

# Why astrology and why now?

by GLENN MURRAY

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Few subjects today can simultaneously inspire such a mixture of enthusiastic support and fervent denouncement as the study of Astrology.

Just bring it up at a party sometime.

Despite the protests, even the most determined attackers usually know their own Sun-sign and some of the attributes of that sign. Although Sun-sign Astrology by itself is sometimes inaccurate and often facile (unless the Sun-sign is somehow specially emphasized in a person's chart), its widespread popularity is indicative of society's growing Need To Know.

"But wait!" you squawk. "My friend John Doe is a Leo but he's not blonde and regal - he's skinny and dark. He's not a bit dramatic like Leos should be - in fact, he's rather detached and cautious..."

For the serious student, learning the finer details of Astrology can be both entertaining and rewarding. Once he understands that John Doe doesn't look like a Leo because both his ascendant (appearance) and his Moon (personality) are in the dark and reserved sign of Capricorn, then he's taken a major step forward and separated himself (through knowledge) from the vast majority who continue to flounder in the quagmire of Sun-sign Astrology.

Through increasing efforts by greater numbers of people to understand more, Astrology is now flourishing as never before. Great modern practitioners such as Dane Rudhyar and Marc

Edmond-Jones are revitalizing the ancient and honorable tradition of serious professional Astrology, uncovering fresh links for the twentieth-century society. Formerly, such diverse characters as Sir Isaac Newton and Hippocrates (patron of modern doctors) - both Astrologers themselves - condemned anyone who would practice science or medicine without first making a serious study of the stars. But although it was once de rigueur in the world's major universities, Astrology suffered a marked setback with the advent of the Age of Technology.

Certain opponents of those times (and of these) tended to point out the diversity of opinions among astrologers themselves on some issues, and frequently based their rejection on the growing discrepancy between the astrological positions of the planets and their astronomical positions (due to a 25,000-year cycle known as the Precession of the Equinoxes). While such objections point to interesting problems, they represent a misunderstanding more than a superior position, so most serious astrologers will continue to interpret their subject in a guided but open-ended fashion.

Unlike some forms of "pure science", Astrology is not concerned with establishing an "Approved" rule-book or certifying a particular dogma. This would be folly. Fanaticism and "laws" are often used to cover doubts, and the task of Astrology is to REVEAL what has been concealed. It's a process that changes with the times in which it is used. Those who submit the above "logical" protests against this subject fail to recognize one important factor - that Astrology is essentially a

Symbolic language not a doctrine of cause-and-effect.

Here, students of modern mathematics will realize that their subject-area is also a kind of symbolic language - Indeed, the earliest beginnings of mathematics were directly tied to occult studies. Even Pythagoras (whose name is known to every schoolchild thanks to his famous right-angle-triangle theorem) was himself, first and foremost, a Magician! His interest in numerical properties and geometric relationships was founded on his belief that numbers held the key to the secrets of the universe. It's unfortunate that the magic he saw in the subject is so seldom glimpsed by today's math students.

For the scientific and unscientific alike, the illuminations of Astrology can be both profound and useful, but they occur in a subtle manner that is more related to the study of Humanistic Psychology than to the uses of litmus paper or the salivations of Pavlov's dog. Focusing on the complexity of the human personality and the incredible interconnectedness that exists among all aspects of the human experience, Astrology follows the ancient Hermetic maxim, "As above, So below."

This doesn't imply that one's character is shaped by the stars, or that events occur because of some auspicious planetary alignment, but rather that there seems to be some direct, non-casual and very interesting correspondence between astral and terrestrial phenomena.

Astrology is the study of that correspondence.

If the relationship does in fact exist, then the study is a valid one, and over the years the evidence has continued to mount. Sure, most of us are willing to concede some connection between such things - considering the sophisticated order of our world and the universe at large, what would be truly remarkable would be if there were no connection at all! Yet practical applications of various astrological techniques seem to suggest more than a random connection. Take, for example, a recent study of 25 pregnant women done here in the

Fredericton area - using only the Sun-Moon aspects evidenced in the mother's own chart, the astrologer was able to correctly predict the sex of 22 of the 25 unborn children. This would seem to indicate that some factor other than chance must have influenced his guesses.

That factor, of course, is Astrology.

Through thousands of years, astrologers have been busy polishing this symbolic language which may be used to "read" the correspondence between things - they've been opening the Universe's private mail, in a sense, and deciphering the coded messages therein. The code is one we all understand somehow, somewhere deep down inside ourselves, but without an approach such as Astrology, it remains lost to us - like some vague dream from last night: pleasant enough, but already forgotten. The stars don't rule us, so we don't study Astrology to learn to rule them! Instead we try to unravel a very personal message from the gods, and to use that message to proceed in harmony - harmony with one's own true essence, and harmony with the important time into which we've been born.

This idea of interconnectedness is what "makes Astrology work". It's an effect noticed too by Dr. C.

G. Jung in his field of depth-psychology, and he used the term "synchronicity" to describe it. Synchronicity mysteriously accounts for the relationships between things and events in the human experience - such incidents as stumbling into an old friend at the supermarket only moments after you'd been thinking about him. Jung noted repeatedly how such situations occur, but recognized the futility of attempting to say scientifically WHY they occur. His one comment was: "Whatever happens in any given moment has inevitably the qualities of that moment."

It is this simple principle that stands at the heart of serious contemporary Astrology.

If solar flares and difficult angles between planets can interfere with the functions of a space-probe approaching Saturn, shouldn't our functions too be somehow affected? If the Moon can pull the vast weight of the earth's waters to create high and low tides every day, how can it help but tug a little at us - we whose body-mass is chiefly water?

Despite speculations to the contrary, Astrology is not founded on hocus-pocus and mumbo-jumbo, but on clearly observable effects.

Try it - you'll like it.

## \$229.11 worth of offences nets life sentence


Seven years ago, William J. Rummel walked into a bar in San Antonio, Texas, and told the owner he could fix a broken air conditioner. Rummel accepted a check for \$120.75 - and never repaired the air conditioner. The owner called the police, Rummel was convicted, and is now serving a life sentence.

Rummel's long sentence may sound unbelievable, but under a Texas state law, anyone convicted of three felonies may be declared an "habitual offender" and given a mandatory life sentence - even if all three crimes were nonviolent.

In 1964, Rummel fraudulently used a credit card to buy two tires worth \$80, and five years later was convicted of passing a bad cheque for \$28.36. In all, his three felonies netted Rummel \$229.11.

This fall, Rummel's lawyers will argue his case before the U.S. Supreme Court - charging that the sentence violates Constitutional protection from "cruel and unusual punishment." Assistant Attorney General Douglas Becker, who will present the state's case, disagrees. "If Texas does things differently from other states," he told an interviewer, "we should be entitled to do so." (Newscrip)

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R.H. Grant, Pre. Med. Advisor

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