


ASTROLOGY

As a Mode for
Interpreting Life

by
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Announcement

”Astrology as a mode for interpreting life” -
under this aspect, Prof. Dr. Dietrich von Heymann, a scripture pedagogue from Freiburg,
deals with the following question:

What actually is at the bottom of astrology,
what are the hypotheses and methods modern
astrology uses, and in which way can astrology
help to find -the interpretation of life?

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I. The Problem

Many people read their horoscope every day. What do they expect of it? Entertainment? A bright future? Everybody knows, that the future is not only positive.

I enter a large book-shop. I can see an amount of books about astrology. These books must be bought, I think, otherwise they would not be here. I watch people standing in front of these books. What are their thoughts?

„Maybe there is something to it.“ These are the thoughts of every second German. Or are these only his hopes? Or is he afraid of it, perhaps? Is the future determined? Is there nothing I can do about it? Or can I even do more than ever knowing my horoscope now? How can we believe it? The stars as a sign of human fate, of no way out and unchangeable, even? This is against common sense. If I know the future, then there is nothing I can do about it. But every one is the architect of his own future. But man has to form his future himself. Nothing can come of nothing. No, no, this is either superstition or it is wishful thinking.

On the other hand, sometimes question arise, like: Why did things have to happen like they did? Why did I have to experience this? Many questions even lead to a radical question of life, eventually! Why do I exist, at all? This is not only a philosophical question, but also a problem, which has kept astronomers busy for a long time. For them it is a matter of the relationship between people on this tiny earth and the unbelievably huge universe, which is surrounding us. Why does the universe exist?

Somewhere galaxies meet, each consisting of billions of stars. A fight for masses rages, the big stars seize upon the small ones. Somewhere stars send out radio signals, that regularly, that a watch could be set by it. What for? For whom? It seems as if this colossal cosmic performance has nothing to do with us men. Scientific investigators discovered in this world far more mathematical regularities have an effect than we can imagine. For example, the structure of atoms which make it possible for them to find contact with each other. An electromagnetic mutual effect makes a reliable circulation of electrons around the nucleus possible, on the other hand, however, the electrons might easily come into the power of different nuclei, so that molecules grow out of atoms, for example, water out of one particle oxygen and two particles hydrogen. How much these rules concern us can be observed in our stomach: There is a positive charge in one corner, and a negative charge in the other corner. The electromagnetic mutual effect causes motion and so the transformation of food. In one word, the digestion.

Certainly we would not say that the cosmic gravitation and rejection have an influence on our stomach. But we notice that our stomach is ruled by the same laws as

the universe. There is an accordance, and this is one of the hypothesis astrology starts from. Nobody would claim that it is fixed what we eat every day, but we know that we are not keen on eating the same meal every day. The rules only exist but the eating we have to do ourselves.

If we transfer this example to the relationship of men then it is surprising that certain people are attracted to each other, and others are not. There again we have a regularity which is in accordance with the cosmic events. But again: Observations, which lead to rules, can not only be done in eating but also in affection between people. In general it is alright, therefore it must be a rule. But such rules usually result in sciences from pre-scientific assumptions, which can't be 'proved' for their part. Here, astrology is affected in the same way as all sciences, it is based on hypotheses, six exactly, which will be mentioned further on. Mathematicians know: that one and one makes two. Is not provable and is based on the assumption that one is a natural number. Looking at people's love-life, then it is wrong already, because one and one makes three, and in case of twins, even four.

In human life as well as in the universe, it is a question of rhythm, which have the character of rules. Nobody is able to explain, why such rhythms exist in the universe. And nobody is able to explain, why such rules exist in human life, either. But we discover, that such rules exist. And it is astrology which has taken interest in these rules and their understanding for a very long time.

We could object here: The personal will should be left out of this regularity. But we know, that also the will is defined in different ways; the wish of one person must not at all be someone else's wish. Therefore, we must assume, that human will can also be related to these rules, but not as free as we would like it at some time or other.

Modern astrology demands to claim what the rules are, that exist for men. Symbolical formulas which are suitable for each person, but certainly in a special selection only concerning him, are valid for certain qualities, even for events. All this demands examining which built the basis of this speech. Such examining can't be done in a way that the result is fixed from the beginning, it rather needs and unbiased view, otherwise the opinion appears to be not scientific.

First we have to deal with the base of astrology more detailed. Then we want to take a look into an astrologer's working place. Eventually, we have to consider conclusions:

What would be relevant, if astrology is right: Determination or responsibility, fate or individual active form of life? A long way, therefore. Let us try to go along with it!

II. Astrology as a scientific *Mode of Thinking*

In the course of history ways were developed again and again to interpret the world and history. They helped contemporaries to choose from an immense number of possibilities for observation and experiences. Such ways were called *modes of thinking*. It is not possible here, and not necessary either, to mention all *modes of thinking*; they partly differ tremendously in their aims, methods and in that aspect that they have gained in institutionalism and social securities. Economists speak of a *marketing mode*, sociologists have developed *social modes*, there are *behaviour modes*, *atom-model* etc. Especially the humanistic sciences show those *modes of thinking*, which rule the daily fulfilment of life with all those various personal experiences, feelings, thoughts or desires and which confirm decisions of acting. In this way the sense of justice for example is formed by the legal systems which are rich of tradition. Law as a *mode of thinking* is perhaps included in the road traffic or in contractual right; this *mode of thinking* includes assumptions, aims or also means, it defines its principles like corruption or guilt and penalty.

Other *modes of thinking* like in physics, biology or chemistry explain certain procedures in nature with causality: All, that exists needs a reason. Scientific research is challenged by lacking *modes of thinking* – *modes of thinking* are just as varied as the objects and methods of our thinking. Some *modes of thinking* refer to concrete facts of the environment, which can be observed, others refer to most abstract intellectual examples. If your mind is full of *modes of thinking*, new experiences or sensations are proved with the help of known *modes of thinking*, and - if suitable in any way - they are accepted as true.

This also goes for scientific works in all branches of knowledge. There are certain modes which are preferred by each generation. This is the reason why frequent scientists cannot prefer the *mode of thinking* of astrology. It doesn't directly fit into the *modes of thinking* which are presently preferred to be valid, characterized by technique and rationalization.

Science often tries to give the impression, no matter how different the methods or ways of research are, as if it worked without a hypothesis. But In fact, in all sciences the question is a mode of thinking because of assumptions and hypotheses. Then, syllogisms are drawn from it. These frequent conclusions get together with observations to a scientific system. But even these observations are not taken from any point of view, but again in connection with basic assumptions.

Modes of thinking are useful to the order of sensations or events, comparable to an observation post on a hill, where from, you can clearly see the whole countryside. Man

could not find his way in this world at all, if he had not developed such *modes of thinking*. The observer on the hill may watch the countryside underneath him with the *mode of thinking* traffic: He observes, how car-drivers meet, how many roads pass along, there, etc. He could also use the *mode of thinking* of the biologist for the countryside: he would observe totally different things than the traffic-expert. Once, I experienced, how a young man saw nothing at all while travelling through the Marmolada (Italy) by bus, because he was continually busy in explaining the geological formations to me. His *mode of thinking* distinguished all other aspects completely. To our observer on the hill his horizon is limited by his point of view, because he considers himself as the centre of a circle, he is even able to investigate it with his eyes, if he turns around in one point. If he wanted to write down this Impression of the countryside, which surrounds him, he would have to produce a vertical line first, from his post to the sky, mentally. If he looked down to his horizon, then, he would see the area of the circle like on a sheet of paper, on which he could bring in his observations.

The representatives of the different *modes of thinking* tend to find their mode generally valid, consequently more than it corresponds to the reality of life. This is why a competition between the modes grow. Thus, the variety of life cannot be included in the *mode of thinking* law of assurance alone, although lawyers must be granted a world, which can easily be seen under juridical aspects.

Let us summarize the meaning of the *mode of thinking*: The world with its various manifestations like experiences, situations, tasks, burdens, or sufferings etc. appears ordered to our mind, or our mind orders it, toy controlling our sensation by certain aspects (we call it *modes of thinking*). The modes of everyday-life, which also base on pre-scientific assumptions or dogmas, always lead to the development of rules for practical use. Such a rule is for example „This makes sense to me.“ or „He has got the right for something“ etc.

Primarily a close connection between rules and reality existed. This connection might come to an end later. Then, these rules turn into empty „word shells“, which are frequently called ideologies in political life. We also speak of prejudices. During critical periods men ask for the original connection, for example, what does peace actually mean? We can notice, that every *mode of thinking* creates its own language. In physics we have got a language of formulas, in chemistry there is also a language of symbols, Na-C1 means table salt. The scientific languages are often very complex and incomprehensible for laymen. But It can't be concluded, that it is nonsense, what a scientist is trying to say by a formula. It certainly appears like a code language at first, until the expert decodes it.

Scientific language is not valid in that way, that all people understand it.

After having examined it thoroughly, serious modern astrology can also be named as a liberal scientific *mode of thinking*, because it fulfils all conditions, which scientific thinking and interpretation-systems need, for example:

- Astrology mentions its conditions which will be named in a minute.
- The *mode of thinking* astrology, is also determined, logical and public; whoever wants to examine it, can do so.
- It doesn't dread objective checking by other experts, it reveals its ways of working; they too, will be described shortly.
- Finally astrology doesn't mind a checking by the proof of experience

Certainly such a checking includes special knowledge. One can surely say: I don't believe in it. But this wouldn't be an examination, which deserves this name; the reply is only another 'belief'.

III. To get an Insight into the Working Place of an Astrologer

Let us try now to get an insight into the working place of an astrologer:

The astrological symbolic language owns an astronomical standard which is of great importance. Remember the man on the hill who regards the countryside underneath him as a disk. We take a photo of him, looking vertically upward. He himself stands in the centre of his horizon circle.

His glance upward would reach a point there, if we let his glance glide, as long as he reaches the top point of the hemisphere, which vaults above his horizon. If we climbed up ourselves along his line of sight upward, then we could see his horizon like a cake plate underneath us. Certainly, we could even look further, because we stand higher up than he does on the hill. But we only want to observe that circular area, which was definitely reached by the man with his horizon. To him, the man on the photo, the solar centre is that point, which we have just reached. This point is called solar centre *Medium Coeli*, shortened MC. MC symbolizes him as a person, his innermost self, his ego, his mind, or also his natural tendency, as astrology calls it, the centre of his self. The imagined circuit area is divided into twelve sections of similar size, the way a cake would be cut into twelve equal pieces. Each section contains a special meaning for the feeling of this man. The meanings are based on ancient traditions. The numeration of the twelve fields, the question then, where to begin counting, is determined mathematically.

The second field, for example, shows the personal relationship to material or mental possessions, consequently to money and wealth, but also to knowledge. The opposite field always indicated the polar supplement. What I get (for ex. money) corresponds to what I have to give away on the opposite field. Opposite to the first field for the ego lies the seventh field for the 'you', just as it is arranged on a clock.

Opposite the sixth field for work, business, activity lies the twelfth field for peace, solitude, loneliness. Or opposite the third field for home, neighbourhood, concrete thinking lies the ninth field for distance, foreigners, for abstract thinking. This division of fields, which is equal to each person, doesn't show of course, what each field contains for him personally. This contents, sun, moon and planets indicate, which are projected from the sky on the imagined circular area. Astronomers have tables, which indicate the exact position of the sun, the moon and the planets. Such tables are called ephemerides, they can be found at every observatory; but everybody can buy them as little books. Surely, you have to learn to read them, just like every professional book. Medical books are difficult, too. Astrologically, it is important, in which field a planet stood at the hour of birth. The drawing on our circular area with all registered planets is

called horary observation (Latin: Hora, hour - plus Greek: skopein, (to watch, to observe, to consider), therefore horoscope).

Now you can imagine, how planets, sun, and moon, build geometric figures on the circumference. Let us look at a rectangle for example. If the four corners are situated on the circle and if there is a planet at every corner, then these four planets form a *constellation*, they get in touch or as we say, they form an *aspect*. The rest of the planets are of no importance for this constellation. Important is only - this is an astrological axiom – the forming of constellations among each other. An example will be shown here.

But before this let us have a last look into the working place: If our man on the hill looks upward, he doesn't see other people. He only sees them, if he turns his glance horizontally. Looking upward means, he is alone. Therefore the vertical symbolizes the ego of man; the solar centre, he imagines, signifies his mind, what we said before.

But we don't live on our own in this world, but have various relationships with other people. The second important position in the horoscope refers to other people, perhaps with the proverb: „Tell me, whom you join, and I tell you who you are.“ Searching the horizon of this man – this is the already known circular line – for the point, where the orbit around the sun meets this horizontal circle (astronomers call it *ecliptic*) others – be easily found, because there are astronomical tables for it, which are easy to understand. So if this man on the hill looks away from upward towards the horizon, then, in this described point, astrologically spoken, the other man comes into his field of vision. This goes along with reality, other people we see at a horizontal level, so to speak eye to eye, not with the face upward or downwards.

Therewith we have described the fundamentals of the astrologist's technical work in a considerably simple way, which includes a great deal of astronomy – as we noticed. If a horoscope was well prepared mathematically and was drawn like a horizon disk, then an extremely exciting and thrilling search for geometrical figures starts, which are formed by sun ☉, moon ☾, MC and ascendent with the planets. And this will be shown in a simple example. Let us assume on the corners of a rectangle MC and mars ♂ are located on the lefthand side, and ascendent AS and Saturn ♄ on the righthand side. These four elements form a planet aspect. And now the interpretation comes, which bases on the fact, that each planet indicates a certain contents.

MC means: Me. Mars ♂, symbolizes: activity	MC Mars ♂ also means: I am active.
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And now the other side of the rectangle. Here we have

Ascendent AS, means: other people Saturn ♄, symbolizes: slowness	Ascendent/Saturn, AS ♄ therefore means: Other people are slow.
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These definitions have to be combined now: the following interpretation results from it:

I am active, if someone else is slow. The slowness of another person is a challenge to my activity. In this way the horoscope describes the suppositions, on which I (consequently this man) should be active. The other one naturally stops my activities because of his slowness.

This was one possibility among more than 33,000 possibilities, which altogether describe situations in life. Our example made clear, at the same time, what is enormously important to all people. We saw, how one person corresponds to another person by his qualities. It certainly won't be the only correspondency in our example. But it is the biggest secret to us, which anybody is able to unveil if he can tell us in what way relationships with other people occur. Certainly not all 33.000 formulas (we call them *Planetary Pictures*) are relevant for each person, but a selection in a certain mutual relation. These formulas, by the way, are ordered in a book collection¹ under aspects, which can be found easily. But of course they need to be understood.

We spoke of fields in the circle, formerly, and said, that it is of considerable importance, in which field a planet stands. It is not all the same yet if the mentioned inhibition lies in a relationship at work or in everyday life matters in general, or in marriage. These interpretations, too, are collected in a book, again thousands of possibilities, which complete possibilities mentioned before. One more example:

If Mars is located in the field for mental or material possession, then it means: This person has to succeed in business (2nd field) with great effort; whatever he earns, material or mental things (2nd field) is always combined with effort (Mars). You could reply now, it might always be like this. This is not true, because for several people inhibitions or difficulties lie in very different fields.

An astrological advice consists of many single textual *building stones*, just like a mosaic, which are taken from the interpretation books, and are formed to a continuous text. To the client it is not important, on which formulas the astrologer relies.

The competent astrologer doesn't write down the detailed meaning of planets and constellations, just as little as a doctor decorates his diagnosis with all details in mysteriously sounding strange words. All together, shows a picture of this person, his mental or intellectual peculiarities, abilities and also his physical factors. Detailed information can be learned from the horoscope: about profession, marriage, partnership, children, enterprising, about the way of contacts, about such fields, where this person has difficulties, what is easy for him, and what he loves and prefers etc. etc.

After we had a look at the astrologer's working place, it is more clear now, which responsibility an astrologer has got. If he discovers the doctor's formula for every doctor, or finds the adequate professional formula for every priest, or teacher, then it is not yet problematic. But if the wish for „wanting to get married“ combines with „not being able to marry“, how should an astrologer handle this knowledge? Here, ethical, even educational points of views are indicated by practical interpretation of astrology, which we cannot follow, because in the following we want to turn to the six scientific-theoretical hypotheses, which means these hypotheses, which the working methods are based on.

¹) Hermann Lefeldt: Methodology of Astrological Houses and Aspects. Hamburg 1962
Alfred Witte, Hermann Lefeldt: Rules for Planetary Pictures. Hamburg⁵ 1959
Ilse Schnitzer, Hermann Lefeldt: Dictionary for Planetary Pictures. Hamburg 1957

IV. Six Hypotheses of Modern Astrology

The *Mode of Thinking of Modern Astrology* are based on the following six hypotheses; they will be explained shortly:

The first hypothesis says

There is a relation of cognition between the orbit of the stars and the course of life.

This rejects the assumption, stars might have an influence on human fate. Meanwhile it is claimed, that rules which can be calculated astronomically, are to be understood as a mirror-image of earthly lapses. Indeed, the opinions among astrologers are controversial: Some people claim of course, that there is an *effective connection*. In fact a mechanistic influence of cosmic radiation is rarely claimed, but *influence by stars and cosmic periods* are found to be adjusted to *vital energy*². The restriction of the first hypothesis, stars don't force, they only favour you, are allowances to the spirit of the age, which intends to leave matters that are to be solved, and men's ability to change undecided. Theoretically this restriction is not necessary, and the astrologer can say without it: „It is a rule of life that you are like you are, you can't help it, but if you stay like you are or not, this is your life-work.“ Instead of not proven influences, only one way of *cognition* is assumed, recognizable from astronomical regularities.

The second hypothesis says

The relationship between universe and man particularly make aims clear which want to come true.

Just like the rising sun for example, reaches its „aim“ for this day by setting, thus, at man's birth, a beginning is set, which tries to reach an aim. The word „finality“ (aiming point), which plays a big part in modern astrology, refuses all sorts of fatalistic superstition. Also the idea of self-ruling without personal Interest of man in his individual record is excluded.

²) Thomas Ring, broadcast SWF on 6th of October 1975

The third hypothesis says

Cosmic events contain a symbolic value, which has to be decoded (translated).

To find valid symbols for each single person, requires astronomical calculations about the position of stars. Every star contains a symbolic value, which reflects the rule of life for this person. Just as each person has got its individual finger prints, and doublings are excluded in astronomical events, thus every man carries his individual rule of life with him. Twins, too, differ in character, even if there are only a few minutes between their time of birth. This is a difficulty, by the way, which has not been mastered by some present astrological schools; but modern astrology is able to make these significant differences, which often occur, clear. How the meaning of the stars was created, we can imagine of course, but we hardly possess reliable historical knowledge. Mars with his red lights became the symbol of activity, action, offensive, because a connection was seen by the red colour and the glimmer. But these conclusions are not resolved. If they are correct, only experimental evidence can show. It is possible to prove, if he became a doctor, teacher or priest. Here we come to the

Fourth hypothesis; it says

On the basis of astrological symbolic language different single meanings are combined to new interpretations

If for example Venus stands for symbol of harmony, beauty, also love, and Mars for a symbol of activity, then Venus plus Mars mean: To act with devotion, or for love of an affair, harmonious relation to activity, but also: Sexual intercourse. This is like combining a person's hair-colour with clothes to an overall impression.

The fifth hypothesis says

For each person six astronomical points are to be found out mathematically. They are called *Personal Points* and are only valid for him. They serve as a starting point of a special interpretable context.

The position of the sun and the moon at the time of birth belong to these points for example. We already learned two others, MC and AS, ascendent.

It is as if you look on the same village in the valley from two different hill tops. The six *Personal Points* concern man's spiritual level, the mental level, the corporeality. These three levels especially refer to man's subjectivity. Three more *Personal Points* concern man's common levels, further connections, a man has got, as well as his local surroundings.

The sixth hypothesis says:

These *Personal Points* form - with the remaining elements of the solar system - a symbolic image of man, which has to be interpreted as entirety; consequently all points of view are connected.

By combination now, these hypotheses produce a system of conclusions, which describe the working method of modern astrology and which give a differential picture of the concerned person. In different astrological schools they certainly consider the single hypotheses distinctly, which leads to variants in working methods. This can be of great importance, of course, in particular cases, perhaps with regard to the security and exactness of statements — but on the whole it doesn't upset the *mode of thinking*.

A short remark yet concerning the word symbol

Symbols do not arise from vacuum. They include observations and experiences in daily life. Just like the moon for example changes its *face* every day, thus it is understandable that its symbol stands for bad-tempered. Or just like Mars ♂, we regard as a red planet in the sky, it reminds of (rod, blood, war) symbols like: aggressiveness, action, activity, fight, struggle.

For many astrological signs it is surely possible to review a connection to the observation of the world. But considering the present interpretation, it is not that important for astrologers. The main thing is man's *agreement* with the use and explanation for present events. Astrology starts from the principle, that human life includes a plan from the beginning, which is realized by growth. This mode of thinking shows similarities to biology, which speaks of growth-codes, as well. The moment of this life-plan's origin can be neglected. Important to astrology is the datum point of the recognition, that is the time of birth, which again produces frequent protests. We know this astrological opinion though, from everyday life: The beginning of a matter paves the way for the future. The moment and circumstances of the beginning of a friendship or also of foundations of a firm or association, are like a single seed. We often realize later, how a matter is determined to fail from the very beginning or how the effect of first meetings or actions lingers on and characterizes a development. The language makes it clear: What already existed on a small scale gets unwrapped.

V. Consent and Contradiction concerning the *Mode of Thinking in Astrology*

What makes so many people believe that astrology is able to contribute validity for interpreting life? There are several reasons which we are going to collect:

1. Obviously we have to deal with a *mode of thinking* here which is not confirmed, which cannot be related to any institution and therefore is still open, which means, which is still in motion and development. Here do not exist yet united educational systems, no judicial or scientific courts, which decide about truth or faults. This pattern of life interpretation still learns from reality directly, and has not turned to an ideology yet. It can and has to be examined, if it is true and helpful, what the astrologer says. Therefore, individual interest is necessary.

2. In a period of maximum threats - also in individual life - people long for a final resolution of contradictions, for individual security and safety within a big ordered life, for a solution where *a man at all* is not allowed to dispose of me, judge or decide, where on the other hand I too *need* not decide anything of final validity, but where an eternal fixed order of matters is in accordance with my longing for sensory interpretation.

3. Because the conflicts in this world and the brutalities in everyday life hardly seem to be solved, a *mode of thinking* tends to arise which promises to make sense on a higher level, which is also able to provide cognition of context and makes it understandable to me. Astrology approaches religious experiences here. With mathematical exactness individual structures of life are revealed to me, so that I am able to classify my experiences and learn to understand them, in that way conflicts are not at all solved, but I could learn to handle them by this way of cognition, so that my life makes sense from this moment on. Here astrology approaches psychological advice.

4. A rather important reason for the attraction of astrology lies probably in the following: There is a person who knows more about me than I do. The modes of economy or science or politics get an insight into big sequences. But where do I stand, a small human being. They care in vain for my *little fate* to make it significant. Nuclear research and biochemistry enter the tiniest micro-structures of life, space-travel goes into the universe, but my individual fate perishes, meanwhile.

Exactly the opposite is the astrologer, who has been busy with me for hours by

casting my horoscope, and now writes a long letter of life about me. His written advice describes my chances in life, my individual sphere of *self-realization*; he balances my strong points and weak sides and tells me a way out. This person gives me guarantee, although I have to pay him. Nowadays there are only a few situations, which make me personally important: certainly at church, at the revenue office and also at air-lines.

But exactly astrologers, and so the *mode of thinking* also run a risk and chance a conflict: If the astrologer tells me, who I am and who I could be, on one hand, he has to leave me alone on my way, on the other hand; for it is my path through life, that only I can go myself. He can't take any burden off me, he can't abolish my contradictions, he can't expire my serious past or prevent difficulties in future.

An equally violent *contradiction* astrology challenges, corresponds to a remarkable attraction, astrology exerts. Here again the fights take place on different levels.

1. The mode of astrology might include an unbearable fatalism, which might condemn people not to control individual faults or mistakes, but simply accept them; it might be the same with social abuses, which would be interpreted as *fate*, although there might be possibilities of changing it. Astrology opposes like this any active manner of living, because it determines people in a way that limits responsible and firm acting.

2. Exactly these conclusions would tempt to *misuse that power*, which an astrologer exerts on people. Confidence is literally misused, if he speaks of the immutability of rules of life; the person all the same, uncertain, who depends on the astrologer's advice. Is not being strengthened therefore, but weakened.

3. And for all this, an astrologer uses a *language*, which avoids a precise checking, because the abstraction ranges in a way, that it fits to many other people as well; in this way the impression of a leading influence on the client occurs, which only serves for supporting the astrologer's reputation and authority.

4. Besides, the impression is given, that astrology is closer to the personal and casual intuition or just simply to the fabulous phantasy than to any logical thinking; how else should this nonsense be explained, that some remote star influences people, their thoughts, feelings, likings, their development and even the happening of events. Everybody knows after all, how people change; how is it possible then, that a determination is claimed from the minute of your birth, which could be only (!) interpreted by the hour of birth.

5. Instead of intuition we could also call it deception; because astrology doesn't reveal its *rules of work*; whatever astrologers say, can't usually be examined, it is hardly possible to find out, where astrologers get their *presumed knowledge* from. This leads to the suspicion, that they might obtain impressions of the person like incompetent psychologists, and use them in a clever style for the concerned client. Common sense would lead to equally uncertain results.

6. Astrologers would even contradict astrology, for there does not exist a *united interpretation* of the used symbols. One interprets Pluto as development and change, others as power and threat etc. It only needs one look at publications of astrologers who are calling themselves popular and important, everybody will have the chance to satisfy himself about a fantastic *extensive language* which aims for personal confusion and mentions circumstances, hardly comprehensible. Moreover, using strange expressions only raise feelings in the client, but not proper knowledge. Who in all the world can handle the expression for example, Venus and Mercury form a square or are in opposition to the sun, the ascendent is in Scorpio, and this means this and that. The person who needs advice, can only suspect something, he might know, Venus is something positive, but Mercury already, or even Uranus give him different associations; and from these associations especially, the astrologer picks out the suitable reactions of the client to influence him. Competent astrologers therefore might be rather artists in using language, with an individual flair, than consultants who can be taken serious.

7. Eventually only this is true at all, that one *wants to believe*. The astrologer's work supports the *selffulfilling prophecy*, consequently that observation, that a prediction happens, that it *comes true automatically* precisely because it was predicted, and because man longs for it until something happens in this respect, or because he interprets the happening in this way. This is nothing else than bad psychology or even worse (because unskilful) psychotherapy. Especially women are susceptible for it, because of their more strongly distinct emotionalism (this, too, should be a generally valid fact). Enough examples could be mentioned.

All protests against astrology can be brought to one aspect: Man loses his responsibility, and his duties of active living are neglected. Some astrological schools reply to this protest with the elusive hint: „*Stars don't force, they only favour.*“ So men have got little free will. But how does it work? Little free will, this sounds much like a little

pregnant.

We have to ask though, which motives support the counter arguments. A teacher for example, can't admit positively, that education is of little influence, because the talents predominate. The protests often rise from an emotional level. „*There must be something which can be done against fate.*“ Common attacks like before could eventually be lead against every kind of science, every religion, against every art, against everything, by simply saying: „*I don't believe it, because I can't believe it – and also because I don't want to believe it.*“

If astrology can be considered as a science, we have examined and accepted. Certainly you can't judge by the astrologer the astrology, at once; there are only a few (like everywhere) who are really competent.

Scientist surely won't deny, that science has also something to do with intuition (or let us call it sagacity) in addition to talent and love of the cause. Important is the possibility of examining, and everybody can do it personally with books or courses. I myself have experienced it. Indeed, how hard it is to achieve this knowledge; like in every trade it is not easy to become perfect.

If astrology can be a mode of interpreting life, has to be investigated in the last chapter.

VI. Astrology as a Help for Living

What can astrology do? This is the question, now. What more does it offer than other modes of thinking? Compared to other diagnostic-methods, I see the advantage of more objectivity in astrological work, because it is independent from Individual opinions. Frequently the astrologer doesn't know his client except by his exact date of birth. This impressing *objectivity* goes along with a distinct ability for details; in this way the levels, on which partners meet, can be exactly described, no matter if it concerns individual relationships or relationships at work. The question of a place for holidays, or of looking for a job, or for a place to live, can be answered by astrological research methods. The alternating effect between environment and person, consequently the personal place of self-realization, can be named. Eventually, the rule of life and opportunities of realization are exactly described, how it won't be possible that independently in any other mode of thinking.

If we want to explain, now, however, in what extent astrology is able to produce a special contribution to finding sense and interpreting life, then we leave the level of scientific discussion. We come to the point, where it is decided for man, what basically binds him and what concerns him, absolutely. If we were able to speak exceptionally objectively so far, we must be struck with surprise, now. For priests of the observatory in Sippar on the Euphrat in the ancient Babylon, 3000 years ago, astronomy used to be a part of religion. The observation and calculation of the orbit of a star used to have the character of philosophical, even theological ideology. This is also relevant, nowadays, for astrology is not just a pastime, which merely tries to satisfy certain desires and which doesn't exhaust itself in ambiguity, but leads to the limits of human self-confidence.

Astrology makes it possible to recognize, how human life passes directions of being and becoming. During life time the natural tendencies and obligations from birth on are realized. So, time becomes a frame: It approaches me, and at the same time I follow my way within it. Indeed, life works are determined, for each person a certain one; but they rise from their obscurity in daily activities and relationships, they become real. Modern astrology is a mode of interpreting life, because it shows, that I can't experience anything, which doesn't belong to me.

And how do we solve our controversial question; is everything determined or do I have to do it myself first? It belongs to the knowledge of modern astrology to surpass the apparent contrast between determination and responsibility. Therewith it actually produces a mode of thinking for interpreting life. Fate and activity don't exclude each other, but include each other. For both are combined by this: both are future. A

determination, already present, wouldn't be a determination. The genuine determination we have to go to meet. Realization gives us the future. But this is also relevant for all human responsibilities. Certainly, responsibility also refers to the past, what you have done or neglected, and what you have to answer for. But whoever accepts responsibility means: I *shall* answer for it personally.

Similar is the determination: it concludes history as an individual story. If I recognize, something is determined, then I interpret the time, I found out, as something, that is surrounded by something superior, greater, comprehensive, and I turn it into a significant continuous experience. I handle this determination by doing this or that (in my job, with my family, in friendship, in connection with animals and with things, I haven't done myself). I call this behaviour responsibility, which I have, whatever I do, yes even, if I do nothing.

As a human being therefore, I don't stand between an either - or, but at the same time I am determined and responsible, because both take place within this spell of time. Astrology is of great use, because it is able to make this clear: Birth is the beginning of progressing on a certain path. There are no paths, where nobody goes along. To *follow* the path, we call responsible living. To follow the *path* we call determination. Let us assume, the entire astrology would be based on an error, what would be left? We had the example how my activity is adequate to someone else's inhibition. After all, the challenge would remain: If you meet a person with inhibitions, then you may, yes even you should become active. This statement could turn into a mode of thinking for me, which could help me to experience myself sensibly, this would help me to interpret and understand my life. Even if astrology should be based on a deception, there would be left this: It makes me conscious of the inevitable connection with other people, yes it would be like a help for praying: „*Give to us our daily neighbour, today.*“ In this way, astrology would even achieve the position of help for peace. Truth is dependent on my consent, anyway. So far it is even irrelevant if something is true or not; it is more important, if it comes true in me, what should belong to me. It is irrelevant therefore, if the formula „H₂O“ means water is true. More important is if I am prepared or able to pass a thirsty man the glass of water.

Even if astrology causes scientific doubts (what I cannot say after intensive examining), but even then, I could not avoid the demand of their results: That life can only be received, after all, not made. This is a mode of thinking, which excludes the casual event and the senselessness for every human life. This mode of thinking does not want to include dogmas; it rather sets a task for every person to go his path with active responsibility.

Very often the question remains: Why? Why am I like this? Why do I have to experience this? and so on. As you know, all the other human sciences deal with this problem and bring up all sorts of explanations:

- Conditions at home
- Relationship to father, mother
- relationship to other familiar people
- special experiences, for example, shocks
- the kindergarten, school, college
- other social environment like city, village
- and others

They often are correct. But this is of no help to this person, because he continues to ask Why? A person cannot be satisfied by stating reasons. It can be concluded, that the motives are not relevant in the end. Whoever asks the Why-question, puts himself into the centre of attention. The why-question contains something demanding, yes even forcing. The interrogator persists in his right; he accuses: doctors, colleagues, relatives, fate, God, yes even himself. So, an opinion of power, pride and arrogance appears. Also the passion, such questions are asked with, makes it clear, how much a person takes himself for the standard of life. He wants to be superior to his life-plan, wants to change it and submit it. He values his sympathy for the necessary things more than the rules of life, metaphorically spoken: He himself wants to decide when there should be day and night.

Everybody knows, how quickly why-questions lead into a deadlock. Astrology teaches, that, whoever notices this on himself, should come to a new, completely different opinion of life. First he is forced to recognize his weakness. But then, when he has given up his apparently safe position, which every why-question includes, he can learn how strongly life means receiving and accepting, too. Only this unconditional consent for suffering and for unfounded heavy blows contains the prospect to new activities and so to a real satisfying life.

It is not the demanding justification and reason of events or states, but active and at the same time, passive assumption (leaving your own rights) of the determining life plan, which can be lead out of the dilemma of the why. Only who has suffered from the inevitability of why-questions and who has reached the end of human possibilities, is able to accept all experiences as something, that should belong to his life-plan. This is the way

which the astrologer can and should show to the interrogator. Therewith, prognoses about special events become redundant; only the way is important, which is described in its aims and tasks, and it is especially signified by the narrowness with other people. Who is able to manage his own life plan, this means with that, God plans with him, means to others a lighthouse in the darkness. Thus, astrology is a school of life plans, where you will be able to learn: This is how I am and therefore I have to act now. If it is true, the personal record shows by its concrete events. Astrology shows the kind of seed, which is sewn into a man's life.

A young man entered a store, in his dreams. Behind the counter there stood an old man. In a hurry he asked him: „What do you sell, Mister?“ The wise man friendly replied: „All, you want.“ The young man started to count up: „Then I would like to have a united world and the peace of the world, the abolition of prejudices, the elimination of poverty and unemployment, more unity and love between the religions and between people, equal rights for man and woman and ... and.“ Then the wise man interrupted him: „I am sorry, young man, you got me wrong. We don't sell fruit here, we only sell the seed.“

Astrology does not only sell the seed, this means the talent and determination of one person, though the most important thing is: A sunflower seed cannot turn into an oak-tree, that is how it goes. But what about the *fruits of astrological work*? They are tremendously versatile ...

A lady asks for advice for the following question: I have a financial share in a firm; shall I take charge of the firm and manage it myself? The astrological analysis shows: She is a person who is given direction and aims by others; this upsets her, for she wants to manage on her own; but others use their power against her. The result is therefore: No, she is not the type for managing a firm.

In spite of this *seed* (which means her way to keep away from leadership) she achieves the function of a managing director in a solvent firm. Three years later the position of this firm hangs by a silken thread. „But I was only the managing director,“ she says now. A case which happened in a practice of an astrologer from Freiburg: A proper advice, however, was not obeyed; numerous different positive cases show the contrary.

Especially in judging professional abilities, for example, personal management (control of public opinion), astrology achieves remarkable things. This is an important fruit, because often, not only many jobs depend on the right filling of a leading post, but also the personal luck of an applicant; if his talents are overcharged, then he does not

only make a mistake but also makes himself ill. What about applications? You dress up, use your best language, appearance, behaviour, reactions etc. But all this might be deceptive. Often, not only professional qualifications, proved by examinations, certificates, count for achieving a leading post, but even more, human qualities. Astrology might help here to make objective decisions, objective because of the following reasons:

First reason

The person concerned has no opportunity to manipulate. He cannot influence the fundamentals of the method by his statement, neither by his appearance. Compared to all other methods, astrological instruments do not demand the presence of the concerned person.

Second reason

The basis of judgement confines itself to generally known and accessible characteristics. These are dates of birth according to the registrar's entry. The frequently unpleasant investigations or spying about the applicant's former life do not take place.

Third reason

The astrological system of judgement can be repeated by an expert any time and everywhere; besides it is, in principle, independent of the examiner with his likings and dislikes; it can be proved mathematically, and with regard to the contents.

Fourth reason

The method of modern astrology makes it also possible to find temporary informations about tendencies of luck and success.

The example of fruits of modern astrology makes it clear, that it is not a pastime for some people who fancy peculiar hobbies, but that it concerns important fundamentals of advisory processes. Therefore, it has to be claimed, that this most important research for society, economy and for the single person, should not be pursued only in a small private Institute; it again belongs to that place, where brain work of people is to be further developed: at universities.

