

After many years of sparring, two Intergalactic Philosophers were given permission to conduct an experiment in order to prove or disprove a theory.

1. Beings with similar characteristics can live a more harmonious life together, focusing their creativity on the betterment of their society and global race. Thus leading a more rewarding and satisfying life.

2. That in order for a race to progress, struggle and hardship is required - else life will stultify and consequently degenerate.

A galaxy was chosen; within it a solar system. The "Wheel of Stars" was traced and each star picture given an identification name - Zodiac signs. Each sign represents certain qualities - lessons to be learned. "Seed Entities" were placed on one particular planet within the star sign to engrain the basic Arien (etc) qualities. Then people were brought in to populate each one of the planets. They were left to themselves until now.

The time of the completion of the Turn of the Wheel has come and these same two philosophers return to evaluate their experiment, and to determine application in other solar systems. The philosophers start by visiting Aries. How did the natives develop - culture, lifestyle, philosophy, law, government, anthropology, geography, education, hobbies, etc. etc. etc.. ARCHIT.

During their visit they have a chance to observe one incident (on each one of the planets) which deals with a matter of utmost concern to the native.

Will they find a perfect world - or didn't it work? If not, why not. Cusp signs could present interesting situations. As Andre puts it: "The grit in the oysters produces the pearl".

Here is a chance to create a pure world - your way!

Linda Goodman's "Sun Signs" 1968, (with 24 or so printings) could serve as the overall reference book. Obviously a well liked book by lay-astrologers. It treats the subject lightly.

Aries -	Libra - ✓
Taurus -	Scorpio - ✓
Gemini -	Sagittarius - ✓
Cancer - ✓	Capricorn -
Leo - ✓	Aquarius - Andre Norton
Virgo - ✓	Pisces -

Stories to be between 8 and 10 thousand words, plus an introduction by Andre.  
(six cents a word)

For countless centuries before humankind arose, a debate was raging on the planet Ylembri. This debate was conducted at once statically and dynamically between the leaders of the Ylembri, two energy entities, incorporeal and virtually immortal, whose titles may be approximated by the Terran Greek words Alpha and Omega with their associated concepts. The subject of the debate was this: do intelligent beings find greater opportunities for evolution in a society of individuals similar or dissimilar to themselves?

With the approval of the Ylembri people, The Alpha (female) and the Omega (male) seeded a selected group of planets with twelve essences drawn from their own natures. These "av-attars" became the bases for the twelve distinctive personality types of our Zodiac.

Having withdrawn immediately after this sowing, the Ylembri leaders, are now returning to see what crop has sprung from their space seed. Upon arriving in the Wheel of Star-Signs, they visit the world of each Zodiac sign in turn, assuming any form they find convenient during the course of their stay. Depending on the circumstances, they may or may not reveal themselves to the natives, who have no prior knowledge of the existence of these entities.

The Alpha and The Omega have discussed the possible directions in which evolution may have proceeded while en route to the Zodiac. However, what they discover when they actually observe the results of their handiwork may well either fulfill or destroy their presuppositions--or perhaps do both at once. Until all data is amassed, these scientists will be unable to formulate a conclusion. Was their experiment a success--or, to put it another way--what is the speed of enlightenment?

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The foregoing information will provide a portion of the introduction to "The Touchstone Stars" and is supplied to you solely for the purpose of acquainting you with the conception held by the anthology's compiler concerning the aliens. It is in no way intended to influence either your creation of the star sign of your selection or your characterization of its inhabitants.

Chief characteristics of these zodiac signs are as follows:

<u>Capricorn</u>	<u>Aquarius</u>	<u>Pisces</u>
ambition	humanitarianism	compassion
conservatism	independence	universality
conscientiousness	originality	renunciation
organization		
Motto: "I USE"	Motto: "I KNOW"	Motto: "I BELIEVE"

### Aquarius Planet

Geography: Similar to Earth's but with only one significant body of water, on whose littoral live the Pisceans. Aquarians favor the mountains, living in dwellings suspended from escarpments like cliff swallow nests. Capricorns live on flatlands in high-tech castles which combine the modern and the medieval. Cool colors - blues, greens, and purples - predominate in the Aquarian and Piscean realm with darker, black-blended hues in evidence in the Capricorn country.

Government: A benevolent anarchy, run only by an informal council summoned for emergency purposes. Any punishment administered operates on the principle of the

Code of Hammurabi: "An eye for an eye" and is dispensed with equal gravity regardless of the lifeform involved.

Lifestyle: Quasi-communal, with each household or house clan being a center for a given art.

Education: "Open-classroom" style within birth house to age twelve; after onset of puberty, young adults may elect to move to another house for purposes of developing a given skill.

Culture: Rank in Aquarian society is attained by "worth, not birth;" in the course of a lifetime, each individual occupies nearly every social level, from the servant to the ruling class.

Philosophy: Self-realization is the primary thrust of Aquarian society; the belief here may be summarized by a variation on Mr. Spock's philosophy: "The good of the one yields the good of the many" and vice versa.

## Story Plot

In the city of the Capricorns, the "lodge meeting" of the Capricorn Cusp secret society is in progress. Unknown to the lodge members the Piscean mistress of the Capricorn lord who is the focus of the meeting has brought with her the new Aquarian wife of her lord and both are eavesdropping on the proceeding. The Piscean, whose people serve as illusion-weavers, providing entertainment following the lodge meetings, has gleaned from the minds of the men hints of a new and darker application for the Piscean dream conjuring ability. Angered by this proposed misuse of her talents, she has confided in the Aquarian and galvanized her into action. Both women hear the voice of their lord announcing the pregnancy of the Aquarian woman, a declaration met with great excitement by the lodge members. Then a new voice takes up the tale - one which the Piscean recognizes as that of the guardian of the Ladder of Life, the chief scientist-sorcerer of the Capricorns. This man, himself a mutation possessed of psychic powers, is a geneticist who can communicate with the unborn. He reveals the true purpose of the Capricorn Aquarius marriage: to create a child whose

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nature blends that of the two signs so that  
it may serve the purposes of the Capricorns  
without arousing the suspicion of the Aquari-  
ans. He further discloses his intention  
to influence the child in utero to possess  
a more heavily "Capricornish" nature. This  
ends by stating that the ultimate goal  
of the Capricorn people is nothing less than  
world domination, declaring both the Aqua-  
rian and the Piscean peoples to be useful  
only when subserving the materialistic  
drive of the Capricorns.  
The two women, appalled by the know-  
ledge of the dire fate in store for both the  
peoples, agree that the Aquarian and the  
Piscean leaders must be informed of the plot.  
Hastening home, they enter a mind-link  
via astral projection, journey to the dwelling  
of the Wise Ones of their folk. The Piscean  
leader is a hermaphrodite, aptly symbolized  
by the sign of the double fish, and the Aqua-  
rian equivalent is a creature which appears  
to be viewed through rippling water. The  
two women reveal what they have learned  
of the Capricorn plan, and the two spiritual  
leaders begin to consider a course of action.  
While all four are debating, the Capricorn  
lord returns from his meeting, bringing another

Piscean woman to serve as a night partner. (Capricorn society prohibits the use of one's "house illusionist" for sexual purposes). Looking in on the two women, she remarks that they are not asleep but dream-sharing. Curious, the lord asks her to "tune in"; and when she does, to his astonishment, he sees the two women in the company of their people's spiritual leaders, recounting the events of his lodge meeting to the Aquarian Council! Furious at the thought of the Capricorn plot being frustrated, he breaks the link between the two women effectively sending their spirits into the dream-realm tapped by the Pisceans for their illusions. The Capricorn lord contacts the scientist-sorcerer and is ordered to bring the bodies to his work place. Unbeknownst to both men, however, the <sup>souls of the</sup> spiritual leaders have taken over the bodies of their daughters, so that the apparently lifeless (or soulless) shells are in fact benevolently possessed by the souls of their people's two <sup>worst</sup> enemies. From this vantage point at the heart of the enemy camp, the Aquarian and Piscean leaders commence a "dream war" against the Capricorns, subtly altering all dreams to reveal the destruction of the Capricorn people if the plot to breed the puppet leader is brought to fruition. The scientist-sorcerer, suspecting the bodies in his laboratory as the source of the

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psychic disturbance, attempts to defuse their attacks by threatening to disconnect the life-support equipment sustaining the women. When he does so, he is met with an onslaught of psychic power from the souls of the two spiritual leaders, but such is his strength of will that he nearly overcomes them. In the last instant, however, he is met with a counter attack from an unexpected source: the spirits of the Aquarian woman, her unborn child - and the Capricorn man who, having been convinced of the evil of the geneticist's <sup>by the dreams</sup> plan, has decided to throw his weight into the scale with that of his wife and child. The scientist-sorcerer is mortally stricken as a result of this battle and left mind-broken; and the Capricorn lord, his next-immediate successor to the rulership of their people, begins his reign by approaching the leaders of the Aquarian and Piscean peoples, suggesting - for the first time in planetary history - a triumvirate of rulers drawn from all three peoples. All the disorganized souls "to their scattered bodies go," and the three leaders propose a new motto for the new order: "Between the Head and the



Hand, the Heart must be the mediator."