

Suggestive Thoughts on Astrology

ASTROLOGY is that science which treats of the correspondence between the position of the heavenly bodies and human events. It is a science of tendencies; it teaches the universal harmony of nature; the connection between all effects and all causes. Josephus tells us that astronomy and Astrology were one science originally, and it was only during the fifteenth century that they became separated in Europe. Astrology, says Madame Blavatsky, is to astronomy as the grammar of a language is to the dictionary of the language.

Now, we, as astrologers, are all of us constantly using the words “planetary influence.” Let us consider for a moment the meaning of that word influence. *Influence* and *flux* are words derived from the same Latin root *influo*, to flow in upon; hence, planetary influence must mean the flowing forth from the planet of some subtle matter, so that the position of a particular star cannot be a matter of indifference to the destinies of a child who is being born under its influence, and who enters, by the fact of its birth, into the universal harmonies of the worlds (astral as well as physical).

In the West, Paracelsus was the last great practical astrologer, and it is stated that he healed the sick by a talisman formed under astral influences, and recognized in the bodies of all men the mark of their ruling star. To recognize this in men, animals, and plants, is the true Natural Science of Solomon. In the Jewish Kabala, preserved under symbol and metaphor, many astrological truths are found. Kabalistic Astrology deals largely with the science of numbers, which must not, however, be confused with judicial Astrology. In the Kabala, infancy was dedicated to the Sun, childhood to the Moon, youth to Mars and Venus, puberty to Mercury, mature age to Jupiter, and old age to Saturn.

Jerome Cardon, the most accomplished astrologer of his day, who died for his belief in the science, from his experience was led to tabulate certain results. Every fourth year, he says, is that of realization. Eight is the number of Venus; twelve of Jupiter; nineteen the cycle of the Moon and Mars; thirty the cycle of Saturn.

In India a belief in Astrology is as universal as its practice, and a child's nativity is cast immediately it is born. This nativity is taken great care of, considered to be of immense value and importance, and guarded as a sacred thing. As knowledge of *true* Astrology permeates more and more the Western world, people will realize the profound importance and utility of the natal figure—that picture of ourselves; that looking-glass in which is reflected our physical, mental, and moral nature, our strength and our weakness; that chart of self-knowledge which can help us to steer our bark safely over the troublous waves of life. Astrology is a reality in itself, the law of the universe working, and therefore not a matter of this man's opinions, or that man's ideas.

In Astrology is found that practical and useful knowledge which, if applied to the main factors of life, will revolutionize the world. It is the law of cause and effect working itself out—what the Eastern world calls the law of reincarnation and karma. Each nativity looked at from the subjective side is the indicator of the status of the soul and its place in evolution. The true system of Astrology is perfect, as all God's plans ever must be. But to read the book of life in its full significance presupposes the astrologer to be a saint as well as a wise man; for the knowledge of the mysteries of the workings of the consciousness of God can only be known by the pure in heart. Therefore the aim of the true astrologer should be to purify and make clean body, mind and soul, so that the divine wisdom may find in him a

fitting instrument through which to manifest.

The truth is in the stars, but alas! the truth is not in us, and only when we keep the good law shall we know it in its entirety.

Today we modern astrologers are doing pioneer work; we are clearing the ground for the builders who are to build the edifice upon the foundation which is now being laid. We are but sowing the seed, as it were, for a future harvest; the harvest is for others. It is enough for us that we are privileged to sow the seed. Astrology is practical occultism applied to the needs of men, and mankind cries aloud for deliverance, caught in the net of ignorance and darkness. Those who have seen the light, however dimly, must feel constrained to throw the whole force of their energy into illuminating the pathway for others.

SELF DEVELOPMENT

A very deep and profound interest attaches to Astrology on account of its vein of occultism, and these essays especially seek to set forth the esoteric side of this ancient study. Like all other occult sciences, Astrology comprises the two aspects of universal truth: i.e., Life and Form. In reference to the hidden truths conveyed in its wonderful symbology we might call it, in other words, "the Science of Life as applied to character and destiny." There are truths perceived by the higher mind that the lower or personal mind is unconscious of, and thus there is also an inner or esoteric side of Astrology known only by those whose intuition is unfolding.

The fact that Astrology has been taken up by charlatans and used for selfish motives to impose upon the ignorant and credulous is only too true, but at the same time let us remember that where there is no real coin there will be no counterfeit. The antidote for both ignorance and superstition is real knowledge. The Eastern philosophers have stated that "if one would be a sage, one must first become a saint," and "Truth, which is pure and undefiled and of the Spirit, must have a pure channel for its manifestation." Then, it is possible to know *from within* instead of from without, to come into touch with the Life rather than with the Form; and just insofar as one makes oneself pure and truthful in mind and character, and free from sordid motives, will there be a proportionate revelation of the divine light of Truth in the consciousness.

There are some people who imagine, because the surrounding forces are unseen by us, that therefore they do not exist. "What is the practical value of a study of the stars?" queries the unbeliever. The value of a study of Astrology, we answer, especially natal Astrology, is that it will reveal to each individual man his own nature and character and assist him to realize his high and glorious destiny. A study of one's horoscope gives an insight into one's nature that is simply marvellous. We see our own character depicted within the circle of necessity (which is the horoscope), with all our capacities and limitations, our strengths and our weaknesses, our vices and virtues, accurately traced therein. The 'line of least resistance,' so to speak, the shortest and most direct path to choose in travelling up the mountain of life, whereby to reach the golden summit, is also shown. All knowledge is power, for by knowledge we cut the cord of ignorance and delusion which binds us to pain and sorrow.

Considering the planets as representative of principles in nature and in man, and the glorious solar orb as the Life which vivifies them—or in Christian terminology, God and the seven spirits before the throne—we understand that we are dealing with Life and Force rather than with Form and Matter.

In considering any individual horoscope, if we find that we are under the ruling influence of the planet Venus, for instance, what does this really mean? It means that the influence of feeling and emotion will be the dominant factor in the life, though its grades of manifestation in matter will be limited by the point of evolution at which the soul has arrived; and the influence will translate itself as sensation, passion, pure love, tenderness, devotion, or compassion, according to the stage of the soul's growth: but Venus is the principle of feeling nevertheless. If Mercury be the significator, then thought, reason and reflection, intellect in all its varying stages, will be the keynote of the life. Such persons will be anxious for knowledge, ever eager to learn, to understand; and the purity and power of this influence will depend upon the stage in evolution to which the individual has attained: but Mercury is the principle of thinking nevertheless. If the Sun be the ruler, then strength, power, organization, rulership, will be the dominant feature of the life. But the manner in which that power will be used, whether

for selfish aggrandizement, domination and aggression, for psychic development, or for furthering the interests of humanity, will depend again upon the age of the soul, and the place in evolution to which it has climbed. In any case, the influence of the planet under which the person is born marks the impacts he is likely to experience.

In this way it will readily be understood that character *is*, and *must be*, destiny; for each will act according to his character, think according to the limits of his capacity, and thus mould his own destiny. Whether the ruling planet be the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn, the principle in man to which that planet's vibrations correspond will be the most potent center of influence in the life, though the others will play their parts as sub-influences. All persons are built to a certain note or color (and thereby form), and clairvoyant vision would see that color in the personal aura as the dominant color—though the others would of course be there also.

Now, as the object of evolution is to train and develop our character, it is of primary importance that we know which side of our nature needs to be called out. Do we find it a difficult matter to think for ourselves? Do we find ourselves unable to respond to the feelings and emotions of others? Are we unsympathetic? What kind of a will have we? Is it strong or weak? Are we swayed by external things, and unable to control ourselves? Let us always remember that the God within us ever seeks to express Divine Harmony through us; but some keys are dumb in our human mechanism, and thus the vibrations from the Player within cannot come through. Our part it is to make the instrument more fitted for the Player, or, in other words, to try and dominate the selfish and sensual nature. If we try to struggle with our lower nature we may save ourselves many earth-lives, for if we desire to have a happy life, we must first have earned it by developing a good character.

How do we build our character? it may be asked. By two methods: One is by THOUGHT, and the other is by PRACTICE. Man is a creature of reflection; that which he thinks upon he *becomes*. Now suppose we have attempted to learn that most difficult science of all, the science of self-knowledge, and are forced to realize that Truth is not an attribute of our character;

but yet we admire it, and would like to become truthful ourselves. What must we do? We must deliberately think of Truth as an ideal virtue every day, if only for five minutes, never missing one day; and then seek to *practice* it in the life. In a few years we shall have made a channel in ourselves through which the Divine Light of Truth will flow. Is the task hard? Yes, very hard! But remember, we are building for eternity, and the virtue once established is ours for all time, our own possession, of which none can rob us. So we may well take time and patience, with eternity before us. For when Truth has become one with our nature, henceforth all illusion and falsehood is impossible; for we then have the spiritual insight which pierces through all illusion.

Let us look at this subject practically for a moment. It is a recognized truism that even worldly success is ultimately referable to personal merit; and in that noblest work of all, that of building character, truth and integrity draw to us, as a necessary consequence, success, honor, advancement. Astrology shows us what we are today, it also teaches us what we can make of ourselves, the innate possibilities that we can live up to; and thus it is one of the most useful factors in life for those who are attracted by it.

This science of planetary vibration, or self-knowledge, reveals our characters as they are, and teaches us how we can co-operate with the stellar influence and work with nature to transcend our limitations. Then it becomes a science of life, for LIFE moulds the form and THOUGHT produces faculty. Therefore it is literally true that by directed thought and action we can make here and now the capacity we desire. Astrology is a practical as well as a divine science, and those who practice it are practical occultists. Try it, and prove it for yourselves, remembering always

*The spark divine dwells in thee; let it grow.
That which th' up-reaching spirit can achieve,
The grand and all-creative Forces know.
They will assist and strengthen, as the light
Lifts up the acorn to the oak tree's height.
Thou hast but to resolve, and lo! God's whole
Great universe shall fortify thy soul.* □

—Bessie Leo