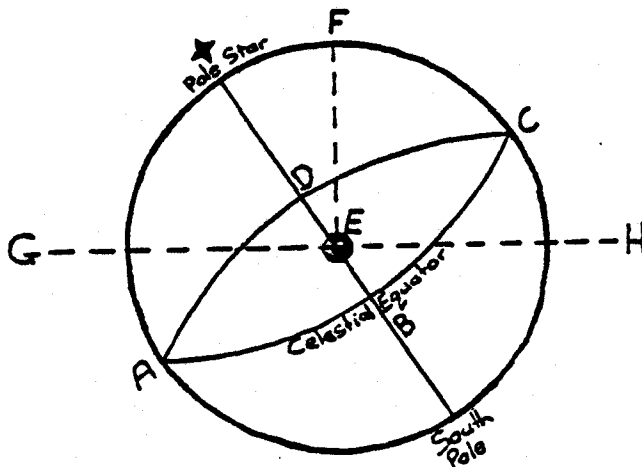## LESSON 148

ELEMENTARY NOTES ON ASTROLOGY NO. 1

(ISSUED BY THE NEW ZEALAND TEMPLE WHARE RA)

We may take the base theory of Astrology to be that the character, fortune, personal appearance etc., of everyone depends to a large extent on the various forces flowing into the earth from the regions of space at the time of his birth, and the acting and reacting on the nature so formed of the forces from time to time flowing in upon the earth, and affecting him during his life - such forces being named influences (i.e. flowings in) - further, that the nature and character of their influence depend upon the exact time, as they vary from moment to moment and from place to place of the earth's surface, and that the position of the stars and planets indicates the nature and char- acter of each influence sufficiently to form a fairly accurate judgment.

The first point then is, given a certain time and place, to find out exactly what was the aspect of the heavens then and there. For this purpose we require a few simple rules for under- standing the nature and movements of the starry sphere as viewed from the earth, and how to use the tables of calculations which are published and easily accessible.

1.   Imagine the earth and sky to be as it were a ball within a hollow sphere, the latter studded with stars.

The observer in the Northern Hemisphere is supposed to be standing at E. F is the Zenith or point directly above his head, and GH is his horizon. The line ABCD is exactly midway between the Poles of the Starry sphere and is the celestial equator. If you notice the path in the sky which the sun traces on the 21st of March you will have it exactly.

2.   This starry sphere apparently turns round the Earth once in about 24 hours (the slight difference may be neglected at present) from East to West. I say apparently, for it is only apparent motion that we need concern ourselves with.
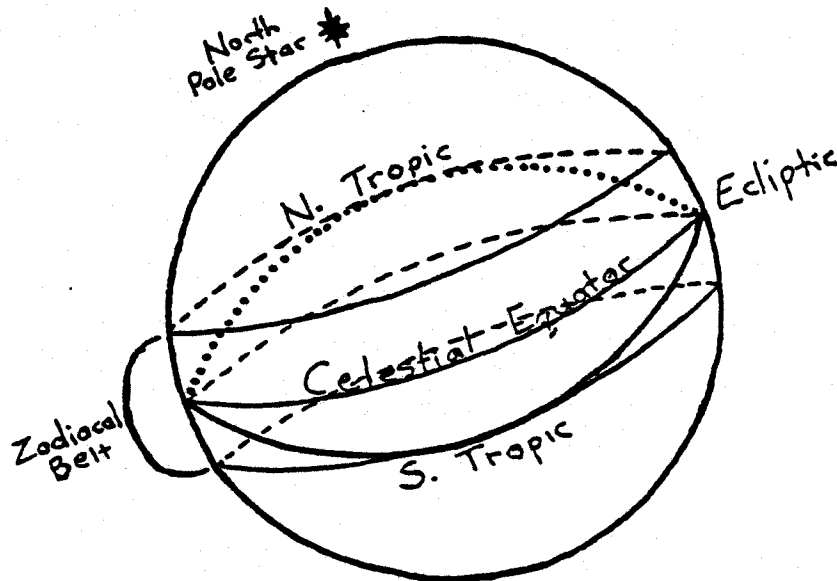
3.   Some of the heavenly bodies appear to wander with a motion of their own on the rotating sphere, moving with it, but also moving with a slower motion of their own upon it, as though flies were crawling on a spinning top. They are called Planets (or wanderers) and are (so far as need now be considered) the following:-

Planets	Symbols
Saturn	♄
Jupiter	♃
Mars	♂
The Sun	☉
Venus	♀
Mercury	☿
The Moon	☽

(Uranus ♅ , Neptune ♆ , Pluto ♇ , and Chiron ⚷ were not included in this lecture. This lecture concentrated on the seven occult planets only. C.Z.)

4.   Of these the Sun appears to pursue a perfectly even course. If we imagine a "great circle" drawn through the hollow sphere of the stars (note: a great circle of a sphere is one whose plane exactly bisects it - i.e. if we can conceive the sphere to be cut through in the line of any "great circle" it will be cut in two halves like an apple). Such "great circle" to be inclined to the Celestial Equator crossing at two exactly opposite points, this will be the "apparent path of the Sun". Along this path the Sun appears to move among the stars with a motion of his own, while being carried round by the whirling star-vault, and his motion is in the contrary direction; so that while the hollow sphere of the stars seems to be whirling round from East to West, the sun apparently every day crawls a little bit to the East. His own motion is thus a trifle slower than that of the star-sphere, so

that while the star-sphere whirls around the Earth (apparently)
366 in the course of the year, the Sun only goes round 365 in the
same period.   There are therefore 365 "solar days" in the year,
and the "sidereal day" being in fact about four minutes shorter
than the solar day, there are 366 "sidereal days" in the year.
The sun's "apparent" path is called the "Ecliptic".

5.   The Sun reached a point at the greatest distance North of
the Celestial Equator and then turns South.   He again reaches a
point at the greatest distance South and turns North.   These
"turning points" are called Tropics.   Through each of these draw
a circle parallel to the celestial Equator.   A belt of the star-
sphere will be enclosed between them.   This in the heavens is
called the "Zodiacal Belt".

       A similar belt on the Earth is said to be "within the
Tropics".   The "Zodiacal Belt" is all that need be considered in
Astrology.   (note: To "consider" is to put stars together and
study their influence).

6.   The Sun, as we have seen, moves with a regular motion on
this portion of the star sphere.   All the other planets move
rather irregularly (apparently), sometimes going forward, some-
times stationary.   Sometimes retrograde.   These apparently irre-
gular motions arise from the relative motions of the Earth and
the Planets and need not concern us now.

7.   Now imagine the star-sphere and the earth cut through in the
circles of the tropics, as you might cut an apple at right angles

to the core.   Imagine the section laid on the table before you,
and you have the first idea of what is represented by an
Astrological figure.

8.   Half of it would be that part of the belt which we see above
the horizon - the other half, the corresponding part below.   The
path of the Sun at midsummer would give the upper face of one
section and his path at midwinter the lower face.   Now before we
can form an "astrological judgment" we must know accurately the
position of the belt and the constellations therein with
reference to the particular spot of the earth's surface that we
are "considering",   also the exact position of the planets on the
belt and their relation to each other and to the particular spot
of Earth.

9.   First as to the belt.   Stand facing South and imagine that
an iron rail of a half-circular shape is erected in front of you.
The middle and highest part of it being just high enough to come
between your Eye and the Sun at Noon, the ends stuck into the
ground exactly East and West of where you are standing.   If this
were done at the Equinox, and you were to stand in the same place
all day from sunrise to sunset, you would see the sun rise and
travel exactly along the course of your rail till he set at the
far end of it.   Now divide your rail into six equal spaces.
Three on each side of the highest point due South. (The author is
talking in terms of the Northern Hemisphere, for those in the
Southern Hemisphere the highest point would be due North. C.Z.)
If you now stand in the same place when the stars come out, you
will see the constellations one after another rise and pass along
your rails, till they set at its farthest end.   These divisions
are called "Houses", and you have watched through one night the
"Wheel of the Zodiac" turning through the Astrological Houses.

10.   Now take on your hand a figure cut out of cardboard, in a
circular shape, representing the sections of the starry-sphere
described in 7.   Draw a line across it through the centre and
mark the ends East and West.   Draw another line at right angles
to this through the centre and mark the ends North and South.   If
you could now take this plan on section to the centre of your
rail and there hold it so that its plane is tilted to the same
slope as the plane of the rail, and its East and West line in a
line with the East and West line of the rail, then a pin placed
at right angles to the section in the centre of it will point
exactly at the North Pole Star.

11.   If you divide each quarter into three divisions, you will
have 12 houses represented on your paper, and every star in the
Zodiacal belt will pass in 24 hours right round the edge of your
paper model.   Obviously, 6 of them will be above the horizon and
in sight at any one time, and 6 will be below the horizon and out
of sight.   The latter being behind you and towards the North.

12.   Mark the Houses with numbers from East to North and West to
South, beginning with 1 (called the Ascendant) just below the
Eastern horizon, and so round below the earth to the Western
horizon and overhead to the East again, marking the Eastern-most
12, so that a star rising passes from the Ascendant to the 12,
11, 10 and so on.

13.   The turning belt has also 12 divisions called "Signs of the
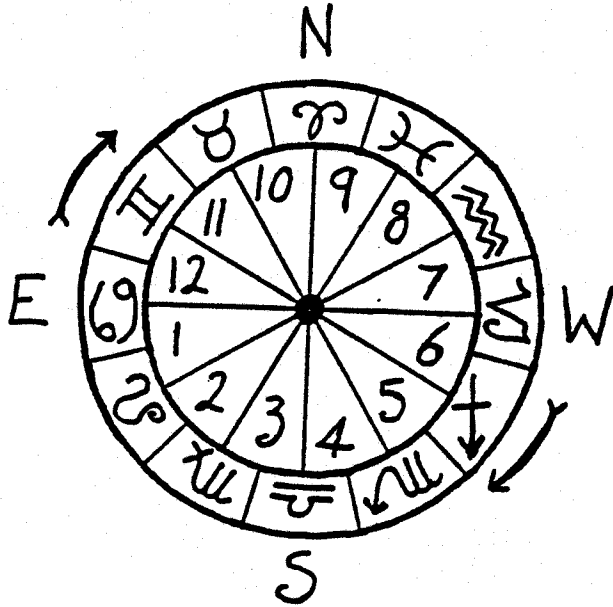Zodiac". These are:

1.	Aries	Ram	♈	7.	Libra	Balance	♎
2.	Taurus	Bull	♉	8.	Scorpio	Scorpion	♏
3.	Gemini	Twins	♊	9.	Sagittarius	Archer	♐
4.	Cancer	Crab	♋	10.	Capricornus	Goat	♑
5.	Leo	Lion	♌	11.	Aquarius	Waterbearer	♒
6.	Virgo	Virgin	♍	12.	Pisces	Fish	♓

14.   Each of these 12 signs is divided into 30 degrees numbered
from the first point in the direction in which it moves. The
"first point of Aries" is taken to be (conventionally) the place
occupied by the sun on the 21st of March (the Vernal Equinox).
$\frac{1}{360}$ part of the whole circle is a degree. 30 of these
degrees being measured off give us the whole extent of the "Sign
of Aries", and we can similarly measure off Taurus and so on.

15.   There are good esoteric reasons why "the Ram" should always
retain his Equinoctial throne, but it must be remembered that
owing to "the precession of the Equinoxes" the "conventional
signs" do not correspond with the constellations; in fact the
constellations of Aquarius now very nearly occupies the sign
known as Aries.

16.   It is obvious that having now the "divisions of the Houses"
and of the "Zodiacal belt", which turns through them, we have a
formula by which we can put down on paper the position of any
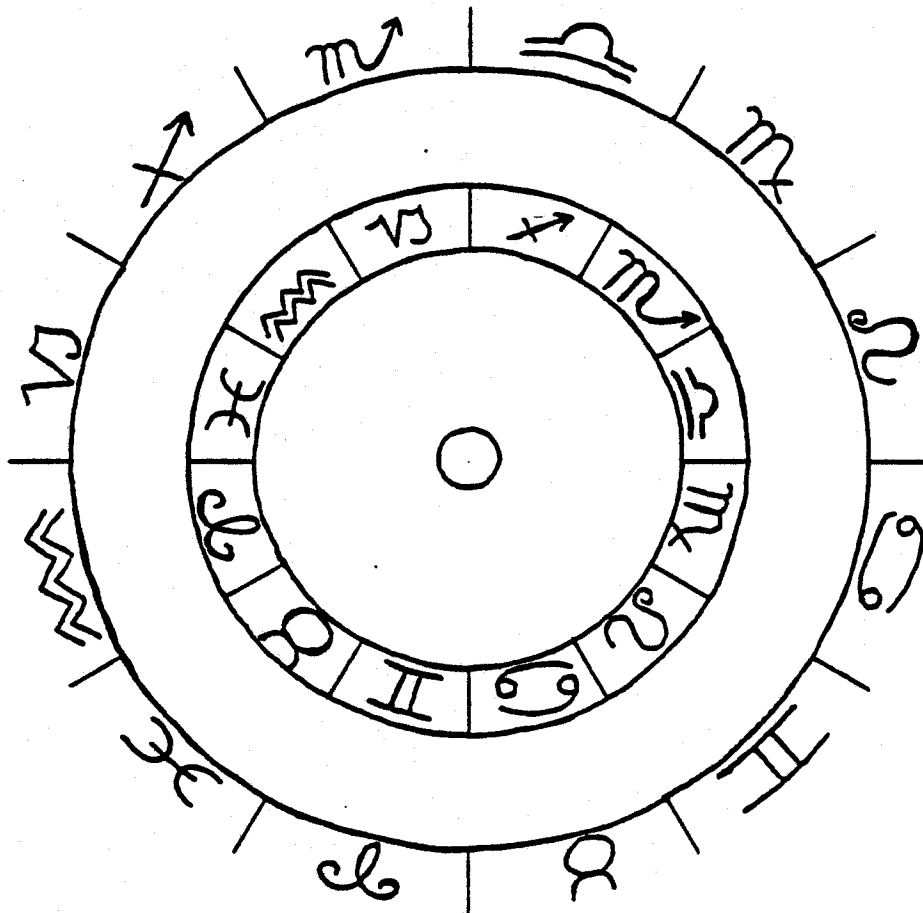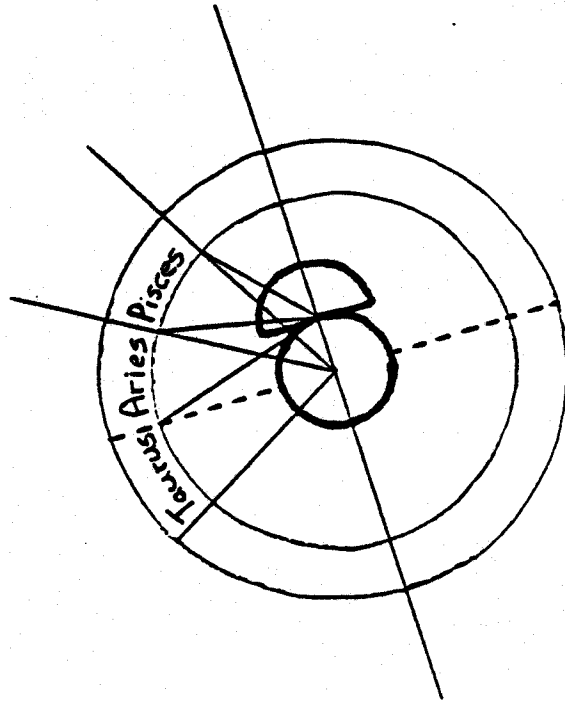part of the belt at any given moment.

First point of Aries,
position of Sun at
Vernal Equinox.

The inner circle repre-
sents the Houses. The
black centre the Earth.
The Houses 7 - 12 those
visible above the horizon.

17.   To make this conception easier, we have supposed that the
observer was looking from the centre of the Earth, and that the
Houses were measured out along the Equator. If this were so, the
length of each House would accurately correspond with that of
each Sign, so that if any division line of two Signs were on the
division line of two Houses all the other division lines would
also fit.   This simple arrangement would not fulfil astrological
requirements, for we require to know the position of the planets
as to the Earth, and as to the particular spot of Earth. We must
therefore divide the vault, or dome of the sky as seen from that
point, into houses, by lines drawn from the Pole to points on the
Celestial Equator. Now if you will take a ball and draw 12 equal
divisions on it to represent the celestial vault, and fasten a
cardboard circle to two opposite points to represent the celes-
tial equator, marking the card with 12 divisions, and then turn
your card towards the pole into the "angle of the Ecliptic", you
will see that the divisions on the card representing the Signs no
longer correspond with the divisions on the ball representing the
Houses.   Sometimes you will have a Sign completely included
within a House and bits of the House preceding and the House
following it, and sometimes the Sign overlapping into two or even
three Houses.   Further, the dome of the Sky as seen from any
particular point does not correspond in horizon or apparent
curvature to the hollow sphere as we conceive it as seen from the
centre of the Earth.   The Houses are conceived as marked on the
visible dome, so the Zodiacal belt has to be adapted on to this
by a process somewhat akin to that whereby the surface of the
spherical earth is represented on a flat surface of a map.   This
is called "projection" and it necessarily puts some parts of the
belt out of drawing - as it were crumples them up - as if a
lady's silk dress or a balloon were to be packed flat.   We must
expect therefore to find that in any figure we have to deal with
that the measurements of the Signs and of the Houses do not
correspond, and it is sufficient for the present to understand
what is the reason for the divergence. We do not need to go into
the elaborate calculations by which the measurements and the

projections are arrived at.

The outer black line represents the star-sphere as seen from the centre of the Earth. The semi-circle the dome of the sky to an observer at "A", BCD has to be projected on bcd, i.e. the signs and Constellations of the larger dome as they appear to the observer have somehow to be accommodated.

18.   We get therefore sometimes a figure like this:

Here the 12th House contains 7 degrees of Pisces, 23 degrees of Taurus, as well as the whole 30 degrees of Aries on 60 degrees in all. Here Aries is called an "intercepted sign". Two planets situated one at each side of the 12th House would be 60 degrees apart in what is called "Zodiacal Aspect", but apparently (as looked at from the observer's point of view) they would be only 30 degrees. Both then require to be noticed and given effect to, hence the method of projection above described is resorted to.

This may roughly indicate how it is possible that a sign may be intercepted in the process of projection — it must not however be taken as showing how projections are calculated. The process is elaborate and difficult.

The outer line is the Constellations, the inner line the
Conventional Signs.