

Introduction to Astrology

By Helen Hartley

To be able to use the tools of astrology it is important that you are familiar with the language and symbolism of the discipline.

The symbols and language the astrologer uses can be likened to shorthand with the astrologer acting as interpreter. There is no mystical or divine grace given to astrologers just the ability, after many years of learning and honing specific skills, to interpret, highly complex and multiple configurations driven by the birth chart. This information is interpreted as human behaviour or human experience and in the words of Yogananda, Arroyo (1978, pg5), **a child is born on that day and that hour when the celestial rays are in mathematical harmony with his [her] individual karma. His [her] horoscope is a challenging portrait, revealing his [her] unalterable past and its probable future results. But the natal can be rightly interpreted by men [women] of intuitive wisdom; these are few.**

Most people are familiar with the 12 signs used in astrology, usually through knowing something about their own sun sign and knowing their friends and families. This knowledge has often been obtained through pop astrology which is found in various forms of media. That sort of 'stuff' can be fun yet I would not advise anyone to take it too seriously! At best it might serve as a pathway that generates an interest in the serious art.

Unfortunately, a great disservice was done to the serious study of astrology during the 1940's when 'Lucky Stars' was published in a news paper and astrology for the masses had begun. This practice slots people into little stereotyped boxes, ironically, something astrology is accused of regularly. This fails to take into account the many complex permutations of personality shown in an accurately constructed horoscope.. Serious students of astrology learn very quickly just how unique a person is and how slotting of people into boxes is most limiting and unwelcome.

It has been my experience that when you start studying astrology you usually get more than you bargained for! Most people begin thinking that it would be a good subject to know more about not realising that so much more occurs in the learning process. You will learn more, so much more about yourselves.

You will be delighted with the reinforcement you get regarding the positive aspects of your nature and you will need to confront the not so positive side, politically termed the challenging or shadow side of yourself. You will begin to distinguish different energy patterns within yourself and others and in particular you will begin to see how these work. In relation to yourself you will develop deeper understanding about why you do what you do and become knowledgeable about the responsibility that brings.

You will be able to identify how energy is exchanged with others and how and why relationships take on different qualities. For example why does one person drive you nuts, another make you angry, another you just find so nurturing and another inspiring. It's all about energy exchange. You will be able to distinguish energy patterns in others and understand what drives them.

These skills and others will be developed over time and, with practice, you will become quite astute in being able to identify certain energy qualities and therefore deepen the connection you have with yourself and others.

Enjoy your learning!

Reference:

Arroyo. Stephen: Astrology Karma and Transformation CRCS Publications, Vancouver, Washington. USA 1978