PHENOMENAL COSMIC POWERS!

Little Time

BIG TOPIC
OVERVIEW

- Questions to ponder
- Useful vocabulary
- Reincarnation enters via religion
- East meets West
- The transmigration of souls
- It's all Plato's fault
- Alexander the Great tackles the world
- The soul's descent through the planets
- The trip back up after death

- The Zohar
- The plague disrupts everything
- Cosimo de’Medici helps kick off the Italian Renaissance
- The push back against Materialism
- Reincarnation keeps cropping up
- The Theosophical Society makes it popular
- New methods of connecting astrology and the soul
IF REINCARNATION EXISTS ... AND CAN BE READ IN A CHART...

- What is it that incarnates and reincarnates? Is there an end?
- Is reincarnation a punishment, a blessing, or an active choice?
- If places or cities can have soul, can they reincarnate?
- Can a soul evolve or is it eternal?
- Does the astrological chart read the past or the future of a soul’s (re)incarnation?

- Can the soul or the chart be divided into separate pieces?
- Are the planets a living connection to the divine?
- Are badly placed planets a judgment about our past karma or a challenge for our growth in this life? How would we know?
The following became universally known: first, [Pythagoras] maintains that the soul is immortal; next that it changes into other kinds of things; also that events recur in certain cycles, and that nothing is ever absolutely new; and finally that all living things should be regarded as akin.

Pythagoras seems to have been the first to bring these ideas into Greece.

- Porphyry

- Animating spirit

- The soul, mind, spirit, life, the invisible animating principle of entity which occupies and directs the physical body.

- The root is “to blow”, “to breathe” (the source is Sanskrit bhas-) psuché means breath as well as the soul in Greek
EAST MEETS WEST

WARS, TRADE AND THE TRAVELING SCHOLAR
There are over 200 surviving Upanishads, but 14 are considered the most important.

- **Samsara**: when we die, our soul is reborn, perhaps as an animal, or a human or a god, but always in a regular cycle (metempsychosis)
- **Moksha**: liberation or release. The cycles of rebirth can be ended.
- **Dharma**: right behavior or duty. We all have social obligations, a set of responsibilities.
- **Karma**: literally “action” – all actions have consequences, good and bad (and the difference may be difficult to determine). *Karma is impersonal, without judgment; an eternal law*
THE SOUL CAPTURED IN STONE (8TH C BC)

- The first of its kind, this stele was discovered in Turkey in 2008 by the Neubauer Expedition of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

- "I, Kuttamuwa, servant of Panamuwa, am the one who oversaw the production of this stele for myself while still living. I placed it in an eternal chamber(?) and established a feast at this chamber(?): a bull for [the storm-god] Hadad,...a ram for [the sun-god] Shamash,...and a ram for my soul that is in this stele...."
The Persian Empire of this period was widespread but the whole area from Egypt to India was not unified under a single leader until Alexander the Great.
PYTHAGORAS
(570-490 (OR MAYBE 495) BC)
PYTHAGORAS & THE TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS

“Souls never die, but always on quitting one abode pass to another. All things change, nothing perishes. The soul passes hither and thither, occupying now this body, now that... As a wax is stamped with certain figures, then melted, then stamped anew with others, yet it is always the same wax.

So, the Soul being always the same yet wears at different time’s different forms.”

“A famous fragment of Xenophanes, Pythagoras' contemporary, reports that “once when he [Pythagoras] was present at the beating of a puppy, he pitied it and said ‘stop, don't keep hitting him, since it is the soul of a man who is dear to me, which I recognized, when I heard it yelping’” (Fr. 7).”

http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pythagoras/
REINCARNATION AND THE IMMORTAL SOUL
PLATO 429–347 B.C.E.
In Plato’s Republic, Socrates describes a tale about the judging of souls.

- Newly judged souls were told to choose a numbered lot. They were then shown a variety of lives of every condition.
- When called by lot, they made a choice as to the next life. Socrates notes “the choice of souls was in most cases based on their experience of a previous life.” (Rep. 620a-d).
- They then visited the three fates:
  - Past: Lachesis (zodiacal signs & planets) She who allots. Measured the thread
  - Present: Clotho (zodiacal signs) The weaver. Weaves the thread
  - Future: Atropos (planets) Implacable, unyielding. Cuts the thread
PLATO’S 3-PART SOUL (FROM THE REPUBLIC, BOOK 4)

- **APPETITIVE PART**
  - Attached to pleasure, gratification. Love of money. Indiscriminate. Does not have intellect or is persuadable.
  - **GOVERNING VIRTUE IS TEMPERANCE.**

- **RATIONAL PART**
  - Our ability to think & talk things through. Attached to knowledge and truth. *Can regulate other parts and provide unity.*
  - **GOVERNING VIRTUE IS COURAGE OR FORTITUDE.**

- **SPIRITED PART**
  - Our energy to achieve goals, to fight and become aroused. Attached to honor, recognition, self-esteem. Can receive instructions from rational or appetitive part
  - **GOVERNING VIRTUE IS WISDOM**
PLATO’S 3-PART SYSTEM CHANGES FORM BUT STILL PERSISTS

FROM ANTONIO DE MONTULMO, EARLY 15TH C.

- Vegetative Soul:
  - Almuten of ASC, triplicity ruler of ASC
  - ASC, Moon, planets in ASC, hyleg

- Sensitive Soul:
  - Moon, planets in ASC, luminary of sect
  - Almuten of ASC and Almuten of Moon

- Intellectual Soul:
  - Moon, Mercury
  - Almutens of Moon and of Mercury
Human beings descend through the cosmos (through the Gateway of Cancer), lose memory of their divine life, and acquire their disposition from the planets.

During the ascent, judges are placed at each planetary sphere; if the soul is found wanting, it returns to Hades above the waters between the Moon and Earth, then is reincarnated for ages until it reaches a virtuous life.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT CONQUESTS (356-323 BC)

TEACHER TO STUDENT: Socrates to Plato to Aristotle to Alexander the Great
THE FALL-OUT: 100 YEARS AFTER ALEXANDER’S DEATH
THE BIRTH OF HELLENISTIC ASTROLOGY

- ~290 BC Library of Alexandria was built by Ptolemy Soter I
- ~280 BC Berosuss, a priest of Bel, moved to the Greek island of Kos; he taught astrology and Babylonian culture to the Greeks
- By 1st century BC, the zodiac signs were codified into a form we would recognize.
- By 2nd century CE, The Yavanajātaka (Sayings of the Greeks) is available in India and contains Greek astrological material written in Sanskrit.
A MOMENT OF MOURNING FOR
THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDER
CORPUS HERMETICUM (3rd Century CE) AND THE ASCENT OF THE SOUL
“Thus a man starts to rise up through the harmony of the cosmos.

- To the first plain [Moon] he surrenders the activity of growth and diminution;
- to the second [Mercury] the means of evil, trickery now being inactive;
- to the third [Venus] covetous deceit, now inactive,
- and to the fourth [Sun] the eminence pertaining to a ruler, being now without avarice;
- to the fifth [Mars] impious daring and reckless audacity
- and to the sixth [Jupiter] evil impulses for wealth, all of these now being inactive,
- and to the seventh plain [Saturn] the falsehood which waits in ambush”.

From The Poimandres, found in the Corpus Hermeticum
Who doubts that by the same law divine Mind is transfused into earthly bodies, that descent is allotted through the Sun, ascent through the Moon.

They are wrong who maintain that the only knowledge of the life and spirit of man is found in the birth chart—that is, in the ascendant and the MC.

It is true that the essence of life and spirit will be found in these places, but we must also diligently observe the courses of the Moon as well as the ascendant and the MC.

Mathesis 1.5-9

Bram, J. R. Matheseos Libri VIII p.118
MACROBIUS AMBROSIUS
THEODOSIUS (5TH C)

- In the *Dream of Scipio*, as the soul descends from heaven to earth, it acquires the capacities necessary for its bodily life from the planets:
  - Saturn: Theoretical thinking (logistikon)
  - Jupiter: Practical thinking (praktikon)
  - Mars: Spirited aspect (thumos)
  - Sun: Perceptual capacity (aisthêtikon) and imagination (phantastikon)
  - Venus: Appetite (orektikon)
  - Mercury: Linguistic capacity (hermeneutikon)
  - Moon: Vegetative functions (phutikon)

Ascent of the Soul (Paris, Bibliothèque nationale Ms. 3236A, f. 90r). Anonymous c. 1100-1200
EARLY CHRISTIANS

Basilides:

- Having the soul imprisoned in a body was not just for gaining knowledge and experience, but also provided punishment for lives previously lived.
- This is why Christians could still have a terrible life even if they were not sinning in this one.
SECOND COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE 553 CE

- Called by Emperor Justinian who used it to finalize his Edict of Justinian in 543 against Origenism
- Promoted the principles that:
  - Rebirth of the soul in this earthly realm is considered a punishment given over and over. It is rejected. Instead, having one life then being once or bodily resurrected to heaven is God’s grace.
DANTE ALIGHIERI
(1265-1321)
THE KABBALAH (13TH C)
ALL SOULS ARE SUBJECT TO REVOLUTIONS.

• Souls must re-enter the Absolute, from whence they have emerged. But to accomplish this end they must develop the perfections; the germ of which is planted in them. And if they have not developed these traits in this one life, then they must commence another, a third, and so forth.

• They must go on like this until they acquire the condition that allows them to associate again with God.

From the Sephar ha Zohar (13th C)
DEATH OF AN OLD WORLD

1347-1351 Europe is swept by the Bubonic plague, killing 1/3 of the population (regular outbreaks occur through to 1400, with sporadic outbreaks into the 1600’s). Creates:

- A labor shortage which ends the feudal system
- Rising political power of tradesmen and merchants
- The questioning of traditional religious answers
- Written materials on esoteric and magical practices within the Christian framework
- The rise of fanatical and ecstatic religious practices
“But if he employs things which pertain to such and such a star and daemon, he undergoes the peculiar influence of this star....And he undergoes this influence not only through the rays of the star and the daemons themselves, but also through the very Soul of the World everywhere present.”

De Vita, chapter 1.

Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499) *Three Books of Life*
THE AMAZING 15TH CENTURY

- 1438 Johann Gutenberg invents the printing press
- 1453 Constantinople falls to the Muslim Ottoman Turks,
- 1483-1546 Martin Luther
- 1492 Christopher Columbus sets out for India and discovers the Americas. Rabbi Abraham Zacuto was one of his mentors.
- 1497-1499 The Portuguese Vasco da Gama is the first European to reach India by an all-sea route.
PARACELSUS (1493-1541)

“Some children are born from heaven, and others are born from hell, because each human being has inherent tendencies, and such tendencies belong to one’s spirit, and indicate one’s state of existence before birth ...”

“What is the human body but a constellation of the same powers that formed the stars in the sky? He who knows what iron is, knows the attributes of Mars. He who knows Mars, knows the qualities of iron.

Franz Hartmann, M.D., The Life of Philippus Theophrastus Bombast (Known as Paracelsus). 1898
GIORDANO BRUNO (1548-1600)

Every act performed brings its appropriate reward or punishment in another life. In proportion as the soul has conducted itself in a body, it determines for itself its transition into another body.

The soul is not the body and it may be in one body or in another, and pass from body to body.
“When I see nothing annihilated and not a drop of water wasted, I cannot suspect the annihilation of souls, or believe that [God] will suffer the daily waste of millions of minds ready made that now exist, and put Himself to the continual trouble of making new ones.”

“Thus, finding myself to exist in the world, I believe I shall, in some shape or other, always exist; and, with all the inconveniences human life is liable to, I shall not object to a new edition of mine, hoping, however, that the errata of the last may be corrected.”

Letter dated 5/23/1785
The founding members, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831–1891), Henry Steel Olcott (1832–1907), and William Quan Judge (1851–1896), established the Theosophical Society in New York City in 1875.
EVERYONE WHO WAS ANYONE BECAME A THEOSOPHIST


- Astrologers: Sepharial, Alan Leo, Charles Carter, Margaret Hone, Alice Bailey, Grant Lewi, Dr. Franz Hartmann; John Addy, Llewellyn George; Manley P Hall, Marc Edmund Jones, Dane Rudhyar, Max Heindel, Rudolf Steiner, Alan Leo
THE GOLDEN DAWN

- Founded in London in 1888 by Dr. William Westcott and Samuel Mathers. The main society ceased to exist in 1903 but the ideas continued in various branches, including one headed by Arthur Edward Waite.

- Enormously influential on modern western occultism (and astrological practice).

- It combined freemasonry, theosophy, the occult writing of Eliphas Levi, Papus and medieval grimoire magic.

- A few of its most famous members were Aleister Crowley, Dion Fortune, Arthur Edward Waite, L. Ron Hubbard, and William Butler Yeats.
Before a study of esoteric astrology can be made, the two main ideas underlying all occult thought must be fully accepted, as the mainsprings of evolution, commonly known as Fate, or action and reaction, and the re-embodiment of the soul.

Without these beliefs, there can be no purpose in astrology, excepting to give the soul a limited and predestined career; in fact any study of astrology by an earnest thinker must at once reveal the possibilities of reincarnation, and a steady growth of the Ego.
I believe, and many believe with me, that the Zodiac portrays the pathway of the soul of man and of humanity. ... Furthermore it is evident upon consideration that the soul is a simple substance, and, as such, cannot suffer the dissolution which we call death, and which must befall all compound things, but only them. ... 

Man has a purpose and that this is an eternal purpose we see, analogically, in the circular Zodiac, which has no real beginning or end, when viewed as a whole and not as so many signs.

[Reincarnation] is the major corollary of the Law of Evolution. It has never been grasped or properly understood in the West...

As the life of God progresses onwards through form after form, that life in the subhuman kingdoms of nature proceeds progressively from mineral forms into vegetable forms, and from these vegetable forms into animal forms; from the animal form stage, the life of God passes into the human kingdom, and becomes subject to the Law of Rebirth and not the law of Transmigration.

- The Reappearance of the Christ - Chapter V – The Teachings of the Christ
It is not because you were born at a certain place or time that you react to influences, but the influences of that moment and that place in space show your potentials that can be actualized in the future. Fate is earmarked in tendencies, not in facts. ...

... We do not start here, and we do not finish our livingness here....

It is as though we have a built-in bookkeeping system. We have debits and we have credits. Some of us come into this life with a great deal of capital in our spiritual bank books. ... Others come in with a depleted bank account. This is the difference between an easy life pattern and a difficult one. However, there is nothing to stop us ... going to work to make up the deficit so we will have a surplus with which to function.

The horoscope is a blueprint of our character. Character IS destiny.
If we consider a birth-chart the symbolic seed of an individual personality, we can readily see that the growth of the germinating seed into a large tree depends, on the one hand, on the inner rhythm of the natural process of unfoldment of seed-potentialities into the actualized form of the tree, and on the other hand, upon weather conditions, sunshine and rain, and what insects, large animals, and human beings might do to the growing tree.

The birth-chart is only the starting point of this process, which even physical death may not end if the individual has succeeded in raising his or her I-center to the transindividual (or symbolically, the "galactic") level.

- Dane Rudhyar, *The Astrology of Transformation*. 

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**PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL – DANE RUDHYAR (1895-1985)**
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOUL

- Moon: Reorientation
- Mercury: Repolarization
- Venus: Revaluation
- Mars: Re-energization
- Jupiter: Reconversion
- Saturn: Re-incorporation
- Uranus: Transfiguration
- Neptune: Trans-substantiation
- Pluto: The Gate to Immortality
- The Proserpine Myth: The Resurrection and the Ascension
FINDING SOUL IN TWO ASTROLOGICAL FACTORS
What is a Soul? According to many spiritual, religious and metaphysical sources, including the Bhagavad-Gita and the Bible, the Soul is an immutable consciousness that has its own individuality or that identity that remains intact from life to life. In each lifetime, of course, the Soul manifests a personality that has a subjective consciousness and unconsciousness…

Each personality has an intrinsic nature, an orientation that experiences life in its own unique way. Each personality that the Soul manifests relates directly to the evolutionary necessities of the Soul.

The Soul through the personality must experience life in particular ways in order to grow and evolve. Each personality created is directly linked to the past evolutionary and karmic history of the Soul.
EXPANDING IDEAS IN MODERN SPIRITUAL ASTROLOGY
An acceptance of the fact that human beings incarnate in a succession of lifetimes.

An acceptance of the fact that the birth chart reflects the evolutionary condition of the soul at the moment of incarnation.

An acceptance of the fact that the birth chart reflects the evolutionary intentions of the soul for the present life.

An acceptance of the fact that the circumstances of the present life, both materially and psychologically, do not arise randomly, but rather reflect the evolutionary intentions and necessities of the soul.
An acceptance of the fact that human beings interact creatively and unpredictably with their birth charts; that all astrological symbols are multi-dimensional and are modulated into material and psychic expression by the consciousness of the individual.

An acceptance of the fact that human beings are responsible for the realities they experience, both internally and externally.

A respectful intention to accept and support a person seeking astrological help, no matter the evolutionary state in which such an individual finds himself or herself.
THANK YOU

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