



AHA News and Views

Newsletter of the Academy of Hermetic Astrology Inc

A non profit association incorporated in the ACT to teach Hermetic Astrology

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CONTENTS OF AUGUST 2002 ISSUE

SO YOU WANT TO NAVIGATE BY THE
STARS?

STARTING OUT

YOUR ASTROLOGICAL SELF-STUDY REWARDS

by DENNIS SUTTON

PLUS MORE

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WELCOME

Jill Healand – Editor

Welcome to the second Newsletter for 2002. Unfortunately, this edition is a little late, but we will catch up with the next two editions, so you will still receive four Newsletters this year.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have read the March 2002 AHA News and Views with great interest, especially the letter to the editor regarding comments reprinted in the September 2001 AHA News and Views. Some strong statements were made that need to be addressed in open discussion.

First of all, the labelling as “anti-hermetic” the statements in the September 2001 issue regarding genetic behaviour is, in my opinion, inappropriate and unfounded. This sounds a bit like the old Catholic Church accusing someone of heresy, and such accusations can create an atmosphere that makes free and constructive discourse more difficult. In the Church of Light, the custodian of the Brotherhood of Light Hermetic teachings, we like to encourage discourse, questioning and research.

There is often a tendency among those of us attracted to the Hermetic Philosophy to call everything we like Hermetic and everything else hogwash. A good topic for further discussion might be: “What do we really mean by Hermetic?” But, Hermetic or not, what we are really searching for is the Truth, and that Truth is not written in any single book or set of books, nor is it the exclusive property of any organization or that which someone chooses to call “Hermetic.”

More to the point, however, the statements that “All human behaviour is learned ... not genetically coded and passed down ...” and that “the vague notion that behaviour is built into the genetic code ... is a desperate attempt by material science to explain behaviour” are, in my opinion, quite wrong. In addition to being at odds with the teachings of the Brotherhood of Light as defined by the writings of C C Zain, these statements conflict with a large amount of evidence to the contrary, around which is formed the central theorem of Darwinian adaptation, which has, in our current body of scientific knowledge, as firm a foundation as Newtonian mechanics, Relativity and Quantum mechanics. That is, a significant amount of animal and human behaviour is genetically determined. Sometimes this behaviour is at odds with our spiritual nature and must be transformed. At other times, this instinctive behaviour, electro-chemically induced, is what saves us. But in either case, it's there, and genetically-encoded behaviour is a factor in all forms of life on this planet. In fact, how could it be otherwise? For the spirit to continue to express greater levels of intelligence, the form through which spirit expresses must evolve. This is no doubt true on all planes of existence.

On the physical, the means by which form evolves is primarily through Darwinian adaptation and genetically transmitted behaviour. The mechanism by which these adaptations arise may not be limited only to the random genetic mutation proposed by current scientific thought, but might also include the influence of astral intelligence, through psychokinesis, as proposed by C C Zain. But whatever the mechanism, the result is the same – modified behaviour that is genetically encoded! Of course, as was pointed out, behaviour is a complex combination of several factors, including learned behaviour. The trick for the occultist is to separate out the subtle differences between genetically-inherited

behavioural components and learned behaviour, which includes the inner nature, both animal and divine, which we call the soul. Much study and research needs to be done in this area to help us better sort this out.

Paul M Brewer, President
The Church of Light

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Academy was held on 6 April 2002. At this meeting the Cygnus Committee for 2002 was elected.

Julia Goldstein has “stood down” from her position of Chair for the remainder of the year. Judy Greenfield has joined the committee and was elected as Chair during Julia's absence. Di Clarke remains as Secretary, Michelle Quee as Treasurer and Publicity Officer and Jill Healand as Newsletter Officer and Editor. Ingrid Struzina was elected as Teacher's Representative and Research Officer.



SO YOU WANT TO NAVIGATE BY THE STARS?

Dennis Sutton

In the past, sailors used the astrolabe (an ancient navigational instrument) to guide them to their destinations. Later, the compass and sextant were used. A compass is any instrument used for finding direction. These days the gyrocompass and navigation satellites are used in ships and aircraft. These broadcast time and position signals. Sailors can also navigate by the stars and in the past plainsmen and woodsmen looked to the Pole Star to give them direction – to guide them safely to their homes.

Life would be a whole lot easier if we only had a personalized compass that could guide us to where we want to go. If only the planets, stars and constellations were pointers to life's journey. If only the planets

and stars provided signs and signals that allowed us to forecast and navigate our future. The good news is – they do.

Your birthchart is a personalized star map that acts as a personal compass. It provides self-information that allows you to find direction, but more importantly it can guide you to where you want to go. It allows you to **assess the signs** and navigate your future. The astrological energy-pattern pictured in your birthchart details the structure of your unconscious psychology at the time of your human birth. It is an excellent source of self-information and should be used as a self-awareness, personal development guide.

Your birthchart provides a very accurate autobiographical account of your lived experience and you are the best person to translate its astrological messages into relevant self-information. Hermetic Astrology allows you to translate the astrological mind-messages written in your birthchart into self-information having personal relevance.

Hermetic Astrology, via your birthchart, allows you to identify the outstanding features of your unconscious 'soul' psychology with their astrological markers. It allows you to identify the people, activities and life-matters through which your psychological needs can be satisfied. It reveals if the external circumstances you encounter support happiness and success – or difficulties and failure. And it reveals **when** powerful unconscious drives will be stimulated into activity resulting in new experiences that guarantee personal growth and development of some kind.

Your birthchart displays your developed consciousness at birth and your progressed astrology details your (inner-world) astrological environment and the influence it is currently having on your unconscious (soul) mind.

Your lived experience also provides very important self-information. Your lived experience is recorded in your unconscious mind as experience-specific memories, and you have easy access to this information. Life is educational and you will learn a lot about yourself from the events and conditions you experience. Very important events provide very important bits of self-information and minor events provide less important bits. In fact, every internal and external experience provides self-awareness information that you haphazardly catalogue as important or unimportant. In the end, this information becomes your likes and dislikes and preferred interests and activities. You may not have developed a productive technique of translating your lived experience into a database of valuable self-information, but your self-examination behaviours can always be improved.

Alas, many people seek signs and forecasts in astrology but forget the wonders of their own character. Your character is more important than your astrology. Your lived experience reveals if you're playing the game successfully and your astrology reveals the mental resources you must use in the game. Your astrology also allows you to quickly identify what you're doing wrong and what you should do to fix a problem situation.

It is important to know that you are the pilot of your life. As the navigator of your mind-energy system, you are in charge of the system. The system must do what you want – not what it wants. Your personal control – your birthchart – provides you with an on-paper display of your unconscious psychology and astrological environment. Learning to read this control panel and the personal messages it provides is (or will be) an important part of your lived experience. Hermetic Astrology allows you to learn about your mind-energy system, how it developed and what you

should do to maximize its current and future development.

Planes and ships have navigational control panels that provide important information to the navigating officer. A plane's navigational equipment provides information about the plane to the pilot, who uses the information to control the plane's progress. The birthchart, in a similar manner, provides important information about your 'soul' self that you can use to control your personal development. It details your consciousness development at birth and the condition of your psychic 'soul' engine, the dynamic astral energy-system that controls your physical wellbeing and the events you experience. It also reveals when your progressed astrology forecasts important new experiences. Your birthchart puts you in the picture, and your progressed chart reveals the (inner-world) astrological conditions currently influencing your psychological development.

Navigating your way through life by the stars is easy when you clearly understand the astrological information displayed in your personal navigation chart. Hermetic Astrology allows you to enhance your wellbeing by the stars, plan your personal development by the stars and navigate your way through life by the stars. It is the ultimate self-awareness, personal development guide.

STARTING OUT

Dennis Sutton

At the start of your astrological journey your thoughts and ideas about astrology tend to be vague and hazy, and the concepts you have of your unconscious 'soul' mind are probably shrouded in a vague mental fog. It is highly likely that your thoughts have been influenced by popular conceptions presented in the print and electronic media, and fine-tuning these vague notions into crystal clear realities can be a challenge.

Thus, one of your **first objectives** at the start of your astrological self-awareness journey is to turn on your mental lights, clear the fog and bring these vague mental notions into focus.

Several factors influence the focus when you're taking a photo. Adjustments that consider the lighting conditions and distance influence the clarity of the image being photographed; and a similar situation occurs with a mental concept. A vague mental concept must be brought into focus and this often requires adjustments to the original concept. To bring difficult concepts into clearer focus requires much study and thought, and to enhance the clarity of a difficult concept requires creative thinking. Comprehension often occurs like a burst of sunlight on a cloudy day – but only after the necessary mental work.

Hermetic Astrology

These days life is a very dangerous and uncertain game. The newborn human soul grows and develops in an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. The society in which you live is controlled by its fears and insecurities; religious and scientific deceptions abound. Hermetic Astrology is a dazzling ray of spiritual hope in an otherwise polluted and sullied global environment.

Hermetic Astrology is a totally unique life science, but at the start its uniqueness can make it difficult to understand. Twelve distinct attitudes, indicated by the zodiac signs, guide the ten dynamic (need-specific) behaviours indicated by the planets. The unique astrological energy-pattern formed by the planets and signs in your birthchart provides a clear picture of your character or unconscious psychology; but you have never viewed yourself in this way before. Hermetic Astrology provides the "know-how" that allows you to translate the

astrological messages written in your birthchart into self-information having personal value and relevance; but at the start, Hermetic Astrology's unique way of self-learning will take a little getting used to.

The Birthchart

What is the birthchart and what is the best way to view this astonishing mind-map?

The astrological birthchart is commonly defined as a map of the unconscious 'soul' mind at the time of its human birth. This means it maps, i.e. locates (as an astrological energy-pattern), the outstanding features of the soul's psychology at a definite point in time. It details the soul's psychological development up to that time. This means your birthchart provides an on-paper display of your developed psychology at the time of your human birth. It details, as an astrological energy-pattern, the thought structure of your soul. **The birthchart is a rather astonishing map** - a mind map that identifies your outstanding psychological features as an astrological energy-pattern. **From a personal point of view, your birthchart is a very reliable source of self-information.**

When you look at this map you can view the dynamic forces that drive your behaviour (the planets); the attitudes that guide your behaviour (the signs); the energy mergers that influence the quality of your behaviour (the aspects); and the life-matters, activities and people that influence your behaviour (the houses).

At the start, just remember that **your birthchart is a very simple map.** It pictures the 22 outstanding features of your psychological landscape. A map of Australia has many more geographical features and any street directory has a huge number of features. Yet a map of Australia and a street directory are easy to read when you learn how to do it. Of the 22 psychological

features pictured in your birthchart, 10 are dynamic features and 12 are common features, and not all the common features apply.

(It is also important to understand that a street mapped in a street directory is not the actual street it denotes and that the planet mapped in the birthchart is not the actual psychological drive it symbolizes either. Maps employ symbols to locate things and your birthchart uses planets and zodiac signs to locate the outstanding features of your unconscious psychology.)

There is no need to be confused by these astrological symbols. Once you learn what each one stands for, they are easy to understand. These universal symbols, and their unique personal arrangement in your birthchart, provide you with an on-paper display of your psychological landscape. They detail your lived experience and your accumulated states of consciousness up to the moment of your human birth.

It is amazing to think that something exists that precisely displays your soul's consciousness development. The birthchart **is** an extraordinary snapshot of your soul's consciousness structure at the time of its human birth. On the other hand, it is most unfortunate that you live in an age that denies your soul's existence - a materialistic-scientific age that is convinced that a vital non-material elixir of life is unnecessary to animate and explain the behaviour of physical matter. There is no science of the soul. Science denies the soul's existence, although there are weird rumours of a DNA created soul. Misguided material science glorifies the physical chemical and denigrates the non-physical intelligence that gives it life.

Planets and Signs

Your understanding of the planets and signs will rely heavily on your lived

experience. The planets in your birthchart represent powerful unconscious desires, drives and needs, and you will have to rely on your own experiences with these dynamic mental forces to understand how the planets operate in your life. You can only experience your own consciousness and you will have to rely on your experiences with confidence, indecision, joy, anger, fear and confusion, etc. to understand the thoughts, feelings and behaviours associated with each of the planets in your chart. The zodiac signs represent attitudes and deep-seated motivations. They indicate how you do something and why you do it. In your birthchart, those signs where the planets, MC and Ascendant are located attain relevance; and you will have to rely on your own experiences with how and why you do things to understand how the zodiac signs operate in your life. You can only experience your own consciousness and you will have to rely on your own experiences with enthusiasm, determination, flexibility, stability, emotion, versatility and practicality, etc. to understand the attitudes and motivations associated with the relevant signs in your chart.

Aspects and Houses

Even though you regularly experience pleasure and pain – comfort and discomfort, your understanding of these two dynamics of life is most likely shallow and misguided. Any genuine life science must consider pleasure and pain, and a map that details your soul's consciousness structure must display astrological factors that record its experiences with pleasure and pain. These birthchart factors are the aspects (formed by the planets). The idea that a soul can evolve its consciousness without having experiences with pleasure and pain is not an observant idea (all life-forms experience pleasure and pain). The aspects do add a degree of complexity to the birthchart, but once the concept of pleasure and pain and the precise influence of each aspect is clearly

understood, the self-information provided by the aspects is easier to learn and comprehend. Your lived experience has provided you with a wealth of astrological knowledge – you just didn't know it at the time; and you will have to rely on your lived experience when learning how each aspect operates in your life. Your own separation experiences, obstacle experiences, luck experiences, opportunity experiences and friction experiences will provide the real-life practical experiences with pleasure and pain that will allow you to understand the aspects and how they operate in your chart.

Your lived experience also provides a wealth of information about your external environment. In fact, it is highly likely that your knowledge of your external environment exceeds your knowledge of your internal environment. (Men, in particular, focus more on the external environment, while women tend to focus more on their inner emotional selves.) The birthchart's unique way of organizing the external environment into easily identified compartments (houses) and Hermetic Astrology's clear explanation of this external environment provides a unique perspective on how your internal drives and external demands have co-produced the life you've lived and the person you've become.

The houses pictured in the birthchart detail the external (outer-world) environment and this is easy to understand because you can see, hear, touch, feel and taste this environment. Generally, people have poor environment scanning skills, but Hermetic Astrology, due to the way the external environment is organized in the birthchart, permits an easy assessment and evaluation of the outer-world environment. The real problem is that most people are unaware of the very important role played by the environment in their development. They are unaware that **circumstance shapes the life** and that the environment provides the circumstance.

At the start, a very real obstacle hindering your capacity to understand your astrology is a **general lack of information regarding your psychology**. There is something called human nature. This recognizes that there are certain thoughts, feelings and behaviours common to all human beings; but there is no science of human nature informing you of your own thoughts and feelings and how they influence your conduct. This general lack of understanding regarding your thoughts, feelings and impulses can slow down and frustrate your efforts to understand your unconscious psychology as pictured by your astrology. (Hermetic Astrology is in fact a superb science of human nature.)

On paper, the different parts of your psychology are easily identified and seem quite straightforward; but problems do arise, especially when all the individual bits have to be integrated into a unified consciousness where one bit is strong, another bit is weak, another bit is behaving well and another bit is behaving badly. The planets and signs represent psychological features that are easy to identify. Houses represent external environments that are easy to identify but things get a little complex when a planet in a sign and house depicts an unconscious energy pattern that, to have personal relevance, must be translated into a behaviour that is doing something. It's not easy.

In the end, your capacity to bring this astrological image of yourself into focus depends upon the clarity of your thoughts regarding the various bits of astrological information pictured in the chart. The hypothesis, verified by scientific astrological research, is that your developed consciousness at the time of your human birth is pictured by the astrological energy pattern displayed in your birthchart at that time. This means you can pro-actively use your birthchart to acquire factual self-information. You can translate the

astrological information into self-information and use this information to make your life better. With this objective firmly held in your mind, your hazy mental images of the planets, signs, aspects and houses will crystallize into valuable self-information that you can use to guide and control your personal development.

The Soul

Very early in your astrological studies you will move to the realm of mind – not conscious mind, but unconscious 'soul' mind; and you will have to carefully clarify your vague notions of this dynamic unconscious life force. The term 'unconscious' is used simply because the conscious portion of the mind is unaware (or unconscious) of the unconscious portion. **Soul (or mind) has a conscious and unconscious portion.** The mental image most people have of their unconscious 'soul' mind is usually a vague blur; and to make the most of your astrological pursuits, you will have to bring your mental image of this dynamic life force into clear focus. The developing process in photography produces a visible (photo) image from a negative image and, in a similar manner, your mental processes need to produce clear mental concepts of your unconscious 'soul' mind from your original vague ideas.

The soul (or mind) is a dynamic, thought-built, life force. At the start (following its involution), it evolves in two environments – the physical, visible earth environment and the non-physical, invisible astral environment, and it accumulates, as states of consciousness, all the experiences it has with both environments. Both environments provide the soul with experiences that are necessary for its development. But no two souls have the same experiences. These experiences ensure the soul develops mental skills, and when it has acquired the necessary intelligence it

builds and manages a human body. Your thoughts, feelings, emotions and impulses originate in your soul-mind. It is where all your experiences are recorded as memories. Your soul is an intelligent, self-organizing, body of thoughts, feelings and impulses and it is a glorious privilege to be born a human soul.

The brain is simply a reception centre for information coming in from the external physical environment and the internal astral-soul environment. It permits the soul to process all the information coming in via the physical senses and to initiate an appropriate response. The brain is a brilliant biological creation, but the intelligence that built it, and then directs and manages its biochemical activity, is simply astonishing. The nervous system, brain and endocrine system allow the soul to control and direct the body's electrical and biochemical processes. The brain's sophisticated electrochemical activity allows the soul to experience self-consciousness; and self-consciousness allows you to become aware of your own existence – a significant and glorious development in your evolution. Self-consciousness allows you to think and feel – it allows **you** to consciously recognize and know your unconscious thoughts, feelings and impulses. Your soul is the source of your thoughts, feelings and impulses; thus all your behaviours, whether constructive or destructive, are natural to you.

As a source of self-information, the birthchart is your most valuable possession. It details the structure of your mind-energy system and the strengths and weakness in your system. Hermetic Astrology explains what you can do to correct the weaknesses and enhance the strengths.

Concentrated mental effort (deep thinking) is required to comprehend hard to understand concepts. Your starting point is your current level of understanding. The

following thoughts and concepts can be used to guide your efforts.

The first thing to remember is that your unconscious 'soul' reality is influenced by the inner-world astrological environment, and Hermetic Astrology clearly explains this environment. Your soul is made of astral (thought) substance. It resides on the astral plane, where it is influenced by the astral plane's thought environment. The astral energies radiated by the planets and zodiac signs are the outstanding features of this dynamic thought-environment. Each planet radiates an astral frequency that corresponds to a particular thought and feeling. An aggressive unconscious thought, for example, is reproduced in the brain as an electrical impulse (thought) having the same frequency as Mars. On a more practical note, **Hermetic Astrology reveals how you can make your life better.** The idea that you can use astrology to enhance your personal development must neutralize self-defeating fatalistic notions that encourage self-destructive behaviours like helplessness, despair and despondency.

The planets indicate dynamic unconscious urges that drive your behaviour; the zodiac signs indicate attitudes and motivations that guide your behaviour; the aspects indicate mind-energy mergers that influence the quality of your behaviour and the houses indicate the people, activities and life-matters that influence your behaviour; and while Hermetic Astrology provides clear theoretical explanations of these four factors, your lived experience provides the practical evidence that will allow you to understand how the planets, signs, aspects and houses operate in your life.

In other words, you can't rely solely on Hermetic Astrology to explain who you are. Your lived experience provides very important practical information that you must access when translating your astrology

into meaningful self-information. The self-information provided by the birthchart must be validated by your lived experience, and the self-information provided by your lived experience must be validated by your astrology. Your astrology and your lived experience are both valuable sources of self-information.

To make the most of your astrological studies, you will have to bring your concepts of the planets, signs, aspects and houses into clear mental focus. This means you will have to constantly fine-tune your original concepts. You should employ creative imagination with practicality when clarifying your concepts, and you should develop a critical, questioning attitude.

Those people who deny or ignore their astrology (and most people do) are the ones most likely to blindly replicate its energy pattern as a lived experience – usually with adverse consequences. And while some people are afraid of the future, others have no interest in knowing what their future holds, but astrology **does not** predict inevitable events.

At the start, it is important to develop a sense of order and sequence about your study plan. Every time you look at your birthchart, realize it is a 100% reliable source of self-information and that you can use this information to maximize your personal development. When your skills permit, you should start to create a vision or mental image of the 'you' pictured in your chart. You should then create a vision of your future-self – a vision that should motivate your personal development.

Endnote: Hermetic Astrology very often presents a personal challenge. It categorizes behaviour as constructive or destructive. A beneficial behaviour has productive outcomes and a destructive behaviour has adverse outcomes. Such knowledge presents an invitation to behave better. Whether you

accept the invitation is a matter of personal choice. The consequences of your bad behaviours will have to be confronted sooner or later; and the need to choose between a selfish or altruistic lifestyle can present a personal crisis. The decision to live a more productive, altruistic lifestyle usually marks a major turning point in the life. The life will then experience the satisfaction and happiness that is the natural outcome of meaning and purpose, but will not necessarily run smoother. Whatever your code of conduct, your life will always encounter problems.

YOUR ASTROLOGICAL SELF-STUDY REWARDS

Dennis Sutton

The more time and effort you invest in doing something, the bigger the reward you expect. Nobody invests a great deal of mental, emotional and physical energy in some pursuit to deliberately reap tiny benefits. The personal benefits must equal the time and effort invested – and they usually do; but there's a good chance that you can do something, thinking you're doing the right thing, only to find out later on that what you did was an unproductive waste of time.

Who would buy a house for \$200,000, spend 20 years paying it off, and then sell it for \$180,000? This would be considered a very poor investment in terms of time and money. Who would place their money in a bank account where the bank fees exceeded the interest rate being paid? Again, this would be considered a very unwise investment; and a person who sets out to study astrology and who does the practical homework is in exactly the same position as a person who invests a great deal of time and money in a house – they both expect to profit in some way.

We expect rewards. We don't do anything unless there is something in it for us. There

are intellectual rewards and emotional rewards, but more often than not we seek financial rewards. Our time and effort must be financially rewarded. In fact, we are inclined to only do those things that provide us with a financial dividend, and very often we won't do something unless there is a financial reward. Self-knowledge may reap financial rewards, but the universal law regarding effort – and this includes effort invested in enhancing our self-knowledge – states “**the reward for effort is increased ability**”; and ability increases in proportion to the effort expended. This means the reward for the time, effort and energy you invest in your self-study pursuits is an increased ability to understand who you are and what you can do; and this ability has the potential to constantly expand, providing you with greater and greater self-understanding.

Unfortunately, too many people have invested a lot of time and effort in their astrological pursuits, only to find that their efforts reaped zero-rewards. In fact, it seems to me that very few people have experienced the wonderful benefits that personal astrology offers. This situation is easily explained. Too many people just don't know what astrology really is and what it can do. Too many students just don't know what the birthchart is and too many people just don't know that Hermetic Astrology and the birthchart can be used to make their lives better. The purpose of the Church of Light's astrological research was to learn what astrology could and couldn't do so people could use it to enhance their personal development.

Bearing in mind that most students have failed to reap the benefits promised by their astrological self-awareness journey, your objective is to make sure that the time, effort and energy you invest in your astrological pursuits is personally rewarding. Your goal is to learn your astrology and use it to make your life better, but you must be

certain that, at the end of your astrological self-awareness journey, the time, effort and energy you've invested has reaped the highest personal rewards.

The Benefits

At the start, you will benefit from an enhanced awareness of your unconscious psychology. This will increase your self-knowledge and this, in turn, will allow you to live a more productive, useful life. An enhanced understanding of your unconscious psychology will allow you to improve your capacity to understand and satisfy your personal needs. A greater understanding of your thoughts, feelings and impulses will enhance your capacity to play a pro-active role in developing a lifestyle that best suits your psychological profile. An enhanced level of self-knowledge will promote better mental and physical health, better decision-making skills and a heightened sense of wellbeing. A greater sense of personal empowerment will allow you to enhance your capacity to accept full responsibility for all your actions – the events you experience and your responses to these events. Eventually, an increased level of self-awareness will enhance your capacity to utilize your mind-energies more productively. It will allow you to proactively seek those experiences that will enhance your usefulness, happiness and spirituality. Your long-term objective is to contribute your utmost to universal welfare by living the completely constructive life of a good citizen. A life of usefulness, happiness and spirituality is a good investment in your future.

Hermetic Astrology clearly explains the known laws of astrology (that influence all life). It also explains the rules and regulations imposed by these laws. Hermetic Astrology allows you to enhance your understanding of the inner-world astrological environment and the role it plays in your life. It classifies behaviour as

constructive or destructive and explains modes of conduct as productive or non-productive. By explaining how to convert discord into harmony, it encourages a completely constructive lifestyle, but no matter how constructive your lifestyle, there will always be problems to overcome. Hermetic Astrology, via your birthchart, simply presents 'a best solution to every problem'. Knowledge of up-coming difficulties in the immediate future permits proactive precautionary measures, such as constructive thinking and environment management, that should be deliberately employed to prevent or modify potential misfortune.

The more authentic self-information you accumulate, the better equipped you are to handle the challenges of daily life. Hermetic Astrology should be used to enhance self-understanding and to promote productive personal development.

The answer to the question: What reward do I expect from my astrological self-awareness studies? is: The reward I expect is the self-knowledge that will allow me to enhance my usefulness, happiness and spirituality.

Classroom learning time is primarily devoted to the theoretical understanding of the astrological information. Homework time is devoted to the practical application of this information. Yet, this is not enough if you are serious about your studies. Regular self-study sessions are needed to ensure that you are reaping the highest personal rewards from your astrological pursuits.

SOME DEFINITIONS OF "HERMETIC"

From "The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy 1994"

Hermetic corpus: A collection of writings from the first three centuries after Christ,

combining magical, religious, and tangentially philosophical fragments. Translated by *Ficino, it had undue influence on Renaissance thought, partly through being mis-attributed to ancient Egyptian authorship by "Hermes Trismegistus", supposedly from a time before *Plato.

Hermeticism: Adherence to *Hermetic teachings.

From "The Larousse Encyclopedia of Astrology 1977"

Hermetic Theory: A body of correspondences, which – according to modern scholars – was formulated at the beginning of the Christian era, based on the belief "*Omnia ab uno et in unam omnia*" ("One is in all and all is in one"), which is expressed in the astrological maxim "as above, so below" and also in the idea that the human being is a microcosm of the universe. The concept of the microcosm is developed in great detail in some of the earliest Hermetic writings, those attributed to the legendary Hermes Trismegistos. Everything in nature had its parallel in man; each sign of the zodiac governed a part of the body; there were seven types of people, corresponding to the seven known planets. The Greek concept of the four elements was readily incorporated into Hermetic theory. The theory, with its vast compendium of correspondences, became a vehicle for the perpetuation of Greek herbal medicine.



VENUS EVENT

A Winter Solstice celebration was held at Julia's home on Saturday 22 June 2002, where a small group gathered to enjoy good company and conversation, a ritual to celebrate the Solstice, good Thai food, and Julia's famous "glühwein".

**BIRTHDAYS**

Many Happy Solar Returns to:

CANCER: Bridget
Fiona
Michelle
Stuart
Jill

LEO: Sylvia
Marian
Phyllis
Tony
David
Dennis
Karen

VIRGO: Heidi
Steve
Leisa

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

All members and students are invited to submit articles for publication in the Newsletter.

If you have anything of interest, whether it be an astrological "story" of something happening in your own life, something you have read, or perhaps something humorous, please submit it for editing.

All are welcome!

Please send articles to: Jill Healand:
jilly@ozemail.com.au; or by "snail mail" to
PO Box 270, Belconnen, ACT, 2616