



## The Tapestry of Planetary Phases

### Weaving the Threads of Purpose and Meaning in Your Life

Christina Rose

(Bournemouth UK: The Wessex Astrologer, 2011)

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Recently, when Christina Rose's book reached the top of my reading list, I had only just finished Dane Rudhyar's *The Lunation Cycle*. Coincidence? I think not! The timing could not have been more perfect.

I continue to marvel at the profound meaning of the patterns, cycles and phases of life which, as the author notes, can be drawn 'into more personal and practical understanding in the day-to-day application of astrology.' In the Introduction, Rose lays out a framework for what is to follow, offering the potential to more clearly understanding Rudhyar's writing on the topic. 'Potential' became 'reality' in the first chapter when, in a few brief pages, the meaning of the 'lunation cycle' quickly fell into place. Immediately I was grateful for the clarity, and practicality, which was somewhat elusive in Rudhyar's text. Please be assured that it is not my intent to be critical of Rudhyar. His work is powerful and important, though at times challenging to read. However, when an author follows up with work that makes the concepts more accessible, you know the book you are holding is a 'gem'!

*The Tapestry of Planetary Phases* is well written and Rose's style provides an enjoyable read. Her skillful use of metaphor combined with the ability to weave a story, creates mental images that help to anchor key concepts and establish a foundation for, as the author says, 'a direction finder' to 'get back on track,' when life seems difficult and we are operating 'out of phase.' But, even more than that, the material, including *Planetary Pairs* and *Phase-Relationships*, offers a way to understand a chart more deeply. As I began to assimilate the relevant technical elements, and experiment with my own chart and others from my client files, it seemed clear that the planetary phases suggest layers of potential understanding more in tune with one's life experience than the standard traditional analysis of a chart might allow.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that this book requires more than a rudimentary understanding of astrology, however Rose does make the material accessible by providing wonderfully organized illustrations, tables, and chart examples. If you take the time to explore these, and consider your own examples as well, I assure you the results will be well worth the effort.

One of the overarching themes, and I believe the true value of Christina Rose's work, is the emphasis on living our lives in flow with the natural rhythms of the Earth, and the Cosmos. As astrologers we can get lost in technicalities that pique our interest but, for the consulting astrologer, it is the essence of the individual's 'actual living, growing, changing, unfolding life' that is most important. *The Tapestry of Planetary Phases* offers an intriguing and powerful tool, to 'weave the threads of purpose and meaning' of one's life, offering the potential to connect deeply with what is most significant for our clients and ourselves. This book would be a worthy addition to any astrological library. [JL]

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