

Morin's Book 21

Of the Active Determination of the Celestial Bodies and the Passive

Determination of Sublunary Things

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Translated from Latin by Penelope Sitter

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I first became aware of Morin when I was still new to astrology. I was drawn to an offer for an 8-week class entitled the 'Morin Method of Astrology'. It promised to provide clear structure for chart interpretation which, at that stage of my development, I had not yet found. Morin was my introduction to a 'process'.

Morin's Book 21 has been touted as the 'crown jewel' from his *Astrologia Gallica* which was, as Robert M. Corre tells us in the Foreword, written during the seventeenth century and intended to 'present astrology as a practical discipline based on a solid classical philosophical foundation.' As Corre points out, the intention of the work was to help the astrologer think for themselves, necessitating an 'unbiased and disciplined frame of mind.' *Hallelujah!*

With this translation from the Latin text by Penelope Sitter, her hope was that 'Morin's voice comes through to give the sense that he is talking directly to the reader with a great desire to explain his meaning.' In my view she has succeeded admirably! She states that from her perspective, *Morin's Book 21* 'has a beauty that only lucid reasoning, stated in a direct and honest voice, can bring to human thought and argument.' Music to the ears of a Capricorn Moon, and reflective of what I had hoped to gain more than a decade ago, without the benefit of this text.

Throughout the book Morin sets a clear and valuable example, questioning traditional authorities and relying on reason and experience hence, speaking and thinking for himself. Sitter suggests that Morin 'wants to reach back to his idea of the earliest authority to restore astrological method to its origins. He wants to discover the true foundations of the method and the true reasons for them.' Drawing those ancient beginnings into the current day is almost refreshing, devoid of extraneous references and colloquialisms which can often cloud the meaning of what one is attempting to learn.

The text itself is not a quick or easy read. However, as is often the case, if one takes the time to read, consider and absorb, it is rich with meaningful detail. At times, Morin's perspective on basic astrological elements differs from the ancient Astrologers whom he claims, 'went astray'. Something he strives to correct within the first three chapters. If one of Morin's goals was to make the astrologer think for themselves, then I can safely say he does that. One cannot help but pause to consider his views in contrast to some of his contemporaries (like Kepler for example), while contemplating one's own approach to delineation. The scope and nature of his philosophy becomes more prevalent in the remainder of *Part I*, evidenced by the title of each chapter which is phrased as a question.

In *Part II*, the text takes on a different tone and texture. It becomes more focused on specifics of chart interpretation. *Chapter III* goes into depth about planetary placements, when there are 'several planets in any house,' including a discussion on approaching a '*stellium*' (multiple planets within a house). I found this particularly interesting, and I think others might find it as useful and helpful as I did. All parts of this section are equally fascinating, reminding me of the value in utilizing the basics.

Following the main text, 'THE END OF THE TWENTY-FIRST BOOK', there is an *Appendix of Charts* which leads with Morin's own horoscope. A wonderful perspective from which to reflect upon his work. *Morin's Book 21* is an appropriate volume for serious students and interested practitioners of astrology. Not an easy read but, definitely worthwhile! No doubt it was a painstaking task to translate such a text, and Penelope Sitter is to be commended for her careful and organized presentation of this material. The result is a highly readable volume allowing Morin's work to be more widely accessible and undeniably useful.

[JL]