



SOUL-CONSCIOUS ASTROLOGY AND THE SEVEN RAYS

By Ray Beverley

Quest Universal Level One

Astrology of the personality, or Exoteric Astrology, has been around for many thousands of years and its use was said to have had its roots in the Atlantean age of humanity's long distant past, some millions of years ago and has been in all civilisations ever since.

Soul-conscious or Esoteric Astrology, however, is a higher teaching of this great science that utilises the higher rulers of each of the signs and describes how and when we can consider them.

The Tibetan has given us the "blue books" of Alice Bailey and one of them, "Esoteric Astrology," is the book relating to the subject and will form the basis for the astrological study in the coming Age of Aquarius, when the sun by precession, slowly enters the sign of Aquarius over the next 100 years. Other books in the series introduce

us to the seven rays and describe them in detail. The Seven Rays are the Creative Builders of the solar system that influence all life on our planet.

We have an interest in the way in which they affect the human life wave and the way they inform our consciousness and personality bodies. A study of these concepts helps us to progress along the path that leads us to greater heights of awareness and also on a more mundane level, to a better understanding of our personalities on a day to day basis.



Even so, DK tells us that there are three reasons to know about the Rays:

- 1. But man the soul remains still a speculation, a hope, a belief. The fact of the soul is not yet substantiated and in helping the truth into the light I seek to bring the subject of the seven rays to the notice of the thinkers of modern times so that the light of this esoteric knowledge may be thrown upon the science of psychology.*
- 2. I give a clue to the importance of this study of the rays when I state that, esoterically, these seven rays are the sevenfold expressions of the Cosmic Christ, the second Person of the Trinity. When the true nature of the seven rays is grasped, and when their effect on humanity in expressing the seven types of men is also understood, we shall then approach the subject of man's duality with greater intelligence.*
- 3. Knowledge of the rays and their tendencies and energies will bring much illumination to the workers in the field of the various sciences. All the sciences find themselves on one or other of the rays and a science is literally the light thrown by a ray into a particular field of divine manifestation.* EPI. pp119-121.

The old maxim from Socrates, “Man Know Thyself,” tells us from ages past that we should know all about ourselves. Study of ourselves and our world around us gives us a better understanding of some of the most difficult questions that humanity asks itself. This will stand us in good stead for our own advancement along the Path of Attainment. After all, we all want to better ourselves in this life and in the next.



A study of the Ageless Wisdom is also most important so that we may be able to understand in our own minds how esoteric astrology may work for us in reality. It can also give us the answers to the many and varied questions that some people ask that seemingly have no answer. For example, why is one person born into a relatively comfortable existence and another born into sheer poverty and suffering? It would seem futile if this was a random happening in the life of a loving God. What is life for and why am I here? An understanding of the twin laws of Rebirth and Consequence (law of Karma) is vital to make sense of the workings of esoteric astrology, the Seven Rays which in their turn gives us the satisfactory answers to many of these questions.

An understanding of three vital factors has to be considered before esoteric astrology can be applied:

- 1. The application of exoteric astrology by way of interpreting the signs planets and houses at the personality level: everyday astrology,*
- 2. The application of the same but on the higher level from the point of view of the Soul: esoteric astrology,*

3. *The intuitive ability to recognize the level on which these energies are expressing themselves and the nature of their interrelationships*^{SA p15}

This last point necessitates a certain ability at Soul level having been achieved. The developed intuition is important as we are told in the Ageless Wisdom that this quality is part of the progress the disciple makes upon the Path now and in the coming Aquarian Age.

Let us look at how astrology works for us and how the rays inform the planets and signs with their influences.

Esoteric astrology will work for those of us on the Path but for the majority of humanity, it is still exoteric astrology that prevails; we do not respond to the higher vibrations of the energies that are coming our way while we are personality based because we haven't developed soul based qualities through meditation and alignments to these higher levels. We haven't learned to listen to the Soul's call, the Higher Self, and therefore we cannot respond to the higher vibrations of the planets and signs. Until we do, the soul rulers of the various signs have little or no effect.

Esoteric Astrology is centred around the Soul Ray whose force is focused through the Ascending Sign, and which is then distributed through the esoteric planetary rulers.

Esoteric astrology concerns itself primarily with the unfoldment of consciousness, with the impacts which awaken it to the peculiar "gifts" of any particular sign and ray endowment and with the reaction of the man and his consequent enrichment through his response to the influence of a sign, working through the esoteric planets from the angle of humanitarian awareness, of discipleship and of initiation.^{EA pp145-6}

Esoteric Astrology reveals the purpose of the Soul in this incarnation through the Rising Sign. It focuses upon the expansion of consciousness. It reveals the limitations in consciousness which bind the Soul in time and space. It reveals the Soul force potential (the esoteric planets in the signs) which will offset the forces of the ego (exoteric planets), and enable the Soul to get a better grip over the lower nature.

It shows the particular tests and trials ahead in life, which will throw the man back upon himself, and force him to decide whether he will respond as a Soul or as an ego. The esoteric chart also indicates what the Soul would like to contribute for the greater good, where fellowship, service, and Soul fulfilment is to be found. ^{EAGNS}

We are taught in the Ageless Wisdom Teachings that our solar system is one of seven such solar systems, the stars and planets of which comprise the Body of the Great One: the One About Whom Naught May Be Said. Each of these seven systems is the primary expression for one of the Seven Rays. The constellation of the Great Bear is the Source and emanating vehicle of the First Ray. The central focus of this System is the star which commands the energy of the Will/Power of the One.

One of two primary stellar vehicles for the Second Ray of Love/Wisdom is our Sun, which represents the Heart of this Great One. The other is the great star, Sirius. The Third Ray has the Pleiades as its source. The second ray has a particular importance to

us on our planet/solar system as it is the great ray upon which this system is built.

This is very important as it indicates a great Absolute Truth: Love and the Wisdom which leads and proceeds from Love are the primary qualities of consciousness in our solar system and hence of life here on Earth. All of the other six Rays work through Love/Wisdom and are subject to it.

The diagram which follows gives both the lower and higher planetary rulers and each of the twelve signs together with the Exoteric and Esoteric keywords. These keywords should be taken as an opportunity to meditate on, particularly those of the higher keynotes, with an outcome of a more fuller understanding of the higher meaning of each sign.

Personality-Centred Rulers and Rays, Soul-Conscious Rulers and Rays for the 12 Signs of the Zodiac

Exoteric Keynote	Exoteric Ruler & Ray	SIGN & RAY	Esoteric Ruler & Ray	Esoteric Keynote
Let Form again be sought	Mars 6 th Ray	Aries 1 st , 7 th Rays	Mercury 4 th Ray	I come forth, and from the plane of mind, I rule
Let struggle be undismayed	Venus 5 th Ray	Taurus 4 th Ray	Vulcan 1 st Ray	I see, and when the Eye is opened, all is Light
Let instability do its work	Mercury 4 th Ray	Gemini 2 nd Ray	Venus 5 th Ray	I recognize my other self and in the waning of that self, I grow and glow
Let isolation be the rule and yet the crowd exists.	Moon 4 th Ray	Cancer 3 rd , 7 th Rays	Neptune 6 th Ray	I build a lighted house and therein dwell
Let other forms exist; I rule because I am	Sun 2 nd Ray	Leo 1 st , 5 th Rays	Sun 2 nd Ray	I am That and That am I
Let matter reign	Mercury 4 th Ray	Virgo 2 nd , 6 th Rays	Moon (veils Vulcan or Pluto) 4 th Ray	I am the Mother and the Child; I God, I Matter am
Let choice be made	Venus 5 th Ray	Libra 3 rd Ray	Uranus 7 th Ray	I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force
Let maya flourish and let deception rule	Mars, 6 th Ray Pluto, 1 st Ray	Scorpio 4 th Ray	Mars 6 th Ray	Warrior am I and from the battle I emerge triumphant
Let food be sought	Jupiter 2 nd Ray	Sagittarius 4 th , 5 th , 6 th Rays	Earth 3 rd Ray	I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another
Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide	Saturn 3 rd Ray	Capricorn 1 st , 3 rd , 7 th Ray	Saturn 3 rd Ray	Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back
Let desire in form be the ruler	Uranus 7 th Ray	Aquarius 5 th Ray	Jupiter 2 nd Ray	Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men
Go forth into matter	Neptune 6 th Ray	Pisces 2 nd , 6 th Rays	Pluto 1 st Ray	I leave the Father's House and turning back, I save

What is the connection between the exoteric rulers and esoteric rulers of each of the signs? A connection needs to be found between them so that we can see the pathway required to progress from the personality level to the soul level.

INTUITION.

Intuition is a quality of the Soul and can be developed in anyone who is willing to make the necessary effort. The development of the astrologer's intuition is essential for the correct assessment of the relationship and between the two horoscopes. Such an unfolding occurs through the astrologer's efforts at meditation and the deep contemplation of what has been gleaned from the ancient wisdom teachings. It also comes from establishing a disciplined attitude of objective observation, both over one's own life actions, as well as over the life around oneself. The eye of the observer has to be opened through a sense of loving detachment, so that the mind and the heart consciously combine. All of this takes time, patience and hard work, from the evolutionary perspective it is the essential part of the training required to advance oneself. Intuition is also developed through service and sharing, as it requires an awareness of a whole outside of, and yet inclusive of, oneself.

The rational mind, concrete logistics, and physical measuring devices are quite limited, in this respect, and must be used as extensions of the higher human faculties of cognition. The intuition and its telepathic uses are fast becoming an ordinary instrument of communication among today's more advanced humanity.

Intuition and telepathic communication will evolve into a common tool for the vast majority of humankind and will progress into the new age and beyond.

The accuracy of the astrological interpretation and the at-one-ment or the unfoldment of celestial cycles as they relate human activities, require the astrologer to develop several faculties of awareness, all based on intuition:

- An intimate contact with the thought-forms contained within the symbols of the 12 signs. We are told in the teachings that such thought-forms were anchored in the Atlantean times.
- An attunement to the nature of the life forces as they work through the planets. The basic definitions of these energies are simple enough to acquire: Jupiter, the cause of expansion. Saturn, the cause of consolidation. Mercury, the cause of mental communication and so on.
- An understanding of the ray energies and then an attunement to their essential nature, we will then come to understand the rays as the primary source of the planetary Life Energies.^{SA p386}

It is important to compare the exoteric chart and the esoteric chart in other words we need to look at the personality chart first, the exoteric chart, and then look at the esoteric or higher ruler chart and we use the following method:

1. Interpret the nature of a chart based around the sun's sign and the ordinary or exoteric planets of the signs and houses. This will give an assessment of the planets aspects and other astrological implications in the life of the lower self so far evolved. The less evolved the personality, the more important will be the position of the planets in the houses as this determines the areas of life which indicate attachment of the personality to the day to day life.

2. The sun sign, with its exoteric planetary rulers, reveals the acquirement of the personality for the present incarnation. It will serve as the background for the unfoldment of the soul's purpose. The primary ray of the sun will reveal much about the nature of the personality. The sun sign speaks to the astrologer about the immediate possibility that is inherent in a given lifetime.
3. When we look at the rising sign and the esoteric rulers of the signs and houses, the spiritual goals of the present incarnation reveal themselves. This is the source of the chart that indicates the soul's purpose for this life.
4. When we consider the horoscope of the sun's sign with that of the esoteric significance of the rising sign, we will then see the relationship of the soul and the personality quite clearly, in this way we can judge how the present incarnation and current life situations can help or inhibit the link between the soul and the personality.
5. The delineation of the esoteric horoscope should be superimposed over the exoteric chart and in this way you will obtain a clear picture of the relationship between the higher and lower selves and their expression. In this respect you must especially contrast the two dispositors, that is the exoteric and the esoteric, and each of the planets and houses. If the rising sign is Libra for example, an understanding of Venus by sign house and aspect will tell you much about the basic temperament and personal traits of an individual on the personality level. Venus is the basic ruler of Libra. Uranus is the higher ruler of Libra. A similar look at Uranus will tell you a great deal about the direction of Soul purpose and growth. This should be done for each of the planets and houses. Should the dispositor be the same planet as in the case of Leo, and the sign Capricorn with Saturn and Scorpio with Mars, you must interpret the planets from the two different levels of expression

in order to properly assess this intermingling of forces with the person's life.

It is also very important to note the differences and the effects of the sacred and non-sacred planets as well. The non-sacred planets tend to work more in the life of the personality, the sacred planets work to fuse and blend the soul and the personality. Mars for example a non-sacred planet would highlight the nature of the battle between the lower and the higher self especially in the house where it is found. Jupiter, a sacred planet will serve to heal the wounds of such conflict through its fusing power and the love quality of its nature. By revealing his higher spiritual significance Jupiter, through its wisdom aspect would also help the individual use the information gleaned in such a battle to expand his or her own consciousness.

Each of the planets is governed by one of the Rays. Note the influence of the ray energy as they work out through the soul and the personality in the chart. Saturn, for example, is closely connected to the third ray of Active-Intelligence. It is also the planet of consolidation, structure and limitations. Thus the blended influence of this planet's Ray is to create those structures that aid in the expression of active-intelligence which is Saturn's Ray 3. Thus Saturn is most helpful in the unfolding of one's mental concepts and visions into more practical realities.

The Moon indicates what is past. It is the vehicle for biological karma, and indicates a great deal about the physical body and the particular type of attachment that one might have to the form life. It is also a container for previous life thought-forms, experiences and energies. Its traditionally interpreted effects are found to be significant only in relation to the lower self, which is very much moved into action through attachment and response to previous patterns of desires, emotions and instincts.

The Moon does serve however as a veil over other influences, specifically those of Vulcan and Uranus. It is always worth experimenting with placing either of these two planets in the place of

the Moon. The same can be done with regard to the Sun as it veils Neptune.

In most cases the Moon will be veiling Vulcan in the earlier stages of soul fusion and will be veiling Uranus in the lives of men and women who have been walking the path a little longer.

To summarise we can say that the Sun is the present, the personality, the Moon is the past and the prison of the Soul, and the rising sign points to the future of the present incarnation. The Soul has determined this pathway to gain much spiritual growth for the individual in this lifetime.

Interpretation of the Signs, Lower and Higher rulers, and the Exoteric and Esoteric Keynotes

Aries



Rays 1 and 7 play through Aries. Impulsive and often thoughtless, ray 1 provides that searing power to bold and courageous experiences, just like a warrior. Ray 7 gives organisational skill. The exoteric keywords for Aries is, “Let form again be sought.” Once more into incarnation, the materialistic and selfish ways are manifested via ray 6 the ray of Mars which is the exoteric ruler of Aries. This is directed by the lower nature and not by contact with intelligence or the soul. Ultimately, the mind is brought into play and the developing personality begins to respond to Mercury, the higher or esoteric ruler of the sign, with its emphasis on communicating and thinking. This flows from the esoteric keynote, “I come forth, and from the plane of mind, I rule.” Mercury is on the 4th ray of Harmony through Conflict.

Taurus



In Taurus, the exoteric keywords are: “Let struggle be undismayed.” There is an emphasis on the lower vices of Venus, Taurus’s 5th ray ruler. Desire and passion hold sway in the unregenerate personality. Taurus ray is the 4th ray of Harmony through Conflict and many dramas have to be experienced before the soul is finally felt, desire is transmuted into aspiration and begins to respond to the 1st ray Vulcan, Taurus’s esoteric ruler. “I see and when the eye is opened, all is light.” The Light of the Soul comes forth when the third eye is opened.

Gemini

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“Let instability do its work” is the exoteric keynote for Gemini. For the personality, instability is like the flitting of the mind from one thing to another, never being able to concentrate on a subject for very long before moving on to something else. Jack of all trades who is master of none. We can see why this is as Mercury is the ruler of Gemini and has dominion over the mind. Venus, the esoteric ruler, begins to come into the life as the soul makes itself felt. “I recognise my other self and in that self I grow and glow”. Leaving behind the old instable self, Gemini begins to feel the higher self that is the discrimination of Venus and its 5th Ray. It sees the love and beauty of all that is and this then becomes its goal.



Cancer

“Let isolation be the rule, yet the crowd exists.” The exoteric keynote depicts Cancer, just like the crab, with a hard outer shell and soft centre. The emotional soft centre is sensitive and to be able to protect itself, it builds a hard outer shell that is difficult for others to penetrate. This can lead to isolation, particularly emotional isolation as the Moon is the ruler of watery Cancer that has to do with the emotions. As Cancer begins to listen to its higher self, it responds to its esoteric ruler, Neptune, all the time dispelling the myth and illusion that the planet represents to develop the intellect and to

discipline the volatile emotional body of the lower self. The higher self begins to assert itself and “I build a lighted house and therein dwell” the higher keynote, enables the individual to attract those around them from within with a growing light of knowledge and wisdom.

Leo



The Sun as ruler of Leo has all the planets circling around it and the Leo individual believes himself to be the centre of his universe. He is dimly aware of his surroundings as shown in the lower keynote: “Let other forms exist; I rule because I am,” because he is so intent on himself. As the soul-infused Leo grows and through its Rays 1 and 5, it becomes a powerful force for good. He makes a good leader of men.

Virgo



Its materialistic nature is symbolised by the exoteric keynote, “Let matter reign.” The mind is concerned with money and possessions as Mercury is Virgo’s ruler. Virgo is also concerned with practicality, service, hygiene, the minutiae of things, how they work, likes to take them to pieces for this reason. The Rays of manifestation for Virgo are Rays 2 and 6, the love line. Ultimately, Virgo is a sign that represents purification and service and Ray 2 of love-wisdom and Ray 6 of devotional love, when responded to, enable Virgo to become that. Vulcan, veiled by the Moon, is the esoteric ruler of Virgo and he engages Virgo in the thralldom of life so hones and purifies the soul aspect that is emerging. Vulcan is often called the grip of the soul and

wills to turn passion into compassion. The 4th ray of Harmony through Conflict that is carried through Mercury also adds to this process of emerging purity.

Libra



Venus is the ruling planet of Libra and Uranus is the higher ruler. “Let choice be made” is the exoteric keynote and Libra has to choose between the lower desires and the higher path of attainment. When responding to Uranus’ vibration, it’s felt as direct energy as opposed to when Libra is still unregenerated in Venus, and not always direct. This can be particularly true when the Libran doesn’t want to upset things and tries to please everyone without voicing a preference to anyone. With Venus, love in its lower form displays as selfish love, love with attachment, promiscuity, etc. When the soul begins to make itself felt, the higher keynote is responded to: “I choose the way which lies between the two great lines of force.”

Uranus then begins to drive the soul out to experience life, the goal is to develop a balanced and objective mind and life. When this has been achieved, the observing disciple stands poised and walks the central balanced path.



Scorpio

Scorpio is on the 4th ray of Harmony through Conflict and as such is most closely associated with humanity’s struggle from darkness to light. He has Pluto, which comes in on the 1st ray and Mars which is on the 6th ray, as ordinary rulers. The power of Pluto and his ray, the 1st, is in keeping with the battle that is drawn up in Scorpio. “Let maya rule and deception flourish” is the lower keynote and is displayed by reaching down to the depths where the hidden and deceptive exist. The negative vices of Mars and the 6th ray can be

most vividly seen in Scorpio, such as fiery anger, partiality, selfishness and jealousy.

As the soul begins to be felt, Mars continues to work through the scorpion as its esoteric ruler with the challenge, “Warrior I am, and from the battle I emerge triumphant”.

The goal is to overcome glamour- the emotional distortion of reality.



Sagittarius

“Let food again be sought,” any food will do for the Sagittarian as he gains experience on the ordinary wheel of life. Jupiter is the optimistic ruler of the sign and encourages the love of adventure as he shoots his arrows at the goal. The soul eventually makes itself felt with the higher keynote of “I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another.” Once the goal is reached, it has accomplished that and then searches for and attempts to reach the next one in his sights. This sign comes in on rays 4, 5 and 6 and with Capricorn are the only two signs with three ray rulers. The advanced Sagittarian soul has the Earth as its esoteric ruler and encourages him to go into the world for practical experience. He is a wise teacher, mentor and guide.



Capricorn

Three rays make their contribution to the consciousness of Capricorn, rays 1, 3 and 7. They are intelligent (ray3) leaders (ray1) who are highly organised and skilled in manifesting (ray 7) that which is required for the work.

“Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide” is the lower keynote for Capricorn and Saturn is both the exoteric and esoteric ruler of the sign.

Capricorn is a highly motivated, disciplined and responsible individual who works on the exoteric level selfishly towards a materialistic goal as per the exoteric keynote. Saturn’s lower

influence could be strict and unkind and selfish putting all his effort in an attempt, often successful, in climbing the ladder of materialism. Later, when, from the lofty heights of success, he realises that this is not all in life, he begins to respond to the higher keywords: “Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back” and begins to respond to Saturn’s higher influence. Endurance and hardship have brought him to the door of initiation and eventually “the light supernal” is visualised but, without a thought for himself, he looks down to humanity to help and assist them with their advancement.



Aquarius

This sign is on the 5th ray of the concrete mind. Its ruler exoterically is Uranus which is a 7th ray planet and its esoteric ruler is Jupiter which is a 2nd ray planet. Both the 2nd and 7th rays will be needed as the new age of Aquarius is ushered in and the 7th ray will soon be manifesting. Aquarius will need the love-wisdom of Jupiter and its 2nd ray to best develop the true meaning of the New Age.

“Let desire in form be the ruler” is the exoteric keynote and considering Aquarius is on the 5th ray of the concrete mind and knowledge, we see the ordinary Aquarian responding to the form side of life particularly through the Uranian ray of sciences like electricity; they are unconventional and have a desire for freedom also.

Eventually the life becomes more polarised toward a group awareness of humanitarian desires rather than a self-centred awareness and begins to respond to the esoteric mantram: “Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.”

Jupiter brings about group consciousness and inclusivity, important aspects of the Aquarian age and brotherhood. The advanced Aquarian will respond to this calling and will benefit the greater good of society, they can become those who will advance new discoveries in science and technology through the Aquarian 5th ray.

“Waters of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men” engenders the thoughts of enlightened and dedicated people who distribute love and wisdom to a waiting world.



Pisces

The water sign Pisces is an impressionable and sensitive person on the exoteric level. Ruled by the 2nd and 6th rays of the love-wisdom soft line, Pisces can instil love and compassion. “Go forth into matter” the young and impressionable soul is told. They can be affected by the illusiveness of the sign which has Neptune as its ruler and that is also on the 6th ray, a ray which speaks of faith, trust, devotion. Jupiter is also the more personal exoteric ruler of Pisces, Pisces has two exoteric rulers. Jupiter’s expansiveness affects the already borderless impressionable Pisces and the young soul will experience this and that along the way.

Later the esoteric ruler of Pisces, Pluto, gives Pisces courage and drives him in a one-pointed direction. It seems at odds with the usual Piscean personality of gentleness but really is just what Pisces needs: to gather up its diffused ways and to become one-pointed and focused.

“I leave the Father’s house, and turning back, I save.” This is the esoteric keynote and describes the soul leaving its natural home, returning to help others of humanity that are in need of upliftment.

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