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## HOW ASTROLOGY CAN HELP US UNDERSTAND OUR KARMA

(Adapted from a lecture given at the L.A. Conference)

by Florence Estep

Before taking up the subject matter of my talk, I thought it would be well to consider the general scope of astrological influence. In his book, *The Astrology of Personality*, Dane Rudyer shows how astrological influence comes down to us first from the sphere of the stars and constellations, and this is the occult background of astrology. These influences were coordinated into the signs of -the zodiac as we know them. Through this zodiac the Sun apparently passes, creating the yearly cycle. I say apparently, because in reality it is the passage of the earth around the Sun which creates this illusion.

This is collective astrology which applies to everyone, as we find in the Sun-sign horoscopes which appear in the current magazines. Then we come to the planets, as they revolve around the Sun and create relationships among themselves - called "aspects" in the language of astrology. They operate for everyone collectively, and yet may be brought to a particular individual focus when they are plotted in the horoscope for the moment of birth at a particular place on the earth.

First, let us consider the occult background of astrology as revealed through the stars and constellations beyond our solar system. There are many ancient traditions and legends concerning these well known star

groups. which point to the evolutionary cycles of man. From earliest times, the seven stars in the big dipper of the Great Bear constellation have been revered by man, as the origin of life and manifestation, This was particularly true in ancient Egypt.

It is claimed that the ancient and biblical name for Egypt, *Mizraim*, was taken from one of the stars of the Great Bear, called *Mizor*. In Alice Bailey's book, *Esoteric Astrology*, she says that the Seven Rays which govern the Solar System (and govern the immortal souls of every one of us) are said to have their origin in these seven stars of the Great Bear.

Another star of great importance in ancient Egypt, as well as today, is the great Sun Sirius, nicknamed the dog star. According to Alice Bailey, the Lords of Karma on our system we ruled by a greater Lord of Karma on Sirius. This star is also the star of initiation for our humanity. It is well known that the temples of ancient Egypt were oriented to these stars, as well as others. in such a way as to bring their rays into the inner sanctum during periods of initiation. This knowledge was brought over from Atlantis where knowledge of the use of star rays was highly developed. Nowadays, we have a reflection of this knowledge in the fact that there is a scientific project in operation to contact

signals from the stars. As a matter of fact, a signal has been received from Cygnus, the constellation of the Swan.

### **Karmic Tax Collectors**

What do these stars mean to us today in relation to our past and our Karma? When we find planets aligned to the stars in outer space, we know that added power is given to the person - power which he has earned in the past. Also, some stars have a definite karmic influence, in fact are tax collectors of karmic debt, When such a star is present in the horoscope we know that now is the time when the person must meet his karmic obligations and pay them off.

As an example of this, I shall take the chart of Edgar Cayce, the founder of our organisation. He had two karmic stars in his horoscope, Algol and Scheat. Algol is one star that requires payment of karma now, or else. It was also responsible for the fact that Edgar Cayce's great contribution to our times was given in an unconscious state. Algol was conjunct the planet Pluto in his chart (22.51 Taurus), and this planet rules medium-ship and psychic ability, among other things. It also rules that which carries on in a chain reaction. Therefore, this planetary position indicated that his work would carry on beyond his death, although it was personally out of his conscious control.

The other star which I mentioned is Scheat. This star forms one of the corners of the great square of the constellation Pegasus. This constellation is very ancient and goes back to Atlantis, showing that Edgar Cayce brought knowledge over with him from that remote past. Scheat, however, is a star of sacrifice and death. In Mr. Cayce's chart, this star was conjunct his Sun (28 Pisces), in the 8th house of death. The Sun symbolises one's willpower and thus it is indicated that he would willingly

sacrifice his life.

Coming down to the present day: in the chart of Hugh Lynn Cayce, our esteemed Director of the A.R.E., we find many interesting parallels with his father. As a matter of fact, their charts are very similar, showing how Hugh Lynn fell heir to his fathers work. His Mercury is in the same place as Edgar Cayce's Sun. Mercury is the planet of communication and writings; which indicates. how Hugh Lynn has coordinated and spread the message of his fathers readings.

### **General vs. Individual Star Patterns**

The planets of our solar system, together with the Sun and Moon, move in their orbits into configurations which can reveal the karmic background of a person. In the Bailey book, *Esoteric Astrology*, much is said about the influence of the signs of the zodiac on our evolution. Every person who is born on a given day has more or less the same horoscope. There is a spiritual tie between all these people - in a sense they form a pattern which is broken when one of the members passes from this plane. I remember feeling a definite sense of spiritual loss when a prominent person died who was born the same year I was. You see, the same transits of the planets and the same progressions were affecting both of us, although I had never known this person.

We are all affected by the planets in space as they are currently transiting. That is the reason so many people are affected in mass disasters such as earthquakes, tidal waves, etc. These people are not living according to their individual star patterns. They are vibrating to the mass consciousness which is activated by the stars and planets currently in the heavens. In these situations, however, there are

always some people who are saved. They are the individuals who are living on a higher level, regardless of how limited that might be; and are vibrating to their individual planetary patterns. according to their *progressions* and *directions*.

When a person is born, his pattern of destiny is fashioned for him by the starry patterns in the heavens. After birth, these planets move forward and backward by natural motion indicated by progressions; and by mathematical motion shown by directions through the horoscope. Through these means, we can see ahead to what life may produce, and look backward to see what karmic problems must be faced.

Some people object to astrology because it seems fatalistic. Rather, let us call it a road map of life. There is not one of us who would start on a trip without a well-planned itinerary; and a horoscope is our itinerary for life. Through it we can foresee our difficult periods, and also the times when we have the go ahead signal for worthwhile accomplishment.

This is not to say that our periods of trouble are not those of accomplishment. These are times when we can take stock of ourselves and overcome our failings spiritually and physically; to prepare for the time when conditions will work more in our favour, We have a saying in astrology that a square aspect in the horoscope is a building block or a stumbling block.

Another aspect that is considered an affliction by many is the opposition. This aspect is formed when two planets face each other from opposite sides of the zodiac. It is the same as a full Moon, which is the time when the Sun and Moon are in opposition. Basically, it is an aspect of illumination; and on other levels it has to do with relationships, both psychologically and physically. We

who are students of the occult and spiritual know that illumination cannot be attained without work and preparation; nor can a relationship be established without adjustments and changes in the participating parties. We should therefore look forward to this aspect in our charts, and prepare ourselves to meet its challenge and receive the illumination in our lives and affairs.

The *trine* is considered the most favourable aspect in astrology. It is formed on the basis of the triangle and is the symbol of perfection. This aspect means that the affairs mapped by the planets concerned have been brought to a high state of development in a previous life, and are spiritually protective to help us through our periods of stress and strain.

### **Atlantis and Egypt**

There is much in the Cayce readings about the spheres of the planets. In particular, there are many references to people having sojourned in the environs of the different planets, between lives. According to W.O. Suchor, an English astrologer, we pass through the orbits of all the planets when we leave this earth plane, and we all return via the same route. According to him, souls leave the essences of their lives in these planetary spheres and other souls pick up these vibrations when they are returning to earth, for good or ill, according to their evolutionary level.

It is my belief, however, that highly evolved souls also sojourn in the area of the stars and constellations beyond this solar system. This seems to be verified by the readings, since Mr. Cayce makes several references to souls having come from the star Arcturus, the gateway out of this system.

Arcturus, according to Mary

Elsnau, was the star of Atlantis. She also states that there are scrolls pertaining to the science of sound, colour and light, hidden in the Great Pyramid, which were given to the world by Arcturus. It is my personal belief, based on memories of my past incarnations; that the constellations of the Scales (Libra) and the Scorpion were used as paths of initiation in the rites of ancient Egypt. This was also the path of the dead mentioned in the Book of the Dead. The soul was weighed in the Scales to find out whether it had paid its karmic debts or still had problems to work out.

There are two stars in this constellation of Libra, the Scales, which accomplished this work. They are called the North Scale and the South Scale. They are symbolically named – *the Full Price* - that which makes perfect; and the *Insufficient Price* - or, burden which has yet to be balanced. The soul then passed into the constellation of the Scorpion, where it met many tests until it arrived at the hurt of Scorpio, or Antares, which was the star of the adapts of ancient Egypt. The name Antares means, symbolically, the Rival of Mars. It is very powerful and gave the adept the strength to overcome the adversary of darkness on the astral plane. Then if the adept was successful in passing the tests of Antares, he was released to the star Lesath, in the sting at the end of the Scorpion. This star gave him the power to wield occult influence on earth. When we find these stars in the horoscopes of present-day people, we know that they were initiated in the temples of ancient Egypt.

Referring again to the chart of Hugh Lynn Cayce, we find his Mars in conjunction with the star Lesath. This indicates that in the ancient time, he passed through the initiation of the Scorpion and has brought back in this

life the power to carry occult force into action.

Nowadays, on account of the precession of the equinoxes, these constellations do not coincide with the signs as we know them. In other words, the Scales are now in Scorpio, and the whole of the Scorpion is contained within the sign Sagittarius. Symbolically the constellation of the Scorpion was the ancient battleground between the evil forces left from the fall of Atlantis and the regenerative forces of ancient Egypt. The masters of old knew about the precession of the equinoxes and realised that in time the fires of Sagittarius would burn away the dross in the Scorpion. Therefore Sagittarius has come down to us as the sign of the higher mind, or that which is the synthesis of all past knowledge and experience.

### **Uses of Astrology**

Astrology has many uses on the everyday levels of living. One of its most worthwhile applications is in the field of psychology. Modern astrologers have developed systems of reading the horoscope to show the underlying complexes and compulsions of the individual, as well as his social adaptability. This latter is accomplished through chart-comparison between people who are associated together; both within the family and in the outer realm of partnership and friendship. There are certain configurations between charts that show karmic debts which must be liquidated. Also, through the planet Pluto and its configurations we can determine a person's debt to society and how he participates in mass karma. As I mentioned before, Edgar Cayce had a very prominent Pluto in his chart, which was conjunct the karmic star Algol. We can see here how he was involved in the mass karma of his era,

and we all know how well he discharged his obligations.

Indeed, astrology can be a very helpful tool for understanding our fellow men. A skilled astrologer can quickly analyse a person's problems which would take a psychiatrist many hours of consultation to uncover.

All of the stellar bodies play their parts in our karmic patterns and spiritual unfoldment. The Sun, the most important member of our solar system and itself a fixed star in the universe, represents in the individual horoscope the synthesis of everything that a person has been in his past lives. It is the indestructible inner kernel of self which is the real ego. The sign that the Sun is in at birth colours the whole life and is indicative of the evolutionary status.

The Moon is the reflector of the Sun and the outer sheath of the personality. Its position shows how we meet the tides of life and public cooperation. The Moon is one of the time—markers in our charts and, by its travel and aspects, indicates periods when events occur in our lives and when karma is ripe for payment.

Mars is the other timer in the horoscope. It is the great activator and gives us energy to carry out our objectives. Mercury is the planet of the objective mind. It indicates what we think and what we say.

Venus is the planet of beauty and love. It spreads the glow of art over experience; and it brings mankind together in brotherly love.

Saturn is the planet of karma on this earth. It rules individual karma. In contrast to Pluto which rules mass

karma.

Jupiter is the planet of our soul's growth and evolvment. It takes the experience and lessons learned from Saturn, and transmutes them into soul substance. Jupiter and Venus are considered the greater and lesser *benefics*, and mitigate otherwise difficult situations in the horoscope.

Uranus and Neptune lead us into outer dimensions of pure spirit. Their high vibrations are hard to live with. Therefore we find, unfortunately, some cases where these two planets seem to exert a detrimental influence. This is because these people are living on a level of unevolvment.

Thus we can see that the planets and stars in the heavens truly shape the destiny of mankind - apart from will. They work on all levels - mundane as well as spiritual. In closing,

I would like to revert to the theme of our Conference: "Man's Adventures In Time and Space." I am sure that all of us wonder what will happen when our astronauts are able to go into the outer regions of space. For instance, it is the claim of occultists that Venus is inhabited by a much more highly evolved race of beings than that of our earth. If this is so, I think the men of this planet will be in for a very great surprise if they ever get as far as the environs of Venus.

In any event, let us hope that our space explorations will bring us a greater understanding and reverence for God, and for His wonderful laws that keep the stars moving in their appointed orbits in the harmony of the spheres.

### **Extracts from the Readings**

*No. 4228-L-1. Born August 13, 1917.*

"Arcturus being in the greater force; (the entity) receiving then the greater force by the influence of

Arcturus with that of the dwelling-forces of Neptune; the Moon's forces being those that have brought—and will bring—many of the influences from the forces

of Venus . . . Hence will must be directed, else with the influence of Venus' forces, detrimental elements would be given into the life. One whose forces from . . . Mercury will turn in the middle portion of life to elements pertaining to the chemical forces, with Arcturus' forces giving strength to the elements which are directed in the entity.

*No. 2823-L-1. Arcturus.* "Not that the Sun which is the center of this solar system is all there is. For the entity has attained even to the realm of Arcturus ... that center from which there may be an entrance into other realms of consciousness. And the entity has chosen in itself to return to the earth for a definite mission"

*No. 137-1, (L-1). Arcturus.* ". . . though the soul took its flight from Mercury and this brings especially vivid understanding of definite conditions in a material world, there were so many influences in the house of birth that the body partakes also of those influences experienced in other spheres and planes and brings theme to the present earth's forces; and may . . . be able to manifest many of the unseen forces in the earth's plane. These special influences bring Mercury, Uranus, Jupiter, Venus . . . Also we find the Sun and Arcturus—the greater Sun- giving of strength in mental and spiritual elements."

*No. 957-L-1. Born: January 3, 1876. Arcturus.* "First in that of Uranus with Jupiter; such bringing the occult student, with forces of broadening, as seen in the Jupiterian influence . . . The influences also in Venus, with those of the Arcturian influence, bring a power which may be applied either in mental or spiritual . . . activities?"

*No. 2454-L-1. Arrcturus.* "Arcturus comes into this entity's chart, or is as a central force from which the entity came

again into the earth-material sojourns. For this is the way, the door out of this system. Yet purposefully did the entity return in this experience."

*No. 487-L-1. Born February 9, 1918, Great Bear.* "In the relations which the planets have ... an effect upon this entity, we find ... Neptune, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus were all in the heavens, with the crowning glory of their Sun giving its rays upon this entity. We find that at this moment there were only two other souls sent upon this earth plane, and these are in distant places at present, though one was near to the same influence as this one, upon its appearance; but the change of environment will change a good deal from what there will be with this entity.. .

"Of those things that have to do with afflictions of the body, (these) come under ... the constellation of the Twins, or Gemini, and that of the Great Bear. These will have to do with ... the digestion, as afflicted by Septimus in ... what comes at two cycles ... In February 1924 and in March 29th of the same calendar year."

*No. 5454-S(L-1). Born February 7, 1919. Pleiades and Orion.* "We find that the entity, in entering the earth's plane, comes under the influence of Mercury, Jupiter and of Mars; with the Pleiades and the Orion in benevolent influence upon the life. Hence we find one of a brilliant mind—one easy to learn, yet too easily at times led in the wrong direction."

*No. 1735-2(L-1). Born December 16, 1915. Neptune and Vulcan.* "In entering astrologically, we find the entity's influence in Uranus with Venus, Mercury, Jupiter and Mars. In the afflictions - Neptune and of Vulcan ....

"In the influences that bring warnings, as seen in Mars and Vulcan:

beware of fire and of firearms or explosives ... Beware of wrath in self, and of grudges which may be built through wrath's influence in the relationships with your fellow man ... Keep self attuned to the love force ... Keep thine heart pure, thy body strong, thy mind open. Attune thine inner man to the harps and the chords of the universe, and harken to the love that brings service - service to all."

*No. 8474-L-1. The Twelve Houses of the Horoscope.* "The entity gained . . . aiding in the temple of service. When there were the various positions set in the Temple of Sacrifice, the entity was among the few who went through the whole course - or that which occupied what today would be termed the seat - of learning, in the various twelve houses through which it was learned that the Sun passed - (houses) which might apply to the individual in the material world.

"Hence occult interests and satisfying developments are almost at a standstill; (waiting) for constructive forces in self to apply many of those tenets, which are the rule of those who govern (self) - or those who may be forced, or those who by coercion may be brought to the knowledge of the true meaning of Creative forces in action . . ."

*No. 1737-L-1. Born October 18, 1918. Zodiac, Sun, Moon.* "In those influences ordinarily termed the Zodiacal, the Moon and the Sun - these, from an astrological viewpoint, may be more often termed the warnings, respecting either illness or accident; or the changes which may be apparent in the entity's experience."

*No. 8-L-1. Born August 11, 1890. Zodiac.* "As to those (influences) of the constellations or of the Zodiacal signs, in the life of this entity: these are merely the wavering influences in the life . . .

and not those directing forces ever present in the inner soul of this entity. This we find in opposition to much that is taught at present, or given, in the earth plane."

*No. 398-L-2. Born June 28, 1930. Planets and Polaris.* "When the activities of ... a soul in the earth have been such that its passage from the earth would become a birth into the realm of matter known as Mars, or Venus, or Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, Moon, Mercury, Polaris—or any of those that are effective in the universal influence ..."

*No. 2524-L-1. Constellations, signs.* "Thus we find characteristics indicated; not just because of what has been accredited to certain planets, or constellations—or even phases of the Zodiacal signs—by students of old; but because of the entity's true relationships to these, through the entity's use of opportunities under such influences."

*No. 1710-L-1. Born February 26, 1915 (Virgo Ascendant), Libra.* "These influences all come from the Atlantean's activities that have brought *Libra, of the Balance*, into force in such a manner that it might be said ...'indeed there is a path cut out for thee' - and the gods have directed that you will have the opportunity to show forth your worth."

*No. 5124-L-1. Position of the Stars.* "For, as given from the beginning: the planets, the stars are given for signs and for seasons and for years; that many may indeed find their closer relationship in the contemplation of the universe. For man has been made a co-creator with the Godhead. Not that man is good or bad according to the position of the stars; but the position of the stars indicates "*what the individual entity has done about God's plan* in earth activities, during the periods when man has been given the opportunity to enter

into material manifestations,"  
*No. 5-2-L-1. Born December 11, 1893.*  
*Will.* "While the various aspects may be  
said to rule the entity, yet the entity ...  
should rather, with its own will, rule  
those integral aspects in the affairs of

the stars, as well as of self's own life ...  
For man was created a little bit higher  
than all the rest of the whole universe;  
and he is capable of harnessing,  
directing and enforcing the laws of the  
universe."



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