

The use and limitation of astrological-type investigation: what can it tell us and what can it not touch?

From the outset I am assuming that it is understood that astrological studies of whatever kind *do* have some relevance for humans and that the energetic model rather than modern materialist model of reality is realized to be a natural picture of what is going on. For someone who wants the limitation of modern scientific “proof”, one would need to “test” the astrological models for oneself, in detail, and on a significant enough portion of people in order to gain any realization about how interesting and accurate these studies are....this is a suggestion before criticism is cast.

Astrology covers a huge arena of expressions. However it is something that joins many ancient cultures together, in that it was considered that the outer world was a representation of the inner and vice-versa. Initially in many cultures astrology and prediction of the weather was key for the beginnings of agriculture and the attempt to ready the senses for the next season. It is only later that astrology came to be focused on individuals, often beginning with kings and emperors and working its way into the population at large.

We must look at the origin of this philosophy in order to find its root sense. It was originally a way of charting nature, a way of plotting what seemed the most likely course of future events, a way of being prepared for the season’s movements and so absolute union of the human to natural cycles, in essence it was a tool to aid the human in returning to his instinctual senses. For if there was instinctual sense, there was also total realization of the coming season and so **a total lack of requirement for any form of astrological predication**. Astrology is a tool that aims to end itself, not make itself an absolute to live by.

So all forms of astrology are born out of a need to somehow return the human being to his/her senses. The use of astrology through the centuries is in itself a realization that the human requires loosening and a “let go” of the narrowing focus of “me” which forms separation between the natural cycles and the body. Many rituals and the taking of hallucinogens and ceremonies in tribal culture are all about this very issue, as is the root of healing. As time moved from agricultural into city-based ideology and away from the tribe and the group, to being about the individual/individualism, so astrology became focused on the individual until today where there is a massive industry based around astrological readings that are about the search for so-called “self-realization”.

The key question being asked by everyone in modern culture is “who or what am I?” We have been lost in a jungle of past-parental ideology and so-called “conditioning”. We are told by gurus and by therapists that we can “get in touch with our true self”, or even better, our “life’s purpose”! Astrology is sometimes used as an “aid” here. Why is it that something which originally charted nature is being used to consider whether our bank balance is going to rise and fall, and whether or not one will be lucky in a monogamous relationship. None of this has anything to do with nature and everything to do with a humanizing or “anthropomorphism” of nature. It is actually a distortion and so astrology and the whole basis of its understanding is completely corrupted by our own subjectivity and political/social or even so-called “spiritual” agenda. But what actually is it without the superstructure of “therapeutic” jargon?

In a purely observational situation, primarily there is a child-like noticing of something. Secondly there can be the charting of what was observed, and thirdly the interpretations of this. One can recognise this as the child who simply observes, the teenager who charts and the adult who interprets. The inaccuracy increases with each age. The child is perfectly accurate, the teenager begins the distortion, omitting what he/she finds uninteresting, and the adult narrows it down even more to a very subjective view based on “personal perspective”, which sees life through a tube!

As we go back into the origins of astrology and its true use and understanding, we move back in time in our own lives and into our own view of the universe, or we can consider it to be the view of the ancient natural-indigenous human (child), the person of the bronze age (teenager), and the person of the modern age (adult), this too shares the same pattern of narrowing of vision.

The adult is the aspect I wish to cut out of the picture in the following description. At the teenage stage there is less interpreted charting of events which provides raw information, but without the distortion of the adult view. This is the expression of what astrology was in its origin, the use of astrological techniques was to re-connect a person with the land and with instinctive sense. If we consider its use for the seeming individual, it is to recognize this body of energy that has no name or form, which is within a haze of mad energy called “me”. What astrology does is it points to the nameless and formless body of energy that “you” are, and breaks down the haze/illusion that there is a “you” separate from the whole universe, it points out that this is impossible as “you” truly are star-dust and that the nature of all manner of astral objects don't “affect you” but actually *are* “you”.

How do we know when the “me” begins and when it ends? If we go deep into the cells of the body, is that “you”? Are you inside or outside an atom, if you are inside then at what level? Do you begin and end with a Higgs Boson? Then if we expand outwards from your centre, if we go to your house and your neighborhood and your country and your planet and your solar system and your galaxy....all of these are different views of “you”, so in essence “you” are everything and everything is “you”. Equally one could say, “there is no you at all, it's all Oneness”. The point is that at every level something is functioning, it is only because the contracted haze of energy that we call “me” or “myself” is stuck at a particular level that it believes the body is a confined object. Without this there is no absolute “me” and/or equally everything is “me”.

So how does astrology help? Well the astrological methods all provide expressions of the condition of energy at the time of a person's birth. Why should birth be significant? Fundamentally it isn't, however it gives the original flavour of the quality of the universe at the time of birth. Just like when we look at a seed and it becomes a particular plant, so the quality of the energy of the universe could be said to be the seed or energetic grounding from which an “individual” forms. This is true for all things and all objects, not just the human being. Everything affects everything else and how something originates follows cycles that begin from that original ripple. We place significance on birth because it is a significant ripple for the so-called “individual”. If we were looking at a large picture, perhaps the origin of humanity, this would be a broader perspective and we wouldn't consider age in years but in

millennia...the point is we use birth and we use years for these are cycles that the human is clearly within.

The origin is useful because it is an expression of a person's origin at a fundamental level, before all the ideology and parental conditioning and ideologies get built on top. It is also the origin of the physical body in a health state before it can be affected by damage to the physical form and the body structure, so everything is in its original state and essentially in this state there is no "me". No baby asks itself "what is my life's purpose?" it just lives and there is no questioning. This is only an important question in the adult mind and as a result it is NOT an important question.

Questioning and answering by some therapist or teacher simply places someone in a box, it actually encourages the ideology of "identity" and the search to find one, trying to makes something concrete when nothing really is.

What the astrological chart can be is a mirror, but it shows one the face of the child-natural-state without the baggage of adulthood. This child-quality is pure energy, the infant has no name, no identity, it is immune from the mental illness of the adult and is in every way expressing the true sense of nature. So this snapshot gives a good picture of what's going on. We know that the nature of the child is constantly present, even once the adult "me" has begun to formulate and dominates more and more of the natural body of the child, becoming inexorably more powerful. Eventually around our twenties or thirties we have "forgotten" the child, we begin to feel lost and try to find something. Essentially we are looking everywhere to find ourselves, forgetting that we have had it with us the whole time. All astrology can do is to reflect the image and trigger the realization of the child state for the adult, astrology is simply about this triggering, and only this. It is the reconnection of the human to its instinctual sense, it returns a person back into nature and into the possibility of living without an identity and without a purpose, completely the opposite of what society and pop-psychology tells us we must do.

Funnily enough the nature of astrological connection is not about theory or ideology but originally was about charting nature. There are several methods of astrology all looking at different plains of energy. Some focus on the more physical or material quality of energy, these tend to be the cycles associated with the number 12. Then there are those that tend to be more associated with the number 9 which tend to be non-material more energetic, they tend to view things in an even larger way than the cycles of 12 and have expansive viewpoints. Of course nothing here is right or wrong. The greater the number of views there are, the greater the detail of the energy one is describing. However **it is never the detail but the overall picture that counts**. If all this is a trigger back into the instinctual state for the adult, a trigger that "all this is energy" and moreover that "I don't have to be that, I'm this!", once this is recognized then the job is over. There is no requirement to find out or predict what's going to happen next. Once the instincts are engaged then there is no requirement to attempt to figure anything out, as all there is, is nature and engaging with it as it is, there is no longer any contention. As in the old days when the farmers wanted to understand the next weather sequence, astrology was done not to tell them what to do but to help them reconnect to instinctual sense with the weather patterns. So it was an aid with which return to nature, a bouncing board, not something that was the mainstay of life. It was always recognized that the true understanding of nature lay within the instinctual sense. This often happens clinically, when a person recognizes something

and points out that what you have expressed via astrology they already knew. It's this sense that "it was already known within me" that is the instinctual sense, being deciphered and differentiated from the illusionary psychology. This instinct is gut-instinct, it comes from the body, and the psychology which tends to be head-based, mental-emotional haze wreaks havoc with this.

Today astrology has been externalized. It is considered to be an art practised by the few who know and therefore have power over others who don't know. It is considered that there are people who can predict future events and so have power over others, or it is considered to be a heap of theory that's of no real use to people, or it is considered important that one must adhere to every word, but all of this needs to be seen in context. The true nature of astrological connection of any kind is very often for the astrologer themselves to get into a mode where they see beyond the ideological and the judgmental dualism of "me" to the energetic quality and then into the instinctive. If the practitioner or astrologer becomes the mirror for the person and this expression has no judgment it simply reveals the picture of their child nature and his or her family or friends in a way that allows them to see the quality of energy there. Then all that happens is judgment falls away and with it the cloak of "I don't understand this" moving to "I knew this is what I felt". Nothing that is said should be hugely different or majorly revolutionary to the person asking for the reading. It should at a deep level be obvious and instinctive, but perhaps blow the illusion away from the surface of things...that is all. It is not significant in itself, it is simply as powerful as an image of yourself as a child can be. In a way a person might feel slightly cheated that all they are getting from the reading is what they already knew, however this is actually a very useful situation as it confirms something within that knows and points out that neither astrology nor practitioner has power but actually *are at one with the person*.

The point is that astrology is made out to be something that it isn't. It isn't an oracle, nor is it a method that can bypass the senses and be used by itself to have a healing effect like some forms of forced body-astral theoretical approaches suggest. (This is known as the modernized, as opposed to ancient/ classical, method of acupuncture called Stems and Branches theory, for more on this please see my book "Classical Chinese Medicine: Book 2"). It is nothing other than a seasonal chart, and/or a resource for presenting the quality of energy at a particular moment in history that is the origin and foundation of something happening now; it is therefore occurring now and at no other time and can be sensed now. This of course is the ultimate test for astrology. **If something is truly significant it can be done without the charts.** If a person really knows the qualities of the plain of energy with which they are interacting in astrology, they should be able to throw away the charts and go blind into an investigation, simply feeling the nature of a person's quality by talking. It is the truly sensitive among astrologers who can do this, also those who have nothing to do with astrology but can simply read the natural energy and be able to realize some qualitative similarities and differences of people, this is part of all our senses of course. This points out that all one is doing is recognizing the pattern of a quality of energy and once this is realised then it is clear to the instinctive child-like senses and that is all that is useful here.

Astrology is of great benefit as it bypasses the modern psychological theory and goes straight to the root. At best it sees the core inner-child and allows this to be re-

connected with, but when this simple unquantifiable quality is taken to be something it isn't and we add on a lot of detail we start focusing on predicting futures, adding to it interpretations and ideology of judgmental, altruistic and adult-world mentality, then all the natural elements of its significance go down the drain. It becomes akin to a kind of black magic which is about one person's power over someone else, to be the oracle or oracles.

The genius of astrology is in its vagueness, in its borderless energetic understanding. It is not about boxes in which to put people but about qualities of unique energy that can all be seen as being very different in quality from each other, or very similar but all of the same original Oneness. The "self" is constantly seen as the illusion that fragments the circle from which all astrological ideas originate. All astrology is about different qualities of a circle or cycle of life, it is impossible for this to be broken, so one quality is simply one part of the whole circle, it is one-with everything else, like fingers of the same hand.

Astrological methodology has use for humans in the state of being separated and within the ideology of being a "me", instead of the natural-state of energy that is without an absolute centre. It is a way to trigger the response back into the senses again, just as medicine that works on the physical body itself re-establishes the body's physiological senses, allowing the "self" to let go of itself rather than attempt to take over. One method, healing, is directly engaging the physical senses, the other, astrology, tries to trigger that from a person's recognizing the nature of nature within them via verbal description and so the mind. One is considered "internal medicine" and the other "external medicine" but as you can see there is no such internal or external as there is no real duality, no inside and no outside.

David Nassim
21/3/13