

John Frawley's Real Astrology
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By Sarah Laurent, Newsletter Editor

This writeup is but a brief taste of the many ideas John discussed. To learn more, you can read his books, *The Real Astrology* and *The Real Astrology Applied*. John also teaches a correspondence course through his website, www.johnfrawley.com. John began by saying that the best way to learn astrology is to learn the ideas behind it. Once your ideas are straight, the actual practice is common sense. He illustrated his point with a couple of easy examples. Several years ago he moved, and the family cat disappeared. So he cast a horary chart with the question "where is the missing cat?" A horary chart is cast for the time and place the question registers in the astrologer's brain. Everything in the universe can be described by a house, and cats are in the 6th house. (Animals smaller than goats are in the 6th house; larger are in the 12th.) In this instance, Jupiter was in the 6th and it ruled the 6th. Therefore, the cat was in its old home and, since Jupiter is a great benefic, the cat was happy. Jupiter was also Rx and in Pisces. Retrograde: is the cat coming back? Yes. In Pisces: the cat was either wet or very comfortable. Since the cat was happy, it must not have been wet.

Traditional astrology also works well for weather forecasting. John's friend had planned an outdoor barbecue and wanted to know if the weather would cooperate. He cast the chart not for the day of the party, but for the time and place the question was asked and comprehended. Since it was a party, you look at the 5th house. The sign on the cusp was Aries, as befits a fiery party, or barbecue. Planets are nouns, signs are adjectives. However, Mars was in Cancer, so it would be a wet barbecue. What sort of wet? The Moon was in Pisces: really wet. The Moon was conjunct Jupiter: a downpour. As it happened, that day turned out to be the wettest day of the year.

What is astrology?

Astrology is the science of light. Light existed before the Sun and Moon were created. This is essential light: the light of the essences of things. Astrology works by communication of essential light.

This is a subtle, refined light that cannot be stopped. It communicates from essence to essence. It's the reason you can't stay inside and avoid your Saturn return; it will find you anyway.

In traditional optics, light emanates from the eye, strikes an object, and returns to the eye with the image of the object. The eyes are ruled by the Sun and Moon, which give light and don't receive it. The eyes also give out light. If you don't believe this, try staring at a sleeping cat and see how long it stays asleep.

The Sun is essence and the Moon is soul. The right eye of a man is ruled by the Sun and his left eye is ruled by the Moon. A woman's left eye is ruled by the Sun and her right eye is ruled by the Moon. When a man and woman gaze into one another's eyes, there's a communication of essence to essence, soul to soul.

Light comes from essence (the Sun) and is reflected through the colors of the 6 traditional planets. Nothing exists in a pure state. Everything has the qualities of all 7 planets. For example, everything has Saturn (form), or we couldn't perceive it. Likewise, everything has Jupiter (extension).

Tropical vs. sidereal

Images of the signs didn't come first. The nature of the section of the zodiac came first. The image is in the sky to illustrate that symbolism. For example, the sign Aquarius is associated with reason. It's the only place in the zodiac that has sweet water. All the water signs refer to salt water.

There is a 3-fold modality working in each of the 4 elements, which give us the 12 signs. The signs have nothing to do with the constellations and never did. The problem with sidereal astrology is that the constellations are very irregular. They don't occupy neat little 30-degree sections of the sky; Leo takes up half the sky, for instance. The zodiac signs don't have a physical manifestation. We're dealing with essences.

How to learn astrology

If you want to learn astrology, you shouldn't begin by reading astrology books. You'll learn a lot more by reading Marcello Ficino's *Book of Love*. Anything of value in the Renaissance can be directly attributed to Ficino. The book is a commentary on Plato's Symposium and never mentions astrology. It talks about love in all its forms, what to do with it, how to cure it. He describes the Part of Fortune without ever using the word.

Love is the child of plenty and poverty. It is derived from adding the Sun and Moon, minus the Ascendant. The Sun = plenty. The Moon = poverty; it is always hungry. The Ascendant is the point of incarnation. The Part of Fortune is what we truly love in the marrow of our bones—the pearl of great price.