

The Shuttle of Destiny

ITAKE IT FOR GRANTED that all who are interested in astrology believe in destiny; and yet into the meaning—or even into the modus operandi—of that destiny few care to inquire.

The chief aim and object of many persons seems to be how to escape from fate, to override the law, and, so to speak, dodge their destiny. They have failed to grasp the full import of *Astro-Logia*, the wisdom of the stars. These persons are seeking to alter the effects of planetary law while the causes that produced the stellar ruling are not considered: and yet, moment by moment, hour by hour, we are now weaving the web of future destiny, are making our future conditions, our fate, and our environment joy or woe. Truly the force by means of which we fashion our future is an unseen force, working like most of nature's forces, silently yet constantly, steadily yet irresistibly.

Every human being is a creator and a generator of countless myriads of entities called thoughts, and these thought forces take form and pass out from him into the world, either as angels or demons, as blessings or curses. For this power of thought is the mightiest power that man can wield, either for good or ill, both as regards himself and those other selves around him.

Every time we send forth a thought of anger, hatred, jealousy or selfish desire, every time we think how we can outwit some neighbor, every time we plan revenge—in fact, whenever we give birth to any selfish or malicious thought, we are weaving, by the shuttle of the mind, our own web of destiny; for thought makes character, and character is destiny.

If we send forth or constantly encourage gloomy or worrying thoughts, then are we gradually forming a despondent nature, and thereby put ourselves under a future affliction of Saturn; that is to say, our future birth will take place under a discordant vibration of that planet.

Should we give birth to impure and sensual thoughts, thoughts that hinder rather than help humanity, then will the sway of martial affliction be ours, corresponding to the character we have made for ourselves by thought; and in a future birth, we shall probably find ourselves heavily handicapped by the coarser vibrations of Mars, which will produce a coarse environment or uncongenial surroundings, with a predisposition to accident and suffering, so that through pain we may be purified.

A realization of the Divine Wisdom embodied in the stellar influences would show us how “we suffer from ourselves,” how we make our own fate by our *actions*; but before action comes thought. Thought causes action, so that if we change our thoughts we change our actions. When the religious and ethical side of astrology is studied and applied, and each individual seeks to understand his own horoscope and his own nature, then, and then only, will he begin to become, in a very real way, master of his destiny.

For we live in a realm of Law, “God's law”—called in one of its manifestations *astrology*—and certainly astrologers are prepared at once to admit the existence of an unseen but unerring law. Sometimes, indeed, in the earlier days of our studies, a certain sense of helplessness is apt to overcome us, a feeling that we are in the grip of a

mighty power that carries us whither it chooses. But as we learn more of planetary law and its conditions, we come to know that the very reverse of this is the case; for this mighty power, when we understand it and work with it, will carry us where we will.

We can use any one of Nature's forces in proportion as we understand it; and as we realize the power of thought, that we become (in time) what we think, and that our birth hour is chosen in accordance with what we have become, and reveals just what we are, just what we have made ourselves—then we feel we must each begin to make (by thought) our future lives nobler, better, and purer, so bringing ourselves under the beneficent angles, or Angels, of joy, instead of the obstructive "squares" of affliction and sorrow; for the law is just, and gives every man according to his work.

Think of the symbol of Mercury—*thought*—the winged messenger of the gods (♿). Here we have the circle of spirit midway between the cross of matter and the crescent of soul, or the element of form, showing that this planet and the faculties it represents is equally at home in the three kingdoms, heaven (○) earth (+) and the astral world (∩). Through his influence we can mount to the Divine or sink downward towards the animal. Now it is largely by our thought that we affect others. If by sending against them forces of destruction, like curses, or chickens that come home to roost, the evil thought or action comes back to be atoned for, at-one-ment or equilibrium being attained in a future life.

For all ill done disturbs the "Law of perfect harmony," and we who thus go against the good law must suffer. But always remember, we cause our own suffering. If we would spread happiness and goodness around us and so reap as we have sown, then we must think goodness and happiness. That

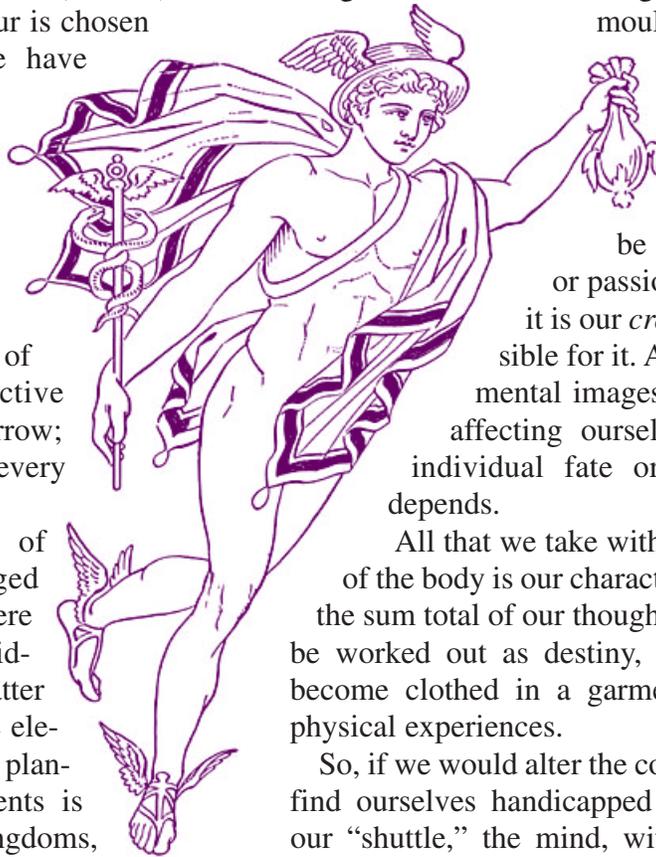
is why a great Teacher, who Himself kept the law, and therefore *knew* it, said, "Ye cannot overcome evil with evil, but evil with good." If we meet anger by anger we intensify the martial ray; if envy by envy, then the green ray becomes still more powerful, and so on.

Just as we have thought in the past, so will our character be in the present, for "thoughts are things," and a man's thought-sphere creates and moulds his future; and just as we control our thoughts, so far do we control our destiny. Whether our thought-sphere be lofty or base, rational or passionate, divine or bestial, it is our *creation*, we are responsible for it. And it is mainly by the mental images formed by the mind affecting ourselves and others, that individual fate or destiny (so-called) depends.

All that we take with us when we pass out of the body is our character and consciousness, the sum total of our thoughts; and this returns, to be worked out as destiny, when we once more become clothed in a garment of flesh for new physical experiences.

So, if we would alter the conditions by which we find ourselves handicapped to-day, we must fill our "shuttle," the mind, with different thoughts, and thus create a fresh set of causes to be worked into a new pattern of a different kind.

Many around us are now (for it is Yule-tide) echoing the old, old wish, "A happy New Year." Let us for a moment consider how we can make this New Year happier than the last, both for ourselves and others. Let us inquire how are we—you and I, dear reader—thinking to-day? Do we know our own thoughts from those of our neighbors? Are we seeking to become self-conscious co-workers with evolution? Have we indeed realized that we are spirits, and that body and mind are, after all, only our vehicles, our servants? Most of us know that we are not our bodies, but do we realize in the same way that we are not our minds, that the intel-



lect is merely the shuttle which the soul uses as its instrument on this physical plane, a mere tool for gathering knowledge and experience?

Just as the ideas in the Universal Mind become the manifested universe when breathed forth, so do thought forms or mental images when outbreathed become the manifested universe of the man who gives birth to them.

How are we using our creative power? as helpers, or as hinderers in God's universe?

But what has astrology to do with ethics? some may ask. One might reply: Astrology is ethics scientifically applied.

It has been said by an occultist, in a small manual dealing with Destiny, that:

*The aspirations and desires of one life
become capacities in the next.
Repeated thoughts become Tendencies.
Wills to perform become Action.
Experiences become Wisdom.*

Painful Experiences become Conscience.

The true wisdom of the stars lies in *Self-knowledge* and "self-knowledge is of loving deeds the child."

Knowledge of the true Self (the "higher self," which is common to all humanity) is gained by practicing the "Law of Harmony." For love is the fulfillment of the law, and as we learn to think more wisely and people our current in space with perfect thoughts of purity, truth, and love, thoughts of good will and service to all mankind, we shall indeed rule our destiny and master all stellar forces.

For the Law of Good is the same yesterday, today, and for ever, and when we can attune our thoughts and finally our consciousness to *keep*, and not to keep breaking, this Law, we shall have become perfect, with perfect horoscopes—we shall be true astrologers, and co-workers with Divinity. □

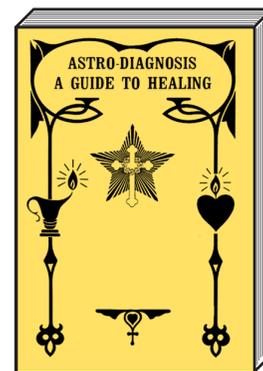
—Bessie Leo

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