

Nine Questions & Eight Answers About Astrosophy, the New Astrology

by David Tresemer, Ph.D.

1. Is Astrology For Real?

Where are you usually at 3 AM? Most likely asleep. Where are you usually at noon? Probably awake. That's our relation to our local star, the Sun. Our planet rotates changing darkness to light. That's astrology.

This relationship with our local star has a very large effect - sleep and waking. Ponder that for a moment. This is a big difference, isn't it? - between wide-awake and ready for anything versus groggy and ready for one thing only, bed. That rhythm in your life comes from the astrological phenomenon of rotation of the earth.

The movements of the Moon govern tides, the pulses of all water throughout the world, as well as the patterns of growth and reproduction of countless plants and animals, as hundreds of scientific studies have shown. Are you sensitive enough to experience these things?

The basic classes at starwisdom.org help you to comprehend the fundamental facts of astrology and how they affect you.

2. What If The Newspaper Horoscope Tells Me That I will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger?

Many forms of astrology exist. In the New Astrology, we identify the locations of the places in the same place as astronomers do. Newspapers use the "tropical" method. The reason why the tropical method does not see planets in the same place as astronomers do is explained in the Foundation of Star Wisdom Course (and at StarWisdom.org at Our Unique Approach). In any case, the New Astrology sees planets in the heavens in their actual physical location in the constellations, in close agreement with what astronomers see.

In the New Astrology we would never make a statement about a tall dark stranger. Many people have the hope for a quick fix, a little snippet of magical prophecy. This has two problems. First, your life deserves more than that. You deserve better - do you really want to meet a tall dark stranger? Why? What are the needs that underlie that fantasy? What qualities do the needs have? What hurts, what beliefs, what history is involved? You see, you are more complicated and you deserve to acknowledge the depth of your own personality and soul life. You deserve acknowledgement of your great complexity and sensitivity.

Second, it brings up the question of predetermination versus free will, in other words, is my life programmed from my birth to unfold in a certain way? The notion of predetermination is one of the reasons that many people are turned away from astrology. People generally don't wish to hear that every thought and action has been set in stone from the moment of their birth - of course not! There's an old saying: "It is the wise person who rules the stars, and the fool who is ruled by them." Knowing the stars, particularly at your birth, and their position today too, helps you know the resources available to you and the conflicts that you can look forward to, so that you may prepare for both. How you do this is completely up to you. Being forewarned helps you negotiate the perilous paths of this wonderful life.

3. Why Are There Different Systems Of Astrology?

Yes, there are several different systems. Vedic astrology, Chinese astrology, tropical, sidereal, the astrology of various indigenous peoples, an astrology that sees constellations as varying in widths, some systems that see thirteen constellations in the zodiac, etc.

How does one make sense of it all?

As in any field of inquiry that has lasted this long - thousands of years - variations and different ideas about astrology crop up. Some are bad ideas that fall by the wayside. Some are good ideas that persist and can foster new insights. You have to sample many different ideas and choose.

Astrosophy, a new and deepened form of Astrology, is based on the system set up in Babylon about three thousand years ago. These people saw clairvoyantly - they could see pictures in the sky! - and they could see the twelve great beings of the zodiac, spiritual beings vastly greater than angels. They assigned an equal part of the sky to each zodiacal being, and to each of these places, they assigned thirty degrees of space. Twelve times thirty is 360 degrees in all, a system we still use to divide circles, as well as the basis for our measure of time (twelve hours of sixty minutes is twice 360).

The system of the Babylonian Star Wisdom has been researched and confirmed by Rudolf Steiner, the philosopher and seer who spoke on many different subjects (including astrology) between the late 1890's and 1925. He suggested the term "astrosophy" for the highest form of Star Wisdom. We value Dr. Steiner's opinions very highly as he has turned out to have been ahead of his time and accurate on many other issues. We say more about this lineage of the New Astrology in the Basics Course.

4. What About My Saturn Return?

Some people know the term "Saturn Return," but they don't know what it means.

Saturn returns to the same place in the zodiac as it was at your birth between 29 and 30 years after you were born. It returns again to the birth position at age 58-60, then 87-90, and, let's be optimistic, at 116-120. Its return reactivates the effect that Saturn had when you were born.

What effect was that? Well, we have to look at the placement of Saturn in your birth chart (the map of the heavens at the moment of your birth). The effect depends on where it is in the zodiac, and what relationships it has with other planets and places in your chart.

Typically, a Saturn Return is a time in your life when a great reassessment of your life's path occurs, quite spontaneously - that is, you don't have to know about the Saturn Return to have this reassessment. Knowing about the details of Saturn in your birth chart can help you make the best use of the nudging that Saturn's Return can bring you.

5. My Astrologer Says I'm A Virgo And I Shouldn't Marry My Boyfriend Because He's A Scorpio. What Can I do?

To begin with, the New Astrology may calculate your Sun sign - where the Sun lay at your birth - differently from your present astrologer. Those differences are covered in the Basics Course. We would agree with astronomers on the location of the Sun. Our approach is called "sidereal," meaning star-based.

Secondly, we have a different view of what conventional astrologers call "bad aspects" or "conflicted aspects," meaning relationships between different places in the heavens. Often people are told, "His Mars squares your Venus - it won't last long." However, we see these kinds of relationships as

opportunities, challenging but potentially leading to great leaps of personal development. It definitely helps to know what the situation is, and then you can work with it. When something is poking you in the side, you investigate - perhaps you find a briar or a thorn, and you take it out. Our point is that life is probably poking you in the side, and that there may be ways that the stars are involved. That's where the New Astrology can assist you to find the source of the poking.

6. Scientists Say That Astrology Is Bunkum. Whom I Do Believe?

Scientists reject conventional astrology because it has nothing to do with actual astronomical positions of planets in constellations of the Zodiac. On this point we agree and the New Astrology relates to astronomical positions.

Scientists also reject astrology by saying there are no studies that prove it. That isn't exactly true, but first let's look at how it may be true. Astrology does not easily lend itself to scientific study. Let's say that we're interested in marital bliss. We make up some kind of measure of marital bliss and we wish to see how the positions of the planets affect it. An experimental approach would require that we isolate one planet at a time, and change it while holding all other planets constant. Further, an experiment would require that we set the values of the first planet in a random way, and also that we keep secret where it is, in order to have a double-blind study. In other words, the "double-blind" experimental method used to test new drugs, for instance, would require that we move the planets from place to place in a random way and keep it all a secret - then observe how this affects marital bliss. Obviously this is difficult.

Secondly, there are too many experimental factors. Physicists are quite capable of describing two bodies in relation to each other, how their gravity and movements affect each other. The movement of three bodies eludes them - they cannot explain it exactly nor can they predict how the bodies will behave. It's called The Three Body Problem. More than three? Ten bodies outside the Earth? Thousands of asteroids and comets? Scientists should not be so quick to criticize a complex system.

However, some studies have been undertaken that concentrate on one particular planetary movement and a particular effect in the lives of human beings, and have shown a relationship between them. More work is being done with better computer capacity, and these results will come out in the near future. However, it is correct to say that astrology is an art closer to counseling than to scientific experiment. As for the comprehensive scientific proof of astrology - that will never happen to the satisfaction of the experimental scientist. What you look for is an astrological counselor who has worked with many clients, and who can bring that wisdom to your unique situation.

Actually, science is coming closer to the facts of astrology. Most scientific experiments are conducted with the assumption that you can make a "black box" system unrelated to the rest of the world, and test your variables within this very refined context. More recent thinking shows that this is impossible, and has always been impossible - we all exist in a great matrix of interrelated phenomena.

7. Why The Emphasis On the Birth Day?

Astrologers concentrate on the moment of your birth because that is the time when you emerge from an airless, dark, watery, warm, and loving environment to take your first breath. You exchange airless for the breath of life, dark for light, watery for much drier, warm for cold. You exchange a feeling of being enwrapped in love for the feeling of wondering where love has gone. So much is new!

Astrologers look at that moment as a powerful imprint on your whole life. In that moment patterns are set into place that may take years to unfold and be worked through.

Other moments in a life can be important. Foremost is the moment of conception, which the New Astrology works with actively, and can determine that moment from the facts of your birth. Also important are great breakthroughs - a powerful spiritual experience or a particularly distinctive trauma.

There is a verse by Rudolph Steiner that is particularly helpful here:

The stars once spoke to humanity.
It is world destiny that they are silent now.
To be aware of that silence can be pain for earthly humanity.
But in the deepening silence there grows and ripens
what humanity speaks to the stars.
To be aware of that speaking
Can become strength for spiritual humanity.

So you see, there is the possibility that, through the events of your life - the things that happen, the thoughts you think, feelings you feel, and deeds you do - that you may speak to the stars. Then the great dialogue can begin!

8. What's New About This New Form Of Astrology - Astrosophy?

We have other ways of describing the New Astrology - Hermetic, Anthroposophical, Sidereal, Astrosophical. These are technical terms which we explain in the Basics Course. The word astrology comes from two roots, astro-, "star," and logos, "word" or "pattern" or "meaning." We feel that to grasp the greatest meaning you have to integrate what you can learn from the body of the cosmos - astronomy - and the soul of the cosmos - astrology - and, finally, the spirit of the cosmos - astrosophy, this last term coming from two roots, astro-, star, and Sophia, divine feminine wisdom. Astrosophy translates as Star Wisdom, a term that we use often to describe our work with the heavens.

The New Astrology gives more importance to the zodiac and the fixed stars, indeed the whole starry heavens, than conventional astrology. It looks at the time of conception and the journey into the womb before birth as an important time in determining patterns in our life. It is interested in patterns that recur in a life, and between lives. It sees the planets differently, not only as bodies that emanate positive forces, but as bodies that create turbulence in a life - which can be a good thing, such as choosing to ride on a white-water raft down a turbulent river, or it can be a difficult ride if you didn't choose to go on that journey. Let's stay with the white-water raft picture - do you sometimes feel that you don't have the right equipment for the waves and rocks? Sometimes you may even feel that you don't have a paddle! We can think of the New Astrology as preparing us better to have the right equipment for that adventure.

These are some of the differences that are explained in the Basics Courses.

9. What Is The Meaning Of My Life?

That's the question we can't answer. We can point you in directions that are fruitful to pursue, important things to think about, even some cautions about certain areas. Our job is to give you some tools to help you figure out the riddle of your own life. But we can't do the last part for you. The meaning is up to you. Indeed, it is your private conversation with the stars and the ones who made you and watch over you.

If you are interested in learning more, try our Basics Courses. If you wish to jump right in, then try any of the other entry points through www.StarWisdom.org