

Lesson Two

Considerations: Philosophical Underpinnings

The underlying premise of this course is that by going upwards we remind ourselves of our higher principles and make it easier for personality consciousness to engage and work with them.

The heavens do not exist for animals whose spines are parallel to the Earth's surface. Keeping their attention close to the ground, they know only those things which fall from them and, mostly, they fear them. Only when spines are perpendicular and we stand up straight do we engage creatively with the etheric body of the Planet.

The higher we climb physically the further we can see. If we look out to sea from a beach we will be able to see approximately 3 miles out. We will more than double this distance if we climb up to 25 feet. If we climb up to 80 feet, the horizon will be 12 miles away.

The competent astrologer knows that the signs which give the tallest physical vehicles are the air signs, Gemini and Libra; whilst Uranus the ruler of Aquarius, the third air sign, gives exceptional height if it is rising at birth in the air signs. Of the four groups of Zodiacal signs (fire, earth, air & water), the air signs group is the only group that contains no beasts in its depictions.

We climb mountains to escape from the flatness and staleness, and to find fresh air and inspiration. Spiritual communities have ever sought out mountainous environments to assist in the of raising vibration, which is essential business of spiritually.. The foods that grow highest from the ground- fruits and nuts – are, from the angle of vibration, the most refined as far as man is concerned.

There are clues here that will reveal much to those who care to examine them and can shake free from the view into which we have been conditioned in the Piscean Age that physicality is unimportant to those concerned with spirituality

In this course, we are sending our attention upwards, encouraging the mind to take over from the physical vehicle and lift us up. We live in societies run by sedentary people with over-active intellects and closed heart centres. We are encouraged to look straight ahead and stare at computer screens because this way we are protected from perceptions that challenge the intellect, and our societies run relatively smoothly.

The world of the man or woman with his or her heart centre open is very different from that viewed through the energy centres below the diaphragm. The throat centre which is the seat of the intellect is connected to the sacral centre. The heart centre is connected to the brow.

You are strongly advised to find your own level. Why hear from someone with his heart closed how and what life is, and why it is? He cannot help but sell you short because he is observing from a place close to the ground - and probably fears what comes from the heavens.

In the English speaking world we have an expression: *to hitch your cart to someone's star*, meaning to give yourself a leg up using the agency of another. Here we are showing how to hitch your cart to your own star.



Esoteric tradition identifies seven worlds and in our *Transitional Astrology* course considerable attention is given to these worlds. Here we will simply list them in tabular form using the terminology of Theosophy.

In this context, *force* is what a higher world imposes on a lower world, in accordance with the intention built into the system.

Energy is generated in each world as life, form and consciousness come together.

Table 1

World	Identity	Body of Manifestation	Comments
One	Absolute Monad 'The One of Whom Naught can be said' <i>Esoteric Astrology</i>	The Universe Fire-Air Logoic Plane	The Cause of all that is.
Two	The Solar Logos* 'The One Greater than our Logos' <i>Esoteric Astrology</i>	The starry worlds / all galaxies Ether Monadical Plane	Manifests the quality of the Absolute Monad. The Solar Logos is a sevenfold Being. Three constellations from this world are of particular importance to us: the Great Bear; Sirius; the Pleiades. They are energy centres in the body of the Being. This is the world in which the Seven Rays can be said to originate.
Three		The Suns of the	Contains the twelve

		Milky Way / our galaxy Water Atmic Plane	zodiacal constellations.
Four	'Our' Solar Logos	Our solar system	Our solar system constitutes one aspect of this sevenfold Being, the Solar Logos, which with the planets, creates a unit that may be described as 'our' Solar Logos.
Five		The planets	Comprising seven sacred planets; five non-sacred planets; and approximately 70 'hidden' planets, i.e. existing in etheric matter only.
Six	The Planetary Logos	Our planet Earth	Organic life on earth comprising four kingdoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the mineral kingdom - <i>first</i> ◆ the vegetable kingdom - <i>second</i> ◆ the animal kingdom - <i>third</i> ◆ the human kingdom - <i>fourth</i> ◆ out of which evolves the Kingdom of Souls - <i>fifth</i>
Seven		Atoms/bodies	The separate beings from all the species in World Six.

* In *Esoteric Astrology* the term Solar Logos usually refers to 'our' Solar Logos whose relationship to the other aspects of this sevenfold Being is not disclosed, but the matter is not always made clear.

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In this course we are looking into Worlds 2, 3, and 4. Worlds 5, 6 & 7 are the province of conventional astrology.

World 2 comprises all the starry worlds that are visible and invisible to us and which manifest the quality of the Absolute, known in Theosophy as '*The One of Whom Naught Can be Said*'.

World 3 comprises the Suns and stars of the Milky Way that represent the Personality aspect of the Absolute (Cosmic Physical plane). The twelve Zodiacal constellations belong to this world and the Seven Suns, of which our Sun is one.

The personality of the human being is a lower correspondent of the Cosmic personality: we are each one of twelve Sun signs and seven Egoic groupings. Twelve is the number of the personality and seven of the soul.

Three is the number of Spirit. The ruling star of the constellation that holds us; the star that befriends us; and the star that guides us add up to three.

World 4 is our Solar system and, as all fourth principles do, holds the space between the higher and the lower **so that higher can communicate with lower and lower transform into higher**.

Our Sun commands this space and, belonging to World 3, it is a star and not a planet.

Transmission

The worlds interact with each other, passing down to a lower world the raw energy of life and receiving back from it energy refined by consciousness.

- The downward flow (force) from a higher world to a lower world is **involutionary** and is concerned with extending the involutionary arc to manifest lower worlds still.
- The energy that is returned from a lower world to a higher and is the product of the consciousness within the form, is **evolutionary**.

Thus:

- The Absolute distributes its force to the constellations of the Milky Way which process it and then send it back in the form of consciousness to the starry worlds.
- The starry worlds then send this energy back to the constellations, which pass it down as force to the planets of our solar system.
- In this way, from the constellations, the planets receive energy from outside our solar system, and return processed energy in the form of consciousness to the Sun.
- The Sun gives that energy back to the planets to pass on.
- The planets then give their force to organic life living on the surface of our planet Earth.

- Organic life on Earth processes it and either sends it on to the Moon or sends it back to the planets in the form of consciousness. This is the first time that an option enters into the distribution arrangements, and that option is made available through self-conscious humanity.

The human kingdom is the variable factor in nature's distribution arrangements. If a man is conscious and lives consciously then the energy that he generates will be of a high enough quality to be returned to the planets. If he does not then his energy, with that of the other kingdoms of nature, will go to the Moon to extend the involutory arc. In time, our Moon will develop its own moon, and an infernal place it will be too, being that much further from the Sun. Raising the level of the energy that we transform whilst in incarnation is the basic purpose being served by our spiritual and religious systems that encourage us to live consciously.

Distribution of force in our solar system - involutory:

constellations of the Milky Way
Sun
planets
organic life on Earth, *including unconscious humanity*
Earth
Moon

Distribution of energy in our solar system with a conscious participation from the human kingdom – evolutionary:

constellations of the Milky Way
Sun
planets
organic life on earth
conscious humanity (gives back to)
planets

Within the Universe, participation from the human kingdom creates a third *evolutionary* triad. The next triad created by organic life, the Moon and the body of the Earth remains involutory, something of which the esoterically oriented astrologer needs to be aware when trying to understand the significance of the Moon which the Master DK insists is a dead planet, meaning dead from the point of view of evolution.

	Life - 1st principle	Quality - 2nd principle	Appearance - 3rd principle
triad 1	Absolute	All starry worlds	Constellations of the Milky Way
triad 2	Constellations of the Milky Way	Our Sun	Planets of our solar system
triad 3	Sun & planets of our solar system	Conscious members of the human kingdom	Organic life on earth: <i>human, animal, vegetable, mineral kingdoms</i>

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Our Sun

Holding the space between the higher (stellar) and lower (planetary) worlds, the Sun rightfully occupies centre place on the cross of matter. (A man with his arms extended to the sides has his physical heart in the same place.)

Master DK describes the Sun as ‘the One Resolver’. This has many meanings. One of which is that which we observe: the Sun appears to move systematically and impartially from one area of the sky to another, regardless of what that area contains, just as a man with his heart centre open no longer fears the things that make us different from each other and is, therefore, receptive to all expressions of human diversity.

The malefic stars are so called because of the effect they were perceived to have in certain circumstances upon the established, familiar order. (The literal meaning of disaster is: from the stars.)

Progressive astrology got rid of malefic planets, and we will get rid of malefic stars in the same way by understanding the purpose of disaster. For spiritually-aware humanity this understanding is necessary. Disasters support the evolution of life by destroying forms that have lost their potency as transformers.



The Zodiac

During the course of one year, the ecliptic is perceived to take the Sun through the twelve constellations of the Cosmic Personality. Please study Table 2. The planets move along the same plane (maximum declination 23.5 degrees North and South), but with the difference that the planets really do move whereas the movement of the Sun is simply an illusion created by the Earth’s rotation. This arrangement is the Zodiac.

In this course we are concerned with both the constellations which comprise the (true) sidereal Zodiac and with the Zodiacal signs that make up the Lesser Zodiac. Because of a process called the Precession of the Equinoxes, these two are not in alignment and have not been since approximately 400 BC.

The Vernal Point (Aries 0 degrees) which is the point of interception of the Ecliptic and the Equator is moving backwards at a rate of 55 seconds of arc per year, and is presently aligned with Pisces 5 degrees.

Why then should we consider ourselves to be in the Age of Aquarius is explicable in terms of cusps and orbs of influence, which are the province of the well-trained astrologer. All that need concern us here is that this state of affairs means that the Sun (and indeed any planet), whilst occupying one sign, may well have a constellation of a different name as its back drop.

Astrologers have debated the significance of this matter of non-alignment for decades but, interesting though the fruits of the debate may be, they are not our concern here,

because we are not concerned with the Zodiac as a source of influence, but as a grid for locating stars and determining which constellation can be said to contain us.

The work that has been done on the stars has been done, as noted previously, from the point of view of the influence that they represent and send in¹. This for sure is of great interest, perhaps of consuming interest to people who have been brought up on person-centred astrology, but it is not the only point to locating a star.

Bounce back

Whilst people polarised in the intellect continue to question whether or not the Zodiacal world influences us or not, the real question for spiritually-aware people is whether the way in which it conditions us serves our development.

The Zodiac belongs to the horizontal plane and is the structure underpinning conventional astrology, which exists for and will serve well those for whom moving on is getting free from the past, and being able to engage fully with the present. But if we are to know our spiritual natures we have to find a way out of this hall of mirrors which reflects personality consciousness. By running time through this pattern, what we are is returned to us in the form of our lifetimes. This is part of the mystery of the evolution of consciousness: What we are determines how we experience life, and we live amongst the consequences of our perceptions and experiences, until we learn that there is another way and steer the vessel of the minds towards it.. Then, perhaps, we can find the Straight Road.

Prediction is possible because we are predictable. The competent astrologer who has the energetic blue print in the form of an accurate birth chart, can see what the electro-magnetic field of the personality will attract to it in the form of experiences. There is still a skill attached to making accurate predictions, but it is time we de-glamourized the process.

The Lesser Zodiac is a mirror put in place in – we are told - Atlantean times to step down stellar energy so that we might come to see ourselves and our place in the system more clearly; and, perhaps, in the way that mirrors are used in Feng Shui, experience a sense of space and light which might arouse an interest in our spiritual natures. But we cannot afford to mistake the shiny surface of the mirror for a window, because it is not one, and it will bounce back anything that tries to pass through it. We have to find another way out, which is higher up, and the star that befriends us and the star that guides us are pointers.

Repetition and recurrence are part of the bounce back effect. Humanity is always at ‘the end of an era’, always torn between a sense of loss for what has been, and a sense of possibility in what is to come because this expresses the conflicting impressions from the

¹ In this context, the work of Vivian Robson (The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology; first published 1923. Published by Weisner 1979) and Eric Morse (The Living Stars pub Amethyst Books 1988) cannot be commended highly enough. Both books are now out of print but can still be tracked down.

higher and lower chakras, and we have fashioned a perception of life around it which we experience again and again. It is not the lot of humanity to know a sense of permanence or security. This state of affairs is purposeful; it is designed to bring us to wakefulness and make us reach for a higher level. In this capacity we are useful to our Planet.

But how many times do we have to go round the course, with our blinkers on, and face our Planet's principal form of quality control, the triple water jump?

Astrology is able to give us a larger picture, but it will not for as long as it is being used to shine light into the labyrinths of the psyche, and we are making the horizontal plane serve as the vertical.

It is for this reason that in this course we are concerned with true vertical.

Waving or Drowning?

During the 1970s the trend in astrology was away from prediction and the future, and the astrological specialist became an increasingly rare bird. The astrology sector became dominated by Jungian analysts and their perspectives. This was particularly true of the years when Pluto was in Scorpio (approximately mid 1980s – early 1990s).

Since that time, astrology has not evolved so much as revolved around the pole that is psychology.

This connection with psychology has done much to raise the profile of astrology and earn it credibility and acceptability amongst the general public, but the real beneficiary has been psychology. This merger was death to astrology as a directional tool. Few realised this because moving on was so closely associated with 'sorting stuff', i.e. with looking back. Dealing with the past became viewed as spirituality, which it is not if one refers it to the cross of matter. The past is below the horizontal and relates to matter; spirit is above and represents the future. Undertaken consciously, sorting the past is a *preparation* for spiritual growth by enabling us to enter into the present. But spirituality itself is what takes us upwards and onwards from the present.

The number of books of high quality flooding into the astrological sector in the past thirty years has created a whole new breed of astrology enthusiasts who are hungry for the insights into personality life afforded by astrological analysis, which they glean from these secondary sources, but know nothing of, nor have any interest in chart construction or of the underpinning principles of astrology. And then came software. Astrology has not been opened up by the IT revolution, it has been diminished: shrunk to horoscopy, crammed into software packages, and asset-stripped.

When Pluto moved into Sagittarius, there was a greater appreciation of the fact that sorting out the psyche does not, of itself, reveal the way forward. The value of astrology as a directional tool was better appreciated, although few know how to use it in this way because so much astrological literacy has been lost.

Esoteric Astrology

These developments in the Post War era have worked against intelligent appreciation of Alice Bailey's *Esoteric Astrology* which, as most interested in the matter now know, came from the Master DK.

This magnificent system offers very little to the personality, other than a new way of looking at the Zodiacal signs and, crucially, an opportunity to glimpse at the stupendous energetic structure, called the Universe, of which we are a part. But when the more accessible information has been collected together and tabulated, a generation brought up on horoscopy does not know where to go with it; and once this system, which was designed to encourage a decentralised perspective, is taken over by the personality and its insights forced through the filter of person-centred astrology, then much like a bird of splendid plumage being dragged through a cat flap, it is as good as dead.

The teaching on the Rays which was central to the system and which was to be unrolled in various stages over time, has been so badly mutilated by acquisitiveness and non-existent of astrological disciplines, that the Hierarchy have abandoned it. In the past thirty years, serious astrology has suffered more at the hands of ill-informed enthusiasts than it ever has from its detractors.

I appreciate that these are unpopular, unflattering and provocative observations, which is precisely why they are offered here. There is a lot of complacency to be shaken up. In two years time computer software will be useless. What happens to astrology then? What will guide us when the only way we know how to go is backwards into the past?

If astrology is to help us it has to redefine itself, restore its lost branches, and re-establish some professional standards. It is not 'believing in' astrology that makes an astrologer: study; experience and dedication do that.

The Vingilot System is an appeal to the personality to engage a higher aspect of self. It is made in the hope that astrology may once again become a study of the heavens, and that, rather than cutting corners, we may re-learn how to take pride in effort and excellence. Then, maybe, astrology will be restored as a sacred study and a spiritual path.



Exercises

Answers for questions set in Lesson 1:

1. The co-latitude of Zurich (47 degrees N 23) is 42 degrees N 37.
 2. The co-latitude of Nelson, New Zealand (41 degrees S 17) is 48 degrees N 43.
 3. In Rio de Janeiro (latitude 22 degrees S 54), the most northerly star that is visible has a declination of 67 degrees N 06.
 4. In Inari, Finland (68 degrees N 54), the most southerly star that can be seen has a declination of 21 degrees S 06.
 5. Polaris, the Pole Star can still be seen at 1 degree S 07, but from nowhere further south than this.
 6. Yes, Al Phecca can be seen in Birmingham Alabama (33 degrees N 31), if the skies are clear.
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A formulation worth remembering to convert a degree of tropical Zodiac into a degree of the sidereal Zodiac is:

- Add 5 degrees to the tropical placement and then deduct 30 degrees. In effect this means going back a sign.

So: if a person's natal Sun is at Aquarius 13 degrees (Zod. tropical) then it is aligned with Capricorn 18 in the sidereal Zodiac.

Conversely, if a star position is given for the sidereal Zodiac then we will find its tropical placement by deducting 5 degrees and going forward a sign. Thus the Archangel star* Fomalhaut, which is found at Aquarius 8 degrees in the sidereal Zodiac, is at Pisces 3 degrees (Zod. tropical).

1. Find the sidereal placements of the other Archangel stars:

Alderbaran (Gemini 9 degrees); Regulus (Leo 29 degrees); Antares (Sagittarius 9 degrees)

2. Which degrees of the tropical Zodiac are the following aligned with:

Sirius (Gemini 19 degrees); Acubens (Cancer 1 degree); and Pelagus (Sagittarius 17 degrees).

3. If a person's Sun is at Virgo 25 degrees (Zod. trop), what is the constellation behind it? Similarly, if the Sun is at Leo 5 (Zod.trop), what is the constellation behind it?

* We will look at Archangel stars in the next lesson.