



Astrology and the Esoteric

The Seven Rays and the Moon Node Horoscope

Louise Huber

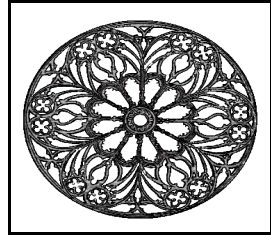
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Many people believe that esotericism has to do only with parapsychological phenomena, with occult practices such as spiritualist séances, clairvoyance or hypnoses, among others. Often they do not know the esoteric is actually a spiritual path, a path of initiation which in the great cultures of antiquity could be undertaken only within a mystery school. Through *The Secret Doctrine* of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1875) this knowledge was drawn from the circles of initiates and disseminated to humanity at the end of the 19th century. *The Secret Doctrine* became the key work for all esoteric developments. Alice A. Bailey, Rudolf Steiner, Max Heindel and many others were pupils of Blavatsky and brought her knowledge out into the world, from which the various schools of thought have developed.

Nowadays many more people are interested in the esoteric than before. In 1973 it was still difficult to teach anything about karma and reincarnation, never mind the extensive works of Alice A. Bailey that formed our esoteric background. During our six-year involvement with the Arcane School in Geneva and at the Institute for Psychosynthesis with Dr. Roberto Assagioli we were able to study the teachings of Alice A. Bailey and test them in practice. Since then we have tried to integrate this knowledge into the body of astrological teaching and to bring the esoteric terminology into a form which everyone can understand. That became possible with the help of astrological ways of thinking. Because the interpretation of the "Seven Rays", as well as the moon-node horoscopes, is to do with the esoteric dimension, we could not have managed it without the relevant basic knowledge. For that reason, and because we have received many requests, we will explain the basic esoteric associations which have to do with astrology.

What does "esoteric" mean?

If you look in a dictionary you will find that "esoteric" is derived from the Greek word "esoterikos" which means simply "inner" or "hidden". It therefore indicates that which lies behind external appearances, invisible energies which give rise to visible forms and bodies. It refers to the subtle world of energies and forces, to the essence, the Self or the Soul, which is concealed behind all external forms. That holds good for humans as well as for plants or any other kind of being. It can be the organism of an atom, a plant, an animal or a human being. In each case the esoteric factor is the vital qualitative principle from which the organism draws its life energy.

The esoteric is therefore concerned with the background of life which penetrates all forms and supports life, from tiny atoms to the gigantic entities which we call planets or solar systems. For that reason it is important to grasp at the outset that every human is a tiny part of an immeasurable and all-encompassing whole, and that the energies which drive it and all of life are those of "a Life in which we live, move and have our being". To be able to understand the esoteric one has to learn that every isolated position, every state of separation from the whole is actually only an illusion. From the point of view of the Unity of Life, everything that exists comes from a single source. The study of the esoteric is therefore also the search for this original source, for the "way back to the Father's house", which in esoteric literature is called the Path of Initiation. With it is associated the esoteric astrology by means of which, with the help of the three spiritual planets and the three charts, moon-node, birth and house chart, the necessary steps, transformation processes and expansions of consciousness may

be determined.

The etheric world, the moon-node chart and the Seven Rays

The life principle that makes all forms alive is also called *ether* in the esoteric literature, and *prana* in the Indian philosophy. Ether interpenetrates all planes, takes on their shape and colour and in this way continuously creates new forms of expression of life. It is present on all seven cosmic planes. The esotericist knows that behind the world of the senses lies hidden an etheric, i.e. spiritual, world, which is actually the controlling and energising force in every living body. The ether is the realm in and through which the energies arising from many sources operate. The teaching of the Seven Rays is founded on this fact. The etheric body of the entire universe, our planet and each individual human being resembles a golden net of streams of energy that is in constant, unceasing motion - an eternal medium for the interchange and transmission of energies and information.

The meaning of the Seven Rays

Looking at it in this way it becomes possible to understand the effects of the Seven Rays. The seven cosmic rays are seven types or manifestations of light, drawn from the special substance of a plane. That is, on each of the seven cosmic planes there arises another quality of colour if the light is focused on the matter or substance of this plane. The colours of the spectrum are an example of that. We know that rays of light directed onto matter gives rise to colours. Because of the reflections from some form of matter, colours are displayed, according to how the matter is constituted. If a ray of light is refracted in polished glass or a drop of water, the whole spectrum becomes visible. In this way one can imagine the effects of the seven cosmic rays. They interpenetrate everything, they energise everything, they are the origin of our being. For that reason they over-arch normal astrology. They are fundamental energies that condition our lives, they are those energy forms which are en-

gendered and maintained in motion by creation.

What is Light?

Everything that exists, the entire created universe, is the result of light. Light is the central life principle, it is the ether, the motivating and creating energy of life, Light is divine. Seen from a different viewpoint the seven cosmic energies are the embodiment of seven types of force, that demonstrate the seven qualities of the Divine. On the one hand these seven qualities have an effect in a sevenfold way on the matter and forms which exist throughout the whole universe, and on the other hand relate in a sevenfold way one to another. There is a fantastic effect of working within one another and an inter-penetration of Light in the universe, the extent of which can scarcely be imagined. It is easiest to use an analogy, and thus one best understands this everywhere-connected network of Light by considering that there is an etheric world, that has always been known in esotericism as “mysterium magicum”, from which everything that exists has been born and to which everything will again return. In other words, light and ether are the same, it is the Light of the Soul, the Fohat of the Monad, or Universal Soul, which serves as the matrix of the universe. Incidentally, it is interesting that the Ether in its manifestation on the astral plane is also called the Akashic Record. The Ether is the primal substance in which a record everything that has once lived is stored. In old esoteric texts the etheric dimension is also compared to a desert in which the traces of complete epochs of time remain, including those of each human life. The moon-node chart contains these traces in the sand.

Ether and science

Modern science is also engaged in investigation of the etheric world as a world of energy. Physicists and astronomers recognise that space is filled with electromagnetic currents and fields that are in constant motion and transmit “information” uninterruptedly.

Biologists and physicians investigate the key role of electromagnetic phenomena in the animal realm, as in the human central nervous system and brain activity. Apparently inert matter reveals for the first time under the electron microscope its pulsating inner forces and their structure. The micro-world of atomic physics proves itself as an experimental treasure-chest of insights. Meantime researchers with their quantum theory and the hypothetical elemental particles, called quarks, venture ever deeper into the subtle structure of the world which is hidden from the eye. Relationships between energy and matter, order and chaos become comprehensible. Many pronouncements of modern scientists approach the “old” insights of the esotericists and philosophers, amazing to the layman. The all-encompassing holistic view of the world is being increasingly recognised as true.

The development of today’s science is a good example of the fact that through scientific knowledge we are learning more and more about the background of our being. What was formerly hidden, secret and esoteric and could not be understood by ordinary mortals, is thus being revealed to us. Today we are learning many secret facts and relationships in a purely scientific and sober way, so that we often fail to notice that they deal with mysteries of the past which have now entered into clear consciousness and in the process have lost everything about them that was secret and esoteric.

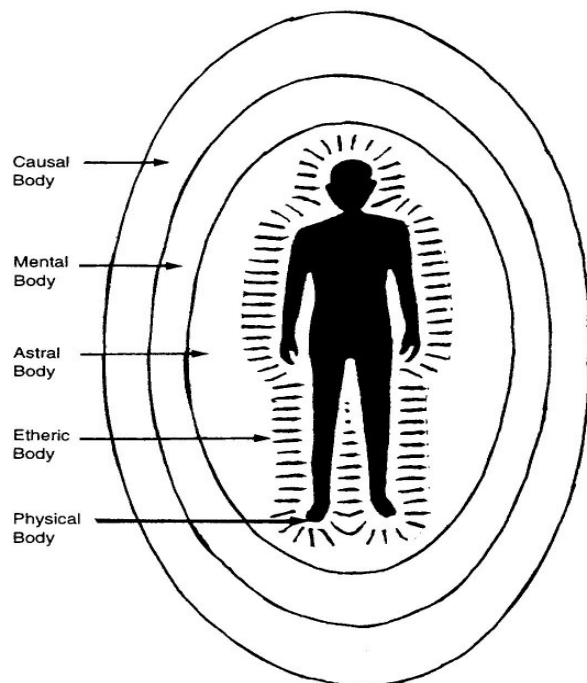
Computer technology

Think about computer technology, in which the possibility of lightning-fast processing of information has been opened up, replacing the previous boring and tedious work through the development of intelligently-written programs. It is not going too far to compare a computer program with the moon-node chart. If we consider the moon-node chart as the summing-up of all the experiences of [prior] incarnations, it is really comparable with a computer in which everything which has been programmed is stored,

i.e. what has been experienced. In that way one can look at the moon-node line as a code which makes possible the entry into the moon-node chart. Another approach to this topic is the esoteric concept of the growth of a human being. Through that the value of the moon-node chart for the evolutionary process can be properly categorised.

The four subtle bodies of Man

In the accompanying diagram the esoteric constitution of Man is represented pictorially. We visualise that directly around the [physical] body is the etheric body. In the middle layer is the emotional or astral body and outside that the mental body.



The Etheric Body

The esoteric teaching states that the human draws its life-force for the physical body from the subtle substance of the etheric realm. Without ether, the purely physical is dead matter - a corpse. At death the etheric or living body separates itself from the physical and returns to the planetary etheric from which it came, the physical body falls to the earth. The etheric body is a little larger than the physical and supplies during life all the mortal organs with fluid vitality. Astrologically, the physical body is attributed to Saturn.

The Astral Body

The astral body draws its energy from the so-called emotional body in which all emotions from anger to sacrificial love have their origin. The astral body corresponds to the lunar plane and the moon-node chart reflects the contents of this body. Here rule the polarities, the opposites, love and hate, ebb and flow, good and evil, fluctuate in constant rhythm along with the pulse of life. Astrologically, the astral body is attributed to the Moon.

The Mental Body

The astral body is embedded in the mental body, that is of even more subtle substance and through which everything coarser passes. In it are found the thought processes and through it thoughts are received and sent. Here one accumulates knowledge and frees oneself from the duality and delusional tendencies of the astral body. Through thought the necessary intelligence is developed with which one learns non-judgemental thinking through differentiation and discrimination, and increasingly understands the laws of life in a cosmic context, in the light of developmental thinking.. The capacity for thinking and judgement of the mental body is attributed to the Sun.

The Causal Body

Behind these three human bodies stands the immovable and immortal Self (symbolised by the empty circle in the centre of the birth chart). In it all the earthly emotional and mental experiences are distilled and stored as an essence, a life-quality or life-motivation. It is the Causal Body which is in a continuous exchange of information with the so-called Akashic Records, which can be read by clairvoyance if something from the past or future of an individual is needed to be brought into knowledge. Every life through which one lives is processed on the causal level where the essences [of that life] are extracted and stored as experience.

The contents of the causal body at the end of a life can be represented by a geometrical

figure. We know that the aspect connections in the chart form symbolic lines and the geometry represents the structure of individual consciousness. Looked at in this way we can say that the aspect pattern is a reflection of the Causal Body. Thus we have in the aspect pattern an illustration of all earlier actions and achievements in geometrical form, which we can also read and interpret. In the moon-node chart the aspect pattern is mostly laid out differently than in the natal chart, so we can draw conclusions from the shift within the house system about a developmental dynamic which we can change and need to learn about.

Example: If in the moon-node chart the emphasis of the planets is on the I-side of the chart, then one may conclude that in earlier lives the I-development has stood in the foreground. If the aspect pattern in the natal chart has been shifted to the You-side, then this person must learn to distance him/herself from I-ness and serve a You, a partner, or a group with all his or her strength.

Esoteric definition of the Moon-node

If we want to understand the entire scope of the moon-node chart it is necessary to expand the consciousness into a deeper background, i.e. along with the teaching about the constitution of man we need to know also about the laws of evolution and reincarnation or rebirth. From the point of view of reincarnation the moon-node chart shows the summing up of all experiences of previous lives, or we could say the lessons already learned in the course of evolution as potentially unconscious knowledge. But all the conflicts of the past which have not been coped with are also stored in the moon-node chart. Lessons which were missed burden one as unconscious feeling of guilt. One has the feeling of not having dealt with an issue. That can be unsettling or tormenting particularly when there is an Age Point conjunction or other AP aspects.

We want to look at the moon-node chart from three sides:

- 1) As a repository of the experiences of earlier lives (inner potency)
- 2) As a karmic resonance apparatus (law of cause and effect)
- 3) As the shadow personality (subconscious)

With the esoteric definition of the moon-node chart we proceed on the basis that it is a picture, or to put it better a “repository”, of the experiences undergone in previous lives. It is comparable to the Akashic Records, that mysterious book or that unknown place in the etheric body of our planet where everything that has ever been thought, done or desired is recorded. The moon-node chart does not show individual deeds (good or bad) from previous lives, not even of the immediately preceding life, but the energy pattern, the essences or qualities, that result from the summation of all that has been experienced. We can experience these as an essential inner potency, as a positive life-program and life quality or as compulsive behaviour. It is indicative of mostly unconscious contents which we have already acquired or achieved on our developmental journey, what give us pleasure of success, but also that which brings trouble, reverses, defeats, suffering and sorrow.

From the viewpoint of evolution it can be seen as a chart of our achievements and inner potency. Whatever we have consciously lived through and processed is available to us as know-how, potency or as inner knowledge, with which we can consciously know how to handle something, by which we can be inspired or let ourselves be led. For someone living consciously it can act as conscience, as an inner voice, instinct or inner guidance. For others as something indefinable that causes anxiety because it cannot be grasped. They repress the contents of the moon-node chart with all possible means, it becomes forced out, part of the shadow personality into which everything that is bad can be projected.

Reincarnation therapy

Modern psychology too is concerned with

the possibility of looking into past lives for the roots of psychic disturbances. Today many therapists are already leading people back into past lives with the so-called reincarnation therapy. In that way the past is supposed to be dealt with and the repressions processed. In reincarnation therapy the analysis of the past does not only reach into early childhood, but beyond the point of conception into earlier existences and thus into an almost unlimited field of activity. Whereas one at first tried out even more questionable hypnosis and self-hypnosis techniques, today one uses guided imagery or linked dreams, meditation music and relaxation, in which images rise into consciousness and are then interpreted as memories of a past life.

In that way one tries to bring repressed material back into consciousness in order to be freed of unresolved complexes (or from karma). Re-birthing, re-personification, reincarnation, that is a popular theme today in which the media are interested. A statistical questionnaire showed that already 8 to 10% of the German-speaking population considered it possible that they had already lived. “What was previously guarded as a treasure in mystical circles has become social currency” a psychological magazine stated in amazement. The long-term goal is a new “unity of thought and emotions, of understanding and intuition, of spirit and body, I and the world, a unity with earlier existences and ultimately with the Cosmos itself, from which every individuality emerged and into which it will return.”

There is always another chance

For people who want to develop themselves further and take their life in hand independently, it is liberating to know that they have always another opportunity to correct false developments and to continuously improve themselves. For those it is clear that the prescribed goal of development can never be reached in a single lifetime. That needs many lives and a great time-span, that perhaps extends across millions of years. No-

one knows exactly how long it takes, but we know with certainty that each of us has always another possibility to incarnate. In each life we have a chance to develop ourselves further and get a little bit closer to the ultimate goal. All difficulties and problems which we master therefore allow us to climb a step higher. It is a consoling thought that we can for so long and so often reincarnate until we have reached the desired completion. Thus we get a new feeling for time, for cycles, developmental phases and growth processes, as also the orderly and healing laws of the Universe.

Completeness

When referring to the term perfection, C.G. Jung thought it better to think of it as completeness. That is, while we are able to work consciously towards our own completeness, perfection lies still too far off and remains an abstract term when seen from the present. In thinking about completeness, a dynamic force must form the basis of developmental events that work constantly to balance and round out life or fate until we have reached the desired wholeness. If we are harmoniously integrated into developmental events, it comes to us relatively easily to do whatever contributes to a rounding-out of our being. These are the balancing laws of our nature which in practice mean that whatever has been developed to a large extent in an earlier life will perhaps be reduced in this life, and whatever was too weakly developed will be stimulated to growth through challenges from the environment. The moderating laws which operate in this way are called in astrological psychology “equalisation processes”.

Liberation from guilt

If we consider the moon-node chart within this greater frame of the equalisation principle, then we can no longer speak about guilt. The term Guilt has been very much abused and is damaging to the constructive and liberating capability of our Soul. As already stated, we should learn to view the moon-node chart without blame, guilt or judge-

ment, and see the potentials and achievements that are hidden there as in a treasure repository in order to bring them into consciousness.

If we look at our life from this standpoint, we see the whole of life as a meaningful learning process. We can liberate ourselves from guilt through the affirmation of this meaningfulness and align ourselves in harmony with Divine Love. It is the old mystery of Universal Love, that is described as Grace. From this point of view we are able to accept our fate with joy and conviction, and through it activating powers of inner healing. Quite often it happens, that if in this way we establish “soul contact” we are suddenly freed of all feelings of guilt and fresh life energies flow into us which heal all wounds. As soon as we know that everything that happens to us is right and has a purpose, the anxiety disappears. We can rationalise it because it is underlain by the development dynamic and has the purpose of aiming towards a rounding-off, a completion and a compensation for false development within our personality. Everything that is shown in the chart has a symbolic importance for our further development. That is the basic concept if we look at the moon-node chart as the summation of all earlier life experiences, in comparison to the birth and house charts. This awareness also protects us from falling into the trap of black-and-white thinking which negates sense and thus cripples the power of love.

Historical Consciousness

A further important extension of consciousness occurs if we take an overview of whole historical epochs. On our long path of development we have certainly been involved in many cultures. We again and again have the experience that people who examine intensively thoughts of reincarnation discover a preference for particular cultures. One feels drawn to a particular field of culture. For example, many hold a fascination for the idea of life in Egyptian or Greek times, others are attracted by Indian, Chinese, Rus-

sian or Red Indian culture, yet others experience in inner visions pictures or scenes from the Middle Ages, see themselves in monasteries or in the Roman Empire, in Victorian times or with the first settlers in America. In order to get to grips with the unconscious contents of the moon-node chart, it is good to follow such leads and learn discrimination.

Karma and Dharma

Another consideration is the Law of Karma. It is the law of cause and effect, that is known today throughout the western world. It is always striving towards compensation, "as you sow, so shall you reap". Dharma, on the other hand, is a creative act of life-mastery through intelligence. According to the law of Karma nothing can be thought, desired or done by anyone without it being put into the great energy reservoir of the cosmos and at some later time reflecting back on him. These are then the blows of fate through which one carries the can for earlier mistakes and has to make good for them, until sufficient intelligence is developed to maintain a harmonious balance.

The understanding of the Law of Karma gives a satisfactory answer to the questions; Where do I come from? For what was I born? What is the purpose of my life? Why must I suffer this fate? Why do others have it easier than I do? Here we are also interested in the question of guilt and reparation. Whoever is conscious of this law grasps that life is to be understood as a serious matter and responsibility for the course of fate can and must be taken over by each one of us on the basis of a sound insight and not from feelings of guilt. Whoever constantly projects his suffering and failure onto the environment builds negative images there, pushes blame for his failure onto others and remains stuck in his development. He will continue to be confronted with difficult circumstances until he recognises that everything that is negative has its roots in himself. "As within, so without" is the first insight necessary to change Karma to Dharma. An

old aphorism says: the outer world is nothing other than the mirror of your inner world. Clean up within yourself first, activate that which is good in you, stay in contact with your inner potential, with your immortal Self, then you will liberate yourself through your growing faculty of discrimination, your feeling of responsibility and your intelligence.

These steps of development are at first reached gradually, they are not there from the start. One will notice that the Law of Karma will at the unconscious level actually operate as the law of guilt and atonement, punishment and reward, and will be accepted as a lesson to be learned only on a more conscious level, from which Dharma arises. According to the teaching of eastern wisdom karma has a dual effect: firstly, man is forced to pay for his debts from earlier lives, and secondly, he learns not to do certain things any more because he knows that they have unwanted consequences. In that way he makes a better "Karma", that is called "Dharma" in Indian philosophy.

It follows from that that Dharma only develops if there is consciousness, if intelligence and the capacity to discriminate and make decisions with free will are possible. Only then does man become creative and can himself shape his world. Only to the extent that one lives and deals discriminately, intelligently and consciously responsibly, does one free oneself from past errors and creates for oneself a better future. Moreover, one learns to organise oneself as part of a whole within society and to operate in alignment with cosmic forces. This last is the privilege of the fully-conscious individualised human. He who has become one with himself comes into contact with cosmic energies and with the transformed powers of his own Self, then everything around him is changed. Modern astrology shows us the way to that.

The Shadow Personality

The moon-node chart deals with the shadow

personality, among other things. As understood by depth psychology it is an invisible, essential, part of us containing drives, desires and projections which are not accessible to daily consciousness. We repress them mostly because they appear unusable or even dangerous in our normal everyday life.

For that reason the shadow personality is often seen as negative or “dark”. For all that, it has positive contents that can also offer good karma. For example, spiritual tendencies can be totally repressed, perhaps because they do not coincide with our dogmatic thinking or appear irrelevant. Thus these characteristics remain unlived, although they belong to our personality. The reincarnation therapy of the New Age takes in such contents. Through regressed experiences, these may be made known and reasons indicated which can be explained as acausal.

C.G.Jung also spoke of the “shadow” and regarded it as a part of the unconscious difficult to access, that up to this day is only explored in depth psychology. Human consciousness may be compared to that part of an iceberg that protrudes from the water - the unconscious is symbolised by the mass of ice lying beneath, in which, as well as the collective unconscious, the individual unconscious is also present as the shadow personality. It represents the shadow side of our being, in which everything that we were or have at some time experienced is hoarded. In it secret desires, mastered and unmastered psychic factors from the past are stored. There are found motivations, repressed complexes and feelings of guilt of which we are not conscious. Often we just cannot imagine them, never mind admit to them. They surface principally in our dreams, but in spite of that they influence our lives although mostly we do not make contact with them. We project them into the environment, where they manifest and come back to us as fate.

It is always the case that if we cannot suffer

qualities, habits or characteristics in another person, if they move or rouse us deeply, we can be certain that a part of our shadow is involved. That is, we have repressed these characteristics within ourselves. Some external life situation to which we are helplessly exposed is nothing other than a mirroring of our inner state. We cannot deal with it consciously as long as we consider it to be something external and not part of ourselves. The consequences of the functioning of our shadow are mostly outside of our control. They represent to a certain extent deterministic tendencies, automatic movements or psychic compulsive mechanisms to which we have to surrender. Mostly we have to at first encounter them as negative experiences before we connect with them.

With the help of the latest methods of interpretation of the moon-node chart we can now consciously accept this repressed side of our being. In this way we recognise that this part also belongs to us and begin the work of integration. In other words, a horizontal identification takes place according to the motto “As within, so without”, in the same way as the vertical “As above, so below”. Only when we can take to ourselves both realisations can we talk of becoming whole.

Mirror spheres

The theme of reflection also rests on the esoteric view of the world. Seen in this way the moon-node chart also symbolises the astral world, that mirror sphere in which our motivations, desires and deeds from the past (our karma) are projected at particular times into the present. In order to enter this unconscious realm we step through the moon-node line which reflects like a mirror everything that is within and without, above and below.

If we enter the mirror sphere of the Shadow, we first need to be clear that the law of reflection operates in this realm. It is the lunar plane, which reflects back from differ-

ent facets everything which comes into contact with it.

One may discover there many contradictions, and also things that have nothing to do with oneself, but belong to other people or to the collective unconscious, because these are likewise present there. The danger exists that one becomes aware of impressions, encounters or experiences that are distorted as in a hall of mirrors, and goes easily astray. It is the world of deceptions, of illusions, of blindness to reality that we discover if we do not exercise caution. In that “underworld” are found the “old archetypes”, it is the world of demons and phantoms, where God and the Devil struggle with one another. It is also the plane of oppositions, duality or polarity. Like the swinging of a pendulum we may be flung from one side to the other and hardly be able to find our way out of the labyrinth again. Whoever enters the moon-node level with the idea that he will just find there the dark side of his self or bad characteristics which have to be exorcised or eradicated, calls up spirits which he won’t be able to get rid of.

The reversal effect

Through the mirroring a reverse effect also always takes place. We all know the feeling of how emotions can like lightning flip over to the opposite. From intense love comes equally intense hatred, the perpetrator is turned into the victim. In the same way achievements and lofty virtues from the past can become negative and block our development if they have become rigid structures. According to the Indian saying “Virtue becomes the vice” the values become transposed. For example a sexuality purified through monastic life can be the cause of a devitalised etheric body, for which reason sexuality must be again lived out in the current life as a compensation. We often find in the moon-node chart is shown just the opposite to what we have presumed. What would be good for our Personality - for our “little I”, may be wrong for the further development of our Soul. What is good for

our Soul mostly means for our Personality a setback or renunciation. This reversal or 180° turnaround is the key to the correct interpretation of the moon-node chart.

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“. . . we should learn to view the moon-node chart without blame, guilt or judgement, and see the potentials and achievements that are hidden there as in a treasure repository in order to bring them into consciousness.”

