

**COSMIC ASTROLOGY:
THE BOOK OF ANSWERS**

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I. Introduction to Astrology

What is **astrology**?

Astrology is the ancient practice that seeks to interpret the relationship between the cosmos and life on Earth. At a glance, the planets and stars seem such arbitrary objects that shift like clockwork in the sky. In the present day, the stars have faded into the background – dimmed as the backdrop behind the glare of city lights, so that we neglect to look up at their beauty in awestruck wonder. And so, we have not yet come to the realization that there are forces that exist outside this world much greater than the sheltered surface upon which we live.

It seems more common in this day and age that we struggle to find significance in memorizing star patterns or simply pointing out the constellations in the night sky. We neglect the practice altogether, and throw it off as some form of over indulgence for amateur astronomers and crazed astrologers elated with lunacy. But with a closer observation of the planets and stars, the patterns of existence and interactions between take the shape of a divine melody, and with these patterns, we begin to unlock the beat of the drum in which chaos parades about the universe.

II. Natal Chart Basics

What is a natal chart?

A **natal chart** also known as a birth chart is used to map the celestial bodies in their corresponding zodiac at the time of birth. This is where we find not just the Sun sign used in modern day horoscopes, but the Moon, Venus and all other locations of each of the planets. The nativity in astrology is a useful tool in presenting a person's individual aura or personality characteristics. To create a natal chart, the native's exact birth date, time and place are needed to map a precise depiction of the cosmic conditions upon entering this world.

With this information, each of the planets are placed into a wheel diagram of the zodiac at the exact locations they existed in time—the natal chart. This data is then used to measure the angles between the planets, Moon and Sun, to draw up **astrological aspects**.

Astrological Aspects & Transits

III. The Significance of Angles & Aspects

Sacred Geometry

Why are some geometric shapes better than others?

The very fabric of the universe is designed in distinguished patterns that bring continuity and structure to the external world we call reality. These patterns of existence—when most stable—replicate the **golden ratio** expressed in geometric forms that shape the exterior surface of our world. We often underestimate the power of symmetry, though any painter, architect or musician would greatly benefit from a basic understanding in the aesthetic implications of the golden ratio.

The Vitruvian Man is a perfect example of how artist and inventor **Leonardo da Vinci** applied his knowledge of the golden ratio to the symmetrical construction of the human body. Da Vinci's illustrations are found within *De Divina Proportione* by mathematician Luca Pacioli. As it stands, Da Vinci's model is not just a theory but a truth in reality. The Vitruvian Man provides us with a visual representation to easier understand how the human figure itself is an expression of the golden ratio in the measure

IV. The History of Astrology

What did the ancients think about **astrology**?

In the era of our ancient ancestors, astrology and astronomy were one in the same—at least to the early Mesoamericans. Peoples of the past had not yet separated the empirical evidence of astronomy from the estimation and theory behind astrological influences, since neither of these concepts had become exacted in the way we consider astronomy a science under scientific method in modern times.

For the peoples of ancient civilization, the celestial bodies reflected the soul of the heavens (ouranos, gk). Therefore, the interactions between these divine forces—beyond the reach of human influence—were considered to have a lasting effect on destiny. To the ancients, considering the astrological influences was an attempt to master destiny by adjusting one's own life with the flux and flow of the **ambient**. The movements of the 'wandering stars' were observed and fixed-star positions calculated as the celestial bodies shifted with the seasons.

Ptolemy on Astrology

V. Celestial Folklore

The Mystery of Ophiuchus & Orion

What are the origins of the constellations **Ophiuchus** and **Orion**?

In ancient Greek mythology, the celestial figures Ophiuchus and Orion once crossed paths. Orion was the hunting partner of Artemis or Goddess of the Hunt. When Gaia overheard Orion boast to Artemis that there was no animal he could not slay, the goddess was angered at his arrogance. The demise of the Great Huntsman **Orion** was ordered by Gaia—Goddess of the Earth. The goddess sent a giant **Scorpion**, and after a vigorous battle with the beast, Orion died by the poison of its sting. Artemis pleaded with Zeus that Orion be placed among the stars. In the end, Orion and the Scorpion were separated at opposite ends of the zodiac. And as the Scorpion rises in the east, Orion dies and sets in the west.

The myth continues on past Orion's death. Asclepius—the legendary healer was able to extract the poison and revive Orion. After a complaint from the gods that Asclepius had defied natural order in raising the dead, Asclepius was struck down by the thunderbolt of Zeus. Impressed by the healing gifts of Asclepius,

VI. Astrological Symbols of Ancient Civilization

Tao of the Universe

What is meant by yin and yang in ancient Chinese philosophy?

In Chinese astrology and eastern philosophy, the **Tao** concepts of yin and yang name the two natural states that together characterize the basic essence of existence. The idea in mind is to conceptualize a frame of universal wisdom that applies to reality in its entirety. In practice, the Taoist thinkers must remove themselves from thought in the personal perspective – motivated by the ego— and seek a universal and all-encompassing point of reference, one that satisfies the whole of eternity.

First to understand yang, it is easiest to classify its effect with what is often considered the masculine quality. **Yang** is the positive, the assertive and rational. It is action. On the other side, yin is associated with the female quality. **Yin** is the negative, the passive and intuitive. It is inaction. These two manners of being— both yin and yang carry the seed of one another to maintain a

VII. The Stars – Nature’s Calendar

Stars of the Seasons

What are the origins of the western zodiac constellations?

The development of astrology arose from early agrarian civilization, when knowledge of the seasons for sowing and harvesting was a key factor in the overall success of society – for famine, then and now remains a very real challenge in agrarian life.

In the days of ancient Egypt, the stars were named to indicate the changes brought on by the shifting seasons. The Egyptians tracked not only the weather cycles and seasons by the stars, but the length of daylight hours throughout the year. The constellations became a necessary tool to decipher the events as they would unfold with the turn of the seasons. Folklore in the oral tradition brought to life the character of each constellation and star, since reading and writing were the most common skills for none but the scribes in ancient agrarian society. And the oral tradition of celestial folklore was contagious, for the necessity of such a time tracking device—to the farmer—was essential. In this way, astrology was both the calendar and the weatherman to the ancient farmers.

VIII. Equinox & Solstice

Quarters of the Zodiac Cross

What is the significance of the **equinox** and **solstice**?

The equinox and solstice were once celebrated in ancient times with elaborate ritual and festivities in order to signify the four quarters of the annual seasonal cycle. At these four quarters, the Sun's passage from the equator to the Tropic of Cancer and then back to the Tropic of Capricorn becomes more apparent to the observer here on Earth by the length of daylight hours. On the day of **equinox**, the Sun and ecliptic are 90 degrees in relation to the equator of the Earth at 0 degrees latitude. Though on the solstices, the Sun is 90 degrees in relation to either of the tropics at about 23 degrees latitude north and south of the equator. This is the furthest the Sun's path varies between positions of latitude—from 23.5 degrees north and south of the equator.

The heated days of increased sunlight during the summer are the result of the presence of the Sun, just as the long evening hours of the winter indicate the absence of it. This movement of the Sun across the tropics is caused by the tilt of the Earth—and so, the

IX. Zodiac Archetypes

The universe or “the Absolute” is depicted in mythological stories to help mankind grasp concepts of eternity as well as aspects of the eternal. Both the myths and **cosmogony** of the ancient world take the shape of primordial tales that help explain the original essence of existence and the instance of initiation, when all came into being – the creation story.

The oldest creation stories of many religions assign characteristics to these underlying primordial aspects of Nature that would otherwise seem too abstract to grasp. Within these myths of the ancient world, the characters are represented as deities to explain conceptual ideas, phenomena or forces beyond human control. In this way, the gods and goddesses of the ancient world gave qualities to the most basic forms of Nature to help understand each extension of **the Source** – from which all things apparent and invisible manifest.

Deities of the Ancient World

X. The Limiting & the Limitless

What the Ancients Knew

How did the ancients define nature as a process?

In the ancient Chinese philosophical tradition of Tao, the forces of yin and yang together formed the very essence of nature—a process based upon these interlocking polarities at the heart of existence. The yin holds the seed of yang that shows himself when too much of her is present. And when yang overpowers the odds, yin appears once again to take his place. Between the eternal interacting forces of yin and yang, balance is continuously overturned and maintained. One is the seed of the other, and we must observe both—not as separate entities—but as a process of eternal balance between the two.

In a similar sense, great thinkers of the ancient Hindu world once gave up on the idea of “cause and effect” altogether. Instead, they came to consider that each was the observance of the other from the view of a different vantage point.

Somewhere along the road, the observance of cause and effect gave rise to scientific method. It was the thought that one could

XI. Evolution & Extinction Cycles

Patterns of Extinction

What causes have been presented to explain mass extinction events?

In recent years, researchers in the fields of biology, geology and physics have attempted to track down a correlation between the natural rhythms of the Earth and changes in climate and diversity of the plant and animal kingdoms across the globe. To track such cycles of extinction and evolution, we must compare ice core data, sediment layers and marine fossil records to piece together a timeline of Life in the past.

The History of Earth and all its flora and fauna is one riddled with times of 'testing' and 'adaptation' in the form of evolution and extinction cycles. Each sudden shift in extinction led to evolution that was brought on by the natural fluctuations of Earthly cycles or the interference of **extrasolar** objects that caused a cataclysmic event. Over the last decade, there are some who would propose that mass extinction events unfold with a pattern that can be traced. Regardless of whether or not this is fact, these mass extinction

XII. Cosmic Astrology

How has the practice of astrology transformed over the ages?

When we look to the natural history of the Earth for answers, it becomes clear that both cosmic and local 'human consciousness created' elements are factors that affect climate change. The results of Earthly cycles and human intervention have the potential to breathe life or extinguish all trace of it. Therefore, the question of climate change should be one of utmost importance, since climate is also linked to mass extinction events of the past.

It becomes easier to define the phrase 'we are all connected' when we take notice of our own ability to affect the planet and all that is creation on Earth. But to step back and view the wider picture, the sky above holds the key to natural seasonal rhythms and Earthly cycles. Just like the weather, we can use these natural rhythms, the changes in Earth's orbit found in the **Milankovitch cycle** to predict the unraveling of an **ice age**, since astronomical signals for climate change occur with regularity. But also like the weather, we must take into account the 'unexpected' or unforeseen factors that upset the balance of these more predictable natural patterns.

When we trace back the origins of the tropical zodiac to its

XIII. Encyclopedia of Astrology

abyss- primal chaos or undefined space before time; also “bottomless” or limitless.

aether- the “quint” or fifth classical element outlined by Pythagoras in ancient Greece and named the quintessence or quality of the upper air of the abyss; also “ether” and the Sanskrit “akasha”. It is the dodecahedron of the Platonic solids. In the modern era, aether is considered to be a medium for the transmission of electromagnetic frequencies. It is the essence of limitless – the weightless, invisible and all-permeating force – contained in all substance; the astral light that encompasses all space.

affinity- a synchronous event of natural harmony that connects perceived acausal possibility in the mind of archetypal thought (the invisible) with causal circumstance (the visible) resulting in the formation of a symbol.

affirmation- a symbol of the mind that invokes the memory of Divinity or the initial affinity.

air- one of the four classical elements outlined by Pythagoras in

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