



How does your *Garden Grow*?

Richard Llewellyn

From a talk given by Richard at the Astrological Association conference in 1991

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“HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?”

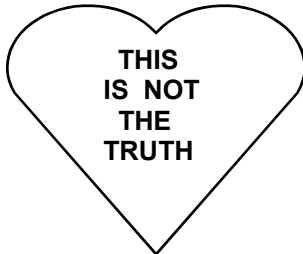
**Richard Llewellyn at the Astrological Association Conference,
York, September 1991**

This talk was given at a morning plenary session, and Richard was introduced by Charles Harvey, then President of the Astrological Association.



Thank you very much, Charles, for an introduction like that. So many people have said to me “Are you keen on gardening?” and I thought I’ve chosen the wrong title! But hopefully it will become clear to you what I mean by the title “How does your garden grow?”

In other sessions, people have put charts on the screen to start with. My chart to start with this morning is a very simple statement which I like to make because we do in fact need to seek our own truth.



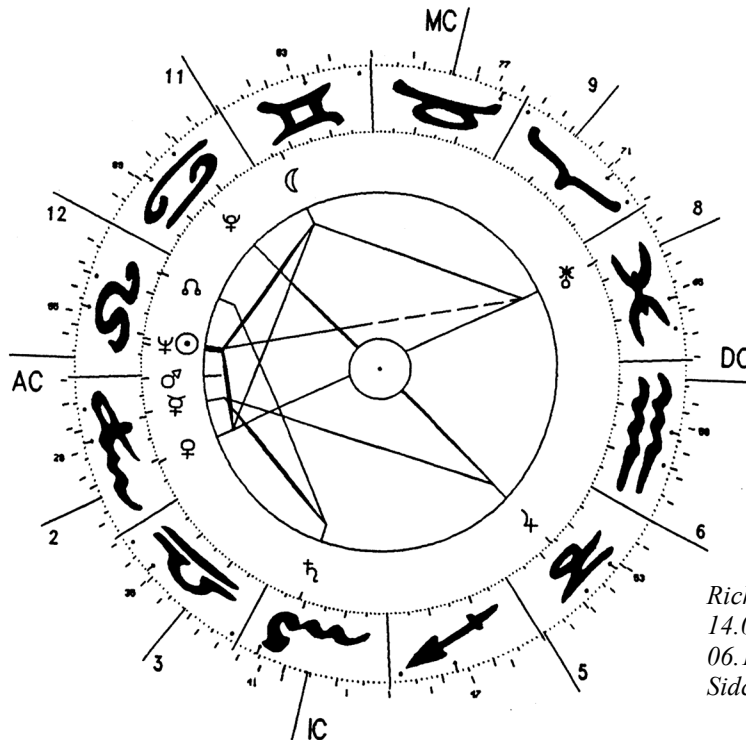
*The chart
Richard showed*

What I’m talking about this morning is purely my own truth as it is at this moment in time. So please don’t all get your Mercury’s out & absorb everything I say & believe it’s the truth - it’s just, as I say, the truth for me.
Charles said that

I’m involved with the Huber School of Astrology & this is my chart drawn up in the Huber style. We work with slightly different orbs, we work with coloured aspects, and this all has a meaning & I shall want to come back to the chart itself a little later in this talk. But I need to sketch in a little bit of background first.

Patterns of Energy

For me, astrology is very much to do with patterns of energy, cycles of energy. I had an image in the night of one major cycle of energy which basically starts at the bottom with The Big Bang which formed the universe; it went right up to the top & at that moment, some billions of years hence, perhaps the universe begins to shrink again, and again, in billions of years time, it reaches the bottom & we have another explosion. I don’t whether this is how the universe works but it just struck me that maybe there is some sort of cyclical pattern in there.



*Richard Llewellyn
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Now if you imagine this pattern of energy as a sort of tube, & inside this tube there are countless billions of other cycles of energy. And we can isolate just one of those & say that this is the pattern of energy which relates to the solar system. If we found one of these threads which related to the solar system, if we sliced it in half at the moment of birth, then we'd get a little microcosmic view of the whole of the macrocosm, and for me this is really what astrology is about - this linking of energies which we can see within the chart.

When I started to learn astrology I found that it was just too broad a subject - it encompassed everything that we encountered. I could, I suppose, have specialised in mundane astrology, or astrology for dogs, or horary astrology or something of that sort, but I actually, when I started to work with astrology I found that it was people I came into contact with. This always fascinates me, because if you're working with clients, for whatever reason, you always find you're attracted to the clients who somehow link in to where you are & what you're working on at that particular moment in time. I found that the people that I was encountering had reached a stage in their life where they wanted to grow & move on from where they were. This is often linked with some form of crisis, but these sort of people seemed to be the sort of people I wanted to work with to help them to try & understand the birth chart in such depth that I was able to give them some sort of help to clear the decks, to open doors - whatever - in order for them to move on from where they were. So astrology became something to do with self-awareness & personal growth.

The chart as a living organism

I was very aware of my own birth chart. I was born with that chart and I was also very aware that I was going to die with that chart, it wasn't really going to change in the meantime. Hopefully I was going to change, but my chart wasn't. And I began to think that a chart, when it's drawn, is just apparently a flat piece of paper with some glyphs & lines on it. For me this seemed terribly sort of flat & dull & I needed to invent ways for myself so that I could see this chart as a living organism - it really was something that was alive, it was changing, I could do something with it, it was full of potential.

So I started investigating various forms of growth psychology to see whether I could link in with one of these, which would give me greater insights into the birth chart. I tried all sorts of things, like Ge-

stalt, NLP & Transpersonal psychology, and eventually latched on to Psychosynthesis. This seemed very reasonable, because Bruno & Louise Huber actually worked with Roberto Assagioli, the founder of Psychosynthesis, for 3 years whilst Assagioli was in Florence & Bruno & Louise were putting together their concept of chart interpretation.

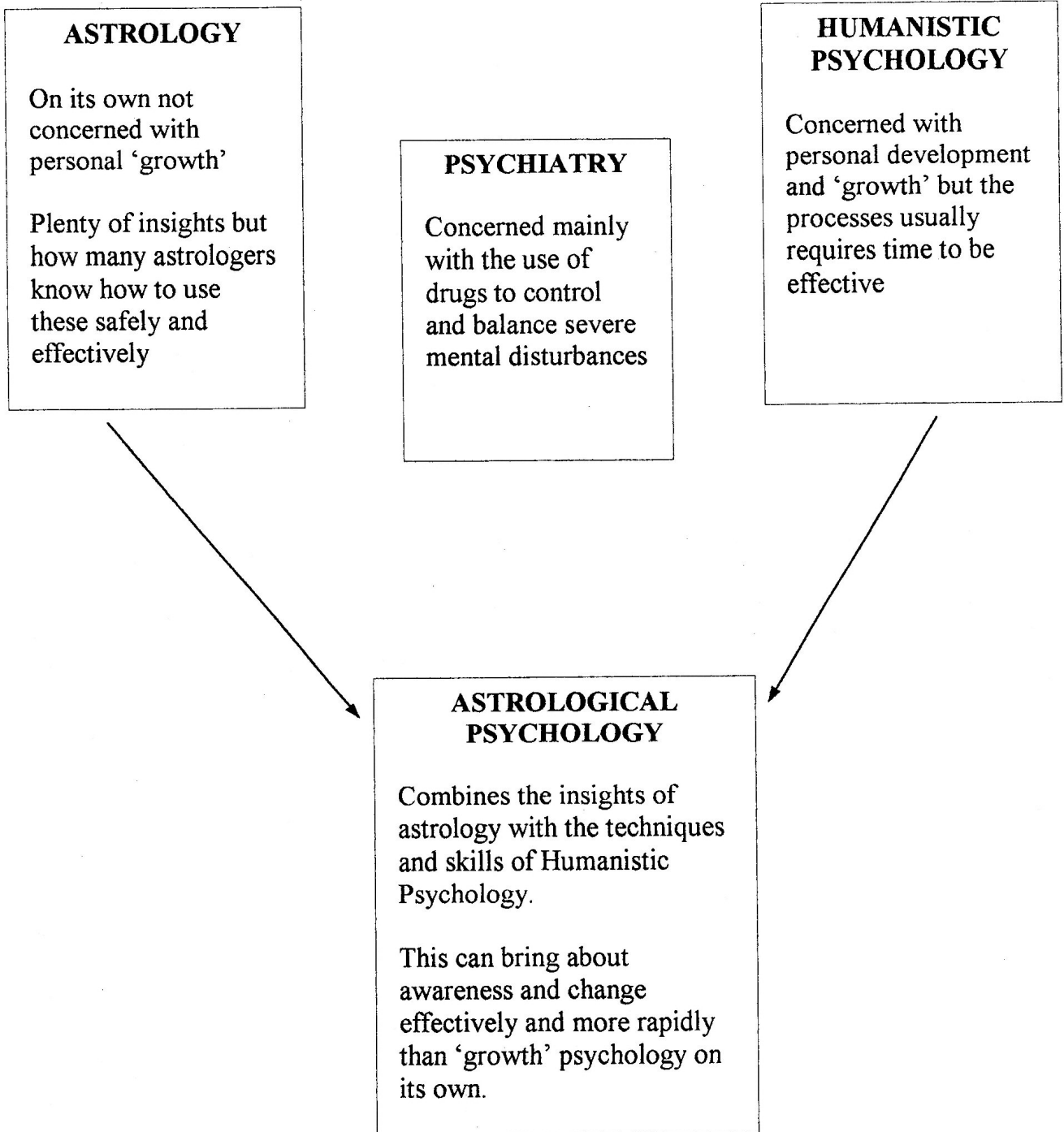
I began to adapt my astrology to fit in with my concept of human beings. By adapting it doesn't mean to say that I started saying that Mars was really Venus or anything of that sort, but it was really just trying to see the chart in a different way. So I work now with two models - very much an astrological model & also a psychological model. My own terminology for this is astrological psychology.

Models

If you look at the diagram (*see opposite page*) you will see that on the left we have an astrological model, and on the right we have a psychological model, but it's not the sort of rigid scientific psychology, it's very much associated with growth psychology or humanistic psychology. Now astrology is an amazing tool - it gives us totally unique insights into somebody's personality, into their potential, into all the blocks that stop them from growing & so on. It also is something which is immediate & we have a chart which we can show to a client & this is a really valuable thing between the two of us which we can both relate to & it's fairly safe from a client's point of view.

So it has the advantage that if we know how to make use of a birth chart, we can have an immediate access into somebody's psyche & their blocks, & we can help them to grow. For me the disadvantages seemed to be that it was difficult to get beneath the surface. We can say "OK, I can see that Mars is in Aries & therefore this person is going to have certain "characteristics" but that didn't always seem to work - there were other factors which I needed to find out about.

I put up there on the slide that it might be difficult to contact the inner person - in other words, we've grown up in this world, we've gone through a fairly traumatic childhood, or it appeared to be traumatic for us at the time. We've pushed a lot of stuff down into the unconscious & that is what I mean by "what lies beneath the surface?" I didn't find that astrology always gave me the answers that I was looking for in what had happened in



The Humanistic Psychologies referred to are such as the following:
Transactional Analysis; Transpersonal Psychology; Hakomi; Gestalt;
Psychosynthesis, and so on.

childhood situations. And I also found that there were a lot of options open in the chart & quite a few paradoxes that needed to be understood.

Choices

On the growth psychology side, the model of growth psychology is all to do with self-awareness which gives us *choice*. It means that we don't go around saying "I'm sorry I'm late - Mercury is retrograde", it actually means that I'm taking responsibility. I might actually know that Mercury is retrograde but I don't actually *blame* what lies out there because I'm late. So it is to do with taking responsibility for ourselves which we can only do if we are, in fact, self-aware. It is very much to do with creating choices in our life from this free place of being responsible for ourselves.

If we're being "run" by the environment, or being "run" by the planets or whatever, we actually have no choices for ourselves at all; it is the environment which is living our lives. So the advantages of growth psychology enabled me to explore below the surface, using various techniques & skills & helped to clear some of the blocks I could not find in the birth chart - or if I *could* find them in the birth chart it was usually by pressing somebody's button accidentally & then not knowing what to do about it.

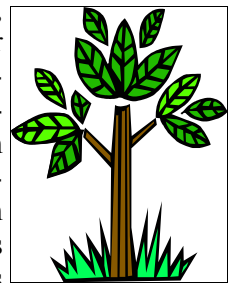
The disadvantages, of course, with any form of therapy, is that it can drag on, it can take time, although Psychosynthesis is one of those therapies which is very immediate, or comparatively immediate in the response & it doesn't go on endlessly. It says "Hey - we've achieved something, we drop it - we've reached a plateau if you like, and maybe come back to it later."

Another of the disadvantages is the fact is that you didn't get a sense of the whole person in the way that you do when you're looking at a natal chart. For me, there was a sort of sense of coming from "up here" (*points to head*) with astrology & coming from "down here" (*points to heart*) with humanistic psychology. And I find that by putting these two together & working with a combination of these two models I had all the benefits of both sides with really none of the disadvantages. So this for me is what Astrological Psychology is all about. It is a combination of two quite distinctly separate, but in some way associated, models.

The Garden

So how can we see the chart as a living entity? This is where I come to my garden & I'm going to ask you to stretch your imaginations a little bit if you will on this early Sunday morning. You can do this in whatever way you like - it's not important.

What I am going to ask you to do is to see if you can get an image somewhere in your mind that in front of you, or beside you or wherever, you've got a circular patch of ground. Now as you imagine this little circle of ground, be aware of whether the soil is rich, well fertilised, whether it's all stony, whether it's all sand, whether it's solid clay - what is this little garden, which we're going to create, for you? It doesn't matter what anybody else creates, it's your garden & it's special. And when you've got this image of the garden, I'm going to ask you again to imagine that somebody has dropped at random, 10 seeds onto your garden & actually buried them in the ground.



So you have 10 seeds growing in this circular patch of soil around you & these seeds are around the outside of this garden. Now the first thing that happens with a seed, obviously, once we've planted it, and if we're lucky, is that it will germinate & eventually it will break the surface of the ground with one little leaf. And I'm going to ask you again to imagine that in your garden that you can see in front of you, these 10 little seeds have germinated & it takes them about 9 months to get to the surface. And 9 months after germinating we have hopefully we have 10 little leaves breaking the surface.

Now imagine the variation in growth depending on the soil in which these seeds have been planted. In other words, if we look right back to childhood & we say that a person is brought up in a very disadvantaged family for some reason or other, it's going to be perhaps more difficult for them to go through the subsequent growth process because the ground in which their seeds have been sown is far less fertile and growth is, perhaps, more inhibited.

Now as each of these 10 little plants begin to grow, we first have one little leaf, and then an-

other little leaf & then more leaves & so on - and as we go through life so each of these plants begins to blossom out into whatever it's supposed to be. In a way it's rather like having the seed packet with a picture of the flowers on the front showing what it ought to be like when they've all grown. But what is it actually going to turn out like?

It is possible that somebody in our environment, when we're small, says "I don't like that seed - it's horrible, it's the wrong colour, or spiky" or something like that, and they try & root it out, or put a stone on top of it & hope it will go away. Whereas another seed, which looks absolutely beautiful - you know this little plant - it's lovely, it looks really exciting, it gets more fertiliser, it gets more water & so on & it grows bigger & bigger & bigger, but to the detriment, perhaps, of the other plants in this garden. For me, this is one way in which we can look at our own growth process, to the growth process of a client, or whatever, it doesn't matter.

We can see the chart in a similar manner to this - it doesn't have to be like my analogy at all. But if we can see the chart as this living organism we can see & be aware of the possibility that parts of our garden may not develop. Now what I want to do later is to actually look at a chart & look at things that we can see in a chart which might indicate why some parts of our garden overdevelop, and crowd out other parts of ourselves, and why other plants just stay small & never really develop their full potential at all.

Sub-personalities

In psychosynthesis, we work, amongst other things, with what we call sub personalities. That is exactly what they are - a "sub" personality. We have a personality which has a mind, a body & feelings - in other words it has a body posture, it has a way of thinking & it has feelings. Each of our sub personalities is a little sort of small part of the larger whole, which is us. Assagioli said we were a lot of people living under one skin & he called these parts of ourselves sub personalities.

We all have them, and we all have them in a really rich variety. Some are good and some are not quite so helpful to us. But again we can actually see these sub personalities in the chart. Some sub personalities work very harmoniously together. Other sub personalities in ourselves seem to be in constant conflict with one another. In other words there

is some form of polarity. And it doesn't take much imagination to relate these to the birth chart.

I look upon these plants in this garden as basic drives into consciousness. In other words, when we arrive in this world we are not terribly conscious - we have no way of doing anything for ourselves, none of our faculties are developed in anyway whatsoever. The first thing we learn to do, probably, is to scream, because we need feeding & we need to attract attention, so security obviously is the name of the game when we're very small.

Now one of the things I do is to liken these 10 plants with the 10 planets. We have dozens of sub-personalities if we care to go searching for them. Some of you may already be aware of sub personalities that you have. Most of us have something like a "Critic", a "Judge", all sorts of odd sorts of characters like this - "Top Dog" & so on, that actually want to run our life for us. They are roles that we play in life.

Drives into consciousness

Now it is possible to look at each of our seeds as being the archetype of the sub personality. In Psychosynthesis we call these drives into consciousness. We refer to them as drives rather than archetypes. I think there is a difference here between Assagioli & Jung. So we can take one of our little plants & say "This relates to Mercury". Now initially, it's just got one little leaf, so that Mercury in our chart, or in ourselves, is very limited in what it can do. OK, it can yell, but it doesn't do so on any particularly coherent way. But eventually we begin to see that Mercury is actually growing itself, like a plant, it's developing more leaves & branches & ultimately flowers & fruit & sure, it will die in the end, but that is also our own cycle.

So we can look at each of these plants & we can see that we can relate Mercury to our drive to communicate at its very basic level. We can look at Venus & say that this is our need for contact. Venus is very security orientated, it's very much to do with anima & anima and is a very powerful drive for security. If we hark back to the days of the cavemen, it was the woman who stayed in the cave & bore children & ensured the survival of the tribe. She was very much the role of Venus, ensuring survival, creating a degree of harmony around her, which is very different from the man in her life who would go out hunting & was much more aggressive & assertive. His role was also

survival, obviously. We never must underestimate the power of Venus - I've heard Venus described in so many ways of sylph-like creatures & so on, but Venus is powerful. And in fact all these drives are so.

Mars is our need for action - to do something. In a sense Mars is will power in action, but Mars is this animus drive - to go out & do something, and originally it was something as basic as just going out & finding food.

Jupiter is our need to grow. Now growth takes place in all sorts of different ways - we can grow physically, we can grow mentally, we can grow emotionally. Our bank balance can grow, but then so can our overdraft. So we need to know that Jupiter is affecting us in all ways in its need to expand, to make bigger. For me, the ideal of Jupiter is actually psychological growth. It is that part of us that wants to make the garden grow. It is sensitive. It learns from experience how we should be. If, for instance, our garden is on the side of a cliff or something of that sort it will be Jupiter that will be the guiding force as to saying that there would be a better way of tending this garden, as it's subject to winds and erosion.

So all these planets, or all these drives, have many, many different roles, but the basic archetype of each is the same. Saturn is obviously to do with our security; Saturn is that planet in our chart which, for most of us at any rate, blocks our progress in life. There's Jupiter wanting to open all sorts of new doors, explore new avenues & so on & there's Saturn saying "No, no, better not...it's unsafe down that avenue".

Opening doors

My own experience suggests that a lot of us - and I don't think this applies in this room because you are all, of course, self aware people being astrologers - but I do know from working with clients that a lot of people's view of life is a corridor. And yes, sure, there's an objective at the end of it, it might be a crate of gold coins, or a new Rolls Royce, or a beautiful house by the sea. But there is one objective which many people have in their life, they aim for that, and that is very much Saturn restricting them.

Now what they are *missing*, because they are so centred in this view down this corridor, is the fact

that on either side of the corridor there are endless doors. And if only it was possible to encourage somebody to pause for a moment, and to open a door, and to look through, they would find a whole new vista, new avenues to explore, something perhaps 100 times more exciting than the situation they are in. But Saturn is also very powerful - and for anybody to let go of a job they don't like, or a relationship they don't like, or whatever, is really hard, because to move into something new, something unknown, is a very fearful thing to do. And this again is perhaps one of the advantages of working with some form of growth psychology because it is obviously possible to help somebody to be aware of these blocks and to find ways of moving through them.

So growth psychology and astrology, has huge potential as it can be used to help remove blocks and to work towards integrating the personality.

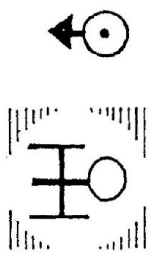
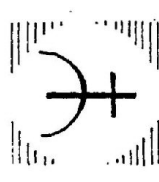



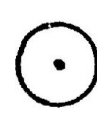




Three levels of consciousness

Now let us look at how we might see these basic drives beginning to change, if we associate them with the planets. These can be viewed on 3 sorts of levels - I call them "asleep", "wakening" & "awake". There are of course infinite shades of greys, and many colours between these 3 levels. But in a sense we're actually looking at the unconscious, the conscious & the transpersonal, or spiritual or whatever you like to call it. To call them asleep, wakening and awake is actually quite a nice way of describing them, I think. (*see diagram on next page*)

When we look at a birth chart we have to be aware that every component part of that birth chart is trying to grow up, it is trying to evolve into something different.

"Asleep"

If you look at Mars, at the very unconscious level, Mars is to do with survival - it is that masculine/animus drive to stay alive. It is also, again at the very unevolved, unconscious level, just pure sexual drive. It's energy, it's action, it's an outward thrust, it wants to do things out there, but if it is unaware - and we can watch Mars being unaware in all sorts of different ways. For instance, if there are riots, the people involved in these seem to be using a Mars energy which is very unevolved, very unconscious, very asleep.

CONSCIOUSNESS	CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE	LOVE CAPACITY	MENTAL SELF
<p>SUPER CONSCIOUSNESS</p> <p>Higher Mental Growth</p>	<p>MEDITATION - METHOD</p>  <p>New Forms - Inventions</p>	<p>IDENTIFICATION - COMPREHENSION</p>  <p>All Inclusive Healing through Love Will to Help Empathy Osmosis Universal Love</p>	<p>CONTEMPLATION METAMORPHOSIS</p> 
<p>EGO CONSCIOUSNESS</p> <p>Personality Human Level</p>	<p>PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS</p> <p>Memory Matter Mother Nourishment Centripetal Learning through Experience</p> <p>Practical thought Processes Need for Protection, Security, and Order of Physical Body Control, Preserver, Clear Limits Physical Body & its Awareness</p>  <p>Organisation Aquisition Vulnerability Teacher-Friction Law of Economy</p> <p>Learning through Experience</p>	<p>SENSE OF SELF</p>  <p>Here & Now Perception of Self through Contacts Soul States Astral Body</p> <p>Child Sympathy - Antipathy Need for Contacts Emotional Nature Instinctive Reactions to Stimuli Reflecting Principle Sensitive Adaptations to Life</p>	<p>SELF-AWARENESS</p>  <p>Individuality Goal Orientation Father Strength Power Control Need for Expansion Personal 'I' Conscious Intelligence Vital Energies - Personal Will Ego - I think therefore I am</p> <p>Quality Creativity Discriminate Choose Judge Centrifugal</p>
<p>SUB-CONSCIOUSNESS</p> <p>Life Supporting Functions</p>	<p>PERFECTION</p>  <p>Input Relating Organ</p> <p>Introverted Tool of Selection in any Process</p> <p>Assimilation Striving for Harmony Peace Aesthetics Female Libido</p>	<p>FORMULATION - EVALUATION</p>   <p>Information & Knowledge Gathering Communication Words & Concepts Second Hand Knowledge</p> <p>Sense Functions Capacity for Perception and Judgement Perspective First Hand Knowledge through observation Reality</p>	<p>ACHIEVEMENT</p>  <p>Extroverted Involvement and Motion Energy for Production Work and Self-Assertion Masculine Libido</p> <p>Asserting Output Motor Action</p>

If we look at this in a purely astrological way we can actually see that on this bottom layer are what I call the Tool planets - Venus which is feminine, Mercury & Jupiter which are really neither masculine or feminine - for me that is, and don't forget I said that this is my truth, not THE truth! - and Mars which is the masculine. So on the right hand column, we have 3 levels of consciousness. In fact, in all these 3 columns the right hand column is the Cardinal, masculine initiatory "doing" sort of energy, the left hand column is very much to do with anima, with creativity, with security & so on, and the middle column is very much to do with those mutable things which are much more to do with feelings & awareness & sensitivity & experience & so on. Again, when we're born, we are using purely those Tool planets, we have no sense of "I-ness" no sense of Ego. So Moon, Sun & Saturn are to do with body, feelings & mind. For me again the Ego is mind, body & feelings - this is my sense of "I-ness". We don't have any ability to use these.

I know I tend to say now that the one thing we're born fully conscious of is, in fact, our Moon—the ability to respond emotionally in a totally innocent & unguarded way. So maybe when we're born, everything is unconscious with the exception of our Moon. And our Moon is the part of ourselves where the feelings we have tend to get repressed. I don't know whether this is true or not, but our process of growth is to begin to take charge of our own lives. In other words, to integrate Sun, Moon & Saturn, to recognise that we have a will, which is what Sun is; to recognise that we have feelings, and for most of us this is probably the most difficult one to work with...well that is my experience...and to recognise that we need to take control of our own lives, we need to be responsible for ourselves, which is Saturn.

So these all need to be allowed to develop in a very balanced way. One of the problems with sub-personalities, or with planets or drives, or whatever you like to call them - seeds in the garden - it doesn't matter, is that one of them can easily become, because of its attraction to the environment, bigger and more greedy & more noticeable & more dominating & more overpowering than our other sub-personalities.

If you look at sportsmen, for instance, who dedicate their lives totally to sport, and you relate this to Gauquelin's research work, here we have people who have developed that one part of themselves, very often to the exclusion of other parts of them-

When they finally find that their athletic career has come to an end, they often have enormous problems in saying "I don't know what else I am". All the other plants in their garden have remained undeveloped because the one overpowering part, for them, has been Mars.

Perhaps we all do this to some extent or another, but more often there are parts of ourselves which are just undeveloped because, when we were small children, the environment never saw them. I will explain this with a chart in a moment.

The chart

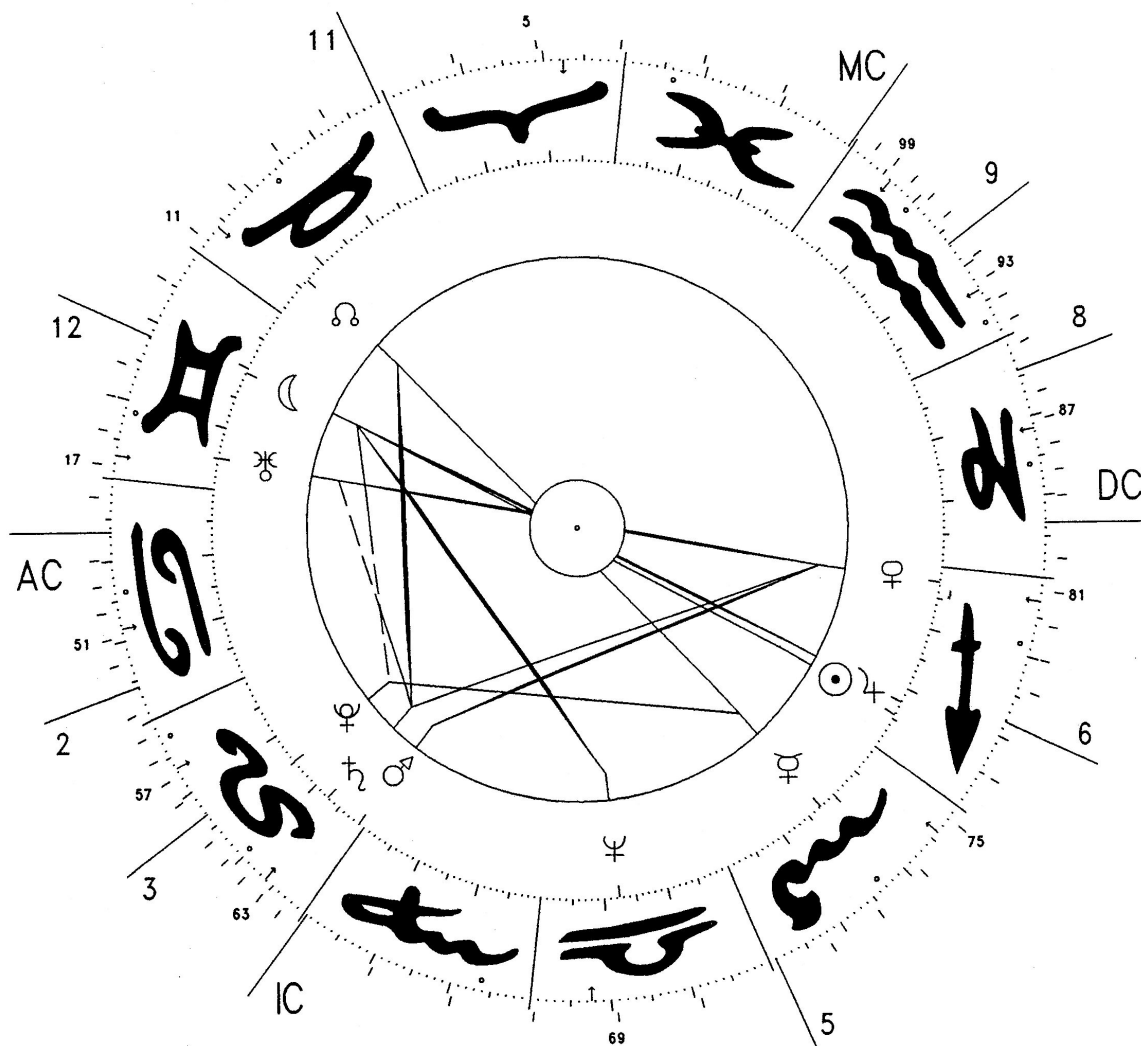
So when we look at a chart, what sort of guidelines can we use to tell us where somebody is on their own journey of growth? Let us just take a look at a chart here. (*see opposite*). This is the chart of a client whose name is not Jane, but she agreed that I could use this chart. Now, if you look at this chart as just an ordinary birth chart, I don't know what your reaction is...?

Aspect colours and motivation

For me, working with Huber astrology, there are a number of very noticeable things. I mentioned to you that we work with coloured aspects. We relate red to the square & to the opposition, and for me, these are aspects of energy. OK, the opposition is energy which is in conflict with itself - it is locked up, it is stored in some way or another. We are looking at one face of Saturn, in that opposition, whereas the square aspects are more to do with Mars-type energy, they're initiatory, they really want to work.

Blue is what I relate to the feminine, as opposed to the masculine which is the red, the anima. The acceptance, the passivity, these are the types of qualities which exist in the blue aspects, the ability to take in, to store. The other aspect which we work with, which is not there in this chart, is green, which is the colour we use for the semi-sextile & the quincunx. The quincunx is the other face of Saturn - that face of Saturn which is to do with deep learning. The little semi-sextile is a sort of Mercurial type of aspect.

If we find a chart where we only have red & blue aspects, like this one, we find somebody who has a sort of polarity, an ambivalence, in their life. They do not have this sense of greenness, & greenness is all to do with searching, with looking



Jane

28.11.1947

17.48

GB - Derby

HUBER-KOCH

Produced by: English Huber School

for new opportunities, new ways of growing. So when we find a chart with no green in it, we can be fairly certain that here is somebody who is perhaps going to be a little blinkered in their outlook. They may be incredibly clever mentally, they may read lots of books about alternative ways of living life & alternative therapies & so on, but for whatever reason, it doesn't seem to register down here. It stays up here, in the head, & it's very much a mental concept for them.

Now having said that, it is possible, again with awareness, for us as astrologers if you like, to create "greenness" in somebody's life. Greenness is to do with awareness, and because somebody happens to be all yes or no, black or white, either/or, with this type of red & blue aspect structure, it doesn't mean to say they have to stay that way for the rest of their life. We can help them to artificially, if you like, establish this ability to perceive & to learn from their experience as to which way they need to go in their life.

So when I look at this chart, the first thing I'm aware of, of course, is that there is no green in it. Incidentally, this person came to me purely as an ongoing psychosynthesis client - nothing to do with astrology at all. I've been working with her since March and it's only now that she's become interested in astrology & said could I do her birth chart & could we look at it. So we did & it was very interesting. We were actually able to get a far more focussed view of what her whole personality was about, instead of looking at the Venus in the chart which happens to be very important, the Saturn/Pluto, Mars, which again for her is very important, the relationship which she had with her father.....all these things, they were very important to her. And we had looked at these in a sense, individually, and obviously had not related them to planets in a chart.

Main issues

One of the big issues for her was the fact that her father always ran her down as a girl child. He wanted a boy, he didn't get a boy, and he always was disappointed with her & ridiculed her for being a girl. Ultimately when she went to University & studied physics, he said "What on earth do you want to do that for...girls don't do that" & so on. But she grew up in a background which was very aggressive about being a woman. Interestingly, there are various things in the chart which sort of relate to this.

First of all we have Moon opposition that Sun/Jupiter. Now invariably where we find Moon opposition Sun we're actually going to find that feelings are going to be expressed through the mind - in other words, there is not a clear expression of real feeling. There is plenty of showing of feelings, there are plenty of tears & so on, but it is as though this is a show, it's been filtered through the Sun, through the mind. So that is one thing, but it's not terribly important in itself. For me, what was more important with that Sun/Moon is the conflict between her, as a child, and the father.

Family Model

I don't know if you're aware of this, but in the astrology that we work with, which originates with Bruno & Louise Huber, we have a very specific Family Model that we work with. Using this, we can see the father, we can see the mother & we can see the child & the relationship which they had with one another in this person's subjective view when she was small. The part which for me is very important is the conflict which existed between her father & herself. For me the Sun is very much the father, and this is looked at purely in the context of the Family Model, it's got nothing to do with the person as an adult, other than the messages which they bring into adulthood from their childhood.

The Moon is the child. For me, when we are a child, we grow up with what is called an inner child. It is that part of ourselves which has a sense of innocence, it has the ability to respond emotionally without any blocks to everything that is going on round about us. It is our ability to love, not in a sexual way & not in a transpersonal way, just our ability to show warmth & love to other human beings without being too conditional about it.

So what we have here is a conflict between the father, the Sun in Sagittarius, & the child, which is the Moon. Now this was reality in this person's life. Obviously, from what I've told you, if you have a father who is going to be constantly belittling this child for being a girl, there has got to be some sort of tension between those two. That still exists right now, & this person is in her early 40's. The father came to stay with her & her husband the other day & they parted in real acrimony & they haven't spoken since.

Now this again, working with a psychological model, is something that is possible to help this person through, because one of the interesting things for me is that we all create our own feelings. Nobody creates our feelings for us. Think about that one. If you're feeling sad, angry, hurt, resentful, revengeful or whatever, YOU are creating those feelings for yourself. Nobody else is doing it on the outside - somebody may be doing something you don't like - but your feelings are essentially your own. When we look at the Moon & relate it to the inner child, these are very much our feelings of being able, say, to love, rather than to get angry, which we would associate with Mars, or Pluto or Sun, or whatever, depending on where our anger is coming from. So that is one thing that is very obvious in this chart: there is a conflict between the girl child & the father.

Aspect shaping and motivation

Another very interesting thing is that if you look very carefully at that chart, it looks a fairly integrated chart, but if you trace those lines around you will find that there is only one actual structure in the chart - a triangle which goes from Uranus, to Saturn, to Venus. But the chart itself actually looks quite integrated.

Now this is what I would call a Linear chart - it means that this person has a lot of Cardinal energy - there is this sort of feeling of flying around all the time with his chart, because very little is actually brought together & feels sort of complete in itself; there is this feeling of disintegration. Where we see that we always find somebody who is constantly chasing their own tail - they're always looking for something new, something to bring this together.

One of the big gaps is down in the 3rd house, where there's Pluto, Saturn & Mars. If they were all a little bit closer together, then we would have a really solid, firm structure. Now where we find a sort of leaky area in an aspect structure, as exists in this chart, the sensation for that person is that they have got to work enormously hard to try & bring it together.

Now she was determined that she was going to go to University, she came from a very financially disadvantaged home but she managed to get a scholarship & she finally got herself into University. She studied physics, she's very bright. But she's also, since then, taken up all sorts of other types of men-

tal study, & it's almost as though "If I work hard enough & study hard enough, I will somehow link those planets at the bottom, then this hole won't be there anymore & everything won't fall out". And there's almost the feeling in this chart of everything falling out of the bottom.

Chart Image

When I look at a chart I always look to see where there is a pattern in a chart - a picture in the aspect structure - because the aspect structure is all to do with motivation. It's our inner motivation, it really is what drives us, it's that energy, of you like, which pushes the plants up and which is going to make them relate in one way or another to each other as they get bigger. So it's very important, and the aspects are rather like a blueprint. So to be aware of the shaping of the chart is important.

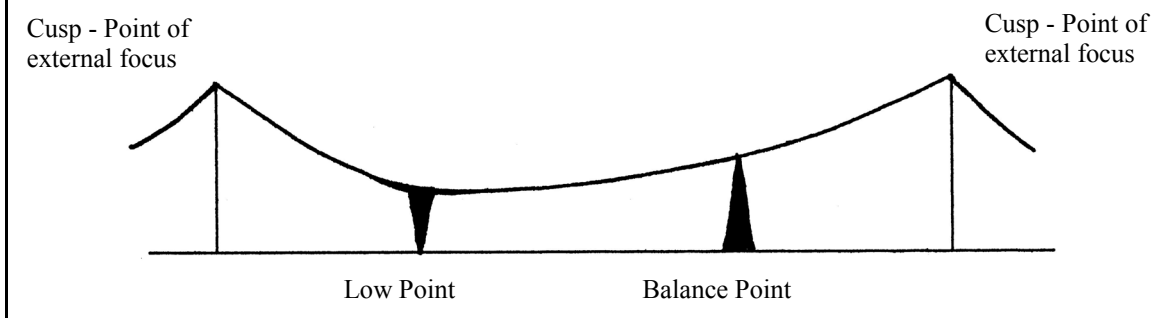
I always look for an image & one of the images I got when I looked at this chart was of a sort of cradle, and the top of the cradle is up near the Moon's Node & this may be a handle up here, or up there & a couple of wheels down at the bottom with Neptune & Mars. But you get a sense of it being a sort of safe containment for somebody to be in. But for that that person, of course, with that bit all broken up around that Saturn/Pluto/Mars is a great feeling of disintegration & that is exactly how she experiences it. Now that is part of the chart & I suppose that I could look at the chart & say "This is how this person is going to experience this", but it's not necessarily going to help me to pick up the whole story & then know the techniques that I can use in order for her to get a sense of security, a sense of integration within herself.

House Dynamics

The other interesting thing about this chart is Venus, but before I move on to that I need to explain a little to you about the House dynamics we use. I will show you this diagram as I think it's quite important & this may well be familiar to some of you. We work with a House dynamic which says the different areas of the House have different abilities to express energy.

Imagine that this diagram (*see following page*) shows the 9th or the 10th House up at the top - in other words, we're looking at it from the inside of the chart. You will find on the right hand side a point called the Point of External Focus - this is

The Dynamic Energy Curve in the Houses



the cusp of this House, let's say it's the 9th House. If we find a planet stuck right on the cusp of a House then we will find that that planet is pushed out into the world. People will see it. It might be very noisy, it might be very unpleasant, & if we find a lot of planets in cusps we will find somebody who is quite powerful in their need to be recognised & acknowledged. And these are Koch Houses that we're working with. As we come into the House, so this energy level, this need to express, begins to diminish & we get to a point which is just over one third into the House, which we call the Point of Balance. It is where inner energy can balance very nicely with what are perceived or experienced as being the demands of the environment.

Then again, as we move further into the House we come to a point which is called the Low Point, & this is a point where if we find a planet on that point -and the orb is very very small - we actually find that that planet, for whatever reason, is not seen by the environment when that child was small. So that part of the personality gets ignored, it doesn't get developed. If we find Mercury, for instance, on a Low Point, the individual whose Mercury it is knows that they have that planet - it can be in a very strong place by Sign degree - but for whatever reason, however much that person wants to put it out into the world, the world does not want to know about it. It's as though it's a sort of hidden part somewhere deep down inside, which is not recognised.

With Mercury on the Low Point somebody might have a real talent for writing. They might write something & they might want to get it published. Initially they can take it to as many publishers as they want but if that Mercury is a Low Point Mercury, no publisher will want to know about what has been written & it will be very unlikely that that will be accepted. I don't want to go into this in any detail, but I just wanted you to know what this Low Point in a House is.

Low Point Venus

If we go back to Jane's chart & we look, you can see if you look in the 6th House, there are two little marks. There is a small circle, which is Balance Point and there is a small arrow, pointing inwards, which is the Low Point. Now if you look at Venus, you will see that Venus is right on that Low Point.

One of the things that I've worked on with Jane is her own sense of identity as a woman, and what she has said in all sorts of different ways is that she finds it really hard when she's with a group of people. She puts herself over in such a way that people stand back from her - they don't want to know. When I did this chart I began to understand why she experienced this, because of this Venus, which is very powerful. Because of Jane's family upbringing, because she was denied being a female as a child, she really wants to be a woman. But because this Venus is on a Low Point, the people round about her with whom she is in contact, are actually quite afraid of her. They don't experience the Venus energy, the softness of Venus at all, they experience the power maybe of Mars or Pluto or Saturn - those planets close together down at the bottom in the 3rd House. They maybe experience that because that Venus is not able to express itself in the way we would expect it to.

"Rebel" sub-personality

I don't know if there's anything else I need to say about that chart, other than the fact that Venus is opposition Uranus, and one of the sub-personalities that Jane discovered was what she called her "Rebel". The Rebel is very much that part of her which comes out when she is not acknowledged for being a woman. She's an attractive woman, she's very intelligent, but it's the in-

telligence which is seen, not the softness, not the attractiveness & then she goes into a state of rebellion which is very much that polarity on that 6th/12th House axis between Venus & Uranus.

Moon

Another of Jane's problems is her need to be recognised & if you think about it, here she's trying to get recognised by Venus which is right over on the "You" side of the chart - that part of the chart where we make contact with the world, or the world makes contact with us - and it can't be seen. Because the Moon is the highest planet in that chart, Jane has an enormous need to be recognised, to be acknowledged as somebody. In other words, finding the Moon there - it's not very close to the Midheaven - but nevertheless it is above all the other planets in the chart. To find the Moon in that position, we will always find that the person has a sense of needing to be acknowledged. It's as though that inner child is vulnerable, very sensitive, & is basically looking for love. It will seek that in all sorts of different practical ways. And again, this is very much a part of Jane's life.

Blocked off planets

I've talked about a planet on a Low Point, I would also like to show you another thing which perhaps stops a planet from expressing itself. We sometimes find that a planet is blocked off, by which I

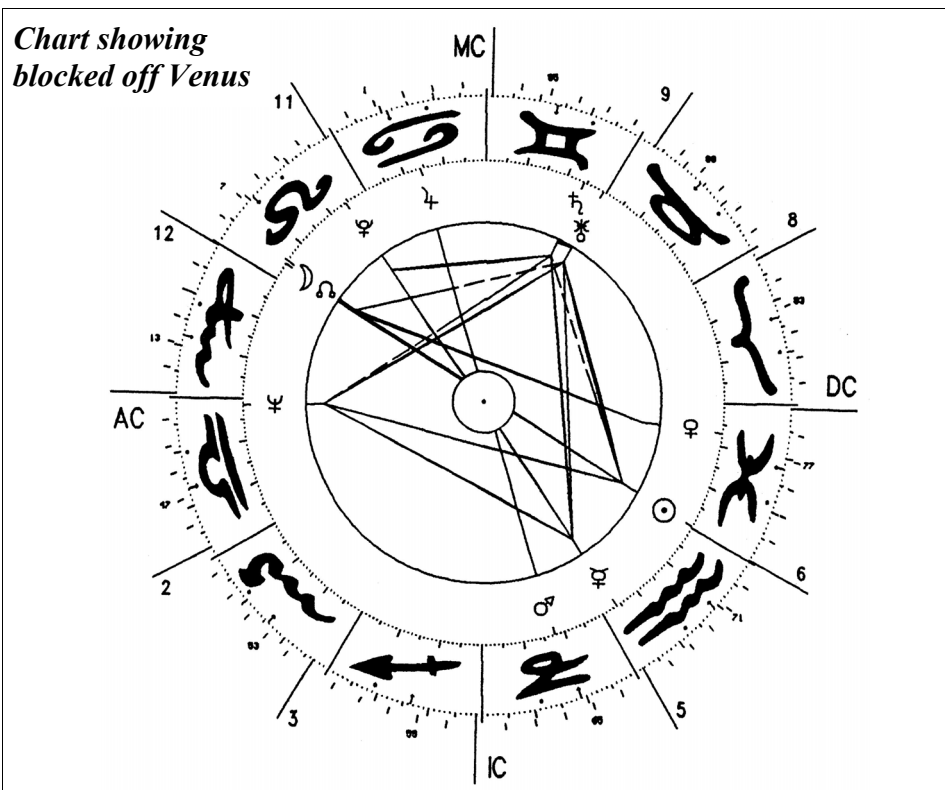
mean that it is behind a series of square aspects. In this chart you will see that Venus is what I call blocked off behind two square aspects, and those square aspects, the planets making up each end are less than 15 degrees apart, then you do not get this sense of being blocked off.

The effect of having a planet like this was described to me by a client doing a guided imagery looking at a blocked off planet—it was not this particular chart—and the description was as though there was a sort of membrane.

They knew that this part of themselves, this sub-personality, this planet, was on the other side of the membrane, which was where the world lay but there was this sort of spongy membrane which they could not penetrate in order to make contact with this part of themselves, this planet, and use it in the way that they wanted to.

The blocked planet in this case was Mercury, so this person had a strong block with her ability to learn, to take in facts & figures with the planet Mercury. Her image was of this sort of spongy membrane - she found that if she really poked it hard she could make a hole in it & make contact with Mercury.

Before an exam, or anything of this sort - and it was particularly appropriate to her when she was younger, taking school exams & so on & she obviously wasn't aware of



the membrane there or the need to puncture a hole. This is actually seemingly what she was doing, pushing her way through that membrane, making contact with that Mercury, energising it, allowing it to function in the way she needed it to function. But she said within a couple of days of the exam everything had gone.

Now she's in her 40's & she's constantly criticising herself for her inability to use Mercury in the way

that she would like to. She does have a better sense now, because she is also an astrologer, of having made contact with that membrane, of her need to push through this membrane. Once you start breaking down these inner barriers, then it becomes much easier to do so with the membrane. The membrane might reassert itself, but having done it once or twice you know that you can make that push through.

Intercepted planets

There are endless clues as to where somebody is in their process development but there isn't time to talk about them all. One of other things that we come across which is very important is where we find planets intercepted, by which I mean that a planet is in a Sign in which there is no House cusp. It's almost as though the planet was in a room without doors. The doors are in adjoining rooms & this planet is in a room & there is no way of expressing that energy in that particular area of the chart.

You can see out from your world, your own inner world. You can see out, you can know what you want to do with this planet, what you want to achieve with this energy in the world with this particular area of the world signified by the House, but on the outside where the world is, there is a mirror. So the world can't see in and it doesn't recognise anything that this planet is doing or that this person is wanting to express in that particular area of life.

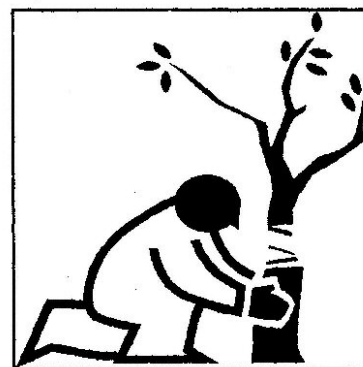
This is quite a difficult situation to resolve, but it is easier than a situation where a planet is blocked off & it's probably easier than a planet which is at a Low Point. Basically it means that that planetary energy, in this case Moon, has to be expressed through an aspect to another planet. In my own case I have an intercepted Moon. (see chart on page 1). I was in business for many years and I had my own business, so it is the Moon in the 10th House that desperately needs to get acknowledgement for what it's done, all the status it's achieved & so on. This is really important for that Moon. But that was not forthcoming for me.

I used to do all sorts of things - I had a very successful business & I thought "Nobody knows I've got this, I'd better go & start another one". I'm aware that I could be accused of doing that now, but I'm actually aware of the process & what I'm doing now is for totally different reasons. What I did then was totally unconscious, which was to say

"I'm not getting any feedback here - I'll try in another way & see what happens". Now I feel that with that particular Moon in my chart, what I'm doing is actually finding ways of expressing that Moon energy, because with any planet it's give & take, it's not just what we give out it's what we can receive as well. I feel that this is, for me at least, being reasonably successfully expressed through my Sun/Neptune in the 12th House.

But with all these things, they're ongoing processes because they are not a natural part of our pattern of energy. It's almost as if we have to take one of our plants & get a bit of trellis work & bend it over & make it grow in a slightly different direction, and that's OK providing that you can accept that this is really what you're all about - bending yourself, growing, not adapting, but being aware of where blocked avenues are & being aware that there are other avenues to explore & so on.

I would like to leave a few moments for questions if anybody has got any questions, and I will do my best to answer them.



Questions

After applause, there was then a short question and answer sessions, as follows:

Audience: Can you say more about the about Low Point?

The position of the Low point is actually based on the principle of the Golden Mean. Let me show you this diagram again. If you look at the diagram you can see we have the cusp, which we call the point of external focus. As you work your way into the House the energy's trailing off & you first of all come to this point called the Balance Point, & then you come to the Low Point. It's almost as

though the planet at this point is buried in a hole in the ground, & nobody can see it.

I used to have a sort of analogy or metaphor of the birth chart being an island & each of the planets was a sort of lighthouse & the poor old lighthouse, which happened to be on a Low Point, was stuck away in some little corner & nobody could see it. It made a lot of noise because it had a very loud fog-horn but it couldn't be seen so nobody took any notice of it. And this is rather the sort of feeling of a Low Point planet. There is a mathematical calculation which shows you exactly where the Balance point & the Low Point is in a House of any size but I would prefer not to go into that now.

Audience: You mentioned tight orbs for the Low Point. Could we hear more about those,. And what they are?

Yes, very tight orbs. As you know, in Koch Houses you can get very small houses, maybe of 15 or 20 degrees, & the orb you consider for a planet as being on a Low Point would perhaps be as little as half to three quarters of a degree - in other words it's almost got to be exactly on a Low Point in a very small House. In a House of approaching 60 degrees it would be more likely that the orb would be one and half to 2 degrees, something of that sort.

Audience: Is there a book that gives details of these Balance and Low points?

Yes, it's called "Astrological Houses"(1). Alternatively you could try "Lifeclock" (2) & you will find in the back of that a sort of summary which includes information on these Low Points.

(Question from Charles Harvey, who was chairing): What would be your relationship of that to the Gauquelin things, because Low Points seem to occur exactly where they find planets are strongest....

Well what actually happens in the sector between the Low Point & the cusp - the main angles in particular - we call it a stress area because there is enormous need for that planet positioned here to express itself in the world. And in a way that does tie in very much with the Gauquelin sectors - although not exactly. I said to Michel Gauquelin once "What about all the people who've got Saturn or Mars or whatever in these sectors & they're not famous sportsmen or lawyers or scientists?" And he said "Well, we don't look at those".....!

Audience: Can you say something about a transiting planet contacting a Low Point planet? Is this significant or important in any way?

Yes, of course, it is, because this is part of our whole growth process. What Low Point planets tend to do is make a lot of noise on the world & nobody wants to know about them. In fact, a Low Point planet is much more to do with an inner growth process rather than an outer growth process, and yes, sure, transits really focus energy on that, and progressions would do the same - and that is going to give you new insights into how you can use the energy of that Low Point planet.

References

- (1) "Astrological Houses" by Bruno & Louise Huber. Pub. Weiser
- (2) "Lifeclock" by Bruno & Louise Huber. Pub. Weiser

Both books are available from API (UK), PO Box 118, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8TG

Biographical notes

Richard Llewellyn, Dip. API, DMS Astrol. Graduate of the Psychosynthesis and Education Trust, is Principal Emeritus of API (UK), which he founded in 1983.

Richard pioneered the work of the Hubers by making it available to the English-speaking world, and since API (UK) was founded he has taught, lectured and run experiential workshops on astrological psychology and psychosynthesis in many countries throughout the world.