light of truth is on the increase, and it must be given opportunity to encourage the freedom seeds to sprout and grow.

The stone of materialism must be rolled away by giving the people of the world the Uranian order of facts.

The Uranian order of facts

You need the facts of astrology, not merely to guide your life into the most effective channels of cooperative effort, but to demonstrate through personal experience that those who hold that material forces are all there is, are outrageously in error.

You witness these materialists vilifying astrology but after learning to assess your own birth chart you'll find that astrological forces do exert a power and that progressed aspects actually operate from the inner-astral-plane to bring events into your life at times which can be predetermined.

When in your own life you have experiences with extrasensory perception that convince you that there is an inner-plane of existence, and that life persists beyond what we call death, the pronouncements of so-called authorities that psychic phenomena are all faked will be seen to be false.

When a prayer is answered in an apparently miraculous manner, you will not heed the pronouncements of the materialists that prayers are ineffective.

When through induced emotion you are able to personally tune in on the Supreme Intelligence, you can no longer be convinced no such intelligence exists.

And when you have successfully used such induced emotion to change the course of your life into a more fortunate channel, you will regard it with adequate respect.

When you hold and keep a constructive ideal clearly before your mind and it later finds full realization, you will begin to recognize that on the inner-plane thought is a potent force, and directed thinking is a powerful aid in every enterprise.

Yes, the Sun could cross the vernal equinox alone, but without the Moon it could not bring Easter. Its light had to be reflected from the full Earth-turned face of the Moon before the resurrection could be accomplished.

The Moon represents no special professional group – it represents all the people of the Earth.

And, to do its appointed work, the light of truth, represented by the Sun, must reach all the people.

Somehow the facts of astrology, the facts of extrasensory perception, the facts of induced emotion and the facts of directed thinking, must be made easily available so they can reach the people.

And when enough of them receive the light of these Uranian facts, they will quickly cooperate.

Then we can roll away the stone of atheistic materialism and witness the resurrection of the world.

Passover – from Pisces to Aquarius

Passover is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish calendar. It commemorates their liberation by God from slavery in ancient Egypt and their freedom as a nation under the leadership of Moses.

Passover is an annual occurrence and in a still broader sense the passover of the year has its counterpart in the precessional cycle.

But instead of the Sun passing over the Vernal Equinox (the first degree of Aries), the boundary between each zodiac sign does the passing.

Thus, we have now passed over into the Aquarian Age.

Pisces, the sign from which the world is passing, rules not merely imprisonment and restrictions, but crime and its punishment.

It gave us a heaven which to most would be nothing more than a prison, and it taught us the doctrine of everlasting torment in hell.

With one hand Aquarius measures the influence of the stars, and with the other pours down his blessings.

Right now the world is enduring the pangs of its birth into a heaven of new knowledge.

The blood on the doorposts and the psychic stress and turmoil are incidents of this passing.