

## *Evolution Considered Astrologically*

**A**STROLOGERS are constantly hearing the expressions “A good or a bad horoscope,” “good or bad directions,” and so on. Let us consider for a moment what we mean by these expressions, and from what standpoint we are considering the natal chart; whether from the external or personal plane—the world’s standard—or from the esoteric or individual point of view, in which the life of the Ego, seeking *Its* experience through the personality, is depicted in the natal chart.

Let us take a typical case to illustrate practically what we mean by the foregoing statement.

We find “Saturn posited in the second house afflicting the ruler of the nativity.” This, we say, is a bad aspect for money. The person will never be opulent; there will be difficulty in gaining financial success, labor to acquire position in life. All this is of course true, and, measured by external reasoning alone, very unfavorable. But let us consider the matter a little closer, and see what this denial of finance means. The earnest occult student of Astrology, to whom life, with its possibilities, sorrows, joys, and opportunities, means more than worldly aggrandizement, will note that “Saturn afflicted in the house of the intellect” means a slow mind, limited mental capacity, and realizes that this very absence of means, if a punishment on the physical plane, is yet a blessing in disguise; because, considered from the higher vantage ground, this very lack of wealth, this very struggle for income, will develop intellectual capacity—growth of mind by thought and experience—the mind thus evolving more rapidly.



Engraving, George Pencz (1500-1550), Folge der Planeten

*Allegoric representation of the Life of the Children of Saturn.*

In this case luxury and wealth would cause stagnation, for there would be no incentive from without to stir the mind to action from within.

Thus a “so-called” evil, looked at from the personal side, is from the inner standpoint a quickener of evolution, “growth by exercise being a law of nature”; for the characteristic of evolution is the unfoldment of possibilities from within, quickened by unfoldment opportunities from without.

To the student who seeks the secret of nature, who has realized to some extent what the Delphic Oracle meant by “Man, know thyself,” the horoscope is a means of *self-knowledge*—but he looks at the inner significance of the figure, as well as its

mere outward expression, and tries to fathom the condition of the life that is working within the form, rather than learn what he can personally gain by his figure of birth. The question he asks is not so much: Have I a good horoscope for wealth, position, fame, and marriage?—but: Have I a good horoscope as far as character, and mind, and morality are concerned? For he knows that *character is destiny*, that Astrology proves in a very literal and practical sense the teaching of the Christ, “seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

If your moral character is flawless, this will be felt in the world of men. Responsibility and, as a necessary corollary, position will be yours. Is the quality of love in your natal chart untinged with Saturnine selfishness or Martial passion? Then by that attractive force within you friends will come to your aid, and benefits will flow in.

Is will powerful and selfish desire not limiting its force? Then this ability to lead and direct is recognized, and leadership and authority is yours by birth-right, and opportunity comes.

Few realize that we are all “Gods in the making,” that each natal chart is an unfolding of our past, that to-day we are making by our thoughts our future condition.

When people wake up to the fact that they themselves condition themselves, that they are the makers of their own destiny, then evolution will take rapid strides forward. Then a man will look at his horoscope and scan with unerring eye his weaknesses, deficiencies, and disabilities, and take himself in hand. Has he brought over from foolish wrong thinking in the past an afflicted Mercury? He sets himself rigorously now to watch and control his thoughts, so as to think more wisely and more truly.

Knowing Astrology and how the law works, he seeks to turn the square of affliction into the angle of joy; resting on the law, believing in the law, he makes today his past failures stepping stones to future virtues. He is wisely learning by “self-knowledge” how to overcome the stellar rulings, or in other words, his past limitations.

Is Mars afflicted in his figure? Does the passionate and sense nature seek to enchain and enslave

him? Be it so; he now seeks to unbind the chain he once bound, and using his mind and thought power, he decides to dominate this side of his nature. For the mind is king over the senses and, long and severe though the struggle may be, the result is absolutely sure, for from the Moon square Mars we evolve Moon sextile or trine Mars, by purifying the passions.

In this idea of evolution astrologically considered, let us see how a knowledge of “The Law” may be utilized for the control of destiny.

Let us glance over an ordinary horoscope belonging to the average type of humanity and learn how necessity and free will are both at work, and at work in harmony.

Here we have before us a passionate nature showing definite characteristics, some good, some bad, a physical body fairly formed and healthy, but with nothing special signified. Suppose the person to whom the chart belongs has studied Astrology (which is the manifestation of the “Law” in working activity). He finds himself with a certain stock in hand, and he has to do the best he can with it. Great mental power is not in his grasp, many temptations are about him, to which his passionate nature yields, even though he feels compunction for so doing. He finds he cannot avoid troubles of many kinds; he can only bear the pain as best he may, he cannot escape from it.

He sees that all these things are so, and on first realizing this, he feels somewhat like a slave under the lash of grim destiny—for Astrology cannot alter his horoscope. He has limited himself by past thoughts, wasted opportunities, mistaken choice; he is bound by his desires, chained by his errors of an earlier day.

This is the fate side of it, truly, but the man made his own fate. How about free will? Is there no help? Is there no balm in Gilead?

Indeed there is. First he must learn to accept the conditions under which he finds himself, realizing that these disabilities are *self-made*; whether it be bodily pain, mental unrest, sadness, fear, or deformity. An astrologer worthy of the name must believe in that perfect law of justice, which he ever seeks to unravel and expound. He understands and realizes that the condition of life in which men find

themselves is no accident or Nature's freak. True Astrology explains and justifies the inequalities of human life. There is no "accident," but the self-generated effect of a previously existing cause.

By Nature's slow process, which led you from infancy to manhood, your personal life has been composed of distinct days, separated from each other by nights of sleep. Each day conditions the next.

In the Divine plan of evolution, you are educated from the lowest stage of human littleness to the highest plane of God-like wisdom; and your *individuality* is composed of distinct lives, separated from each other by periods of withdrawal.

In each life you act, and learn, and form your own character. As is that character, so must be the lives that follow and express it. "Rebirth is the law of human development," says the occultist, and Astrology demonstrates it. You come again and again into the world to improve, advance, and struggle upwards to perfection. In fact your present horoscope expresses the extent to which you had advanced when you were born into this life.

You are exactly what you have made yourself, your condition is that for which you are fit. Let this truth be realized: Your present map of life is but the sum and substance of your past, the chart expresses exactly what you are—for your character is *You*.

Once the invariability of the law is considered, that the law is *justice* itself, and that we can alter ourselves by will and so change the action of the law, we have taken a step towards a contented mind and a better future. For as the Sun of Knowledge illuminates the Lunar personality, the clouds of doubt and darkness roll away and a new life begins, all sense of injustice having fled. For how can a student of "The Law" governing human evolution entertain for a moment the idea of injustice? How could the Great Logos of our solar system, governing and sustaining His universe by love, be otherwise than just? or His law otherwise

than perfect like Himself?

No earnest student of Astrology could believe in Divine favoritism—the galling belief that the God of our system is wilful or capricious, dealing out joys and sorrows just by accident or fancy, petting one of His children and chastising another, without any regard for moral worth or character.

In such a Being confidence would be impossible, and we who are privileged to study the evolutionary Law, feel that the great principle of Cause and Effect is being demonstrated. Astrology is no

respector of persons. It regards each person precisely as any other, notes the very smallest act in its complete account book, and when the time arrives for settlement, either today or tomorrow, here and now or in the next life, pays each deed with exact and scrupulous fidelity, as every birth figure proves.

To realize this law and partly discern its workings acquits Providence, calms all resentment or discontent, and vindicates justice. Should not we students feel all our endeavors to lead a nobler life stimulated by this knowledge?

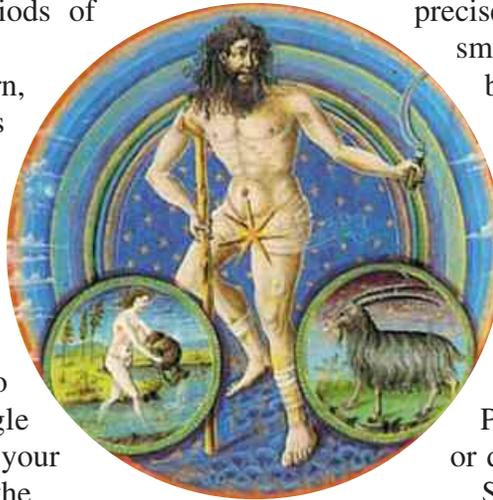
A proverb from the *Hitopadesha*, as translated by Sir Edwin Arnold, runs thus

*See, the clay dries into iron, but the potter moulds the clay.*

*Destiny today is master. Man was master yesterday.*

We are all masters of our tomorrows, however much we are hampered today by the results of our yesterdays. "Masters of our tomorrows!" Think of it! The mould of the future is practically in our hands today. The quality of our next horoscope does not arise from chance or from a superior will, but is simply the effect of the new causes we are generating in the present.

The responsibility and power are ours alone. It is just as certain that our next birth figure will be upon the lines we trace in this life, as that this life runs upon the lines traced in the past. Re-birth is in



Manuscript Illumination, *De Sphaera*, 15th century

**Planetary Seal of Saturn**

Biblioteca Estense, Modena

fact an expression of character, and character expresses what we are and do.

He, then, who desires a better horoscope must better his present natal figure, seek to overcome this stellar ruling of an evil nature—NOW!

He must note the faults which mar the life: The passions, appetites, sloth, discontent, thoughtlessness, covetousness, hatred, want of charity, etc., and seek to overcome these habits of the past; or, in other words, seek to help on evolution by cooperating with the law; seek at-one-ment, try to realize what kind of a natal figure he has brought over, and set his will to make the best of it and improve it. Instead of saying, Why should I suffer? let him say rather, What have I done unwisely in the past, that I find myself in such a condition in the present? Above all other faults of the lower nature, and yet embracing all, is selfishness—the love of personal desire, as against the rights, privileges and happiness of brother men and women.

He who desires a happier and better future must begin by making happier the lives of others now;

that is, he must respect their rights, consult their feelings, and extend their pleasures, generously sacrificing self that others may benefit.

Christ said: “He who loses his life shall find it.”

Astrology proves this, teaching that as we mould our character in the grace and beauty of true manliness and womanliness, so do we form our future horoscope; for that new birth figure is to fit the nature formed in this.

The earnest student of Astrology, then, who sees his present as the product or result of his past self, who foresees that his future will be the product of his present, who believes in the Law of perfect justice ruling the world, who desires to have a better re-birth with less of pain and more of gladness than this last “Natal Figure” has given him, will seek in generous service to his fellow man, and in an earnest endeavor to purify self and the lower nature, to earn a better natal figure in the future. He trusts “a law that cannot break, a force that cannot fail.” □

—Bessie Leo

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