



The Lunation Cycle

Dane Rudhyar

(Santa Fe, NM: Aurora Press, 1982)

This book '*does what it says on the label*'...Rudhyar does indeed provide a very full account of 'The Lunation Cycle'. At times his references are philosophical and psychological, however in the section entitled *The Pattern of the Lunation Cycle*, he slips into a very poetic rhythm as he describes the "cycle of periodic changes" reflected in the movement of the Moon and its relationship to the Sun.

Rudhyar is not considered an 'easy read'. But, if one can 'tune in' to his prose, his writing is rife with meaning. It's a bit like training one's ear to Shakespeare to absorb the full benefit of the dialogue. Once I crossed this bridge, and really began to deeply contemplate this work, I couldn't help but feel a kind of resonance with Rudhyar's perspective on the purpose, and value, of astrology. As the material unfolds, it seems that we are being invited to elevate our thinking and simultaneously consider both the spiritual and the cerebral. But I'm drawn back to the poetry of his words because that is where I began to make a real connection to the material. Aren't we often moved by the emotion evoked by the poet? And isn't this what entices us forward?

The book contains many practical and technical references which, at times, are presented in a somewhat convoluted and complicated manner, such as the summary of the moon phases and the eight lunation types of personality. But, by taking some time to contemplate and absorb, I felt prepared for the increasingly deeper and richer meaning that unfolds in the second half of the book.

Rudhyar suggests that, '

What astrology can help us do is to discover consciously what our thwarted instincts are often no longer able to reveal with convincing clarity to our confused ego. It can also show us quite conclusively the basic reasons why, in our particular case the life-force no longer flows with ease – thus, the causes for the absence of full and vibrant happiness in our life.'

A reflection, I think, of the reason many of us come to study astrology or consult Astrologers?

The notion that 'life isn't easy' is made clear by the statement, '*The normal way for most human beings today is to follow the line of least resistance.*' Rudhyar suggests '*there is another way – the full moon way, the conscious way which begins with clear vision and an objective awareness of the purpose and meaning of the entire cycle or field of "life" as far as the individual's capacity for living and seeing goes.*' In a way, this sums up the purpose, and the value, of *The Lunation Cycle*. Reading it may not be a quick and easy task, but then I don't believe Rudhyar intended it to be. This is a deeply meaningful text and, if one approaches it with an open and contemplative mind there is a great deal to be gained. [JL]