

## *Astrology as a Guide in Life*

**T**HIS AGE in which we live is a practical one, and every system or theory, whether scientific or religious, is challenged to give proof of what it can accomplish in *action*. Astrology has its religious and ethical side, as well as its scientific and predictive aspect. We call the former the esoteric or inner, and the latter the exoteric or outer.

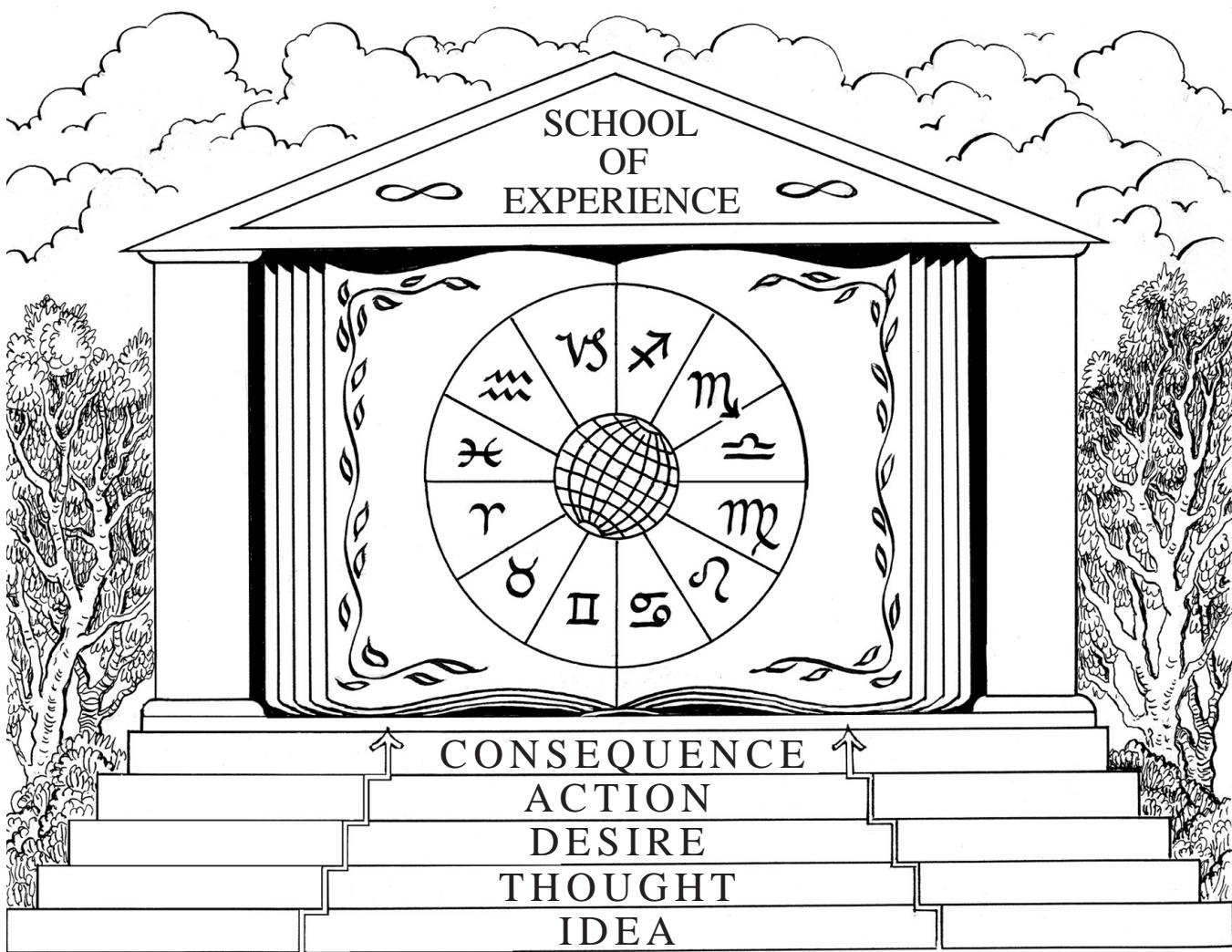
Let us consider this science from its religious and ethical side first, and realize its motive power as a teacher and educator of those who once again are attracted towards this aspect of Divine Truth. This very attraction shows that they are souls who were educated along these lines in the past ages, and so, clothed once more in new brains and new bodies, recognize and rally round the same abiding Truth. For though the physical form may decay, life and consciousness are immortal.

Astrology, if studied from its spiritual aspect, teaches that all sin and most of the misery of life is caused by selfishness. Every form of dishonesty, violence, outrage, fraud, even courtesy, comes from the desire to promote one's own ends, even if the rights of others have to be sacrificed thereby. All our aggressions upon our fellowmen, all attempts to appropriate their comfort, possessions, or plans, all efforts to belittle, outshine, or humiliate them, express the feeling that *self-gratification* is to be sought before all else. Hence the root of evil is *self-love*, selfishness so powerful that it will sacrifice everything rather than its own indulgence. True Astrology points us towards the Sun, shining on all and blessing all, sustaining all and nourishing all—the life of the system; and silently this symbol speaks to the heart of man, preaching without words its eternal lesson of altruism and non-self. And just as each astrologer realizes the

inner meaning of this divine symbol, seeking to achieve the divine ideal and the divine pattern, and eliminating selfishness from his thoughts, actions, and character, so will he become Sun-like or God-like, and thus be helping to raise the world's standard of truth and morality. Take the symbols of Sun and Saturn and study their inner meaning; for they represent respectively the life and the form, altruism and selfhood.

Let us try to realize what would be the effect of a universal reign of *non-self*. We can picture an ideal world with no courts, prisons, asylums and workhouses; a society pure, without peculation, chicanery, or deceit; a community whereof every heart was as vacant of envy and guile as it certainly would be of unhappiness and pain. For the root of universal sorrow lies in selfishness and would thus be eradicated if true brotherhood were realized. If we perceive the true unity of man, if we let our hearts act harmoniously with the Sun in our horoscopes, we shall become true philanthropists; if we seek to realize that the richest pleasure comes from giving rather than receiving, if we try to *live* our brotherhood, and thus touch the highest keynote in our natal chart, we shall be in accord with the great law of sympathy, which is the law of love. Astrology will then become a true guide in life, not only to ourselves, but to those with whom we come in contact. Christ said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Thus, in banishing and eliminating selfishness from our heart, we are leaving room for wisdom, love and light to flow in, or in other words, *good*, that is God. Astrology proclaims the truth that every act of right or wrong shall receive its due reward.

Some religious systems say otherwise, and even provide a plan by which punishment is to be evaded,



*Experience in the school of life teaches self-mastery. Through the senses external objects are impressed on the vital body and mirrored in the mind as the basis for forming conclusions or ideas, which are projected by the will into the mind to make thought forms. These are projected against the desire body, arousing the feeling of attraction, repulsion, or indifference, and issuing in either immediate, deferred, or no action regarding the thought. Action results from desire forces stimulating, via the etheric brain, the appropriate physical brain centers and nerves that control the voluntary muscles. Stellar energies provide the basis for all earthly form and action. When humans can control their response to these energies, they can control their thoughts and deeds.*

and unearned bliss secured. But if we stop and think for ourselves, apart from creed or books, we see that if this were indeed true, the principle of justice (synonymous with Jupiter) would be in abeyance and Jupiter absent from our Astrology. Jupiter, Lord of justice, awards each man what he has justly earned. This planet signifies generosity—"give, and it shall be returned unto you four-fold." Astrologers know that a "good"—that is, an unafflicted—Jupiter means a just and moral character, while the ancients proclaimed that to be born under Jupiter was a reward, Jupiter being a "benefic."

Note the true significance of Jupiter, who indicates justice, sympathy, and liberality; and the soul

that in a past life *earned* a well-aspected and unafflicted Jupiter, on his present earthly pilgrimage has for reward this benefic influence, which may manifest in position, environment, or health. Thus "character is destiny." Nothing fails—no good or evil can die without its fruit.

Astrology declares that the result of a deed is as certain as the deed itself. And yet the world calls Astrology unpractical! How can a system be unpractical when it abolishes every bar to the law of causation and makes *practice* the key to its whole operation?

Astrology teaches and explains that moral causes are no less effective than physical causes, that the

planetary forces concerned with our evolution scrutinize and tabulate every act and deed of man, and that the effect of harm or benefit to ourselves and our neighbours is attached to every moral act. There is no escape, no loss, no uncertainty. The effect of causes generated on the moral plane will ultimately exhaust itself in physical circumstances.

Astrology shows the law of cause and effect working. Its teachings are that every man is the framer of his own destiny, inasmuch as he can pluck any fruit he chooses in the garden of life, but at the same time has to bear the consequences which ensue from his own action. It would be impossible for a true astrologer to believe in the theological dogmas of "Election," "Predestination," and "Foreordination." He at least is "quit of priests and books," for he knows that his destiny is written by his own hands and that the stars award him just what he has earned. The semimaterial theories of luck, fate, chance, are swept away; nothing which shifts responsibility or paralyzes effort can Astrology postulate. We perceive, though dimly, amid earth's darkness "the solar light." We hear, though faintly, amidst earth's babble the words of the Master, Christ, "Be ye perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect." So we perceive the beauty of that conception of the "Law which makes for righteousness," a future which embodies in it our divine evolution through purgation of all that is sensual, selfish and belittling. So perceiving, we try to rule ourselves, and thus rule our stars, and struggle onward to that perfect goal. Whatever our ideal, whatever the effort, whatever the result, it is ours alone; for we must each do our own thinking, and none can do it for us. Writers may write for us, teachers may teach us, but they cannot think for us, and our evolution is in our own hands. The formative power is lodged in us, deep within each heart is the germ of Divinity, and it is for each to evolve that germ into leaf, bud, flower, and perfect fruit.

Astrology demonstrates the inflexibility of moral law, and opens to us the highest ideal of religious fervour. For who can gaze upon the Solar Orb or the starry host, and not worship the God behind, sustaining all? As we revere His Law, we conform to it; and thus we sound a harmonious and

not a discordant note in the symphony of the spheres.

When we revolve in perfect harmony around our Sun, the divine Ego within, then we become helpers and not clogs in the great wheel of evolution.

Teaching these truths, Astrology affirms the moral consciousness, vindicates the moral sense, spurs the moral motive. Thus it is in very truth a guide in life, practical and practicable, and I would that all who read these words were "Practical Astrologers" along these lines. Then would the past knowledge of the laws of life rush in on each individual consciousness; for all self would have fled, and we should desire knowledge only that we might better serve and help our fellow man—desire only to become pure vessels as channels for God's Truth. The Divine Wisdom then would use us, and we should each be "The Man Aquarius," bearing in our hands the water of Wisdom, pouring it out for others, the service of messenger and carrier being our privilege and delight, serving for pure love's sake.

Astrology is a great guide in life if it be studied from its inner aspect. Once the aim is set before a man, and he realizes the certainty that every act affects that aim, the question of the *expediency* of any act is determined.

Is an act selfish, unfraternal, aggressive? Then it is *not astrological*, or according to the wisdom of the stars, and it will fetter and bind chains about us in our future life. This is the test, simple, uncomplicated, and feasible: Is any act selfish, or otherwise?

He who would be guided through the intricacies of life need seek no priest or book or intercessor, but only the "Self," the divine Self, the still small voice that can be only heard in the quiet. Let him study his character from his natal chart, quietly and meditatively, and then, with no remorse for past failures, begin anew today, this moment, *now*, to rule and dominate the lower nature, living in harmony and happiness, free from doubts or misgivings as to justice or success, strong in the knowledge which esoteric Astrology gives, that he who has conformed to nature and her laws shall be conformed to the destiny she predicts for man, who is evolving upwards to God. □

—Bessie Leo