

ASTROLOGY

The Value of Astrology

EVEN a casual and cursory investigation of astrology will convince most people that "there is something in it." As interest really awakens through further study and examination, curiosity will become stronger and conviction will increase as time passes. Many who have approached the subject in a spirit of rank skepticism have been fascinated by the truth of its teachings and have become whole-hearted converts. The history of astrology is replete with such cases.

It will be assumed that the individual is convinced that the teachings of astrology are correct, that the position of the heavenly bodies at his birth have "stamped" him with an indelible and quite distinctive imprint. This knowledge will probably be received with varying emotions according to the type of mind concerned. There are those, presumably, who would regard the whole matter with indifference and unconcern and would miss the deep significance of this planetary power. Deeply immersed in the affairs of everyday life, full of the zest of living and bent upon enjoying themselves to the utmost, they refuse to be bothered with the subject. They are too fond of the fleshpots to give consideration to any factor that might be expected

to disturb their peace of mind. Another class might concede that astrology could vindicate its claims to recognition but would admit no particular need for its assistance. Staunch adherents of some certain type of religious faith, they are conscious of sufficient satisfaction therefrom without delving into any astrological mysteries. Still others would adopt a highly inimical attitude towards science which, they would aver, made such preposterous claims. This conservative and mentally inflexible attitude might regard astrology as irreligious and as smacking of superstition and paganism. From the spiritual standpoint, the most hopeless class of all is represented by the hard-boiled atheist who scorns and ridicules the very notion of astrological truth.

It is a lamentable fact that the very people who would certainly derive the utmost benefit from astrology are often those whom it is most difficult to reach.

What, then, has astrology to offer in these busy, harrying, worrying times, indeed, any time? How can it profit an individual who has been attracted to its serious claims? What, in short, can it do for him?

In the first place, astrology shows us what and where we are. It is a sure index to our character. It



Paracelsus, herbalist, alchemist, occultist, healer, presented the Rosicrucian teachings in "a more veiled manner." (Note the rose above his head.) Astrology figured prominently in his thought and work. He ponders the Hippocratic motto which counsels, "first do no harm."

reveals our weaknesses and strengths, our emotional and intellectual urges. It brings to light our latent capacities and the particular avenues along which we would make the most material progress and secure the most happiness from our endeavors. Perhaps most important of all, it clearly indicates the degree of our moral and spiritual strength. This information in itself would be worth all the time and trouble expended upon its study. Actually, an individual could ascertain these details after a comparatively short acquaintance with astrology. Deeper insight into the intricacies of the horoscope will be acquired through wider experience and more extended research.

Well may we heed the motto that was engraved

The Law of Consequence works in harmony with the stars, so that a man is born at the time when the positions of the bodies in the solar system will give the conditions necessary to his experience and advancement in the school of life. That is why astrology is an absolutely true science, though even the best astrologer may misinterpret it, because he is fallible.—Max Heindel

above the main entrance of the temple at Delphi, words which Plato's teacher, Socrates, had made his own: "Man, know thyself." To be positively aware of one's actual power or weakness is to be fortified in every way. No good purpose could be served by a blind or irrational optimism that would unduly magnify our powers or incite us to expend energy along channels unsuited to our capacities. It is possible for ambition to minimize or ignore the limitations imposed upon us by our natural talents. Astrology is extremely useful here by clearly showing the "lines of least resistance." Scientific vocational analysis by means of the birth-chart constitutes a trustworthy guide to those talents which could be utilized to the best advantage.

Astrology may confer its greatest benefit in accurately appraising the intrinsic strength of our morals. It is at this point that we most clearly realize the high status of this science. The student here stands upon holy ground and is drawn close in thought to those great planetary Spirits whose rays permeate and influence all human life on earth. The texture of an individual's moral fiber is accurately shown by the horoscope of birth and consequently the ease or difficulty he will experience in

mastering this part of his nature. A little thought will go to show that much of our fate in this life is dependent upon the evolution of our moral nature. Low desires and coarse impulses are the signatures of an undeveloped moral sense. When these indications exist the soul is distinctly warned of trouble ahead. It will know that through its actions in past lives it has accumulated this heavy karmic debt which must be paid off at some time or other.

Similarly, refined and elevated emotions are the sure reward of one's efforts in the past. They might be regarded as funds in the bank of destiny.

Everything will depend upon how those resources are employed. It is possible from a fine, auspicious start to so mismanage one's affairs that

severe loss and discredit may result. Retrogression instead of progress is quite possible through failure to properly appreciate the value of one's possessions and the responsibility entailed by wise stewardship. The Bible story of the talents is one that may be profitably pondered. The two servants who had used their master's money profitably were suitably rewarded. The fearful slothful servant who had buried the single talent with which he was entrusted received a severe reprimand. The individual will be compelled to account for the use he has made of all his faculties.

To know the full extent of our moral weakness may cause us disquietude and remorse. But we should profit as the result of this disclosure. The regenerative process can be more effectively set in operation when we are aware of the nature and extent of our shortcomings. Knowledge is power. But knowledge must be intelligently and faithfully applied. The absolute necessity for purification of the moral nature must be realized. The will must be aroused and exerted to play its dominant part in this righteous cause.

Astrology is thus linked closely with all the spiritual forces of the universe. Individual characteristics

and other indications of destiny are clearly shown in the natal chart. Through countless earth-lives the ego has constructed the conditions under which it is born. The one-earth-life theory is obviously inadequate to explain the various and widespread anomalies of existence. Surely it is more reasonable to believe that the destiny which is mapped out in the horoscope corresponds exactly to one's deserts than to suppose that one has been the victim of blind chance! Those who are laboring under a severely afflicted birth-chart would have cause for real resentment were any other theory proposed.

Profound reflection upon this aspect of the subject will lead to the conviction that purpose and design underlie the destiny foreshown in every horoscope. If an overarching, omniscient intelligence (Deity) governs the whole cosmos, justice must reign throughout. It therefore follows that each ego encounters at birth exactly what it has earned by reason of its actions and exertions in past lives.

If the ego has conscientiously attended to its duties and faithfully learned its various lessons throughout the past a favorable horoscope will have crowned its endeavors. If, on the other hand, it has misused its opportunities in the school of life and shirked its tasks, the penalty is as clearly evident.

Genius signifies creative power and ability rightly earned by diligent work before



Engraving, William Blake (1757-1827), from Blake's illustrations for Edward Young's *Night Thoughts*
In pathos an angel records the degradation of a soul and its difficult destiny.

the present incarnation. Those who find themselves handicapped during the present life will understand that they themselves only are to blame; but also that they can apply the remedy.

Astrology should therefore serve as a stimulus and inspiration and as a most practical aid to accomplishment. Its sacred implications should always be present to the mind. It should spur on the individual to "live the life," to tread the Path of

spiritual endeavor. Encouragement will always reward the efforts of those who have thus consecrated their whole being to the higher life. If this standard appears beyond the reach of many, real exertion along this line should, at least, be made.

Astrology thus teaches the important lesson that



each individual must shoulder the full responsibility for all that he is and has. He alone has been the arbiter of his fate, the architect of his own fortunes. The aim and object of evolution is seen to be the perfection of each ego through gradual and systematic cleansing of its vehicles and development of its powers until liberation from rebirth has been attained. To make of each ego a creator—from the ordinary meaning of that word to grades and phases of being totally beyond human comprehension—this is the meaning of evolution.

Those who have come into contact with astrology are therefore especially favored. They possess inside information, as it were,

of these spiritual truths. They are the recipients of the priceless treasures of occult knowledge that formerly were jealously guarded by the few. In their possession is placed the master key by means of which they may unlock door after door in the cosmic temple of spiritual understanding and endeavor. They have been given much and much will be expected of them. This is a spiritual truth emphasized in all occult teaching. Astrology

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certainly reveals the true significance of spiritual stewardship. The ego has been entrusted with the task of fashioning its own destiny. It should take heart and courage from this fact.

If the astrological student has been lax and indifferent to all the wonderful and majestic teaching of this subject, the more reason for a complete orientation of the life in conformity with these sublime truths. Let it be remembered that God is not mocked but requires from all the utmost exertion of which we are capable. In the battle of life we cannot default in our duty and cravenly hide behind the lines in the hope that we may escape the full brunt of our responsibilities. It is essential that

he is ceasing (or almost so) to generate fresh karma that must inevitably require liquidation in a subsequent incarnation. This is no trivial advantage. Rather, it spells quick and certain advancement. And let the aspirant so flood his consciousness with this feeling of spiritual stewardship that each temptation as it arises will be more than half conquered before its onslaught has been made.

The more one can cultivate this consciousness of spiritual awareness, of one's close identity with the spiritual universe, the easier will it be to conform the life to the highest standard. A devotional attitude may be acquired through prayer and contemplation and in this way the whole being raised to a

Astrology is a phase of Mystic Religion, as sublime as the stars with which it deals, and not to be confused with fortune-telling. The educational value of astrology lies in its capacity to reveal the hidden causes at work in our lives. It counsels adults in regard to vocation, parents in the guidance of children, teachers in management of pupils, judges in executing sentence, physicians in diagnosing and treating disease, and in similar manner lends aid to each and all in whatever station or enterprise they may find themselves.

we face our horoscope bravely and refrain from a pusillanimous inclination to shirk our immediate duties. The longer we delay in consciously laying hold of our karmic obligations, the more difficult will be the task in the future.

Debts of destiny contracted in former lives should be liquidated as quickly as possible. This can only be done by concentrated, conscientious effort. Drifting aimlessly with the tide of life, reaching forward eagerly to every sensual pleasure, succumbing supinely to every passing temptation, such behavior assures retrogression, possibly of the most deplorable kind. A positive, aggressive attitude towards an unfortunate, heavily afflicted nativity constitutes the one obvious, logical method of spiritual redemption.

When one has become fully awakened to clearly-defined duty and has faced one's horoscope unflinchingly, salvation lies straight ahead. Regeneration will then proceed surely and steadily and this policy of renunciation of the spiritually worthless will bring its inevitable rewards. The individual will be heartened by the knowledge that

higher rate of vibration. Astrology teaches that each is compelled to work out his spiritual destiny, that life is a gift to be utilized to the utmost advantage. It stresses cultivating the attributes of obligation, ardent endeavor, and optimism.

The great planetary spirits guiding human evolution may be presumed to know what is best for each. A mental attitude overwhelmed with a sense of solemnity and fatalism, tinged even with depression, would be deprecated by every implication of astrological teaching. This frame of mind should be abandoned if it has gained any control whatever over the general outlook upon life. Modern psychology would here join forces with astrology in advocating a bright and positive outlook, a joyous, confident, and courageous spirit ready at all times to grapple with the problems of life.

We come now, naturally, to the question of health. Here again astrology affords a further example of its practical utility. By indicating with precision the strongest and weakest parts of our physical structure, the proper remedies can be applied with the greatest possible advantage. The

medical aspect of this science can certainly be made to produce beneficial results. When the physical body has been toned up in a scientific way it will be a more efficient instrument for the expression of the individual spirit. In many cases the mind will reflect the healthier condition of the physical body and will therefore be more capable for both personal and altruistic service.

The role played by astrology in furthering the spiritual development of the soul through purification and renunciation must now be extended in another and impersonal direction. Service represents one of the principal avenues along which we make spiritual progress—pure altruistic service. To give out to others what we have ourselves received is of the very essence of spirituality. A practical knowledge of astrology will enable the individual to assist others in many useful ways. Advice of instrumental value may be rendered on business, vocation, health, etc. By giving out freely and lovingly to others the individual is storing up spiritual treasures for himself.

In time this sustained and earnest effort towards higher development will meet with its natural reward. The “substance” of both the physical and the finer bodies will be raised to a higher pitch of vibration. Purer matter will be built into these vehicles of the spirit until finally the soul body assumes a luster and radiance that gives clear indication of intrinsic spiritual worth. This luminosity of the vital body will signify distinct progress along the Path, and in fact will automatically attract advanced spiritual teachings to the fortunate aspirant.

Astrology, by thus contrasting the ordinary, orthodox teachings with these higher occult truths, and by affording proof of human “survival,” is instrumental in accomplishing this wonderful work. It may well be cherished.

By indicating fortunate and adverse periods in one’s life, astrology may be employed in still another useful way. To be forewarned is to be partially protected against or braced for any circumstances or emergency. Apprised of periods of time when the planetary forces are propitious for aggressive action and enterprise the individual can summon all his resources to meet the occasion. On the

A SOLILOQUY

Well, I was stung today! At every turn
Opposing forces swept me from my goal,
And every fellow worker seemed to burn
With generosity to heap on coal.
Ha! Here’s my horoscope! What aspect vile
Could operate to filch from me my pile?

Could this be it? Let’s see, the Lady Moon
Was transiting a square; from fixed signs, too.
It culminated at—exactly noon.
I understand. An ancient debt came due—
An obligation I could not evade.
The Lords of Destiny would see it paid.

My treasured savings in the discard—lost!
How I had worked and skimmed to save that
pile!
Financially, I’m wrecked and tempest-tossed—
NO! I can suffer and serenely smile;
The Lords of Destiny exchanged my roll
For everlasting qualities of soul.

When I have paid unto the bitter end
And no more debts contracted or implied,
Then I can laugh at what the stars portend
And say “Your power o’er me is nullified.”
Oh, aspect vile—with hidden blessing fraught!
I’m grateful for the lesson you have taught.

—Isabel Ambler Gilman

other hand, when adverse influences are foreshown caution and prudence may be allowed to exercise their sway. Here again, this knowledge can be applied to personal affairs or used to assist others.

An accomplished astrological student, therefore, possesses a most useful instrument for the attainment both of material and spiritual progress.

It is to be sincerely hoped that astrology may gain greater favor among all classes of people as time goes on and that it may soon reach an outstanding and authoritative position in educational activities throughout the world. □

—H.W. Stevens