LESSON 150

ELEMENTARY NOTES ON ASTROLOGY NO. 3

CONCERNING THE HOUSES

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Amen Ra

(ISSUED BY THE NEW ZEALAND TEMPLE WHARE RA)

Beginners have usually a good deal of difficulty in under-
standing how the actual division of the starry-sphere is repre-
sented by the figure of the Heavens set up for an "Astrological
Judgment". The image of the rail in Part I shows the division of
the part of the visible sky occupied by the Ecliptic into six
Houses, and the turning of the Wheel of the Zodiac through these
Houses. Conceive now the idea that the whole visible hemisphere
(or vault) of the Heavens is bounded by the horizon, and is
divided into two equal parts by the meridian [or the great circle
which passes through the South point, through the Zenith (or
point immediately overhead) and through the North point]. Every
star or constellation therefore rises in one of these divisions,
culminates when it passes the meridian, and passing through the
other division sets below the horizon. The horizon and the
meridian therefore form two great circles, cutting the entire
hollow sphere of the Heavens into four. Each of these, divided
into three by circles drawn through the points of intersection of
the horizon and meridian, will represent a House.

To make this clearer, take a ball, and paint upon it a red
circle, which call the Horizon, and a blue circle cutting the
former at right angles, which call the Meridian. Mark one point
of intersection North, and the other South. Exactly halfway
between the two points of intersection, mark a spot and call it
Zenith, and another point about one third of the distance from N.
point to Zenith and call this the Pole Star. Through the point
of intersection of horizon and meridian draw two circles on each
side of the meridian, dividing the space into three small spaces.
You have thus the hollow globe of the Heavens divided into twelve
spaces by 12 circles, all intersecting at the North and South
points on the horizon, and these 12 spaces are the 12 Houses.

Now take a point on the horizon exactly halfway between
South and North, and another point opposite to this on the other
side. These will be East and West points respectively. Take a
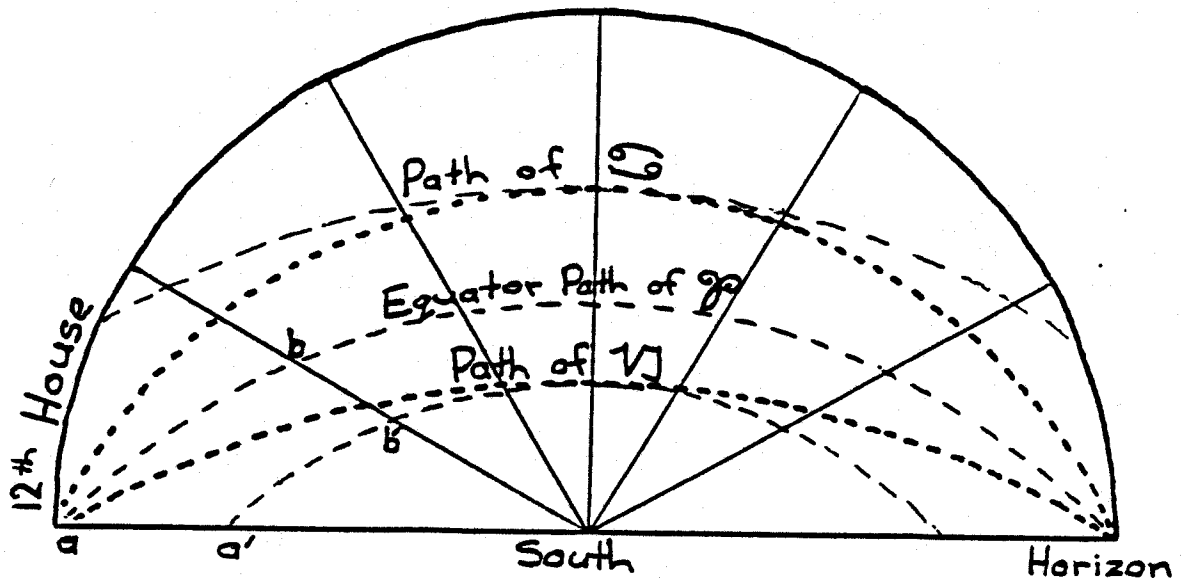
point on the meridian as far from the South Point as the Pole
Star is from the Zenith. Draw a circle through these three
points and call this the "Celestial Equator". Every star that
rises will pass either along this (as the Sun at the Equinox will
do) or it will have a path parallel thereto. By actual experi-
ment it will be very clear that the length of the path which
passes through the different Houses varies greatly according to
whether the path traced by the star is North or South of the
Equator, and according to how far it is distant therefrom. This
simple experiment shows that the relation of the stars and con-
stellations to the Houses varies constantly with the latitude -
for example as we go North the amount of the circle of the Zodiac
which is visible increases.

Thus when the first point of Aries is on the meridian of
sidereal noon, the whole sign of courses will be riding over most
of the Northern Hemisphere, but at Benares (Lat. 25deg18') only
10deg40' will be above the horizon. While at Cairo (Lat.30deg2')
12deg37' will be visible. In Cyprus (Lat.35deg) there will be
15deg34' risen. In Washington (Lat.38deg) there will be 17deg48'
risen. In Rome (41deg54') there will be 19deg39'. In Paris
(Lat.42deg50') 24deg28'. While in London (Lat.51deg32') there
will be 29deg36' and in Liverpool (Lat.53deg25') 28deg13' etc.

It is to be noticed further that every celestial body
revolves in a circle parallel to the Celestial Equator. Aries
therefore crosses the sky exactly along the Equator, but Cancer
crosses by an arc considerably above, and Capricorn by an arc
considerably below. The Paths of these Constellations will
therefore be differently inclined to the paths of the Houses; and
the proportion between the 30 degrees of a great circle, which
constitutes the theoretical sign and the portion of a House or
Houses it is opposite to or passing through will also vary.
Suppose an observer was to follow the meridian of Greenwich
almost to the North Pole, he would see Aries circling round his
rational horizon. Cancer circling parallel to the horizon at
some distance above, and Capricornus also parallel, but out of
sight below the horizon and never rising at all.

It will be obvious that Aries crosses the 12th House by a
longer path (a' to b') (see diagram below). This will explain
why under apparently similar conditions some signs become
intercepted and others not, in the same Houses. From this it is
plain that the positions of the signs of the Zodiac in the Houses
must be separately calculated for the particular degree of
latitude in which we are working. This has been done for many
places, and excellent tables are published in the "Future"
Vol. II. The computation of the variations whereby the Tables of
the Houses for any given House or degree of Latitude may be
arrived at, by means of logarithms, are not difficult, but the

beginner may be advised to leave these for the present, and
confine his attention to places for which he can get a calculated
table.

Having thus (i) discovered the local mean time, (ii) ascer-
tained from an Ephemeris the (a) stellar time or the (b) right
ascension of the meridain, (iii) being provided with a table of
houses for the latitude, we are prepared to commence drawing the
figure.

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The following books of tables are recommended for the student to obtain before continuing on with the next lesson.

"Raphael's Tables of Houses for Northern Latitudes"   W.   Foulsham & Co., Ltd, Yeovil Road, Slough, Bucks, England.

"Tables of Diurnal Planetary Motion"   American Federation of Astrologers, 6535 South Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85283.

An Ephemeris, either:

    "Raphael's Astronomical Ephemeris of the Planets" Places' (for the year you were born) W. Foulsham & Co., Ltd.

    or an Ephemeris that covers tables for many years, which would be more useful if you are going to be drawing up charts for magical workings in the future.