



Under a Sacred Sky

Essays on the Practice and Philosophy of Astrology

Ray Grasse

(Swanage, England: The Wessex Astrologer, 2015)

This is the second of Ray Grasse's books I have had the pleasure to review, and I enjoyed this one just as much as the first. The author's style has an easy flow, and one cannot help but be quickly drawn in by the interesting and thought-provoking text.

I loved the first chapter, *'The Enchanted Cosmos: Symbolism, Synchronicity, and the Astrological World View'*, where Grasse sets us up for what is to follow. Here he establishes what I believe is an important theme, 'the astrological cosmos is...a world of stories rather than atoms.' This notion relates very well to historical references, motion pictures, and other elements that we might consider a 'sign of the times', all of which find representation within this collection of articles. Many examples are familiar, though there is a different level of significance and wisdom evident in how Grasse presents them.

Whilst I enjoy the familiar references, I am also delighted when I learn something new. For example, I had never really given much consideration to 'Tectonic Triggers' - the power of station points and their influence on the individual and collective levels. Chapter 13 was eye-opening. The interviews with Richard Tarnas and Laurence Hillman were also fascinating.

Another important theme in this work is the significance of how we, as astrologers, counsel and communicate with our clients. Lots of good material here, along with some meaningful reminders that our words have impact and influence. For this reason alone, the book would be an ideal read for anyone practicing, or planning to practice, astrology.

Under a Sacred Sky represents a collection of articles previously published in well-known periodicals; however, I was struck by the value in having all of these brought together in one volume. From the philosophical to the practical, there is a wealth of knowledge and experience captured in Grasse's writing. He is not only clear, interesting and insightful, but his writing is indicative of a marvelous 'storyteller'. I thoroughly enjoyed each chapter! *[JL]*