



Astrology, Karma and Transformation

The Inner Dimensions of the Birth Chart

Stephen Arroyo

(Sebastopol, CA: CRCS Publications, 1992 [1978])

Stephen Arroyo does a masterful job in presenting astrology as a tool for spiritual and psychological growth. In *Astrology, Karma and Transformation*, his writing style is down-to-earth, direct, practical, easy to read and understand...frankly, a joy to read. One gets the sense that Arroyo's perspective is spiritual with the intent of providing material in support of individual growth and development... '*transformation*' IS possible.

The nature of the material suggests there is a lot to take in, however the text is not in the least bit daunting. One might think the author's psychological approach would tend towards being dense and difficult, but that could not be farther from the reality. Personally, I 'felt' the spiritual quality and intent behind the words and was able to relate the concepts clearly and meaningfully to my own chart, and life experience. Arroyo and his approach clearly resonated with me at a very deep level.

From the beginning, Arroyo states that 'dealing with questions as karma, reincarnation, and self transformation is based on assumptions that contradict many unspoken assumptions that underly "common sense" and most types of astrological interpretation.' He seems to be immediately addressing the skeptics, which was absolutely the correct place and time to do that, since any need to defend the material is completely dissolved. He also says that "Once one sees reincarnation and karma as facts of life – and dedicates oneself to self-transformation based on spiritual ideal – all the traditional labels, meanings, and interpretations of event-oriented astrology are turned inside out.' I, for one, will go on record as saying, 'hallelujah to that!' How often do we get bogged down with labels and hemmed in by views purported to be concrete and irrefutable? A spiritual perspective, by its very nature, cannot be nailed down or allocated to any one type of individual or experience.

While the entire book is packed with value, I found Chapters 8 and 9 to be particularly significant. Here, Arroyo discusses Progressions and Transits in a clear, succinct and meaningful way. If we consider the intent of the book, and perhaps our individual life journeys, his explanation of how these methods related to the 'cyclic nature of human growth and development' is, to my mind, one of the most valuable parts of this text.

Throughout the book, Arroyo refers to his own wealth of experience and research, lending significant import and credibility to the material, as well as giving life to the various concepts through clear examples. As it turns out, this is a VERY practical book and one that I will continue to use, and cite, going forward. Without doubt, one of the best and most useful astrology books I have read. If you don't already have a copy, I recommend you acquire one and circumvent the multitude of less impactful options available. Absolutely a MUST for any astrologer, or student of astrology, with a spiritual or evolutionary focus. [JL]