

HORARY ASTROLOGY

The word 'Horary' comes from the Latin word for 'hour'. In this tradition, the astrologer will draw up a chart for the precise time and place at which a question was received (by the astrologer) as a Horary. This chart – linking together the person asking the question, the question itself, the astrologer and the astrology itself – is then used as the basis for interpretation in order to answer the question.

Features of Horary Astrology

This branch of astrology is very ancient, and can be thought of as the 'in-house' divination method. It has a number of features, for example:

- Not every question is 'fully permitted'. This means that the Horary may tell us that this is not the 'right tool for the job', in which case we will revert to considering the usual progressions and transits in relation to your question.
- The answer may be short and sweet, or short and sour, depending on what we 'want to hear'!
 - The Horary may suggest that it's too soon to tell, and that more information needs to surface, at which time the question may be asked again.
 - The Horary may simply let us know that it's too late to affect the outcome in any way, and we need to stop 'flogging a dead horse'.
 - The Horary may lead us to question the question itself! i.e. is it a sincere wish for guidance and help, or is it motivated by curiosity alone?
 - The Horary will often 'veto' 3rd party questions, depending on the nature of our involvement with and responsibility for the person about whom we are asking.
- The Horary will sometimes offer precise indications as to the timing of the unfoldment of the situation in question.
- The Horary may point in the direction of psychological or spiritual issues.

Framing a Horary question

As in all esoteric work and divination traditions, Horary functions on a 'need to know' basis. Real, heart-felt, necessary questions concerning our life-situation and those close to us will usually be answered. However, by contrast, the question 'Who is going to win the election?' is usually not a valid question, unless you are connected personally with the election results in such a way that they directly affect your career, income or job prospects. In general, there needs ideally to be some 'authorship' or personal initiative involved, so that the underlying 'template' for a Horary question is something like this:

Is this (job, decision, partnership etc.) in line with the will of the gods or not?

In other words, it is natural for us to seek the 'line of good fortune' in our lives and we find this when our own initiatives are in line with the 'greater good' or the 'higher purpose' of our lives, not when we are simply pursuing the 'feel good factor' or wanting things to go the way we want them to go.

If you feel a 'burning question' formulating, take your time with it and contact me when you are ready. I will run a preliminary check on the chart to see whether it's a question I feel I can usefully work with, and we'll take it from there.

Diligence and Orientation:

Training with two masters of Horary technique:

1989-90 – Geoffrey Cornelius of the 'Company of Astrologers'

2012 – Deborah Houlding of the 'School of Traditional Astrology' (Practitioners Certificate)

I am very interested in how this valuable traditional technique interfaces with a psychological approach, and so have used Horary down the years in ways that are experimental, in addition to respecting the tradition. The rich 'astro-dialogue' that arises from this kind of work is for me something inspiring and deeply enjoyable to engage with.