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Millennial Astrology: Bringing Ancient Knowledge Into the New Paradigm By Judi Thomases

As we near the new millennium, how many of us realize that astrology is being challenged to its very underpinnings by the onrush of new thoughts that have arrived at our doorstep via recent spiritual teachings?

Just as in the 1930s when Alice Bailey received "Esoteric Astrology", forever changing our view of things, so now we are receiving further ground-breaking teachings through spiritual channels. These new concepts, presented to us by entities such as Seth, Abraham, and the identity that calls itself God in the bestseller, Conversations with God¹, form a body of thought that is being called a "New Paradigm." Its message is empowering (but for some, unsettling): that we create our own reality from our thoughts, that there is no such thing as fate (or karma) since everything is being created afresh each moment, and that we are not limited by any superior code (moral, ethical, or otherwise) beyond our own free choice. Reality, we learn, is based upon desire which, when propelled through the will, results in experience — and that in turn is felt as contrast (that is, "good" or "bad"). Thus, the entire notion of divine retribution is an utter illusion! And so is the idea of victimization, for everything, if chosen, is therefore self-created!

All very Aquarian on the surface! We're our own creators (i.e., Gods, or humankind, raised to its godlike potential — the very symbol of Aquarius), and we manufacture our world through our thoughts about, and reactions to, these experiences. We're *All-That-Is* playing at the game of life! (Several of my more-metaphysical friends jumped happily on this bandwagon, pooh-poohing my "passe" belief systems about karma.)

The Central Dilemma

But spend a little time pondering this philosophy against the truths of any horoscope, and many an astrologer will quite rapidly hit a brick wall! Why, look at that Grand Fixed Cross! And see that Pluto transit to an angle! Oh, and what about a nice progressed Venus to the natal Sun? Or a loaded house activated by an eclipse?! If that isn't karma, then what is?! There's just no way that most astrologers will merrily concede the demands of horoscopic intelligence to choice's predominant role. After all, we all know that astrology works. It has been observed to work for a few thousand years, and works so well that, as astrologers, you and I can make our accurate predictions about a client's life simply by "reading" the signs and symbols of our trade. In fact, at astrology's very foundation is the belief that there are patterns of energies within which we must work, and around which we must live our lives regardless of our current desires. Haven't we all been taught that Saturn is the Lord of Karma? How can one side-step that, one asks, just because one doesn't wish to experience it? Plain and simple, our chart shows our predetermined fate...

...Or does it?







Like you, no one needs to convince me of the validity of astrological forecasting. Having counseled over a thousand clients in my years of practice, not only do I know that astrology predicts the likelihood of coming events, but I'm also clear about its crystalline ability to show the soul's choice, or agenda, for each lifetime, i.e., the natal horoscope. Call it karma or whatever, this aspect of astrology will always be for me, truth and nothing else.

But how can astrology work and be valid, how can the ancient mystery of stars and planets affecting individuals on Earth be real, if there is only personal choice, life is an illusory game, and we create moment by moment all that we experience?

I don't know about you, but this impossible paradox gave me quite a headache these last two years, initially presenting me with one of the greatest challenges to my beliefs in the 24 years I've been practicing astrology, but ultimately affording me insights and answers to some deep philosophical issues regarding our field. I couldn't rest until I got my brain around the problem. If the new teachings are truth, and astrology is also truth, there must be a way to reconcile these seemingly contradictory philosophies. Not for nothing have we just entered The Age of Aquarius, ruling sign of Astrology!

My personal dilemma was made all the more acute when I myself began receiving messages (i.e., channeling)². These messages supported in every respect the revolutionary new awarenesses being taught to us through higher beings and via other transformative knowledge such as that derived from Quantum Physics, i.e., that our idea-constructs when combined with our emotions create that which we then encounter...and call Reality.

So there I was, on two sides of the issue, forced to give credence to both sets of data. (Yes, I have a Libra Midheaven and Node!)

After struggling with the riddle for quite some time, I came to certain clear realizations regarding our field, and it's these I'd like to share.

* * *

Some Personal Notes...

I'll ask the reader's indulgence as I reconstruct the journey.

In 1994, as conjuncting Uranus and Neptune danced through the Capricorn Climax, finally stationing at 22° Capricorn that October, they formed a Grand Earth Trine to those same two planets in my natal horoscope, beginning with an exact trine to my natal Uranus. My experience was that of an epiphany! While pulling together a metaphysical course curriculum for my students wherein I correlated various teachings — Seth's messages, mystical Tarot, the Qabalah, Quantum Physics, Astrology, and Eastern philosophies, among others — I suddenly saw...*felt...realized!* what the teachings had always been saying to us: all is One; the nature of physical reality is ideaconstruction; mind (consciousness) creates the perception of form, of time and space; and everything is simply vibratory energy³. Suddenly, I just got it!







Getting It!

Let me put it another way. *I saw* that what we understand as physical existence — as form, as experience, as interactions (even collisions!) between individuals, or between people and inanimate objects — is an illusion created by the way our five senses (or sensory perception) interpret information coming into the brain and combine this interpretation into a perception or an understanding of reality. In plain English, we feel ourselves in a body, we see ourselves in a mirror or look at others, we smell the world, hear the world, and taste the world through our five senses. And we then construct in our minds the fact that this is real and solid, and that since everybody else is seeing it this way, it must be so. And then we see ourselves in one moment of time and space. And then we see ourselves in the next moment of time and space (having perceived ourselves to have moved or reacted or experienced something), and then in the next moment, until we have built up a sequence of moments, which we interpret as "time". We know [feel?] ourselves in a particular place, and then we know that we remain in that place in the next moment, or we know that we move to another place in the following moment, and thus we build up in our minds a picture of "space" or where we exist (three-dimensionality).

Just as physicists are discovering when they probe deeper and deeper into microcosmic realms of subatomic matter, nothing that is not vibratory in its nature (energy) can be found. Even when probed by our most sophisticated methods, the most densely solid matter in truth simply isn't "there." It's just a holographic illusion that we structure in our mind. Earth and the entire cosmos is just one big "holo-deck"!

And so we come back to the concept that we know ourselves by the constructs we've created in our mind, built up layer by layer with the mortar of our sensory data, and through these constructs we fabricate the further notion that we are moving through linear time and existing in three-dimensional space (a location). Seth (Jane Roberts) in *The Nature of Personal Reality*, explains this clearly: "In order to explore [an] experience, you direct your attention to it and use all of your other (nonphysical) abilities as corollaries, adjuncts, additions. You hypnotize your very nerves, and the cells within your body, for they will react as you expect them to react, and the beliefs of your conscious mind are followed in degree by all portions of the self down to the smallest atom and molecule....The miraculous constant translation of spirit into flesh is carried on with inexhaustible energy by these inner portions of being, but in all cases the inner self looks to the conscious mind for its assessment of the body's condition and reality, and forms the image in line with the conscious mind's beliefs.... You form your reality through your beliefs, and your most intimate production is your physical body....Your body is an artistic creation, formed and constantly maintained at unconscious levels, but quite in line with your beliefs about what and who you are.... You are being created physically each instant. Period."

Emotions' Role

What gives the illusion its power, I further realized, is that we feel the reality of this constructural representation through our emotional reactions that give spice and impact to the mental perception. We may <u>feel</u> strong emotional experience within ourselves, or we may feel the sensation (again, received through the five senses) of pain or of pleasure. And so we say, yes, life is real and these things are happening; I know they're happening because they're making me feel. But of course, these are chemical reactions to our interior constructs in which we are reacting with emotions, or with perceptions of pain or pleasure. As Seth goes on to say, "In physical life the soul is clothed in chemicals, and you will use the ingredients you take into your body to form an image that is in line with your







beliefs....The soul is not only dressed in chemical clothes, but wears the apparel woven from all of the elements of the earth....Your dreams and physical events of your lives constantly alter the chemical balances within your body." And these, too, are interpretations going on within the brain's chemistry based on the release of various chemicals and their reactive results. As pioneering research pharmacologist Candace Pert explains, "Emotions are neuropeptides attaching to receptors and stimulating an electrical charge on neurons....The mind is not only in the brain [...] It is also in the flow of neurocommunicators throughout the brain, glands, and immune system". In fact, in the final analysis what are chemicals and even the brain itself, if not just names for still other energy structures?!

Grasping at last the notion that everything that we perceive as real comes forth within the brain and is in fact just a construct of the mind, we must search and follow the trail to the target which is named Consciousness. In this very manner so are physicists ending up at the same marker — at the point of awareness within the mind that we call Consciousness, the awareness that *I am*, I exist, I have being. However we reach this point, we finally realize that it is the mind that is real...is indeed the source of all further constructs (i.e., the Higher Mental Realm) that eventually leads us to a sense of reality. And that's what's described by ancient Eastern philosophers when they say that All Is Maya (or, illusion). For it is illusion because when consciousness becomes aware of itself, it can then become aware that around its own awareness, it is constructing worlds. Worlds of what is called "reality"...or form...or life on Earth. "There is no difference between the substance of an electron and the substance of a thought." — Builders Of The Adytum

When we finally understand that reality is not so much physical substance and dense matter, but instead mental energy brought together, coagulated, accreted, built up again and again by one's personal consciousness or individuality into one's personal reality, and then broadened by many individuals' personal realities layered into larger and larger constructs of societal, or national, or world realities, then we can understand something further: the notion that, if in fact all reality is not so much forms of matter but of mental energies, we should begin to ponder the nature of energies.

The Nature of Energies

Energy is another word for vibration, frequency, or as the ancients called it, whirling motion. "All manifestation is in whirling motion." When we understand that everything that we are, everything that we perceive, everything that affects us, everything that is...or as Seth calls it, All That Is...is nothing more than energy vibrating at different rates, in different frequencies, and with a variety of motion, then we can understand the entire cosmos as a soup of whirling forces ("a frequency domain") within which are points, spikes, accretions, nexuses of specific energy packets. And these points — what Hermetic philosophy calls "monads" — are the individual consciousnesses of each of us.

In different words, it can be said that we are points of awareness within a never-ending soup of whirling forces or vibratory energies, and we are affected by the nature of these energetic frequencies or flows. We as individuals who perceive that we are living on planet Earth in solid matter, but who are really energetic points of awareness existing within vast flows of energies intersecting constantly with other ever-moving flows of energy, can now understand the truer meaning of the interpretive science of astrology when we come to see that we are aware, through astrology, of specific flows of energy that are constantly intersecting in ever-changing, infinitely varied patterns — or as the entity Michael said, "vectors of available energies". ⁶







Astrology In A New Light

And it is from this awareness that the individual consciousness — or monad, or point of light, or spark of awareness — can then see astrology as the mapping of the available vectors of energetic flows. We may perceive a particular, relatively consistent source of a type of flow of energy, as a planet...and name that planet Mars or Jupiter. But in fact, as a planet it has no more "reality" than our own physical bodies have reality, but instead is a construct and an illusion that we perceive through our senses.

All solar bodies, all galactic bodies, have been primarily perceived [known??] through the sense of sight since we have not yet truly been able to feel or touch or smell or hear them, with the exception of the Sun whose radiant energy we know as heat and as magnetism.⁷ It is only very recently that we have been able physically to touch another solar body (our Moon landing), or perceive it more closely (the Mars Rover, the Venus probe, and the Galileo spacecraft).

We then, as individual points of consciousness in a vast universe of flowing energy vibration, can now understand astrology as the map of these flows of energetic forces that intersect through us, with us, against us, and upon us as we bob around as a separate accreted spike, or point, of this vast energy system. It's not important to establish, therefore, a direct link in terms of a ray of magnetism, or a pull of gravity, between ourselves and a solar body. It is only important to understand that, in symbolic terms, that which we name as a planet, a star, or a moon, is simply a name for a consistent source and type of flow of energy that exists on a non-physical level — on a level as real, however, as that which we call physical. It is a level equated to spirit.

As we enter a new paradigm of thinking...a new reality-construct...a new awareness, as points of individual consciousness we are being bombarded with new wisdom and new understanding so that we can raise up and expand our perception to the intuitive awareness of the truth behind our everyday reasoning. While perceiving not only through our five senses, but also beginning to utilize our higher, or extra senses, we can understand and know the truths of the statements that we are, in fact, energies or spirit. That we are, in fact, layered by vaster and infinitely more refined levels of energies, or higher spiritual realms. And that we are being educated in this fashion to awaken to greater truths than have ever come to us.

The Horoscope As Energy-Map

And so, as astrologers we must now begin to see our 2-dimensional horoscopes as symbolic representations, not only of patterns of sky or symbolism of energies as affecting solid material lives, but as the play, the interaction on non-physical, mental levels of awareness, between different energies, some being energies that we perceive as exterior to our points of consciousness (the outer planets), and some being energies that we perceive as interior to these points of awareness of self-knowing (the inner planets). It is at this momentous juncture that we begin truly to understand that which is called the New Age, or Age of Aquarius. And it is at this momentous juncture that astrology comes into its own as the interpretive science of the constructs of reality as each soul builds its world into being, thus encountering that which it itself creates.⁸

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As soon as I fully digested these thoughts, not only did my friends' challenges become the catalyst for a realignment of the notion of "karma", but I saw the rationale behind astrology's growing public role: the cross-pollination between New Paradigm understanding and Ancient Wisdom would facilitate a greater harmonization with the Divine Plan! (Very shortly afterwards, I watched a television show on astrology, one of the few granting it a positive spin.) Neither notion would be discarded. A merging of thought-constructs would take place.

The Dance of Life Through Astrology's Eyes

The horoscope is an energy-map. It is a metaphor for a conglomeration of various vectors of energies, differing in nature, that are intersecting in random ways.

You, a soul, are a Dancer in a Cosmic Room. You are wanting to cross the room, to get from Point A to Point B. It is a crowded room, full of other dancers. But the crowd is dancing to different drummers! The various drumbeats influence each dancer to move in a certain fashion. Some dancers, like a row of Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, get in your way, while others, like football blockers, help your traverse by running interference, or empower you, like bodybuilders, and still others keep their distance, neither bothering nor aiding your passage. Some of the crowd bolt diagonally across your room, and others gently sway, or hectically twirl, or even move erratically, thus breaking your thrust and bringing confusion. Whether or not you reach your goal quickly will be a function of how cleverly you "read" the musical patterns to align your movements with what's available. You can always get to where you're headed; it's merely a question of the amount of struggle involved. You'll get there quickest when you flow with what the crowd happens to be doing.

It is your thoughts, working with the room's patterns, that create both the sense of self, the dance, the target of your movement, and even your feeling of getting there.

Astro-specifics:

ELEMENTS

Earth The densest type of energy, least

energetic.

Water Still dense; most flowing and reactive.

Air Thin; busy; permeable; most restless.

Fire Least dense; most energetic and active;

brilliant and spiritual.

SIGNS

Aries Most driving; fastest; most forceful;

uni-directional.



Wisdom Path by Judi Thomases Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



Taurus Calmest; slowest; least driving.

Gemini Busiest; Multi-directional.

Cancer Delicate; least thrusting.

Leo Creative; most radiant, but circular

(returning).

Virgo Quietest; most tentative; steadiest.

Libra Most reflective; smoothest; but

incomplete (seeking).

Scorpio Most penetrating; most powerful and

intense; relentless and unstoppable.

Sagittarius Most elevated (spiritually refined);

loosest; least structured.

Capricorn Most aspiring, but hesitant; alternating. **Aquarius** Fitful but broadest; erratic but attuned.

Pisces Most invisible; non-directional; non-

locational (manifested spirit).

PLANETS

Sun Being (The Dancer and the Dance).

Moon Feeling (The Desire to be in the room).

Mercury Planning, devising (The Choice).

Venus Smoothing, attracting (Beauty).

Mars Energizing, mobilizing, pushing

(Motivation).

Jupiter Enabling, protecting (Help).

Supportive or interfering (Hindrance

Saturn or Means; Rockettes or Pyramid of

Acrobats).

Uranus Disruptive or liberating (True

Freedom).

Neptune Dissolving, universalizing (The

Solution).

Pluto Cleansing, restoring (Comprehension:







Breakthrough).

North Node Goal (The Target).

ASPECTS

Energies whirling together (whether or

Conjuction not harmonious); can speed up and

strengthen the partners, or they step on

each others' toes!

Trine Tangential but non-affective; or else

reinforcing, like a tail wind!

Square Blockages of forces, can't cross, so

must seek another pathway.

Ouingunx Have to zigzag to negotiate them, try

one way then another.

Across the room. Choice of

Opposition partnering, or experiencing blockage

from.

"KARMA"

Choice to experience certain given patterns. "ALL IS CHOSEN." The room you choose to dance in.

* * *

"Do you mean a soul chooses what kind of life it will experience ahead of time?

"No, that would defeat the purpose of the encounter. The purpose is to create your experience — and thus, create your Self — in the glorious moment of Now. You do not, therefore, choose the life you will experience ahead of time.

"You may, however, select the persons, places, and events — the conditions and circumstances, the challenges and obstacles, the opportunities and options — with which to create your experience. You may select the colors for your palette, the tools for your chest, the machinery for your shop. What you create with these is your business. That is the business of life."9







- 1. Conversations with God, Books 1 & 2, by Neale Donald Walsch, G. P. Putnam's Sons
- 2. Since January 2, 1997, the author has been able to receive clearly transmitted dictations from an inner, higher realm via a group of spiritual entities who have identified themselves as The Brotherhood of Light Workers: (Between late '95 and early '96, a progressed New Moon [i.e., progressed Moon catching up with progressed Sun] occurred on the exact degree of her natal Moon in the third house, while at the same time progressed Mercury, ruler of her ninth house from her first house, was retrograde upon that very degree. Then, on the date of her Solar Return for '97, Jupiter, natal chart ruler and co-ruler of her natal third house, and Neptune, co-ruler of her intercepted natal third house from her ninth house, were conjunct and making a trine to Neptune's natal position; this, she believes, set the stage for the door between the conscious mind and superconscious mind to open up. The material was then released under transiting Neptune's station retrograde at Capricorn's last degree, and trining the author's natal Neptune in H9.)

This information was previously published in the May '97 A.F.A. Astrology Today publication.

3. Seth tells us that we create reality in the mind, as idea-constructs. Tarot (especially the Fool, Sun, Judgment, and World cards) tells us that the planets and ourselves are one circuit of living energy, and that there is no separation between self and object. Quantum Physics tells us that consciousness cannot observe a thing without altering it, and that in observing it, nothing is found other than energy ("There is no there, there." "It's all waves waving, some more densely than others." — physician Irving Dardik, B/M Bulletin, 6-7/94. "The Universe looks less and less like a big machine and more and more like a great thought." — Sir James Jeans, astronomer.) Michael Talbot, in The Holographic Universe, tells us that there are implicate and explicate orders so that "...the universe is all `thought' and reality exists only in what we think." ("The mind constructs concrete reality out of the raw material of the implicate....Underlying [the tangible reality of our everyday lives] is a deeper order of existence, a vast and more primary level of reality that gives birth to all the objects and appearances of our physical world in much the same way that a piece of holographic film gives birth to a hologram....despite its apparent materiality and enormous size, the universe does not exist in and of itself, but is the stepchild of something far vaster and more ineffable....This infinite sea of energy is not all that is enfolded in the implicate order. Because the implicate order is the foundation that has given birth to everything in our universe, at the very least it also contains every subatomic particle that has been or will be....And even this is not all it may contain. [Physicist David] Bohm concedes that there is no reason to believe the implicate order is the end of things. There may be other undreamed of orders beyond it, infinite states of further development....Was it possible, [neurophysiologist Karl Pribram] wondered, that what the mystics had been saying for centuries was true, reality was maya, an illusion, and what was out there was really a vast, resonating symphony of wave forms, a "frequency domain" that was transformed into the world as we know it only after it entered our senses?....Our brains mathematically construct objective reality by interpreting frequencies that are ultimately projections from another dimension, a deeper order or existence that is beyond both space and time: The brain is a hologram enfolded in a holographic universe....we even construct space and time.") The silent guru Meher Baba tells us that "I and the Father are not We, but One." Edgar Cayce, the sleeping prophet, tells us that "Mind is the Builder. Mind creates reality." And Qabalah tells us that "Matter is the way the energy of the One Spirit manifests itself within the range of our senses." — Builders Of The Adytum.







- 4. Quiet Miracles of the Brain, Joel L. Swerdlow (National Geographic, June '95).
- 5. Rev. Ann Davies, In Him We Live and Move and Have Our Being (Adytum News Notes, The Portico, Fall '94).
- 6. "All ensouled species on the physical plane, independently mobile or not, are subject to the `tidal' influences of what you call astrology....Astrology measures the areas of available energy or lack of energy programmed into a life all part of programming the bio-computer and is good at spotting major vectors in a life." *Michael*, as channeled by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, *Michael's People*, Berkley, p. 204.
- 7. It might be said, however, that through gravity we "on earth" have also felt the planets.
- 8. This material, which began in the usual fashion for me as writer, is completed in the mode of channeler, or receiver, for which I as Judi am grateful, and for which we as the Brotherhood are most happy to partake in. October 22, 1997, at 11:00 pm
- 9. Conversations with God, Book 1, by Neale Donald Walsch, G. P. Putnam's Sons, pp. 45-46

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