

ASTROLOGY

More Than Fortune-Telling

by Wendy Coomber



he gospel according to Sydney Omarr for August 10, 1982: "Maintain low profile, finish rather than initiate projects and be receptive to one who confides ideas. Accent

legal rights, permissions and unique agreements. Locate source material and keep it available. Watch Aries!"

Media astrology condensed into a TV dinner — it satisfies the immediate hunger but cannot fulfill the need for nourishment to the body. They both cater to a generation which demands instant stimulation whether it be from television, McDonalds, pills, or instant media predictions for the future.

Contrary to what Mr. Omarr believes, my American Ephemeris — a compilation of the daily planetary movements — and my small knowledge of astrological interpretation, said August 10 would be an active day for me, full of interaction with other people. Sure, so what if an Aries tried to steal some poems from me that night for a class assignment? Right after I hung the phone up a Gemini called looking for a spare bottle of beer.

Isolating solar astrology (taking into account the native's Sun sign only — Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, etc.) is like trying to put together a jigsaw puzzle with only one piece. It creates a simplistic view of astrology as far from the truth as Pluto is from the sun. Astrology is made up of many different, complicated theories and interactions of energies, all serving one purpose which is to aid in the evolution of the soul, using the ten planets and luminaries (Sun and Moon) as its tools.

The usual complaints about astrology are it's too vague, it's anti-religious, it is scientifically impossible, it has no bearing on real life, it's silly!

Of course it's silly if the only information you read comes from media astrologers and cheap paperbacks — "Andy Panda's Quick Guide to the Stars". The criticisms are eternal, but so is astrology. It stood quietly in the wings as mankind first grew aware of outside influences on his life, shaping superstitions to mythology to early religions. Sun, Moon and the earth cults of Ceres, Cybele, Dionysius, and others propagated the personalities of the gods and goddesses who ruled the planets, at the same time turning the earth into a living entity itself.



he Roman cults created the most impact on the western world because of the soldiers, who came to the British Isles with Caesar, spreading their beliefs freely amongst

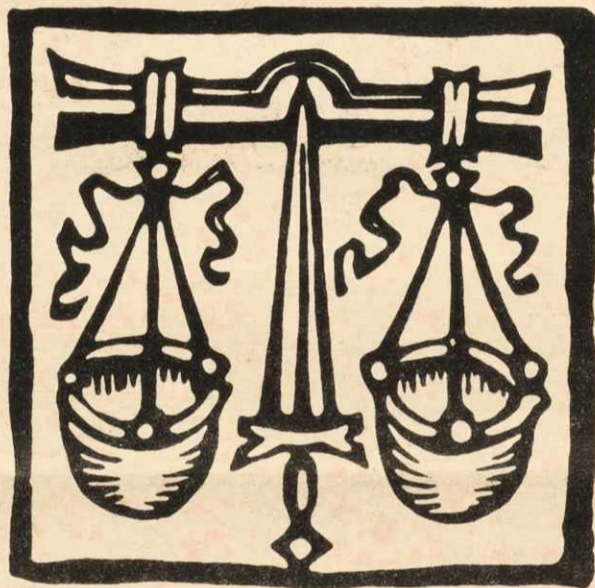
the tribal populace. These beliefs mixed with those of the Druids, who were already established on the Isles, and with the Norse, who invaded centuries later, to create a number of our now traditional holidays (or holy days): the celebration of the two solstices (the time of year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the celestial equator, and seems to pause before returning on its course), Christmas (the Roman Saturnalia) and Midsummer's Even (although much lessened in importance in our non-agrarian society), May Day — the rite of spring, and Halloween, or the year's end for the early Britons. These days are all deeply rooted in agricultural paganism, or the celebration of the earth in her living form. The earth goddess was all that was fertile of the earth and she interacted with the energies of her brothers and sisters in the heavens to help or hinder mankind in his attempts to reap that fertility which manifested itself as their crops.

Farmers learned when to expect the dry seasons and the heavy rains and found they corresponded with the Sun pass-

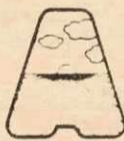
ing through the different sectors of the sky, the 12 Zodiacal divisions. These times called for feasting and rituals to show their thanks to the earth and the other presiding deities.

Astrology first began separating from astronomy when it started predicting the fortunes of kings and countries. If the country had a bad year in the food department, the king had problems. In many cases he was sacrificed to the angry gods in return for a good crop the following year.

The first horoscope cast for an individual was first recorded in Roman times where the rich treated everything as their own personal playthings. Even Augustus Caesar, it was said, proudly sported on his cloak a clasp engraved with his sign, Capricorn.



LIBRA



astrology has led a checkered career since those early beginnings, reaching its zenith with the Chaldeans around 700 BC, standing side by side with kings, and falling into wretched existence in Middle Age England where many were burned as witches. The Twentieth Century now stands divided, feigning to return to something it equates with foolishness and witchcraft, yet drawn to it for esoteric enlightenment.

Astrology, apart from the predictions and the chart interpretations, is a philosophy of life and evolution through spiritual enlightenment and reincarnation. The Natal Chart (the horoscope drawn for an individual's time of birth) takes ten primary motivating factors into consideration — the ten planets — coloured by the perception of the Zodiacal sign it is placed in, and directed by the House it is situated in. This will hopefully give a clear basic picture of how that person will react and deal with what he/she finds in life. For example: Mars, the planet of action, in the sign of Aquarius, which represents friendships and sudden events, in the Ninth House, or, philosophy and higher learning, may cause the individual to join all sorts of groups in the university but be unable to follow through with a steady concentration of energy because he/she has too many activities going at once. On the other hand, Mars in Taurus, slow and stubborn and loving material comforts, in the Sixth House of service and dedication, will take one or two activities and stick to them, without the brilliance of Aquarius, but with the persevering nature of Taurus.

Add to this the planetary aspects. Here, also, is where karma comes into play. There are a number of ways the planets may interact with each other, creating many different energies; and the five main aspects are the conjunction, the sextile, the square, the trine, and the opposition. They are as they sound: the conjunction involves planets side by side, the sextile forming a 60 degree angle, squares a 90 degree angle, the trine a 120 degree angle, or triangle (see Grand Trine), and the opposition is made of two planets exactly 180 degrees apart.

These aspects also determine how the individual perceives his/her own will power and where his/her motivations lie in directing that energy. For instance, the native with their sun conjunct Mars, Sun representing the will and Mars representing dynamic action (think of Mars, god of war), will find his/her motivation through quick, decisive action. On the other hand, Sun conjunct Venus, symbolising love and peace (Venus, goddess of love and beauty), might work towards its goals through love and beneficence. Sun conjunct Saturn, however, Saturn ruling limitations and problems (the planet of karma), can develop a nature whose ambitions supercede all else and can be ruthless in asserting his/her will in order to break away from those same limitations.

Karma appears when we look at energies, good or bad, the soul has brought with it from past lives to the present through reincarnation. The goal of the metaphysical astrologer, as opposed to the commercial types, is to help the soul evolve gradually to a state of perfection, what every religion equates with their god, to reach the final attainment the Hindu call Nirvana, a peace, a oneness with the universe. Thus, reincarnation becomes essential when speaking of astrology since this perfection is obviously too much for one person to accomplish in a mere 60-70 years, but becomes possible through thousands of years of the soul's existence. Reincarnation is the continuance of life through several incarnations and death is but an interval between them.

By now you are probably asking, for what reason this perfection? Or, what is Nirvana? This perfection, we speculate, is the state of universal love, and those who have been released from their earthly burdens return to teach those who are still learning. We call these spirits 'guides', others call them Guardian Angels.

Returning to karma, here we are given gifts and burdens from previous lives which will either help us through our present incarnation or make it a heavy learning task. This is our free will. We may do as we please but if we stray from the path of evolution we will be sent back to walk it again.

Saturn is called the planet of karma. There is a skeleton in everyone's closet and the placement of Saturn in the Natal Chart indicates what shape shape it will take and the lessons the individual must learn. Saturn in the First House indicates a barrier between the self and the rest of the world and may show its effects upon the native as shyness or aloofness — someone who has a hard time dealing with the limitations and restrictions of life. Saturn in the Fifth House tends to restrict the joy of love and diminish the number of love affairs in the native's life. Outer signs of this placement may show as a hesitance to become involved in any love involvement because the native's experience has shown this area of life leads only to pain. Saturn in the Tenth House, the House which Saturn naturally rules, finds a native who cannot cope with failure, especially when it is someone else who considers him/her the failure. This placement is exceedingly ambitious, sometimes ruthlessly so, and almost always highly successful, but only because the native is too afraid of failure to even consider it.

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ARIES



TAURUS



GEMINI



CANCER



LEO



VIRGO