

## LECTURE 147

## ASTROLOGY - INTRODUCTION

Astrology is a universal language and one that is used quite significantly when studying the mysteries of our world and its universe. Its simple symbols give a multitude of information, and behind these symbols lie a vast realm of potential wisdom which gives a deeper understanding of the laws of life and enables one to have more comprehension of spiritual dimensions. It is through the higher intuitive mind that astrology is mostly at home both in terms of a true understanding of the dimensions of experience and levels of consciousness essential to it. The study of astrology is a form of active meditation on "life" and a way to learn of yourself.

A horoscope is a map of our solar system of a particular moment in time. In fact it is a mandala, and each person's birth chart is their own individual mandala, just as an Electional or Horary chart for a magical working is a mandala for the time and place erected. These mandalas show the form of energy, influences and potentials present. They show a composite of many diverse factors, but do not overlook the fact that they are living units of divine potential, with each a whole, a unified oneness in itself.

The origins of astrology are obscure, however, even in the earliest of times observations were made of the Sun, Moon and Constellations by mankind from all parts of the earth, who all formed their own systems according to their cultural beliefs and superstitions. Even in religious teachings from which descended Christianity, astrology was taught. This is referred to in the Bible in the "Book of Enoch", an early text relating to Gods having direct communication and mating with women. Through this intercourse forbidden knowledge was given to man. One of the sections within this Book is called "The Astronomical Book". Its emphasis is Lunar Astrology.

Astrology as we know it today began in Babylon. It progressed over the centuries where new discoveries were continually added to the founding knowledge. Some of those who

contributed greatly to this were Aristotle (384-322BC), Hipparchus (born 190BC), Ptolemy who wrote the tetrabiblos and the Almagest, Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Kepler who formed the basic of Sir Isaac Newton's work (late 17th century). (Note that during those centuries astrology and astronomy were one and the same.) However, Sir Isaac Newton's work catalysed a decline in interest and the passing of laws together with the Christian influence almost wiped out the old teachings. A revival commenced in the 19th century with a great help from the Theosophical Society and Madame Blavatsky. Allan Leo (at the turn of the century) also was a major contributor to its re-establishment. Even to this day its popularity (although separated now from astronomy) grows, and its knowledge also continues to grow due to many pioneering individuals who tap into the cosmic knowledge.

In the occult, astrology is a complete system in itself that can be studied, but its use is not that of the average astrologer who reads birth charts for people. It is used to observe the influencing vibrations of our solar system and how best to use them from the adept's perspective. It is a tool to define times of harmonious vibration for ones workings. Primarily the occultist does Electional and Horary astrology (see lectures 152 and 153). In magical, ceremonial and alchemical work, knowledge of the planets and stars, their movements, interactions with the Earth and its beings is of great importance, as such influence is very real. The right timing (whether it be astrological, tattvic, seasonal, biological or any combination of these) of a ritual or any other magical act, ensures a successful outcome for attracting impregnating or directing the required forces.

It is for the above reasons we stress to the reader the importance of understanding astrology if studying the occult. In fact it is a must for the occult student to learn the basics of astrology and to study the vibrations and meanings of its symbols and their combinations.

"Without stirring abroad one can know the whole world;  
Without looking out the window one can see the way of  
heaven. The further one goes, the less one knows."

Lao Tzu

Within Golden Dawn temples various astrology lectures were handed out. These of course varied from temple to temple, and within the Stella Matutina a number of these lectures were withdrawn due to the onslaught of astrological books being published and made available to the general public, which members could

purchase and study from. This then, left only the use of astrology in magic, to be taught to Order members. In the New Zealand Temple, Whare Ra, the above was no exception, nor is it an exception in the New Zealand Thoth-Hermes Temple. Lessons 148, 149, and 150 following are 3 particular lectures that were still handed out to members at Whare Ra. The first is undated and unauthored, though indications are that it was issued from a Golden Dawn temple as it was definitely issued in the Stella Matutina. The second and third are GD lectures that were written by Brodie Innes (Order motto being "Sub Spie"). From these two lectures it is obvious that the Placidus house system was the one used within the Order, which is the system still used here for very definite reasons that we hope will be very clear to you after studying the astrology lectures provided.

Some mention should be made to a published lecture by Mathers about 1911. This is a simple method of astrology (see "Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic" by I. Regardie) and is in the writer's opinion an inferior work of Mathers and very uncharacteristic of his genius. On doing a number of tests on this method it proved itself to be haphazard and in the writer's opinion should be avoided.

The Astrology section in this correspondence course is not devised to teach you astrology in any depth, but only to introduce it to you and make you aware of its use in the Golden Dawn. To understand astrology in the depth that is generally needed, please get hold of some of the books suggested below and read them. However, you would have seen in past lessons, and will see in future lessons the use of astrological association (see Kabbalistic lessons on the Paths, and the Tarot lessons). These applications should have, over time, provided an understanding for you of how astrology is taken away from the day to day fortune telling and personality analysis to an esoteric centering. It should have also given general information on the meanings of planets and signs and in the latter Tarot lessons, the use of fixed star astrology (the constellations), in the Golden Dawn. You will find more information on fixed star astrology in "The Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic" Tarot section.

We have included a lecture on Natal Calculation and some basic information on Electional and Horary astrology, progressions and transits. They are important areas to learn therefore mention has been made of them in the hope that the reader obtains a published book and learns further.

A Planetary Hour lecture is also included, as knowledge of planetary hours throughout each day and night are also part of timing a magical operation to a point of time where energies are most harmonious, just as tattvic hours are applied.

There is one point the reader must remember. The Adept does not manipulate nature to suit his purpose when appointing a time most advantageous to a proposed working the Adept adjusts his/herself to nature and the energies s/he gives forth. So often have I seen people adjusting their concept of the meaning of something just because it would be convenient to them. Their workings invariably go wrong. "Speak to the Earth and it will teach you."

~~~~~

SUGGESTED READING:

Alan Leo's works: "Astrology for All"\*  
"The Key to your own Nativity"\*  
"The Art of Synthesis"  
"Esoteric Astrology"  
"The Progressed Horoscope"

"The Astrologer's Handbook" by Frances Sakoian & Louis S. Acker\*

Noel Tyle's works Volumes I to XII\*

Stephen Arroyo's: "Astrology, Psychology, and the Four Elements"  
"Astrology Karma & Transformation"

When you have reached a more advanced knowledge try and read as much of Dane Rudhyar's works as possible. "The Galactic Dimension of Astrology - the sun is also a Star", "An Astrological Study of Psychological Complexes", "The Astrology of Transformation", "Astrology and the Modern Psyche", "from Humanistic to transpersonal Astrology", "An Astrological Triptych" etc.

"The Astrology of Transcendence" by Philip Sedgwick

"Electional Astrology" by Vivien E. Robson  
"Horary Astrology" by Robert DeLuce

Note: \* for beginners