



Chasing the Dragons

An Introduction to Draconic Astrology

Victor Olliver

(Swanage UK: The Wessex Astrologer, 2022)

Prior to reading Victor Olliver's article in the May/June 2022 edition of the 'Astrological Journal', I had no knowledge of draconic astrology. I recall thinking the topic was interesting, but I was reluctant then to pursue it any further. Life is busy and astrology is a vast subject. Another technique? May be not the best use of my time. However, somewhat indirectly, my interest was piqued when I had the opportunity to hear Victor Olliver deliver a talk at the recent Astrological Association Conference. The topic had nothing to do with his book, but it was so well delivered that I remember thinking, if he can write as well as he speaks there may be something to gain by investigating *Chasing the Dragons*. I was not disappointed!

Style aside, I found the material fascinating. The book begins with some history and then moves on to an interesting discussion on the question of 'Soul', citing varied sources and perspectives. As Olliver observes, 'Soul' 'is a mysterious feature that evades any absolute or agreed-on definition'.ⁱ On this point I agree...it is interesting to consider what this means within the realm of astrology and astrological practice. The aim of draconic astrology, the author tells us, is 'to give the soul a (louder) voice', as well as being 'a catalyst for self-realization'.ⁱⁱ We also learn the 'draconic chart is not an alternative to the tropical birth or event chart. It is designed to be a specialist supplementary chart.'ⁱⁱⁱ For me, the idea that a technique might magnify themes already represented in the tropical chart, or lead to greater understanding of an issue, is quite compelling.

Within the subsequent chapters the basic technique is outlined in detail, and a three-step approach to draconic analysis is provided. The method is clearly explained with illustrative examples that reflect both historical and modern-day references. The author discusses specifics within the charts while walking us through his thinking, elaborating on placements, aspects, and their meaning. In this case, understanding the astrologer's thought process was extremely helpful in applying the techniques to personal chart examples.

Perhaps the section that captivated me the most was the very personal experience shared by the author. Using the draconic approach to discuss the passing of his mother, he illustrates the potential to understand a deeply complex situation more fully than might otherwise be possible with traditional methods. In sharing this example, Olliver perhaps opens a door for us to seek answers to such questions which have previously been elusive.

Overall, *Chasing the Dragons* is a fascinating read. There is so much more that could be said, but I will now leave it to you to explore this well-written and thoroughly enjoyable book on your own. Personally, I will look forward to Victor Olliver's next book. [JL]

ⁱ Page 32.

ⁱⁱ Page 32.

ⁱⁱⁱ Page 5.