

# Astrology & Compassion the Convenient Truth

## Opening Chapter 1 - A Lethal Void in 21st Century Judgement

“In 1941, the discoverer of the Theory of Relativity, Albert Einstein, famously wrote to President Roosevelt of the USA warning of the dangerous power of nuclear fission and the consequences of Adolf Hitler developing and using the technology first.

Taking the warning very seriously, the President arranged for more funding than that given to any scientific project before that time. In real terms, more was to be spent on what came to be called the Manhattan Project than was later spent on landing a man on the Moon. Vast teams of the best scientists gathered and worked exhaustively, until they finally harnessed the power of splitting the atom and produced nuclear weapons.

There are very good reasons to remind ourselves of all this at the beginning of a book that seeks to establish the importance of astrological understanding in the modern world.

The development of nuclear power in the early 1940s shows just what can be achieved when the best minds and resources are poured into a particular activity. But it would be a mistake to assume that the outcome demonstrates the ultimate true nature of things. Nuclear power is just one of the many latent possibilities, picked out by an important man and given such resources that it has dominated and traumatised the contemporary mind ever since.

If the circumstances of 1941 had not been a general outbreak of madness, and it had been possible to put the same resources into developing an ecologically balanced planet, we may well have achieved it and be living in harmony with nature and each other today. If the investment in cars and roads had been put into railways, our contemporary quality of life would be very different. The priorities we choose focus outcomes. We believe them to be absolute at our peril. The world these priorities create is not the only, true world, or even necessarily the best possible one.

More recently, billions of pounds have been allocated to a mass-computer study of DNA variables in an attempt to map the genome. The ultimate aim is to treat each genetic factor in a uniquely appropriate way. Pharmaceutical and horticultural industries will create new medicines, even ‘food medicines’. Fertility experts will develop ways of identifying and correcting pre-natal defects and abilities – even the sex of the child and cosmetic factors, such as eye and hair colouring.

With the lesson of nuclear power in our minds, perhaps we should not become excessively confident, or despondent about all this. We have still only discovered a fragment of what there is to know. What is academically in vogue may change. Certainly, we should never forget that, if the funds had been devoted elsewhere, our present and future world could be very different.

If the billions of pounds spent in research also had *included* the study of astrology, alongside naturopathic, or other holistic and traditional methods of understanding and healing the body, our view of reality, what help we need and where we go to find it would be radically different.

## The first paragraph of Chapter 2 - A Conspiracy of Disinformation

A Western academic visited a Zen Master to discover his philosophy of life and was offered a cup of tea. When the cup was full, the Master continued to pour and spill, until the Westerner intervened to say the cup was full. The Master replied. ‘Like this cup, you are full of your opinions and theories. How can I show you Zen unless you first empty your cup?’

Before we describe how it works and argue the case to claim a positive role for astrology in modern and future worlds, it is important to explain why it is on the margins of society. Why there is little or no serious information about it in contemporary educational systems and the media? To understand, we must ‘clear the decks’ of the misunderstanding, disinformation and

misrepresentation that do exist and masquerade as 'the facts'. When we do, the view commonly held by 'respected opinion-leaders', that 'no intelligent person can take it seriously', is turned upside down.

### A later section of Chapter 2 A Conspiracy of Disinformation

- ✱ Even then, the individual planetary pressures can manifest at one or more levels. Transiting Mars conjunct natal Uranus in Leo in the 1<sup>st</sup> house expressed materially leads to (I kick down a barrier), emotionally (an outburst of anger), mentally (I plan to change my circumstances) and spiritually (I reflect upon my need to free myself from other people's labels). Furthermore within levels of expression there are many specific empirical outcomes. On the physical level one person may break down a barrier, another start a revolutionary movement and so on. In his *Cosmos and Psyche*<sup>i</sup> Richard Tarnas links this multi-level astrological expression with Jung's theory of archetypes.
- ✱ Because of the variables, we have the free will to make choices, provided that we are ready to face the consequences indicated by the underlying planetary patterns.

Because astrology manifests such a wide range of varieties, detractors dismiss it as generalised and unspecific 'Barnanism',<sup>ii</sup> capable of any interpretation that fits. Many interpretations perhaps, but that certainly does not mean ANY interpretation and never outside the range. Here comes the crucial – defining the range of variables, then testing for the range. Also, seeking to identify what other astro factors might make an exception to an expected outcome.

Such work being undertaken would be of immeasurable benefit to our modern world, where a narrow view of precisely measured mechanical materialism dominates societies in a state of chaotic emotional and intellectual anarchy. For by discerning, anticipating and explaining patterns in emotions, thoughts and beliefs, astrology offers an understanding that the purely physical sciences never can achieve and without which current social and psychological theories are incomplete.

Tragically, little or no public or business funding has been given to genuine attempts to do such research. Non-debunking research is nearly always the volunteer work of individual astrologers, working with meagre software and facilities. In contrast, considerable resources were put into disproving Gauquelin findings – even one replication study going to the extent of misrepresenting its own findings.

As already mentioned, some funding has been given to psychologists and sceptics, who seek to decide for themselves what would prove, or disprove, astrology and then publicise the disproving claims in high-profile media networks. These studies either ignore astrologers, or seduce well-intentioned, but unwary and inexperienced, astrologers into traps that are contrived to appear to fail. It would be unworthy of consideration to research physics, biology, and chemistry without involving experts in these fields in the main experimental and reporting design. Indeed, the usual approach is for experts to decide their own research and to be given funding, not to be put 'on trial' by outsiders, who know and respect nothing about the area of expertise under study. Why should astrology be treated so differently?

A good astrologer will describe the archetypal environment within which a person will have to work out his destiny during the period under consideration. A good astrology consultant will then discuss likely consequences of using the potential at varying levels, to help the client decide which level he is ready for and so will find most beneficial.

To seek to assess such activity by counting how many people had children, romantic affairs, developed their artistic achievements and so on is to fail to understand what the client and

consultant seek and are trying to offer. Would we say a medicine failed if it built up the red cell blood count, but the patient was already too anaemic to survive? Or would a meteorologist's prediction of a 'wet time for everyone tomorrow' fail because the majority of the population saw the skies that morning and stayed indoors? Unless researchers listen to astrologers, identify and know what they are looking for and when they have found it, any experimental conclusions by statisticians for or against astrology are meaningless.

### Conclusion Chapter 6 *A Fair & Logical Universe*

"We are so caught up in the material today that it is difficult to explain and grasp the high logic of spiritual justice. Instead, we blame an 'unjust God' for our suffering. As a consequence, we deny his right to exist and in desperation turn entirely to the mechanical. Immersing ourselves in the struggle to possess and enjoy distracting pleasures as of right, we divert our minds from confronting what we 'know' will be the final end of everything at the time of our death.

In 500 years we have advanced from a time when human societies were unified in a general misunderstanding about the workings of the universe and the relationship between it and its citizens. Now we face a time of clear physical predictability, but problematic moral understanding. It is a bit like handing out hand grenades to each member of a kindergarten class! Yet, the very knowledge that helps us understand our feelings and thoughts is as available today as it has always been. With the development of even more exact astronomical observation and computer technology, astrology can now provide even greater precision. The knowledge of the cycles this offers does not determine our lives, but help us see far more clearly the implications of our actions, and understand the universe from every perspective.

Astrology, the knowledge that was 'cast out of the academy' in the late 17th century can work systematically with emotion and mind. As is so often the case, the solution that is staring us in the face is one that irritates us the most and we feel like dismissing first. When we embrace the 'enemy' of astrological understanding, we find ourselves at one with our dearest friend and, combining it with compassion, transform our delusions into clear light."

### Conclusion Chapter 7 - *Giving Astrological Advice*

*The following extract was originally written, for the author's column in The Astrological Journal, shortly after Gordon Brown was appointed in July 2007. At this time, the new British Prime Minister was at the height of his "honeymoon" popularity and David Cameron seen as a spent force.*

".....the decks are cleared for a great political battle, which has very much to do with the 12th house. As we observed during the Conservative Party leadership contest; although David Cameron has an attractively friendly Venus and Sun rising in Libra in the 1st house, his Moon and Mars are proudly and imperially placed in Leo. This Mars has now

progressed into 12th house Virgo and moves between the natal and progressed Plutos and Saturns during the build-up to the next UK General Election. It will oppose Gordon Brown's natal Mars and Venus and be applying to oppose Gordon Brown's Saturn too – a critical 'up close and personal' battle in every sense!

When Tony Blair was at this stage of preparation a few years before his 1997 victory, he was dismissed as 'Bambi'. Seeking to dismiss David Cameron as a lightweight publicist with little or no policies would be a similar error. The key question that needs to be asked is whether David Cameron is a manipulative, 'all things to all people' presenter whose actions in office would be as, or even more, divisive and repressive than Labour's? Alternatively, are his often-mocked statements, such as 'hug a hoodie' and 'rewarding the family', expressions of a healing vision that is vital for Britain? If so, has he the clarity and strength of will to apply these subtle insights to expansive benefit; like a homoeopathic political process?

Crucially, has David Cameron the capacity to help heal the psychotic trauma projected on the world by the 12th house paranoia of recent leaders and their policies? Or, with Gordon Brown's progressed Moon and transiting Jupiter about to activate his Midheaven in the coming year, will Gordon Brown mature into a much more open and publicly effective figure in the top job? Will his Piscean familiarity with the failure of fear focus a stronger and more effective healing? Or will the challenges of the turn of the decade be such that they can be no more than *endured*, whoever is in power?

It will be interesting to see how things develop."

**Chapters 8 to 20 of the book ask radical questions about the assumptions upon which our contemporary academic and social institutions are founded and suggest many benefits that astrology could offer them**

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<sup>i</sup> Richard Tarnas *The Archetypal Cosmos* last section of Part II of *Cosmos and Psyche* by. This is the first of a number of occasions we will be referring to this author's significant scholarship.

<sup>ii</sup> Barnham was a 19<sup>th</sup> century showman, whose phrase 'there is one born every minute' is often used to debunk astrologers by suggesting that most people are easy to convince. Several high-profile television programmes have sought to demonstrate that ordinary people cannot tell the difference between a con artists pretending and a genuine astrologer. Similar results would be likely, if a therapist, psychologist or many other experts replaced the astrologer we consult every day.