

ASTROLOGY

Astrology—Its Teaching and Ethics

ASTROLOGY TELLS US that “character is destiny,” but this is often repeated in a parrot-like fashion without realizing just what it means. What does astrology teach? What are the principles which stand out clearly?

Whatever the conditions in our lives, whether of a good or a bad nature, they are nothing more or less than an outer reflection of the conditions existing within us. Astrology is a religion and more; it is the highest and most elevated of religious practices that any man can follow. In place of an anthropomorphic Being it reveals a true God—not one who is afar off, seated on a throne of judgment, but a loving Father who is known to us by His acts and works throughout all life.

Astrology rejects as false any notion of this divine Being vindictively punishing a transgressor or requiring a vicarious sacrifice for sin. It knows nothing of the potency of blind faith or credulity. It does not teach that by faith we can erase the traces of transgression, that we can engage in an Earth life of vice and sloth and sin, and that all this can be erased and wiped away and the Spirit stand purified by a blind acceptance of a belief or of a creed.

Astrology teaches that our weaknesses, both latent and manifested, must be overcome out of our own volition, and that if not done voluntarily, the laws of Nature, working inexorably, will see to it that we are forced to do it. It teaches that there is no escape from the result of wrongdoing, and that man achieves his own salvation. It demands knowledge in place of faith. It demands that we know instead of merely believe. It asks only investigation that its truths may be proved, and forces none to accept aught of its teaching other than by

logical means.

Astrology teaches that man is an immortal Spirit placed in an Earth life as a school of training; that he has duties to perform, and in performing them is prepared for more advanced work. It teaches that all life is governed by immutable laws, which if transgressed work for us misery and loss. It teaches that man has a personal responsibility, the power of choice, and that the effects of that choice will operate upon himself. In other words, it teaches us that our sins punish us. If man fails in his duty during this one earthly span, he will return again in earthly form to undo his wrong and learn from his mistakes, growing more godlike, rising higher and ever more fully realizing the divinity within.

Astrology teaches that life instructs us in progressive development. All is regulated by immutable laws of eternal justice, by which every man of his own volition pays for every wrong done, and every man is his own savior. Its justice is manifest in that if we do wrong, then by ourselves must that wrong be righted. Punishment is not administered by an angry God, but is the result of transgressing Nature’s laws. This is the basic teaching of astrology which it demonstrates mathematically, and anyone who studies this science from a religious point of view can hardly escape seeing the truth of it.

No sincere, conscientious student of this science can long engage in its practice without hearing the call to take up the tremendous work of conscientious self-unfoldment, of building daily into his character the principles and ethics of the science to which he is devoted. To be a student and practitioner of this sacred science and at the same time a slave to the passions and vices of the undeveloped man would surely be dishonest, disloyal, and

untruthful!

There does not exist a more holy, more dignified, more elevated and godlike teaching than that presented to man by astrology. True, its sublime truths have been dragged from out their sacred tabernacle and presented to the world transmogrified by man's selfishness and materialistic mind. This pearl has been cast before some who see in it naught but a reflection of their own superstitious minds; but to those with pure hearts and high intentions it will always be a sacred preserve, an esoteric revelation.

To the student just beginning his researches in this branch of occultism, there comes a voice that asks: "Are you prepared to follow Truth wherever it may lead you?" Many no doubt fail to realize fully the responsibility in undertaking any occult study. Suppose it should lead us to the door of Initiation, where we are faced with the task of transmuting all of the lower man into the higher, true man. Would we turn away saying, "This is as far as I can go," or would we be prepared, would we have the honesty to push that door open, would we be willing that Truth lead us on to further stages, higher duties, greater responsibilities, however arduous the path? Let us see what astrology teaches regarding this.

Saturn represents the Guardian of the Threshold. He stands watch over the bridge which leads from the lower to the higher consciousness. He stands guard that the unclean may not thrust themselves into the presence of the pure and holy. None may pass Saturn who have not acquired the virtues his vibrations tend to produce. All seeking the higher consciousness must be subjected to this process of testing and the chastisements, trials, and vicissitudes by which his virtues are mobilized and strengthened. They are briefly as follows:

1) Physical purity, for a pure body alone can reflect pure thoughts.

2) Purified emotions and dispassionate feelings.

3) Love of truth, patience, perseverance, chastity, and a meditative attitude.

4) Saturn brings every individual to true humility and to the stage where all that is material is renounced, so that the latent powers of the real Self

may cross the bridge made by Saturn from the Spirit to the personality. Thus the

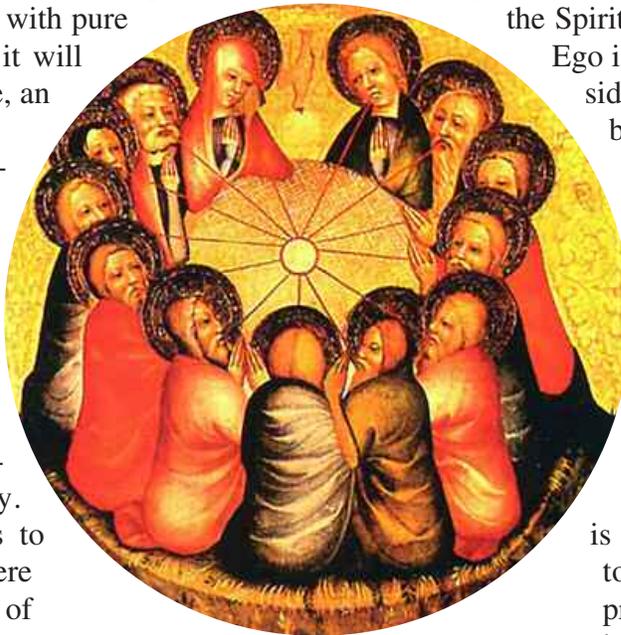
Ego is liberated from the concrete side of matter. It is no longer in bondage to the flesh and at the mercy of circumstances.

Having conquered matter in its more or less solid form, the human spirit can leave its body at will and function upon the higher planes and work consciously with the Ray to which it belongs.

However, this attainment is possible only by obedience to the higher laws. Man proves his superiority to law by his conformity to the law. The law and the individual must be one. Such compliance with the law is therefore spontaneous. All other compliance or obedience is compulsion and not natural. Man attains

freedom only by serving, by obedience, thus showing his oneness with that which he serves or obeys.

Do we realize the tremendous responsibility that goes with occult knowledge? A new race is slowly emerging among us. Thousands are awakening to a sense of their spiritual natures and their divine potentialities. Teachers must be available to instruct these young people. It is here that our responsibility lies: to lead such ones to that which they seek; to pour into their yearning hearts some measure of the truth that has been our privilege to receive; to point out to them the path that will bring them into a knowledge of the God within them; to nurture their divine spark with the knowledge and wisdom that lead to freedom and unity with the cosmic



Westphalian altar, c. 1370/80, Rheinisches Bildarchiv, Cologne

The twelve apostles and the Virgin Mary gather in a zodiacal circle and receive the Word of the Solar Logos through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, in a pentecostal outpouring of wisdom. The Virgin does not speak the Word of Truth; she, Sophia, both conceives and embodies it.

Sources from which these Egos have emanated. What better way can we do this than through a knowledge of astrology?

What glorious opportunities this science offers to those willing and ready to aid their fellow men. What a holy mission confronts the occult student at the present day. What are we going to do about it? Are we going to study selfishly with the object of gaining knowledge in advance of others to be used for personal satisfaction, greed, or vanity, or are we going to be alive to the duty facing us, the responsibility incurred? If the latter, we must overcome vanity, intellectual pride, and similar human weaknesses, and enlarge our minds with love.

Work lies ahead of us. We must be willing to, drink the cup of another's sorrow, to give him in its place our cup of healing oil, sympathy, and compassion. If we face with courage the work to be done and willingly give ourselves, body, mind, and soul to this high calling, we shall earn our reward in more progress, higher duties, and greater responsibilities.

In the events of the life of Christ Jesus we find the basic teachings of esoteric astrology. It is the path which all who endeavor to rule their stars must follow. It is the only path by which man frees himself from mundane influences and becomes amenable to the higher spiritual vibrations of the planets. It is the Path of the Will, for it is the will of man which is the determining factor. God offers and we accept or reject at our will. All the evil in the world is the result of the negation of God, itself largely the result of an increasing materialism. It is the duty of all awakened Egos to help improve this condition in the world by uprooting the evil within ourselves, by directing our personal lives into channels of right conduct.

We must eradicate selfishness in all its many forms. There must be no obtruding of self in our study of astrology. The intellect must be subordinated to self-abnegation, sincerity, and singleness of charitable purpose. Christ Jesus is our exemplar of devotion to Truth.

Astrology teaches that the purpose of man's life is to manifest God in all things—to give birth to and live from the inner Christ. Those who know of the truths contained in astrology, its beauties, the justice of God as revealed through His Planetary

Secret Thoughts

I hold it true that thoughts are things
Endowed with bodies, breath and wings,
And that we send them forth to fill
The world with good results—or ill.

That which we call our secret thought
Speeds to the earth's remotest spot,
And leaves its blessing or its woes
Like tracks behind it as it goes.

It is God's law. Remember it
In your still chamber as you sit
With thoughts you would not dare have known,
And yet make comrades when alone.

These thoughts have life and they will fly
And leave their impress by and by,
Like some marsh breeze whose poisoned breath
Breathes into homes its fevered breath.

And after you have quite forgot
Or all outgrown some vanished thought,
Back to your mind to make its home,
A dove or raven, it will come.

Then let your secret thoughts be fair;
They have a vital part, and share
In shaping worlds and molding fate—
God's system is so intricate.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Administrators, have a duty to see that this science retains its purity. It is a *spiritual* science; let us keep it so.

Astrology reveals man to himself only as he looks into it with the vision of the non-self. The man who can see himself with all his weaknesses and vices is a courageous man, but this is what we must do if we are to progress on the spiral path to Godhood. We must weave a garment of purity and perfection out of impurity and imperfection. This is the work of those conscious of their purpose in life, those who have awakened from the drug of materialism. It can be made a glorious work, with the help of astrology—a glad and joyous work. May we all learn to use it to this shining end. □

—L.W.F.