

Reading a Horoscope—Progressions

IN COMMENCING this course of instruction in the method of reading a horoscope* from the spiritual point of view, it is necessary to give some general advice regarding the attitude of mind which students must cultivate in order to achieve success; namely: Compassion.

It is an excellent practice for young students to study their own figure and those of their nearest friends, because that gives them a good idea of how celestial aspects are the precursors with which they are already familiar. Thus they gain valuable knowledge and a confidence not to be obtained by mere book study, and all is well if they soon branch out and become interested in the horoscopes of others to such an extent that they almost forget their own.

Right at this point in their path, however, there is a death-trap and many, alas, all too many, fall by the wayside and allow personal interests to rule. They pore over their own figure every spare minute; they tabulate aspects daily; they cast a horary figure for every move, even to the smallest affairs of life. Thus they prostitute the most sublime science extant, and nip in the bud what might have become a wonderful factor in developing soul power; namely, the faculty of *spiritual* delineation. I hope and pray that you may escape that dreadful quagmire. Always remember your promise *to help others* according to your ability.

Another serious responsibility will confront you and require great discretion when you see illness or

trouble ahead of a client. Never under any circumstances tell him bluntly of impending trouble or ill health, for he will surely lose his stamina by brooding, and the blow will be twice as heavy owing to your indiscretion. You must first learn discrimination.

To many people even a hint of trouble is disastrous, although that class usually questions the astrologer very closely, and professes profound ability to preserve perfect equanimity, even in the face of impending death. Be careful as to what you tell them, for you will be held accountable. Neither should you mind if your ability is questioned when events come to pass which you have seen in a life and kept silent about, rather than discourage a soul that is weak or heavy-laden.

Once, jealous of my beloved science, I told a mother that if we could only get her sick daughter past a certain day, she would recover. The mother repeated my words to her daughter. She died on the day designated, and I have always felt responsible. On another occasion a lady asked: "Would you advise divorce?" I saw her husband's death was imminent, but kept silent. I magnified her faults and his good points, and prevailed upon her to bear and forbear for a while longer. When a fatal accident severed the tie, she had no self-reproach; she blessed me for my advice, though she might not have regarded my ability to predict very highly.

In the one case I gave the prediction that I might be able to say, "I told you so," and incurred a serious responsibility. In the other I withheld information and earned blessings. The lesson is obvious: *Use 99 per cent discretion to 1 per cent blunt truth, and always encourage.*

*The text for this article is based on material in the first four lessons of the *Senior Astrology Course*. Readers may take this course after they have completed the 26 lessons of the *Junior Astrology Course*.

In the next lesson we shall commence reading a horoscope. That is a study of absorbing interest, but remember, do not love it for the knowledge or the power it will give you; love it for the good you can do with it, and your treasure will be great in heaven. May God bless your efforts.

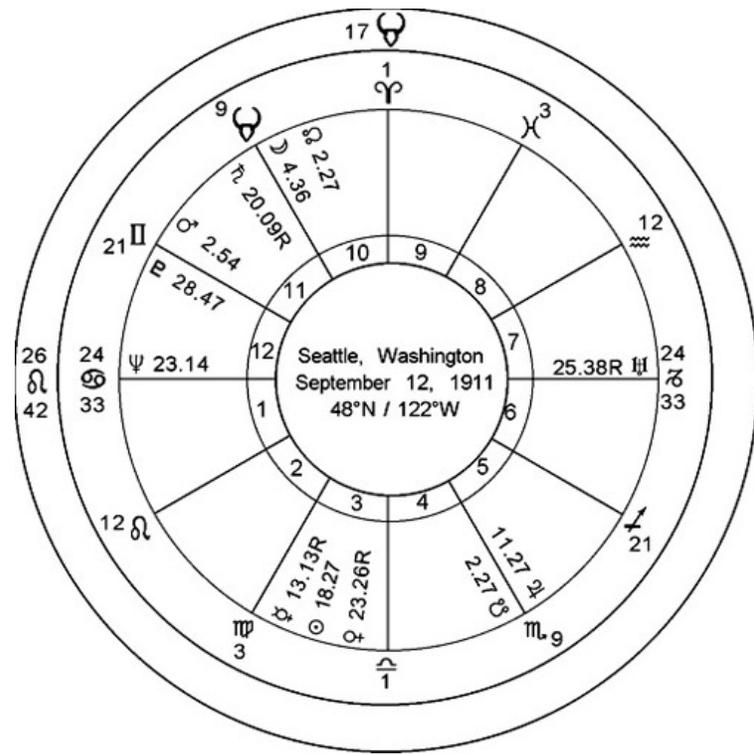
To read a horoscope correctly, it is essential to know whether material or spiritual advancement is intended for the soul during this embodiment, and to what extent one phase is expected to predominate. This is denoted by the progression of the angles.

When the Midheaven moves faster, opportunities for intellectual and spiritual endeavor present themselves and bring success, if grasped. When the Ascendant moves faster, material affairs will claim expression.

Were this understood and acted upon, there would be fewer failures in life, for the right opportunity knocks at every door. Satisfaction and success always result if we embrace it. If we miss our chance, there will be an undercurrent of regret despite any seeming success; the soul feels the resulting lack.

The greatest danger of missing our chance is by a preconceived, mistaken idea of what constitutes opportunity, and an astrologer ignorant of this inner teaching may be a dangerous guide. Suppose he is asked to indicate the life work of a young man with Mars elevated in Scorpio. In the light of common knowledge he can say that the young man will excel in surgery. Passing years may bring him fame and fortune; apparent success may seem to justify the astrologer beyond cavil. Yet, had he known that the young man's Ascendant progressed much faster than his Midheaven and stamped him as too materialistic to make a good doctor (for the first qualification of a good doctor is a heart too big for his body), he might have realized that the world had lost a good ironworker and become afflicted with a fiend who reveled in the bloody work of surgery for scientific satisfaction and who did not waste a thought of pity on his hapless victims.

Therefore it behooves the spiritual astrologer to first ascertain the relative progression of the



Horoscope's inner circle shows natal house cusp angles; outer circle shows the angles (MC and ASC) progressed forty-five years from time of birth.

angles, and make all delineations subsidiary to that cardinal point.

In the last letter you set up a horoscope and progressed the angles for 45 years [see above]. You then found that the MC had moved three degrees to every two traveled by the ASC. This shows that opportunities for soul growth will abound, irrespective of whether the person profits by them or not, and judgment of this figure should point out how the finer faculties may be cultivated, put to maximum use, and made to yield abundant treasure in heaven. Had the ASC moved more rapidly than the MC it would indicate that this soul requires a material life work during this embodiment. Hints to promote material pursuits would then be more helpful and indirectly productive of soul growth.

To justify this rule it is not required that the person whose MC is speedier than his ASC becomes a great spiritual light. He may even commit a crime and languish in prison through years of sorrow and suffering. But whatever the circumstances, his experiences will produce great soul growth. The soul never blooms until watered abundantly with tears. As Goethe says:

*Who never ate his bread in sorrow,
Who never spend the midnight hours,
Weeping, watching for the morrow,
He knows ye not, ye heavenly powers.*

The rose does not yield its full fragrance till its petals have been crushed; the well of true sympathy springs only from a broken heart. All who really advance spiritually are men of sorrow and acquainted with grief. Paul mentions as the principal qualification of Christ Jesus that He had suffered as we suffer, hence is able to feel for all who are weak and heavy laden as no one could feel who had not thus suffered. What a pathos lies in the words of Faust! What an anguish of soul is revealed when he says:

*Two souls, alas! are housed within my breast,
And struggle therefor undivided reign;
One, to the earth with passionate desire,
And closely clinging organs still adheres,
Above the mists the other doth aspire
With sacred ardor unto purer spheres.*

Also, in our horoscope is foreshown a bitter war between the higher nature and lower appetites. Saturn in elevation, sextile Neptune, on the ASC, trine Sun and Uranus, will give such wonderful perception in mystical matters that it will isolate this soul from his fellow man because his ideas will be beyond their comprehension. That will be a trial and will cause regret. Saturn in Taurus, the sign which rules the tongue, gives a thoughtful, sometimes stubborn disposition. He will be slow of speech and because Saturn is in the 11th house it tends to limit friendships. Mars in Gemini gives a keen, active and alert mentality, but in the 11th house tends to friction in friendship through bluntness of speech. Though Saturn in Taurus denies vocal expression, Sun, Venus, and Mercury in Virgo will give unusual facility for writing in a most beautiful manner.

Misunderstood and criticized, denied the companionship of others, he will be driven back upon his own devices for enjoyment. He may become a glutton, for the Moon, ruler of the ASC, is in Taurus, which has dominion over the palate, and serious illness would follow gastronomic excess. The astrologer sees these tendencies, but is, of course,



Cover of Sir John de Mandeville's *Travels*, Bohemia, 1410-1420, British Library, London

Astrologers and Geomancers

"Nature itself has illustrated...the rays of the stars in stones, in plants and...animals." —Agrippa von Nettesheim, 1510

too tactful to tell. He will not name disease, but rather seek to prescribe a preventive or a remedy.

By progressing the angles of our horoscope for 20, 30, and 40 years, we found that the MC did not gain over the ASC more than one degree in three during any epoch. Thus opportunities for spiritual growth will be about the same in all divisions of life. But mark this: they will be more likely to bring results when the progressed Midheaven aspects a radical planet. The nature and character of the experience will depend upon the nature of the planet aspected, the character of the aspect (sextile, square, or trine), and the house where the aspected planet is located.

The same rule would apply in regard to the influence of the Ascendant upon material affairs. Its aspects by progression promote changes which affect our physical existence. The effects of its aspects are not invalidated even though the tendency of the life is towards the spiritual; and in a life

where the speed of the Ascendant foreshadows the preponderance of material activities, the progressed Midheaven may wake the slumbering soul and a beginning of spiritual activity may be inaugurated.

Right here is one of the most important and fruitful opportunities for service which the spiritual astrologer can find, and although this whole subject of "progression" should *follow* instruction on reading of the natal figure instead of preceding it, I feel that knowledge of the effect of progression of the Ascendant and Midheaven is of such vast practical value that I have decided to violate that precedent and stay with this subject till it has been made as clear as I can make it. Then you will be able to help others at crises in their lives which may have been unsuspected even by those most anxious to aid.

Have you ever met a mother anxiously seeking advice concerning a wayward girl or a drunken son? Would they mend? How could she best help them? Or was it a wife with a flock of little ones, suffering through the neglect of husband or father? Alas! The world is full of such cases, and any spiritually minded astrologer, actuated by compassion for all concerned, must often have sorrowed when he searched vainly for an aspect of the planets that would give a ray of hope. Had he known the elevating potency of aspects to the radical and from the progressed Midheaven, had he known how these aspects produce opportunities to retrieve mistakes and make a new start in life, he might have pointed out the auspicious time when judicious persuasion would have been the most effective in turning the wayward child or weaning the father from the curse of drink; a time when they would have been more amenable to reason than usual. Opportunities must be caught on the wing or they are lost, and lack of astrological knowledge has wrecked many a life.

Therefore, students are advised to always look carefully for aspects of the progressed Midheaven to radical planets, or of progressed planets to the radical Midheaven. Aspects of Sun, Jupiter, and Venus to the Midheaven are of course most powerful, but good aspects of Saturn sometimes accomplish identical results by appeal to the delinquent's manhood and self-respect. □

—Max Heindel

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