



## Direction and Destiny in the Birth Chart

Howard Sasportas

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This book is divided into three different sections, based on three seminars given by Howard Sasportas during 1990 and 1991. Reading through the Preface, written by Liz Greene, one is reminded of Sasportas's unique approach to astrology. One that made his work interesting, readable, and enriching.

Each section: Vocation; The Moon's Nodes; and, The Astrology of the Helper, is well organized and clearly presented. Some charts from seminar participants are provided to illustrate the concepts and the lively dialogue with the individuals makes this undeniably useful. The book begins with an introduction to the term 'vocation'. Sasportas describes it as 'a summons from your deeper Self, a call from somewhere inside to express yourself through some sort of service', in brief, it is about 'meaningful work'. Yes! From my own point of view, if the work is not meaningful then why are we doing it? This question is asked, answered, and expanded upon later in the book, specifically within the third seminar transcript.

In the section entitled 'Vocation', I am reminded of *'Apollo's Chariot'* by Liz Greene. Sasportas writes that 'the task is to constantly work on developing and improving and manifesting more and more of your Sun-sign.' What follows is an interesting discussion about understanding vocation within the birth chart, and why some of us take a little longer to find what we consider truly meaningful work. The theme of 'vocation', as Sasportas clearly illustrates, is a complicated one. However, he offers a lot of food for thought, including sharing his own 'points of reference' which provide a useful framework for consideration.

The second section focuses on the Nodes of the Moon. I particularly like the way Sasportas brings in the perspectives of other astrologers, offering a contrast of ideas. I found myself contemplating my own view and incorporating nuances of other ideas that I had not previously considered. Following a discussion on the principles of the North and South Nodes, a very interesting section on 'Will and choice' proposes that 'the tension or conflict suggested by the nodal axis actually helps us to develop the will, and to make choices.' From this foundational thinking, we are easily able to absorb the discussion about sign placements which follows. Transits, synastry and aspects to the Nodes are also referenced.

The final section, 'The Astrology of the Helper', is perhaps what I found most interesting. Here, Sasportas considers the question of 'Why do we help?'. As he observed, there are many different types of 'help' and 'helpers', and the motivations are many. As Astrologers, 'why we do the work?' is perhaps one of the most important, or significant, underlying questions that must be answered if we are to serve others with compassion and intentionality.

Sadly, Howard Sasportas is no longer with us, but we may continue to draw upon his knowledge and wisdom through excellent material such as provided in *'Direction and Destiny in the Birth Chart'*. And for that, I am grateful! [JL]