

Triangles and Other Triplicities in Esoteric Astrology

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Course 150

As a beginning student of esoteric astrology, I was initially puzzled as to how to best approach this vast and complex, yet vital and fascinating subject, which is far more complex than exoteric astrology. Beginning to learn the basics of the signs and planets is a starting point, but still left me feeling like I was missing the better part of the big picture. I still have much to learn, but I started to feel like I was beginning to comprehend something of this vast subject only when I started to look at groupings and interrelations, and particularly, triangles and triplicities. Master DK says that the “Science of Triangles underlies all astrological deduction.”¹ This paper was written to examine this subject in more detail.

To start with the big picture, in correspondence to Monad, soul, and personality respectively we have three *main* levels of higher forces being “stepped down” before they reach the human individual. (1) Corresponding to Monad and Spirit, the three *Great Constellations* represent the first divine aspect (Will, Power); (2) corresponding to soul and consciousness, the twelve *zodiacal constellations* represent the second divine aspect, Love; and (3) corresponding to the personality and the external life, the *twelve planets* (7 sacred and 5 non-sacred), represent the third divine aspect.² However, the interrelationships are much more complex and there are additional “step-down” levels from planet to human individual, some of which are noted throughout the course of this essay.

The three *Great Constellations* are The Great Bear (seven stars), The Pleiades (seven stars), and Sirius. Their energies are not directly and consciously apprehended by the human individual on a regular basis until after the third initiation, when the energy of the Monad is consciously registered on a regular basis; until then, they are received in stepped-down fashion as noted above.³

The seven rays, great energies which condition all form, originate from the seven stars of the Great Bear. These seven Rishis (great beings who are embodied as the stars of the Great Bear) express themselves through the Planetary Logoi of the seven sacred planets (please see tabulation below),⁴ and some of them are also filtered through non-sacred planets (again, please see tabulation below).⁵

Each ray is transmitted to our solar system through *three* constellations, and the energies are further stepped down through *three* corresponding planets (three at the exoteric level for ordinary humanity and three at the esoteric level for disciples and initiates), as tabulated below:⁶

| Ray | Constellations | Orthodox Planets (Ordinary Humanity) | Esoteric Planets (Disciples and Initiates) |
|------------------|----------------|---|---|
| I. Will or Power | Aries | <i>Mars</i> | Mercury |
| | Leo | <i>Sun</i> | <i>Sun</i> |
| | Capricorn | Saturn | Saturn |
| II. Love-Wisdom | Gemini | Mercury | Venus |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| | Virgo | Mercury | <i>Moon</i> (veiling a planet) |
| | Pisces | Jupiter | <i>Pluto</i> |
| III. Active Intelligence | Cancer | <i>Moon</i> | Neptune |
| | Libra | Venus | Uranus |
| | Capricorn | Saturn | Saturn |
| IV. Harmony Through Conflict | Taurus | Venus | Vulcan |
| | Scorpio | <i>Mars</i> | <i>Mars</i> |
| | Sagittarius | Jupiter | <i>Earth</i> |
| V. Concrete Science | Leo | <i>Sun</i> | <i>Sun</i> |
| | Sagittarius | Jupiter | <i>Earth</i> |
| | Aquarius | Uranus | Jupiter |
| VI. Idealism, Devotion | Virgo | Mercury | <i>Moon</i> |
| | Sagittarius | Jupiter | <i>Earth</i> |
| | Pisces | Jupiter | <i>Pluto</i> |
| VII. Ceremonial Order | Aries | <i>Mars</i> | Mercury |
| | Cancer | <i>Moon</i> | Neptune |
| | Capricorn | Saturn | Saturn |

Non-sacred planets are italicized.

The twelve zodiacal constellations are represented by the familiar twelve signs of the zodiac. Each zodiacal constellation is ruled by *three* planets, depending on whether the influences being examined apply to “ordinary” humanity (the orthodox rulers), disciples and advanced individuals, or the Creative Hierarchies:⁷

| Constellation | Ordinary Man/Orthodox Planet and Ray | Disciples and Initiates, Planet and Ray | Creative Hierarchies, Planet and Ray |
|----------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. Aries | <i>Mars</i> , Ray 6 Related to Scorpio | Mercury, Ray 4 Related to Virgo | Uranus, Ray 7 (no related sign) |
| 2. Taurus | Venus, Ray 5 Related to Libra | Vulcan, Ray 1 Related to Pisces | Vulcan, Ray 1 Related to Pisces |
| 3. Gemini | Mercury, Ray 4 Related to Virgo | Venus, Ray 5 (no related sign) | <i>Earth</i> , Ray 3 Related to Libra |
| 4. Cancer | <i>Moon</i> , Ray 4 (no related sign) | Neptune, Ray 6 Related to Scorpio | Neptune, Ray 6 Related to Sagittarius |
| 5. Leo | <i>Sun</i> , Ray 2 (no related sign) | <i>Sun</i> , Ray 2 Related to Aquarius | <i>Sun</i> , Ray 2 Related to Virgo |
| 6. Virgo | Mercury, Ray 4 Related to Gemini | <i>Moon</i> , Ray 4 Related to Aries | Jupiter, Ray 2 Related to Leo |
| 7. Libra | Venus, Ray 5 Related to Taurus | Uranus, Ray 7 (no related sign) | Saturn, Ray 3 Related to Gemini |
| 8. Scorpio | <i>Mars</i> , Ray 6 Related to Aries | <i>Mars</i> , Ray 6 Related to Cancer | Mercury, Ray 4 Related to Aquarius |
| 9. Sagittarius | Jupiter, Ray 2 Related to Pisces | <i>Earth</i> , Ray 3 Related to Capricorn | <i>Mars</i> , Ray 6 Related to Cancer |
| 10. Capricorn | Saturn, Ray 3 (no related sign) | Saturn, Ray 3 Related to Sagittarius | Venus, Ray 5 (no related sign) |

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---|---|
| 11. Aquarius | Uranus, Ray 7 (no related sign) | Jupiter, Ray 2 Related to Leo | <i>Moon</i> , Ray 4 Related to Scorpio |
| 12. Pisces | Jupiter, Ray 2 Related to Sagittarius | <i>Pluto</i> , Ray 1 Related to Taurus | <i>Pluto</i> , Ray 1 Related to Taurus |

The non-sacred planets are italicized (as they are in *Esoteric Astrology*).

Of note, ray one is not represented in the listing for ordinary man because it is latent, as yet unexpressed. These are obviously of significance in evaluating an individual chart, as to whether we use the orthodox rulerships for ordinary man in our evaluation, or whether we use the rulerships for disciples and initiates. These are also of significance in evaluating the influences and energies available to us throughout the year as the sun (and full moon) move through the signs. The situation is yet more complex because of the decanates (each sign having three parts), additional correspondences, and other factors, but this gives us a good starting point for understanding that three planets are primary energies with each full moon, depending on the level of influence under consideration.

The twelve planets consist of the nine planets known to exoteric astronomy to orbit our Sun, including Earth, plus the Sun and Moon (treated as planets in exoteric astrology as well), plus Vulcan, a currently “hidden” planet. Whether a planet is sacred or not at a given time depends on the level of initiation achieved by the Planetary Logos of the planet at that time. Each planet steps down or filters a given ray, in effect “coloring” that ray with its own energy. Sacred and non-sacred planets, plus a corresponding ray that is stepped-down by the planet on its way to humanity in the current cycle include the following:⁸

The SACRED Planets and Rays that they Transmit

| | |
|------------|-------|
| 1. Vulcan | Ray 1 |
| 2. Mercury | Ray 4 |
| 3. Venus | Ray 5 |
| 4. Jupiter | Ray 2 |
| 5. Saturn | Ray 3 |
| 6. Neptune | Ray 6 |
| 7. Uranus | Ray 7 |

The NON-SACRED Planets and Rays that they Transmit

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Mars | Ray 6 |
| 2. Earth | Ray 3 |
| 3. Pluto | Ray 1 |
| 4. Moon (veiling a hidden planet) | Ray 4 |
| 5. Sun | Ray 2 |

There are three great crosses, cardinal, fixed, and mutable, with specific correspondences as below:⁹

| Cardinal Cross The Crisis of Initiation, Manifestation of Divinity | Fixed Cross The Crisis of Reorientation Manifestation of Christhood | Mutable Cross The Crisis of Incarnation Manifestation of Man |
|---|--|---|
| a. Initiation | Discipleship | Evolution |
| b. The Planetary Logos | Humanity | Kingdoms in Nature |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| c. Cosmic Initiation | Solar Initiation | Planetary Initiation |
| d. Spirit | Soul | Body |
| e. Life | Consciousness | Form |
| f. Monad | Ego | Personality |
| g. Three Initiations (Initiates) | Two Initiations (Disciples) | Ordinary Man |

Triplicities of constellations are considered triangles of *energy*.

Triplicities of planets are considered triangles of *force*.¹⁰

There are three major *groups* of energies and forces that affect us, zodiacal, systemic, and planetary:

1. Energies from the zodiac pass through Shamballa, are related to the first aspect (Ray 1, Will or Power), and specifically affect the Monad.
2. Systemic energies pass through the Hierarchy, are related to the second aspect (Ray 2, Love-Wisdom), and specifically affect the soul.
3. Planetary energies pass through humanity, are related to the third aspect (Ray 3, Active Intelligence), and specifically affect the personality.¹¹

Again, as noted above, in any triplicity there are three major qualities manifesting, or three basic energies seeking expression:

1. The threefold energy of the personality, the vital body being the synthetic expression.
2. The threefold energy of the soul, of which the egoic lotus is the expression.
3. The threefold Monad, of which three great streams of creative energy are the expression, which we identify at the first level of expression as the Spiritual Triad.¹²

Again, in any of the triplicities, we will find correspondences to these three. The further along we are on the Path of Return, the more we will be aware of the higher of these.

To help us understand this, Master DK gives us an example from *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* of the three types of fire:

1. Electric fire corresponding to the Monad and Will aspect (first aspect).
2. Solar fire corresponding to the soul and Love-Wisdom aspect (second aspect).
3. Fire by friction corresponding to the personality and the Activity/Intelligence (third aspect).¹³

As noted above, the three *great* constellations are the Great Bear, the Pleiades, and Sirius. Together these form a great triangle of energy, corresponding to and informing a stepped-down triangle on Earth (energies stepped down by the time they reach us through filtering as noted above):

1. The Great Bear corresponds to the Monad, and the unified seven energies from the seven stars of the Great Bear (seven rays) correspond to and particularly affect Shamballa.
2. The star Sirius corresponds to the soul, and its energies correspond to and particularly affect the Hierarchy.
3. The Pleiades correspond to the personality, and the unified seven energies from the seven stars of the Pleiades correspond to and particularly affect humanity.¹⁴

Related to this is a set of three triangles, each involving one of the great constellations, a zodiacal sign, and a planet, in the process of development:

1. Triangle corresponding to Shamballa consisting of the Great Bear, the zodiacal constellation Aries, and the planet Pluto.

2. Triangle corresponding to The Hierarchy consisting of Sirius, the zodiacal constellation Leo, and the planet Jupiter.
3. Triangle corresponding to humanity consisting of The Pleiades, the zodiacal constellation Cancer, and the planet Venus.¹⁵

In this we can begin to see the nesting and iteration of triangles at different levels that begins – just begins – to let us glimpse the complexity of esoteric astrology.

We must also keep in mind that these triangles are not static structures, as we might think from looking at lines or lists on a page, but are constantly dynamic and multidimensional energy flows and interrelations.

All triangles, again, have 3 aspects:

1. A major conditioning energy that produces manifestation, corresponding to the Monad aspect and Life.
2. A secondary qualifying energy that produces consciousness, corresponding to the soul (“Ego”) aspect and Quality.
3. A lesser expression of force that produces tangibility, corresponding to the personality aspect and Appearance.¹⁶

An additional set of triangles is as follows:

From the Great Bear, the Pleiades, and Sirius, the energies flow (respectively) through Leo, Capricorn, and Pisces, to Saturn, Mercury, and Uranus (the moon), to The planetary head, ajna, and heart centers, to The disciple’s head, ajna, and heart centers, and eventually control The base of the spine, throat center, and solar plexus.¹⁷

We could tabulate this information and related correspondences more specifically as follows:¹⁸

| | Ray I: Will, Purpose. First aspect; Spirit. | Ray II: Love-Wisdom Second aspect; consciousness. | Ray III: Active Intelligence. Third aspect; form. |
|---|--|---|---|
| Cosmic level | The Great Bear | Sirius | Pleiades |
| Zodiacal level | Leo | Pisces | Capricorn |
| Systemic level (planets in solar system) | Saturn | Uranus | Mercury |
| Earth – Planetary Logos | Shamballa Planetary Head Center | Hierarchy Planetary Heart Center | Humanity Planetary Ajna Center |
| Individual – upper centers | Head center Initiate Egoic purpose | Heart center Disciple Egoic love | Ajna center Aspirant Abstract mind |
| Individual – lower centers | Base of spine Initiate | Solar plexus Disciple | Throat center Aspirant |

We can see subsidiary triangles within this, including the following:

Leo (the will of self-determination), Saturn, and Shamballa.
Pisces (the will of sacrifice), Uranus, and the Hierarchy.
Capricorn (the will to choose), Mercury, and humanity.¹⁹

Interlocking triangles include those represented in each *line* of the chart:

The Great Bear – Sirius – Pleiades (cosmic triangle).

Leo – Pisces – Capricorn (zodiacal triangle).

Saturn – Uranus – Mercury (planetary triangle).

Shamballa – Hierarchy – Humanity (triangle of centers of the Planetary Logos of Earth).

Head, heart, and ajna center (a triangle in the individual).²⁰

A discussion of triangles and triplicities must include the following additional set of points regarding the functioning of *all* triplicities of energy in time and space (and we must remember that everything represents an energy, even if it names an apparently solid object like a planet).

The points in any triangle do not function identically to each other at a given point in time. Rather, *one* point will be the emanating, dynamic, conditioning energy (corresponding to the Monad, Will, first aspect), and *two* points will be receptive and are therefore regarded as “embodying forces.”²¹

1. The emanating energy center, symbolically at the apex of the triangle (by analogy, not physical location), is a positive, outgoing, dynamic energy.
2. The second center is a receptive force center, an *evocative expression* of the initial impelling energy. It is a *synthesis* of two forces, the emanating and the receptive. It is a qualified, conditioning, blended secondary energy that is neither positive nor negative.
3. The third center is a responsive point of negative (i.e., receptive) energy. This point is responsive mainly to point #2 described above, and can be a source of opposition to the energy from point #2, resulting in a sometimes violent interplay between the two points (#2 and #3).²²

Before proceeding further to describe this interplay of forces and energies, a familiar correspondence might be helpful. This is analogous to the energy flows between the Monad as emanating source, the soul as intermediary, receptive to the monadic energies and trying to send these toward the personality, but through early stages on the Path the personality may resist influx of soul energies.

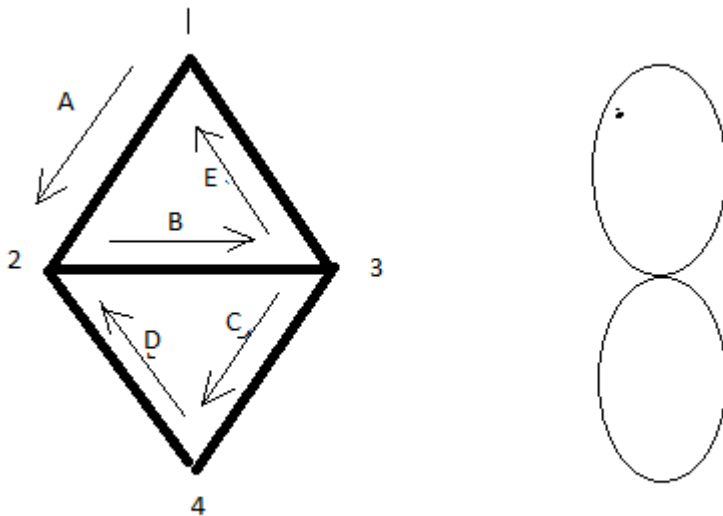
So far discussed has been the down-flow from an emanating center, to merge with and be qualified by (“colored by”) the energy of the a secondary center of reception, and from there to an additional focal point of reception, the third point in the triangle and the second of the receptive points, leaving one side of the triangle not yet completed.

The original emanating energy and the two resultant forces from the two receptive points then energize a secondary *reflected* triangle, pouring down one side of it *into (further) manifestation*, evoked expression on the physical plane. This forms a reservoir of balancing energies. This energy then eventually, with progress on the Path of evolution, returns to the original emanating source, completing both triangles.

The original triangle represents the Real; the reflected triangle reflects the Unreal. This calls to mind Plato’s noumena (the original triangle) and phenomena (the reflected triangle), the latter appearing as

real when viewed from within the veil of illusion, but in occult or esoteric fact being a reflection or shadow of the Real.

We can think of the down-flow as overall symbolizing and corresponding to manifestation in microcosm, or involution in macrocosm; and we can think over the upward flow as overall symbolizing and corresponding to the Path of Return, or evolution.



In the diagram point 1 is the original emanating center and A is the original emanating energy.

Point 2 is the evocative point, a neutral and receptive point, which in the outgoing phase qualifies the original energy and sends it to the third point; B is the transmission of the qualified energy (that is, qualified by the second point) to the third point.

Point 3 is the negative receptive point, a magnetic center, which in the outgoing phase of the energy flow receives it from the second point.

In the outgoing phase, the energy from point 3 (blended, including now the qualified energies from points 1 and 2) descends further into matter, producing manifestation and reflection of these energies in the lower worlds; C represents this descent of energy or force.

Point 4 is the furthest point of manifestation, or the turning point (of note, one who *chooses* to remain here, identified with materiality, is the black magician). From this point of lowest descent into density (vibrationally lowest), D represents the beginning of the Path of Return, the Path of evolution. From our perspective, this represents initial contact with the soul and the beginnings of building the antahkarana characteristic of the aspirant and probationer, responding to the evocative pull of the soul. Further on the Path of Return, the energy flow along B represents integration of up-flow and down-flow, or progressive integration of soul and personality characteristic of disciples and early initiates. Higher

initiates and Masters are working from the magnetic point, point 3, at a higher turn on the spiral, responding to and returning to the emanating center.²³

Of note, the triangle is the relevant geometric figure. A figure-8 was placed beside the triangle diagram simply to emphasize by analogy the cyclic and returning nature of the completed energy flow through the triangles.

Many more triangles of relevance to esoteric astrology could be described. This brief review of a few of them has provided a glimpse of the intricacy of the energetic relations. An attempt was made to give some idea of the iterations and reiterations of macrocosm-microcosm at different levels, as well as the correspondence at all of these levels to our involutory-evolutionary journey.

Endnotes

¹Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* (New York: Lucis Trust, 1951), p. 76.

²*Ibid.*, pp. 28-29.

³*Ibid.*, p. 29.

⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 85-86.

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 86 and 423.

⁷*Ibid.*, pp. 66-68.

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 513; per faculty advisor comment (11/29/2011), two rays are stated elsewhere for some of the planets, e.g., Venus – rays two and five; Neptune – rays two and six; Mars – rays six and seven. One (particularly those in the listed tabulation) may be the *personality* ray of the Logos of the planet, and the other, for those for which a second ray is stated elsewhere by DK, may be the *soul* ray of the Logos of the planet.

⁹Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* (New York: Lucis Trust, 1951), pp. 80-84.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, p. 407.

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 411.

¹²*Ibid.*, p. 414.

¹³*Ibid.*, p. 415.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 28-29.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 416-417.

¹⁶*Ibid.*, p. 420.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, pp. 79-80, and 421.

¹⁸*Ibid.*, pp. 427-428.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, pp. 435 and 439.

²⁰*Ibid.*, pp. 427-428.

²¹*Ibid.*, p. 459.

²²*Ibid.*, pp. 459-460.

²³*Ibid.*, pp. 459-464.

Bibliography

Bailey, Alice A. *Esoteric Astrology*. New York: Lucis Trust, 1951.

Faculty comment, Eva Smith, 11/29/2011.