

Volodymyr Kraine

ASTROLOGY

Without an Astrologer



HIDDEN WORLD

Three chapters to explore

From the idea of time to the structure of a chart and its astrological houses. Three complete chapters from the second edition.

In this sample

Author's Note

Chapter Three. Time

Chapter Nine. How the Astrological Forecast Works

Chapter Ten. Astrological Houses

These are selected chapters, not consecutive opening chapters. The original text, illustrations and page numbers are preserved. References to other chapters refer to the full edition.

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Author's Note

“If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.”

Albert Einstein

This book is intended for the widest possible audience – from beginners to my fellow practitioners. In it, I briefly explain and demonstrate how astrological symbolism works – and beyond that, how symbolism as a whole operates. You will not find complex terminology or lengthy philosophical explanations here. After reading this book, you will be able to interpret any form of symbolism, whatever its nature may be. It will provide you with a solid foundation for studying or refining your ability to translate the language of symbols.

Chapter Three. Time

But we have strayed from the main subject – the study of time itself. From our school years, we remember: time is a measure of change. If nothing were changing, we would be unable to trace its flow. This raises a question: does time disappear when change ceases? Modern science says yes – in that case, time seems to vanish. It does not exist as an independent substance but only as a reflection of processes. Yet this is merely the viewpoint of our era. In Plato's time, "modern science" claimed that the Earth was the center of the universe. We now know that is not true, but, interestingly, this revelation did not harm astrology – neither then nor now.

The first thing twentieth-century scientists discovered was that time flows unevenly near objects with strong gravity. The closer one is to the center of such an object, the slower time passes. Simply put, a person living in the mountains will experience slightly more time than one living in the valley, even if both live the same number of years. The difference is negligible – only a few milliseconds over eighty years – but it exists. This means time is not constant. It already has one known property: the speed of its flow depends on conditions. And that is enough to begin approaching an understanding of what underlies astrology.

Let us try to imagine time as a field of opposites: on one side, it flows swiftly; on the other – in a black hole – it stands still. These two poles give rise to an average flow. If we assume that time governs all processes rather than the other way around, then events, too, can "flow" differently – quickly or slowly. Our subjective perception makes some of them pleasant and others painful. In astrology, this is precisely the distinction between "soft" and "hard" events. Hence arose the interpretation of some planets as beneficent and others as maleficent. Once again, the principle of opposites reveals itself.

Astrologers claim that planets influence human life. Scientists object: a refrigerator exerts a stronger gravitational pull on a person than all the planets combined. Yet neither side truly understands what gravity is. I have studied data on the gravitational influence of the planets and the Sun on the Earth. Indeed, the Moon and the Sun have a noticeable effect on the movement of water. If astrology were based solely on gravity, that influence would be sufficient. However, it considers not only them but also at least five other planets and two fictitious points – the latter clearly exert no material force.

To understand what truly affects a person, one must first understand what a person is. We see the body, composed of organs, cells, and, further still, down to the quantum level. We acknowledge the phenomenon of consciousness, but we still do not know what it truly is. Studying biology, chemistry, physics, and neuroscience, we discover countless factors that influence us. There are so many that it is hard to single out one as primary. One thing is clear:

a human being is a collection of interconnected processes. And a process is something that exists within time. If, as I claim, processes do not generate time but rather time governs processes, then it affects both the planets and the inner world of the human being.

Let us take a favorite example of astrophysicists – a person falling into a black hole. For simplicity, let us give them a watch. As they approach the black hole, their own perception of time will not change: the watch will tick as usual. But for an outside observer, everything will appear differently – the hands on the watch of the falling person will slow down. Clearly, in this case, there are two dimensions of time: the local time – the watch on the person's wrist – and the observer's time, where the watch slows.

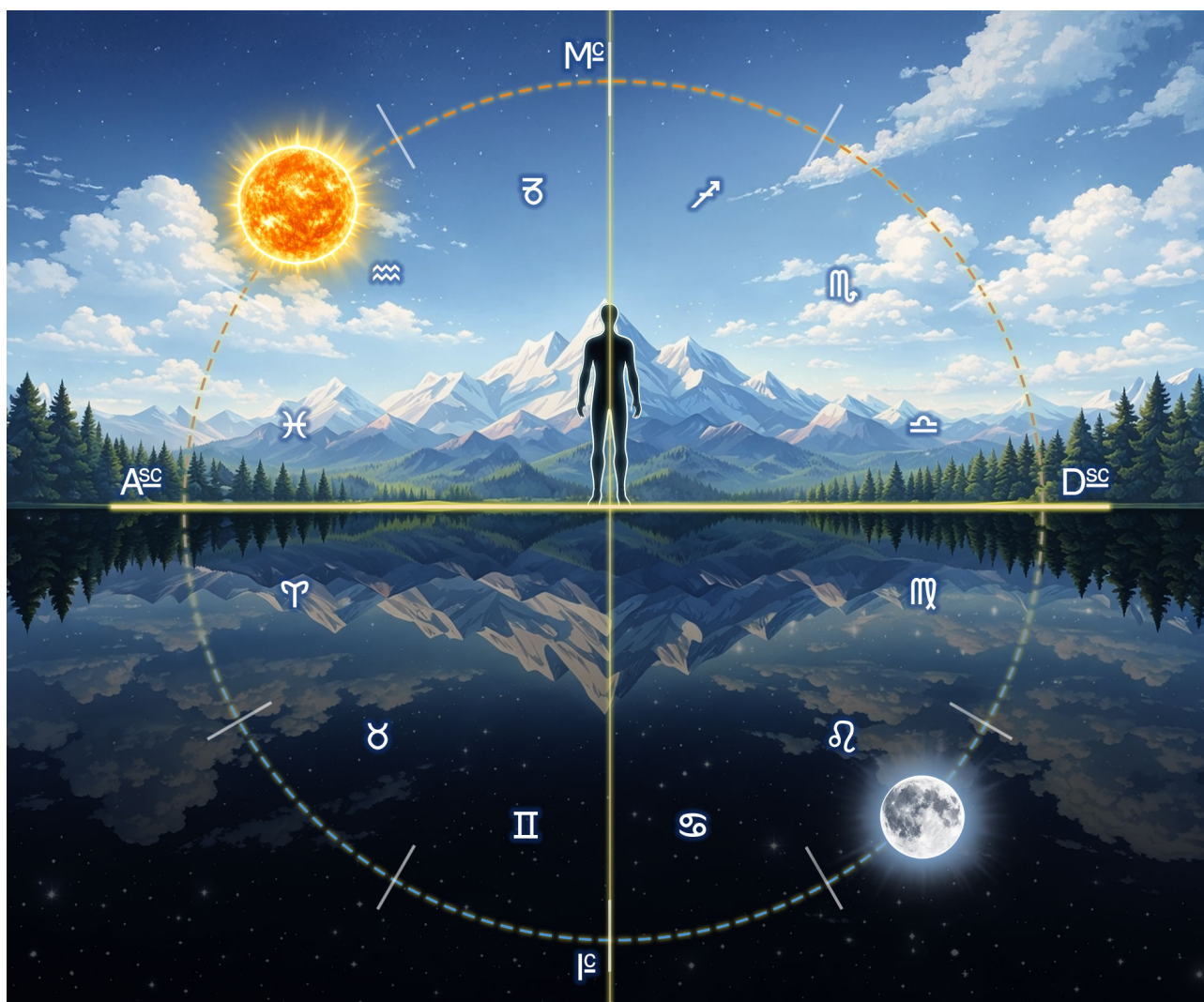
Another example is simpler. You stand atop a mountain and see a thundercloud. Descending into the valley, you warn people that rain is coming, but they do not believe you: the sun is shining, the sky is clear. After a short while, the cloud covers the valley, and everyone gets wet. Here there is no difference in the actual passage of time, but there is a difference in the observer's perception.

When a planet moves along its orbit around the Sun, that motion itself is a process. All processes in the Solar System are governed by a single time. Observing the motion of the planets, we are, in essence, observing time in action. For us, the planet we see is like the thundercloud from the example: changes in its processes signify that we, too, will undergo similar transformations.

Planets do not directly affect the Earth – time affects both the planets and us. And that is only part of the explanation. The second part lies in understanding what consciousness is.

Chapter Nine. How the Astrological Forecast Works

Let us begin to examine the rules by which astrology operates. For this, we need the starry sky, upon which we will trace the apparent path of the Sun as seen from Earth.



We get a semicircle that cuts across the horizon. If you look north, the Sun rises on the left and moves to the right, just like the hand of a clock. But if you look south, the Sun moves from right to left, counterclockwise. In astrology, both methods of observing the Sun's movement are used. There is no real difference between them – people simply built their coordinate systems in different ways.

We have already considered that any process has a beginning, a middle, and an end. The same applies in astrology: sunrise symbolizes the beginning, when the sun is at its highest point – this corresponds to the midheaven, and when it approaches sunset – this marks the end of the day. As soon as we have a day, by applying the principle of opposites, we get night. The

end of the day gives rise to the beginning of the night, and the end of the night – the beginning of a new day. Opposite the midheaven lies the bottom of the sky. Now we have formed a circle, divided by two lines. First, it was the horizon separating the upper from the lower, then a vertical line from the midheaven to its bottom, separating the left side from the right.

Let's pause and reflect. Everything seems logical – top, bottom, sunrise, sunset. But why exactly this way, and not the opposite? There are nocturnal animals and creatures living underground or in the depths of the sea – below the horizon. Why did someone decide that the astrological chart should be the same for everyone? Of course, it isn't. Symbolism changes depending on the dominant perspective we choose. For example, in Tarot, a reversed card changes its meaning to the opposite: the masculine principle becomes feminine, and the feminine – masculine. Yet all esoteric tools are made for humans, and therefore it's important that a person understands how they work.

Science tells us that orcas, whales, and dolphins are highly intelligent. If we assume they have astrology, it would be different from ours. The entire symbolic system would change. These are not rigid rules, but rather an adaptation of the laws of the Universe to the type of being that uses them.

We have said that the first three elements are repeated in every esoteric art. In astrology, the first house, representing the "I," embodies an active, masculine principle, while the seventh house opposite it embodies a feminine, passive one. Their interaction gives rise to the middle and the bottom of the sky – similar to the third Tarot arcana, the pregnant Empress. We do not know whether the Empress will give birth to a boy or a girl. This uncertainty creates duality. Two middles – like two children born of a union. Thus, the middle of the sky represents the active masculine principle, where time manifests most actively. The second middle – the bottom of the sky – symbolizes the passive feminine principle, where time behaves most calmly.

Alongside the metric system, we also use the imperial system. Meters and centimeters coexist perfectly with inches and feet. Both measure distance and serve the same purpose – to record and convey information.

The metric system is based on the laws of nature, while the imperial one is based on human body proportions. Though the imperial system may seem old-fashioned, it is still in use. The astrological coordinate system may also seem archaic, but its purpose is to convey information necessary for predicting the future. Until we discover all astrological patterns in nature, it is more effective to use a system of coordinates that may be outdated but still works.

Let us return to the astrological circle. Is the circle itself obligatory? No, it is not. The Indian school of astrology, for example, uses square charts of two types: one resembles the modern

astrological circle, and the other consists of diamond-shaped figures, which may look unusual to the modern eye. You can choose whichever coordinate system you prefer – the main thing is not to mix them. Meters don't add up with feet: you must first convert everything to one system of measurement to avoid confusion. If you mix different systems, you can get absurd results – as if you were adding “soft” to “cold” or subtracting temperature from a liquid. Many modern esoteric traditions commit such absurdities. I often come across phrases like “12 metro-inches” or “a liter of Celsius degrees.”

In astrology, we measure the flow of time – it makes sense to measure it as our clocks do. Essentially, the astrological chart is a clock. The twelve signs or constellations of the zodiac correspond to the twelve divisions of the dial. One can mark sunrise and sunset. There are also calendars. In everyday life we use only the solar calendar, but in astrology there are many calendars – lunar, mercurial, martial, and others.

Let's stop at one – the solar – and try to forecast the future. Suppose we want to know when day and night are equal in length. There is an exact answer known from school: March 21 and September 23, the equinoxes. We cannot influence them – they are predetermined. Have we learned the future? If our goal is to know when day equals night – then yes. Is there any magic or divine intervention here? No. This is knowledge based on observation. Is it prophecy, prediction, or divine interference? That depends on one's level of understanding. For a dark and uneducated society, it is a miracle. For the knowledgeable – a forecast. It repeats, and free will does not affect it.

However, a clarification is needed: the equinox does not always fall exactly on these dates. In recent years, it can occur on March 20 or September 22. Nature dislikes precision, and therefore astrology always allows for tolerance – an error margin that must be considered in analysis. That is why it's difficult to name the exact date and time of an event.

What about the date of the onset of winter, for instance? Imagine you are an ancient person living without a calendar. Everything is fine – there's food and plenty of game – and suddenly snow falls. Mushrooms and berries disappear, animals and birds scatter. Do you think modern science can predict precisely when it will snow next year? No. But astrology, with a certain margin of error, can, because it symbolically describes a sudden change associated with hardship and deprivation. It doesn't have to be snow, but if the symbol coincides with the astronomical date of winter, the probability that it's indeed snow is high. Now imagine an ancient astrologer telling a person who doesn't know what a calendar is when the snow will fall. Doesn't that look like prophecy?

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”

– Arthur C. Clarke, *Profiles of the Future*, 1962

As long as my explanation matches the scientific knowledge of today, everything appears more or less logical. It fits within the worldview of the ordinary person. But science has

already gone beyond what an ordinary person can comprehend. We simply trust scientists – they have conducted experiments and verified everything. Yet scientists are human too, and they make mistakes. Through these mistakes, science evolves. But astrology does not. It cannot evolve because science lags behind. Once, there were no separate sciences – mathematics, chemistry, or physics. All of these were united in a single discipline – astrophysics, which included mathematics, astronomy, alchemy, and astrology, the celestial sciences. What humanity managed to explain became separate sciences; what it could not explain remained in the realm of mysticism or magic – as Clarke noted.

Returning to astrology and its calendars: today we know that winter does not begin simultaneously everywhere on Earth. Moreover, in opposite hemispheres the seasons are reversed. Can astrology predict snow in the southern hemisphere? No. India, Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Mesopotamia – these are the places where astrology was born and developed. It was created exclusively for the Northern Hemisphere, and all its conclusions apply only to it and to people born there. Other regions require additional research and corrections to the astrological system itself. This is indeed a serious problem. Because astrology does not evolve, we have a society that either blindly believes in it or invents “liters of Celsius degrees,” thinking that in doing so they improve it.

My explanation of symbolism – astrological in particular – is, of course, not complete and does not encompass all esoteric schools. But one must start somewhere. Perhaps in the future, I will expand my studies with new discoveries. For now, let us limit ourselves to what truly works and rests upon a foundation that can be verified.

Chapter Ten. Astrological Houses

We have already determined that astrology accurately works for the Northern Hemisphere and only within certain latitudes. We drew a circle divided by two lines, and as a result obtained four sectors. This division is rather symbolic and serves only to identify the places where time behaves in a special way.

In Chapter Three, we said that time has a wave-like nature. And therefore, like any wave, it passes through four clearly defined phases.

The first is the rising phase, when the flow of time accelerates and moves upward.

The second is the peak phase, when the speed falls to zero and the wave reaches its maximum.

The third is the descending phase, when motion accelerates again but now directed downward.

The fourth is the base phase, in which the wave passes through the point of equilibrium, completing one cycle and moving into the next.

The four points that appeared as a result of dividing the circle vertically and horizontally precisely correspond to the phase transitions of a wave. This shows that such a division is not accidental but reflects the very wave nature of time. In astrology, such points are traditionally called houses. In Indian astrology – Jyotish (from Sanskrit) – they are known as “fields of manifestation.” These fields have no clear boundaries, yet it is within them that time reveals itself most vividly.

The term *astrological houses* probably came from the Indian tradition. The word used in astrology has an everyday meaning – “house.” Historians still debate the origins of astrology, but since almost all schools use a system of houses, and only Jyotish calls them fields of manifestation, it is reasonable to assume that modern astrology originated from the Indian one and was transmitted with translation distortions. To avoid confusion, I will continue to use the traditional term *houses* for these fields of manifestation.

In Chapter Six, we discussed the laws of art and later developed the theme of story structures. Between the four phase transitions lie stages corresponding to the three parts of a narrative: beginning, action, and conclusion. Each phase symbolizes a beginning. Each house, formed by the intersection of the horizontal and vertical lines, is called an angular house because it forms an angle. Four angles create four beginnings.

The entire circle is divided into twelve parts, which means that between the angular houses there are two additional fields of application – two houses. For convenience, let's number the

angular houses counterclockwise: 1, 4, 7, and 10. If these houses correspond to the beginning of a story, the ones following them represent the action: 2, 5, 8, and 11. By analogy with narrative structure, the next group represents results or endings – when conclusions are drawn and changes occur. Let's number these houses of results, or houses of transformation: 3, 6, 9, and 12.

Using this simple analogy, we have created a coordinate grid of changing time velocity. In fact, the astrological houses in Jyotish are well-studied, and it is clearly described how time behaves in each phase and what changes it brings to material processes.

Imagine you are sailing in a boat rocking on the waves. When the boat climbs to the crest, all loose objects roll from the bow to the stern. At the very top, everything seems to freeze. As the boat descends, the objects rush back – from stern to bow. At some point, everything pauses again, and the cycle repeats. This continues endlessly throughout your life. There are two moments of stillness – at the crest and at the trough – and two periods of acceleration: first toward you, then away from you.

Astrology works like a collection of stories – each begins with a particular phase. Let's start with the first phase, when the boat climbs toward the crest. This means a story begins in which everything seems to fall into your hands. But one must be careful: not only soft clothes fly toward you, but also sharp knives.

The second story begins when the boat reaches the crest. During this phase, you possess everything that came to you earlier, but gradually begin to lose it – the boat is preparing to descend.

In the third phase, as the boat rushes downward, you lose everything that belonged to you in the previous one – even what you managed to grasp.

And in the fourth phase, when the boat freezes at the bottom, you are left only with what you were able to preserve – only what truly belongs to you.

It would be simple if the boat were moved by only one wave – in a single direction. But in Jyotish, we work with nine planets, which means nine waves act on the boat simultaneously, each pulling it its own way. Sometimes the waves overlap and amplify one another if they move in similar directions. At other times, they cancel each other out if their forces are equal but their directions opposite.

You can apply this model to any event in your life and see that everything indeed works in this way. All forces of nature obey these phases of time. You cannot resist the ocean itself, but you can move within the boat or, like a captain, steer between the waves. This is where your free will resides. You cannot influence the strength or direction of the waves.

Think about the chaos of events we live in – and how often it seems to us that we are the ones controlling our destiny. Yet without understanding how these waves act upon the boat, it

is hard to keep balance and even harder to maneuver. But armed with knowledge, and having learned to withstand the rocking, you can safely and confidently pursue whatever you wish.

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Astrology Without the Astrologer

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