

Basic Astrological Concepts—Part 2

LET US CONSIDER how the heavens influence our lives through the twelve houses. Suppose we are out driving, and our road follows the seacoast, but a mile inland. A breeze is blowing from the ocean and as it passes over the country separating us from the sea, it brings upon invisible wings messages from that land which evoke pleasure or aversion according to their nature. In one place an aroma of new-mown hay fills us with delight; perhaps we are nauseated by the oversweet smell of jasmine on the next stretch of our journey; and later become really ill from the stench of stagnant marsh water. But then we enter a forest, and soon its grateful pine balm restores our normal health and spirits.

In our journey from the cradle to the grave we carry the twelve houses with us in the auric atmosphere surrounding each one of us as the air envelops the flying earth. Each house mirrors part of the life; each holds some of our life lessons; each represents how we have worked or shirked before in that department of life's school. At the appropriate time of life we reap from each house what we have sown in past lives—that is, unless we forestall the harvest in time. Is our 11th house afflicted? Do friends betray and forsake us? Do they leave us heartsick, or nauseate us like the scent of jasmine and stagnant marsh water? Then let us examine the horoscope, for it reveals what is hidden in our auric atmosphere.

The friends saw us and we them through the 11th angle, and something ill smelling must be there. It may be that we long to be befriended more than to befriend others. Let us cease to be like the debilitating jasmine and seek to emulate the sturdy strength of the invigorating pine tree; then we shall find friends flocking around, admiring our strength. Not all have such sturdy natures, but we can attract equally by kindness, as soothing to sorrowing hearts as perfume of new-mown hay to the senses, and thus we may rid the house of friends of affliction.

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If you go on your housetop or any other convenient elevation on a clear night, you will see a great many stars adorning the vaulted arch of heaven, and if you look more closely you will observe that they all twinkle—that is to say, with the exception of perhaps one or

two which shine with a perfectly steady light. The twinklers are suns of other solar systems so far away that a traveler going with the speed of light would require hundreds of years to reach some of them. They move in such enormous circles and are at such a distance that they appear to maintain the same positions relative to one another. Therefore they are called *fixed stars*.

There is a radical difference between the twinklers and the stars which emit a steady light. If you watch one of the latter night after night, you will find that it changes position relative to the fixed stars in a direction from west to east, the same as

the sun. Continued observation of the various heavenly bodies whose light is steady will show that they all follow the same path among the maze of fixed stars. Four such luminous *planets* are visible to the naked eye at various times of the year. Their names are *Saturn, Mars, Jupiter,* and *Venus*. A fifth, *Mercury*, is usually so close to the sun that it is invisible on account of the luminosity of the sun's rays. But at times it may be seen in the west shortly after sunset or in the east just before sunrise. It twinkles like a fixed star, though it is a planet. There is a spiritual reason for the anomaly, but as that feature would divert our attention, we will pass it by at present.

A telescope is required to properly observe the two planets nearest the outskirts of our solar system, *Uranus, Neptune,* and *Pluto*. These eight heavenly bodies move around the sun. So does the Earth, and the Moon revolves about the Earth; but when we look into space it appears as if the Earth stood still, and Sun, Moon, and planets all move around us.

The ancient *Ptolemaic* system of astronomy in vogue until modern times was based upon this conception of the universe, and subscribed to by all until superseded by the *Copernican* theory.

Skeptics and scoffers who have never taken time nor trouble to investigate, arrogantly maintain that since the Copernican theory has proved that the planets, including the Earth, move around the Sun, that fact in itself is prima facie evidence of the fallacy of astrology, which they term an "exploded superstition."

We do not care to "convince a man against his will," and deem a defense of astrology superfluous, but feel that it may benefit beginners to know the astrologers' views.

When the Sun's rays slant, as they do morning and evening, they give less heat than at noon when

they are more nearly perpendicular. Although we are millions of miles *nearer the sun in midwinter* than in summer, it is coldest in winter because the Sun's rays are more nearly *horizontal* then than at any other time of the year. In summer the scorching heat of the perpendicular ray is not lessened because we are then farthest from the Sun. Thus it is evident from observation that *the angle* of the ray is practically *sole determinant* of its effect upon the Earth.

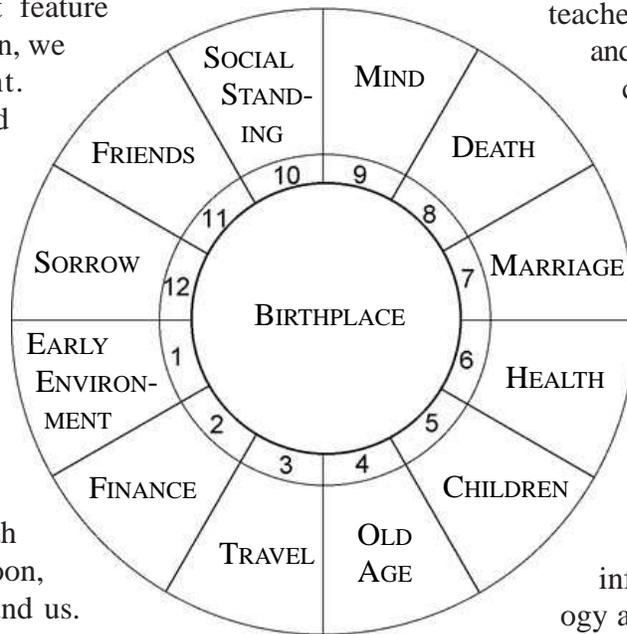
Astrology deals also with planetary angles and their observed effects upon humanity. It teaches that varying angles of Sun and planets give different physical, moral, and mental tendencies. The discovery of Copernicus does not render the tabulated statistics of astrologers null and void any more than it eliminates heat from the solar ray. When a certain angle has been established, a corresponding heat is felt today as before the days of Copernicus, and the finer influences dealt with by astrology are not missing, either.

Neither is it an argument against the truth and utility of astrology that predictions sometimes fail. If all came true, it would prove life an unprofitable struggle against inexorable fate and the human will of no avail.

SIGNS AND HOUSES

The path pursued by Sun and planets among the fixed stars, year after year, is called the *ecliptic*, and the fixed stars grouped near this great circle are called the *natural zodiac*.

In each of the twelve months the Sun appears to travel through a certain group of the zodiacal stars, and therefore they have been divided into twelve natural *signs* of the zodiac. Astrologers also speak of twelve *houses* and it is often a sore puzzle to the beginner to differentiate between these signs and houses, and to understand their relation to one



THE HOUSES

Diagram No. 1

another in the horoscope. We shall therefore try to elucidate the matter as plainly as possible.

Procure an orange, apple, or any other soft ball-shaped article, and six long hatpins or knitting needles. Pierce the ball with them in such a manner that they resemble twelve spokes in a wheel. The ball will then represent the earth, and the projecting parts of the needles are dividing lines between house and house, each house being located between two needles. Now, mark this definition, and you will have no difficulty. *The twelve signs are divisions of the heavens relative to the vernal equinox and the ecliptic. The twelve houses are divisions of the heavens relative to the birth-place and the horizon.*

The purpose of the division into signs and houses is to determine the angle of the stellar ray, for upon that depends its influence. In order that you may still better understand the principle, drive one of the needles of your wheel into a block of wood so that it stands upright; place it in front of you, and compare it with Diagram No. 1.

The small circles in the diagram correspond to your ball or orange, which represents the Earth moving in space without visible support, and receiving the rays from all the stars and planets scattered over the vault of heaven.

Let us suppose you are standing on top of the earth ball, or at the point indicated by the arrow in Diagram No. 1. As you are living in the northern part of the world, you look south when you gaze at The noonday sun, which is then in its highest elevation, and its ray falls from the angle marked 10

in the diagram. It has been observed that planets which are in that tenth house at the birth of a child affect its honor and social standing, and therefore the tenth house is said to “rule” these matters. Planets just rising in the east at birth send their rays through the division marked 1, and have been shown to affect the form of body and conditions of the parental home; hence the first house is held to determine these affairs, and so on with all the other houses.

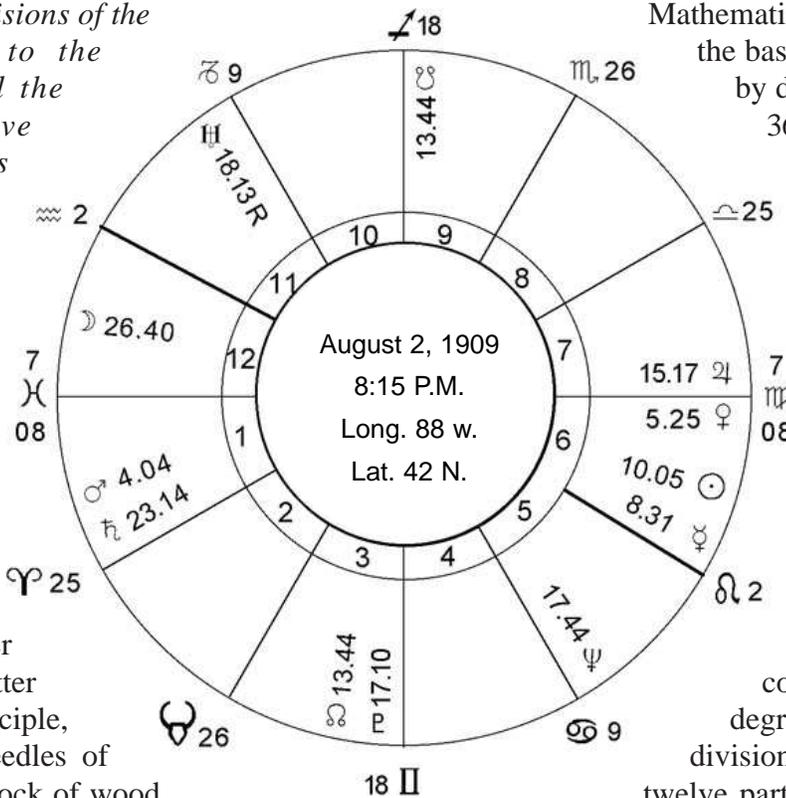
As you know, the Sun appears to travel around the Earth in a year of 365 days.

Mathematicians have made this the basis of their calculations by dividing all circles into 360 parts, as it would have been inconvenient to divide by an uneven number like 365.

The Sun travels approximately one degree each day, a degree being 1/360th part of a circle. Each of the twelve signs of the zodiac has exactly 30 degrees and this number never varies, making a complete circle of 360 degrees. Houses are also a

division of the heaven into twelve parts, but because houses are derived from different reference points than signs, they do not always contain 30 zodiacal degrees each. For example, in

Diagram No. 2, the 10th house contains 21 zodiacal degrees (counting from 18 to 30 of Sagittarius is 12 degrees, from 0 to 9 of Capricorn is 9 degrees—a total of 21 degrees). The 11th house contains 23 zodiacal degrees (9 to 30 degrees of Capricorn is 21 degrees plus 0 to 2 degrees of Aquarius gives a total of 23 degrees). The deviation of house length from an even 30 degrees becomes more and more pronounced as one moves further north or south of the equator. (Continued) □



EXAMPLE HOROSCOPE

Diagram No. 2