



Elbert Benjamine founder of ...



Elbert Benjamine
REMASTERED

13 MEMOS

To: Church of Light members
From: Elbert Benjamine

Astrology for Aquarius
gives voice to
Elbert Benjamine



Elbert Benjamine

Those who follow him have the responsibility of continuing the work and perpetuating the teachings of the Aquarian Age to future generations.

Mildred Schuler

The only person you can trust to educate you about the Church of Light and the Religion of the Stars is Elbert Benjamine.

Elbert Benjamine

During his lifetime Elbert Benjamine witnessed religious and economic change. He concluded that the religion and economics of the Piscean Age crumbled not because of its maxim – *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you* – but because humanity failed to live up to its principle. And he recognized that the Aquarian Age would suffer a similar fate unless enough people could be persuaded to live by its altruistic maxim – *contribute your utmost to universal welfare*.

This life-guidance principle recognizes that productive character and ability development involves a social contribution. It recognizes that you are part of something that is far greater than yourself and that you operate at your highest level when you contribute to the welfare of others. It's a moral principle that recognizes that giving is the best spiritual fertilizer and when you give of your time and talent you maximize your spiritual progress. It recognizes that you serve your own best interests by helping others achieve theirs.

The primary objective of the Brotherhood of Light and the Church of Light which succeeded it in 1932 is to re-establish the Religion of the Stars on Earth. The 21 courses of Brotherhood of Light lessons covering the 21 branches of occult science were written by C C Zain so that you can learn for yourself your true relation to your fellowman, your true relations to the objects and forces of Nature, and where and how you fit into God's Evolutionary Plan as a conscious, valuable worker. The religion's fundamental teaching – *contribute your utmost to universal welfare* – is derived from a comprehension of these relationships.

The lessons familiarize you with the details of astrology, extrasensory perception, induced emotion and directed thinking. As a member of society you participate in activities common to life and the ways of contributing to universal welfare are infinite. But in the Age of Aquarius they do require the vital infusion of a new spirit of altruism, cooperation and spirituality.

These 13 memos from Elbert Benjamine were written from 1932 to 1943.

13 memos to: Church of Light members
from: Elbert Benjamine

Key Points

- Making the Brotherhood of Light teachings available to all
- The Religion of the Stars
- Astrology makes known the will of God
- Why we are a church
- Our religion is also a science
- Darkness is dispelled by facts
- We teach the cultivation of soul attributes through worthwhile effort
- We do not believe in special privilege
- Our primary objective
- Investigate and check things out
- Be helpful within the scope of your knowledge
- Be a living example of the doctrines we teach
- There's a tremendous amount of research work to be done

Memo 1: There were two distinct reasons that made it advisable in the past to perpetuate Brotherhood of Light teachings through a secret organization:

1. The lack of education of the masses and
2. The dominant position of hierarchies which were determined such teachings should not be perpetuated.

Not long ago anyone who taught the facts contained in Brotherhood of Light lessons would have been burned as a heretic. But we believe here in America the principle of Freedom of Religion is now well enough established that we can publicly teach and disseminate The Religion of the Stars in spite of those who hope to suppress these teachings.

But a very short time ago anyone who carried out experiments in extrasensory perception and the psychokinetic effect – as now carried out in various universities as well as among Church of Light members – would have been hauled before a court and charged with dabbling in witchcraft.

During much of the Piscean Age secret groups were kept safe by keeping the identities of their members private. Their immunity from persecution was dependent upon keeping underground. But because it is an underground movement such a society is curtailed within narrow limits in its efforts to get publicity for the ideas it espouses.

In an age when only a few possessed enough education to grasp the Brotherhood of Light teachings when these were explained to them, it would have served no good purpose to have given these teachings to the public at large.

A teaching is valuable only to those who have the background and the mental capacity to understand it. However, we are now living in The Aquarian Age, not in the Age of Pisces governed by the sign of secret societies. And even though it is not yet here, we hope for equal opportunities to gain an education by all, regardless of race, sex, creed or color.

The opportunity to gain a good education should not be confined to those who have parents of wealth. Instead, opportunity for higher education should depend on an individual's ability – regardless of race, sex, creed or color – to take such a higher education and use it for the benefit of society.

Memo 2: The chief function of any religion is to benefit humanity. Therefore in judging a religion's value you should appraise the amount of assistance it gives both you and others. The best religion is the one that serves best by giving the most assistance. It's the one which contributes most to universal welfare.

The Religion of the Stars is a very helpful religion because it enables you to know more about yourself and other entities and forces in the universe. It enables you to understand your proper relation to these entities and it enables you to utilize this knowledge to advance yourself and benefit others.

The Religion of the Stars provides a truer and more comprehensive knowledge of the purpose of the universe and the proper function of your soul in it; and it gives you information by which you can be of maximum use to both yourself and others.

You help yourself most when you assist others, and to be able to assist others you must advance your own real interests as much as possible. But you can neither gain correct knowledge of the relations mentioned, nor apply this information effectively unless you are conversant with astrology.

Astrology is the key to a correct philosophy of life and the most potent aid to right living. Hence we call our religion, The Religion of the Stars.

Memo 3: God placed the constellations in the sky and we believe they all reveal a teaching that will enable human beings to live more spiritually.

God ordained that the planets would occupy their appointed places, and we believe that through these positions God gives advice to humanity.

We are convinced that astrology makes known to people the Will of God.

Memo 4: A lodge, society or brotherhood gives the impression of exclusiveness, but there should be no exclusion of anyone from opportunity to study Brotherhood of Light lessons. Both true religious education and lay education should be open to all.

And while those who serve in providing religious education must have a decent living in order to effectively do what they do; they should also be examples of what they teach, which according to The Religion of the Stars is that the individual should first think of *how much can I contribute to the welfare of society*.

The Religion of the Stars is for all and as its primary objective is to become widely disseminated rather than to acquire wealth, it would seem this can best be accomplished through church organization, church classes and church services to which all may come, rather than through lodges.

Memo 5: There cannot be Two Orders of Truth in the universe. Therefore, we deny that there is any antagonism between true Science and true Religion. We accept one book as infallible in interpreting the Will of Deity. It is the Book of Nature. We worship but one Religion, which is also a Science. It is Nature's Laws.

Memo 6: The greatest opponent of mankind, for it prevents proper precautionary actions in any endeavor where it exists, is ignorance of the facts. Ours is the Church of LIGHT because it works to dispel, with facts, that darkness which is synonymous with ignorance.

Memo 7: The Church of Light is a religious altruistic association. We consider all humanity brothers and sisters in the higher sense, and utilize our resources, both occult and physical, for their benefit. Our members work on all planes and in every sphere of life, ministering to the needy. We recognize the call of distress and extend the helping hand. It is our endeavor to lighten the burdens and increase the happiness of everyone we come in contact with.

We teach the cultivation of soul attributes in the evolution of the individual from man to angel. In this development we believe there should be simultaneous progress and expression on the three planes of existence: physical, mental and spiritual.

In addition to theorists the world requires practical and unselfish workers inspired by a growing spirituality to relieve physical suffering, to enlighten the ignorant, and to bring hope to those in despair.

A worthwhile life is defined by unselfish effort. To labor ceaselessly for the benefit of the needy is to live the life of the spirit. Every opportunity to assist another should be grasped as a blessing and considered as such. The energies should be directed through every avenue of human endeavor that's available not just along one channel only.

Memo 8: We do not believe in special privilege. We are not trying to give information merely to a few. Instead, we believe every person in the world should have access to Brotherhood of Light teachings. We do not believe anyone capable of understanding and utilizing these teachings should be excluded, either because they have insufficient money to pay or because of their race, sex or color.

Memo 9: The Church of light must never lose sight of its primary objective which is to re-establish on earth The Religion of the Stars.

It must never permit anything to take precedence over the effort to acquaint every person in the world with its five chief tenets and to make as many as possible thoroughly familiar with our religion.

Memo 10: As a member of the Church of Light you are under no obligation to accept our teachings. We encourage you to investigate all existing religious and occult organizations, and we desire that in every way you broaden your mind and increase the range of your knowledge. We desire that you don't accept anything upon authority.

Our teachings bear the searchlight of analysis, and we encourage you to make critical comparison, not only with all other teachings, but also with nature, who presides as judge in the court of final appeal, and is arbiter of all our destinies.

So put all things to these tests: Is it good? Is it true? Someday, as the result of deeper thought and wider experience you will be ready to accept ideas that you now lay aside as doubtful. Just as in the past, if you are a progressive soul, you have discarded certain beliefs that you once firmly held to make room for those that now mold your endeavor.

Memo 11: Student Hermeticians need only have a belief in The Religion of the Stars, but there's an implication that some technical knowledge of astrology, ESP, directed thinking and induced emotion has been acquired and therefore the public has a right to expect from them a high standard of usefulness. They have the technical knowledge which enables them to be helpful.

Many people are eager for astrological knowledge and other knowledge taught by The Religion of the Stars, but I am well aware that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. No one should give astrological advice who has not studied long enough to be competent; or advice about things which are beyond the province of their knowledge.

You should never be ashamed to say 'I don't know'. But within the scope of the knowledge you possess you should make a habit of being helpful.

What we need is a New Civilization in which those who contribute the most to the welfare of all and not to conquests of aggression and bloodshed, and not to the exploitation of the less crafty and less strong, will receive the highest honors.

And they will feel best repaid by the high esteem of others and the high esteem of themselves. That is the one true measure of success, and we must labor diligently to get that one true measure accepted.

Memo 12: I believe it is the function of those who have knowledge of the Religion of the Stars to become living examples of the doctrines they accept and of how life should be lived.

I believe that every student Hermetician, as well as those who have become fully fledged Hermeticians, should stand forth as a living example of the foundation on which The Religion of the Stars rests. And I believe this doctrine of helpfulness should be lived aggressively – not listlessly.

Student Hermeticians should benefit as many as possible in such ways as they can and they should let others know that their ability and kindly actions derive from the teachings of The Religion of the Stars.

We must not let spirituality be submerged. We must be dynamic in our helpfulness. We must aggressively seek and use every opportunity to demonstrate how those who have knowledge of The Religion of the Stars live.

You should explain to these people who have lost faith in religion that what has been disproved by the materialists is nothing essential to real religion, but merely the outward trappings in which it was wrapped by those of a time when science had no existence. You should explain that the Divine Intelligence can be contacted today by anyone who cultivates the ESP faculties of their soul.

People encounter perplexing problems but even when conditions are most difficult, and there seems to be no way out, there is always a best way to think and act, a way which will avoid some degree of harshness, or which will lead to some ample gain. And usually one with knowledge of Hermetic astrology can provide useful assistance to find this best way.

Memo 13: The Church of Light is under no illusion that all essential information is contained within the 21 courses of Brotherhood of Light lessons. It does believe, however, that these twenty-one courses afford a very good foundation upon which to build.

And... it believes that the Hermetic system of astrology is the most satisfactory, and the one in which research work can be spent to the best advantage.

There is such a tremendous amount of research work that needs to be done in connection with Hermetic astrology that it will tax the initiative and combined efforts of all our ministers and teachers for scores of years to come. There is a vast amount of astrological ore of sure value waiting to be mined.

And there are new and important discoveries yet to be made, to satisfy the most ardent astrological explorer. The field of what needs to be known, and still remains to be discovered, is almost limitless.

And this may be said of all the other matters treated in the 210 regular Brotherhood of Light lessons. These lessons, as published, are only the beginning of occult knowledge. They include what we know today; and I believe, as far as they go, they will stand up under the most exacting tests. But they do not contain vast funds of knowledge which Church of Light ministers and teachers will discover tomorrow.

The Church of Light wishes to offer its ministers, teachers and students every encouragement to explore and make new discoveries. In the discovery of worthwhile facts we need all the brains of all our ministers, teachers and students.

Now that the foundation, as embraced in the twenty-one courses, has been laid, the building of the real edifice of The Religion of the Stars becomes a strictly cooperative venture. Its soundness and its value are not dependent merely upon a few individuals, but upon the energy, intelligence and diligence of every minister, teacher and student, each contributing what lies within his or her power toward its perfection.

I suppose, with new discoveries, even some of the stones of the foundation will have to be removed, and others of better value placed in their stead. But at least we are now ready and working on the building itself.

Before including any new material our method in this work will be to give it a thorough testing out. If it is astrological, before going into the structure, it must stand the test of the statistical method. If not astrological, it must stand other tests which will be devised. It is a great and glorious work, in which, I am sure you will feel proud to take a part.