

# ORIGINS OF ASTROLOGY

## MINI-COURSE

### THE 7 TEACHERS OF THE ZODIAC

#### MOTHER NATURE

*To understand nature is to also understand astrology.*

This first teacher is the one who gave birth to all the rest of the teachers that we will meet here today. Perhaps that is why we call her Mother Nature. She provides us with everything to sustain our lives. She gave us our body that allows us to feel, gives our minds a place to work and think and our spirit a vehicle to guide and grow with. Much like the patterns above that we see with the Sun, Moon, planets and stars, Mother Nature has her own rhythms, patterns and cycles which reflect and move in tune with the entire cosmos. When we hear the saying ‘as above so below and as within than so without’, mother nature holds the reflection of the below, and the without for us. Mother Nature is an open book for astrologers to study, witness and integrate all of the teachings that astrology holds. So now that you have met the first teacher in Mother Nature, she now tells you to follow her, to watch her move, watch how she changes and in that you will find your second teacher.

## THE SEASONS

As the Earth travels around the Sun, we see Mother Nature change in her appearance, and this change that we see is your second teacher... the seasons. The cycle of the seasons gives you the foundational cycle to understand the movement of every pattern in astrology. With the equinoxes and solstices we can see the growth process of life, the cycle of the plants and animals, the rise and fall of temperature and light. The cycle of growth emerges in spring, expresses in summer, releases in the fall, and sleeps in the winter. Everything alive moves in this same pattern - this is the essence of how life grows and moves here on Earth. So the seasons tell a story of life, and from that story the patterns of astrology emerge. So now that you have met our second teacher and see this initial pattern of the seasons, we can now meet your third teacher who contains the same core pattern as the seasons.

## THE DAY

The seasonal cycle is created by the Earth traveling around the Sun, but there is another cycle happening within that yearly journey. And that is the cycle of the Day. The day is your third teacher and the first example of this fractal like pattern that rests at the origin of all astrological wisdom. With the seasonal cycle of the year, we have our four seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter and the four pillars of the equinoxes and solstices. In this smaller cycle of the day we have

the morning, noon, evening, and night hours. And just like the four pillars forming a cross in the seasons with the equinoxes and solstices, we have the sunrise on the eastern horizon, high noon above, the sunset on the western horizon, and then the midnight point below that marks those four pillars for the daily cycle.

Everyday, we go through a mini version of the seasons. Sunrise is spring, noon is summer, sunset is fall, and midnight is winter. The colors, energy, and light is the same: the white early young colors of spring we also see in the morning, the full light and colors of summer at high noon, the golden hues of the dying leaves in fall are like the warm colors of sunset, and the darkness of the night time is like winter (we even see the stars above at night and they come down to the earth in winter as the snow). So everyday you have a cycle to learn from and live in tune with.

These last two teachers share with us how to grow in life. So now you see the ways that mother nature grows and changes, and you've met the first 3 teachers. But if you look deeper into mother nature, right in front of you is where you will find our last 4 teachers...

## THE ELEMENTS

Now if you look above us, below, us, inside of us, and outside of us, you will find our next four teachers in everything. These four teachers are the literal building blocks of life: the four elements of fire, earth, air, and water. So let's start with our first teacher of the elements as this one is the start of everything.

### FIRE

*Life begins with fire.*

At the beginning of creation there was fire, the first spark of light or the big bang or whatever you believe. It all starts with fire, light, awareness, consciousness. The element of fire initiated life. Our Sun is a large ball of fire and its light creates and provides our entire solar system with life giving energy. The light of conscious awareness within us is that fire within, our will and energy to move, our creativity, passions, and beliefs. The fire teaches us how to express ourselves and it encourages us to gather together around it, to share our songs and our stories, and express what is in our hearts as it, too, dances in front of us. Our heart is to our life what the Sun is to our planet Earth. The eternal fire of creation burns within each one of our hearts.... So if the fire gives us our hearts and consciousness, our next teacher gives it a home and vessel to live in.

## EARTH

The earth gives us our bodies and physical form. Our body is a vessel and home for our heart and consciousness. According to scientists, at the center of the Earth is a ball of fire so, again, we see that we are reflections of these patterns and arrangement of elements. The Earth teaches us about beauty, the realm of the senses, value, work and responsibility. The earth element blesses us with the tangible realm to shape, mold and apply our creative fires. So if fire is our consciousness and earth is our body, then the next teacher is the mediator between these two.

## AIR

For a simple example, if we look up to the Sun and down below us to the earth, what exists between the two? The element of air. Air is the space between things and delivers the rays of the sun to the earth. The air is our minds and thoughts. The mind delivers messages from our consciousness (fire) to our bodies (earth). Air is formless on its own, like our thoughts, but when applied to the earth it can move things and even cause disaster through storms. Our minds move the way the air does - sometimes calm, sometimes a strong gust of wind, sometimes a raging tornado or even a hurricane. The air also carries the pollen for the plants like our minds transfer information and ideas. What a beautiful gift of the air in our breath to be able to communicate with one another, to share and relate our thoughts,

ideas, and values, to laugh, sing and pray for one another. Now while these first three elements give us a good framework for life, our final teacher is the key to life as we know it.

## WATER

Our seventh and final teacher is none other than the life giving element of water. Water is life as we always say, even when we look to the stars to try to find life out there we know that first there must be water. Water is precious, and we can't live without it. It teaches us how to nurture ourselves and others, how to give and receive love. Water blesses us with the deep well of emotions in this life. We need love like we need water. When we see someone sick or having a hard time, we instinctually think to bring them a glass of water. Water also reflects light as our emotions reflect our consciousness: the still waters of a lake, pond, or puddle were our first mirrors allowing us to see our own reflections and begin to wonder who we are, looking into the ocean of our own eyes. Life as we know it emerged from the waters of the ocean.

So you see, the four elements merge together in agreement with one another to create life and if you look even deeper you will see that each one can't exist without the other. Fire needs earth to burn, air to breathe, and the water gases to ignite. Earth needs the water to nurture it, fire and light to reveal it, and the air to hold it. Air needs

the fire and heat to move, earth to give it form, and water to purify it. And the water needs the earth to hold it, fire to liquify it, and the air to give it its cycle.

So these are your seven teachers of the zodiac and really your teachers in life for that matter, way beyond astrology. But you will start to see that the word astrology and life are interchangeable. The study of astrology is the study of life, and consider that the way you view and use astrology reflects the way you view life... Therefore if you think astrology is a deterministic and fate telling system with no choice or creative control, then perhaps you think that of life. But if you see that astrology reflects the pattern of creation and the natural patterns that we live within and create our lives with, then you will see that fate and free-will are not separate but are happening at the same time.

*We are fated to our birth charts, our bodies, and the cycles and timings of the planets but what we do with them is up to us and our spirit's free will to choose.*