

The Symbolism of Horse

Rigi 1998

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The symbolism of horse is all relating to the fire aspect in creation, and we have in the three zodiacal signs Aries, Leo and Sagittarius the related knowledge. The head of the horse represents Aries, the body represents Leo and the tail represents Sagittarius. This is the path of fire. And there is worship of the horse also as the life force. Horse is called *Asva* in Sanscrit. In Sanscrit the sounds are conceived in tune with the process of creation. All ancient languages were conceived in such fashion. That is why those languages carry the sublime secrets of the creation: Latin, Hebrew and Senzar which is more ancient than Sanscrit. The very sounds are also the keys for manifestation for the related vibration. *Asva* is one such sound meaning the eternal present. *Asva* also means a horse.

In Rig Veda you find many times the worshippers seeking the horse or the cow, and sometimes also the bull. People like Max Müller they thought that the ancient Indians were agrarians, because they were asking for horses, cows and bulls. Unless one knows the ethymological key which is called *niruddha*, we cannot get into the secrets.

So, *Asva* is horse and also the present: to be in the present, not to be in the past and not to be in the future. The one who can be in continuous present is the one who is said to have mounted upon the horse. So, the symbolism of the man on the horse relates to one's ability to be here and now. Then it is called 'living'. If we get back into the past or project into the future, it is called 'death', i. e. not living to the present. *Sva* means death. *Asva* means that which is not death. *Sva* also means the past and the future. *Asva* means that which is not past and which is not future. So, if you are able to live here and now, well focussed, you derive the deeper meaning of the life from minute to minute. Your experience is better, deeper. There is no such thing as superficial experience.

In the path of Yoga the student is first asked to practise to be in the present. That is what is called the science of *asva*. The student is asked to work with the horse. The first labour of Hercules also relates to working with the horses. You remember well: the first task the teacher gives to Hercules is to take care of certain wild mares. That means that Hercules has to learn to be in the present. That is the first task normally given. So, the science of being in the present is what is called *Asva Vidya*. When you learn to be in the present you can permeate simultaneously into the past and into the future, because present is the culminating point for the past and the future. So, by being deeply in the present, you permeate in both ways, into the past and into the future. This permeation is the quality of fire and also the quality of life. So, by being more and more in the present, one can expand in his awareness or consciousness. That is what is represented by *Asva*, because it is a life force which is all permeating. Why it is called 'horse'? Because horse among animals has such life force in it. It never takes rest by the belly. Horse is the only animal which takes rest standing, meaning the life force is abundant. You don't see a horse sitting, unless it is sick. Because the life force is found in its abundance in the horse, it is called *Asva*. If the horse has to scratch any part of its body, it just moves that part of the body very easily. That is the abundance of the life force.

That is how the abundance of the fire and of the life is indicated by the symbol of the horse, and that force expresses as the electric fire, the solar fire and the frictional fire, meaning, it is permeating all the three worlds. When it is in Aries, it is the head of the horse, when it is in Sagittarius, it is called the tail, and the body in-between the head and the tail is Leo or the solar fire.

That is how the seers have conceived the symbolism. Horse is also called *Haya*. *Haya* is the sublime sound relating to *Sahasrara* and *Ajna*. The seed sound relating to *Ajna* is Ha, and the seed sound relating to *Sahasrara* is Ya. So, *Haya* is the path from seeming nothingness to apparent

something which is called the path of Aquarius. That path of Aquarius is also called *Haya*, from the absolute to the manifest. There is the worship upon the sound *Haya*, and the horse head is used for such worship. The horse sacrifice as a ritual is nothing but sacrificing one's life and one's energy for the benefit of the creation. So, the whole ritual relates to the permeation of life and fire through all the seven planes of existence. And the path of yoga is to retrace the fire to its source. That is how we have to understand the symbolism of horse.

In Sagittarius you find the centaur, and in Leo you have the man mounting on the horse, meaning detached from the material and yet presiding over it. In Aries you have the man with horse head. So, you see the contrast between Sagittarius and Aries. In Sagittarius the head is that of a man and the body is that of a horse. In Aries the head is that of a horse and the body is that of a man. So, that is the inversion. In-between there is the man on the horse. These are the three states or the three symbols that one needs to work with.

The seers have also seen this energy well manifest in a tree called *Asvattha*. That is *Ficus Religiosa*. That is how the energy of ficus helps in stimulating the fire. That is how many people meditated under that tree *Asvattha* to get the stimulation of fire, and they soak the roots of the tree in water and drink that water, and as a penance they live by that water or the leaves or the fruits of that tree. This is in short the explanation to the symbolism of the horse.