

The Dragon Path

UPON A CLAY tablet peculiarly engraved with cipher characters and mystical symbols, an ancient Initiate left these instructions to his followers, mystic students of Egypt: “The path is one, disciple, yet in the end, twofold....At one end bliss immediate, and at the other bliss deferred. Both are of merit the reward; the choice is thine....Search for the Paths.”

The two paths, as interpreted by the mystics, refer to liberation and renunciation: the discerning of the real from the false, and giving up of the material self.

To a student of stellar knowledge who studies the subject esoterically and views a horoscope through the crystal clear visions of the soul, this ancient missive, when deciphered astrologically, has a profound relation to the twofold Path of Wisdom, or the Trail of the Serpent, the Dragon’s Head and Tail.

The map of the heavens drawn for the time of birth shows what experience the Ego comes to gain in this life. These experiences may be few or many, stormy or peaceful, painful or pleasant, but they are always such as the evolution of the Ego requires. Inharmonious planetary conditions show lessons to be learned. The favorable conditions of the birth map indicate that we are about to reap from the good seeds sown in some previous life; this particular lesson was well mastered and now comes the reward of a deed well done.

The position of the Dragon’s Head and Tail (or the Moon’s North and South Nodes, as they are usually called), is of particular significance in



Photo: Arno Garrais

P. Apian, *Astronomicum Caesareum*, Ingolstadt, 1540, Stadtbibliothek Mainz

The two points of intersection of the moon’s orbit and the ecliptic (sun’s path) are called lunar nodes or “dragon points.” The ascending node is the head of the dragon, the descending one its tail. Both points enable calculation of lunar and solar eclipses. The above disc enables the user to calculate the position of the ascending lunar node on a particular date.

studying the individual’s lesson to be learned in this life. It is this, without a doubt, which the mystic refers to as the one path, “yet in the end twofold.” Many astrological gems may be found spoken of in parables in some ancient mystic literature, to be deciphered by those who will read between the lines. Somewhere in the mystic scrolls of some lost Egyptian papyrus, or clay tablets long turned to ashes and dust, lies many a secret of the ancient art of the star lore.

The Dragon’s Tail shows, by its house and sign position in a nativity, what department of life will provide experiences needed for higher realization.

It is "bliss deferred," for a lesson now learned is bound to have its reward in some later day, or life, which will manifest through ideal conditions existing in this section of the horoscope. When seen in this light, the Dragon's Tail ceases to be the most maligned factor in astrology, as it is often represented.

On the other hand, the position of the Dragon's Head shows through what things, persons, or conditions we reap the reward of a lesson well learned. Therefore the mystic words: "Both are of merit the reward."

Even as the path referred to is twofold so the real mission of the Dragon's Tail is to teach a twofold lesson. By renunciation we gain liberation; by being unselfish in the house and sign matters shown by the position of the Dragon's Tail in our horoscope, we gain freedom and abundance in the opposite section of the wheel of life, occupied by the other extremity of the Reptile. For example, if the Dragon's Tail occupies the eighth house of birth, by being scrupulously honest and unselfish in financial dealings with our partners and the public in general, we gain liberty which money and possessions give, as indicated by the Dragon's Head placed in the second house.

The house containing the Dragon's Head shows that the matters denoted by this section of the horoscope come to us without any great effort on our part; the opposite house, sheltering the other extremity of the Dragon, is an indication that this department of life requires our vigilant efforts to maintain a comparatively harmonious condition. Even then, if we ourselves are not the cause of inharmony, it comes to us through others, showing that disappointments coming through these conditions teach us most effectively the price we pay for having transgressed the laws in some previous life.

The Dragon's Tail nestling in the eighth house cannot cause us to be dishonest and careless of the interests of others if we realize fully the laws of cause and effect, and discern right from wrong. But, we shall suffer such treatment from others in financial matters of partnership and dealing with the public's possessions, and thus we learn the lesson that honesty is the best policy, especially in eighth house matters.

One person having this position of the Dragon's Tail has entered several business partnerships; in each case the partner was an irresponsible, selfish, unscrupulous type of person. The planetary laws will etch this lesson deeply into the consciousness of the native. But the Dragon's Head in the second house compensates amply for these losses. Having suffered from dishonesty of others, his conscience will be strongly opposed to any misbehavior in these matters. However, the native himself, if not recognizing the higher laws, may be the cause of such losses to his associates, and in the end the benefits of the Head in the second house may become void or nil. He thus learns his life's lesson.

Another instance shows the Dragon's Head in the eleventh house, the Dragon's Tail in the fifth house. Although very loyal himself and having many faithful friends, yet he was sadly disappointed in matters of sentimental friendship. Death, misunderstandings, unhappy partings were the result. Later in life the children whom he idolized remained distant to him and severely criticized their father. Through being disillusioned he has learned his life's lesson. In some other life he has probably caused misery to others; now he is on the receiving end himself. The laws of karma are always just.

The Dragon's Head and Tail, when placed over the angles of the horoscope, are very strong in their influence upon the life of the native. A cheery personality, good health, and a strong constitution are promised by the Head over the Ascendant; and the Fates are always kind to those who have this end of the Reptile on the Midheaven, by bringing honors and recognition in worldly affairs. But the Tail in the opposite section of the horoscope will bring limitations, and what honors come to the native will be the well-earned reward of tireless effort; one cannot trust to Fate or Luck.

We gain knowledge through learning, but wisdom is gained only by experiences which add to our insight and true discernment. The effects which the Dragon's Head and Tail bring to us through our horoscopes are such as to cause experiences that will teach us wisdom. The twofold path of the Reptile is therefore aptly termed the Path of Wisdom.

It is entirely up to us whether we will accept the message which the Dragon's Path points out in our nativity. The ancient mystic has said: "The choice is thine." The serpent was used in the ancient teachings to represent wisdom. The experience we gain when the Dragon is transiting a pair of our astrological houses is such as to add abundantly to our worldly wisdom.

In a certain illustration, the wisdom principle is shown as being worked out in life after life by the constant motion of the Serpent through the horoscope, the result of the action of both extremities being indicated by the symbol of the "Part of Fortune" placed midway in the body of the Reptile. This implies a gain of worldly wisdom equal to material possessions. Through the events which the Dragon's Head and Tail bring us, we reap amply in wisdom and experience. It is truly said that wisdom is a good purchase, though we pay dearly for it.

The Dragon's Head and Tail in the horoscope of birth mark the life lesson to be learned, but their circling through the horoscope after birth, which is completed once every nineteen years, presents the lesson which will be the source of our immediately coming joys or trials.

The Dragon's Head and Tail, by slowly moving through the houses of a nativity, are as heavenly watchers who are cleaning up the house that the Tail is transiting, in order to make us realize the advantages that are ours, and are being mirrored in the opposite house, transited by the Dragon's Head.

The influence of the Dragon is peculiar, inasmuch as it affects the houses, particularly the cusps and angles, much more strongly than it does any planet or luminary it happens to transit in a nativity. The houses rule the fate connected with the environment, that which may be overcome by the inherent will of the native. This shows that the influence it exerts, while greatly affecting our material conditions, is evil or good only as we are in a state of mind such as to respond to either quality.

When the Dragon's Head and Tail transit the degree of the Ascendant and the seventh house of one's nativity, an important period of life will just be entered into. It always marks a period of transition: a new life, new interests, and an altered envi-



A. Eleazar, *Uraltes chymisches Werk*, Leipzig, 1760, Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg

Both an alchemical and religious symbol, the serpent nailed to the cross is a generic depiction of the nodal (serpentine) path of all planets, including the sun, as they intersect (cross over) the straight line of the equator. Planetary cycles of time can thus be measured in terms of these "serpentine" nodes.

ronment. Our contacts with the public, and marriage or business partnership, will also take on a new aspect. The house holding the Head promises pleasant relationships in this department of life but the house which the Tail occupies will now undergo a "house-cleaning"; we shall very probably lose something we valued too much, of the nature of the house in question.

When the Midheaven and Nadir are the points transited by the Dragon, changes in connection with either one of the parents are likely, or problems in domestic and business life. When the Dragon's Head is at the Midheaven, one usually changes his outlook on life, forming new conceptions and views on subjects of vital importance.

For one with occult leanings, this, as well as the transit over the Ascendant, is a sign of spiritual awakening: some step will be taken towards spiritual attainment.

The sixth and twelfth houses show that the native has to render some service to others coming into his life, or that his physical condition will be such as to require this service of others. Confinement and restraint are probable; also occult research, if the horoscope shows these tendencies.

The fifth and eleventh houses bring our social problems to the fore; they show altered relationships with those whom we love and those who love us. Persons we now contact make a permanent influence in our life. Emotions and social instincts are likely to be more active than before or after the Dragon transit.

When the Dragon transits the third and ninth houses, it gives a studious attitude of mind, and opportunities for improvement of the mental abilities; also studies of occultism, religion, and philosophy. Or, it may bring up travels, voyages, publicity, and other matters ruled by these houses.

The second and eighth houses, as a result of the Dragon's passage therein, will likely bring up issues pertaining to finances, inheritance, or the partner's money and possessions. Money or its equivalent will now cause some good fortune or a loss, depending upon which of the houses is being transited by the more favorable extremity of the Dragon.

When the Dragon's Head or Tail transits a double sign, it brings to us dual experiences, or more than one event signified by the house it occupies. Transiting of the planets, and even aspects formed

with them, will bring about experiences relating to the nature of the planet in question, but these experiences will be of less importance and of shorter duration than those indicated by the house position of the Dragon's Head or Tail. They are not to be overlooked, however. The transit over the radical Sun, particularly, is usually accompanied by marked results. This also applies to the strongest planet in the nativity, and to the ruler and subruler of the Ascendant.

The late Evangeline Adams, one of America's better known astrologers, is said to have predicted her own death. She knew that she was then facing a "period of transition," as the Dragon nestled over her Ascendant and seventh house at the time of her sudden death.

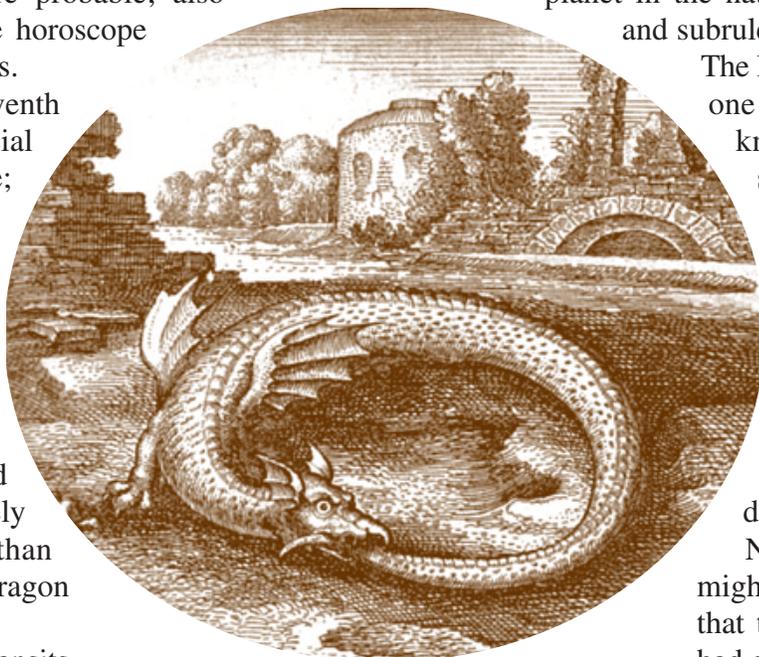
Numerous instances might be given to illustrate that the ancient astrologers had good reasons for stressing the importance of the influence of the Dragon's Head and Tail. By reviewing a number of horoscopes, students of astrology

will prove the importance of these and other less common factors in astrology, not discussed by today's astrologers.

Forewarned is forearmed. Be ever prepared to utilize all the wisdom that the Dragon is about to impart to you through any particular department of your horoscope.

Through the twofold Path of Wisdom, or the Dragon Path, we are shown in which department of life we shall acquire such experiences and knowledge as will prepare us to be the disciples of the Great One. Therefore, in the words of the wise prophet Solomon: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." □

—Louise S. Ivey



Michael Maier, *Atalanta fugiens*, Oppenheim, 1618, Stadtbibliothek Mainz
The Ouroboros, the serpent or dragon swallowing its tail, symbolized transformative processes in alchemy and the return of the year, or the completion of any cycle of time. As such, it becomes a symbol of eternity.