



SOUL, SYMBOL and IMAGINATION

The Artistry of Astrology

Brian Clark

(London, UK; LSA/Flare, 2019)

What can I say? Brian Clark had me at the 'Preface'. His style of writing is warm and welcoming...I felt gradually drawn into a comfortable and familiar conversation.

As the author suggests, this is not a 'how to' or a book of 'techniques' but, rather, it is about the 'fine art of astrology and what happens when engaging in its mystery'. The description of astrology as 'a soulful and evocative practice' resonates with me deeply. The idea that we can use this tool to engage with meaning and insight so we might better understand ourselves and our lives reflects one of the primary gifts of this *art*.

The book is well-structured and Clark weaves together twelve evocative chapters with astrological insight, philosophy, poetry, and myth. The prose is delightfully poetic and thought-provoking all at once, each topic gliding into a new layer of experience with the one that follows.

In the chapter entitled '*Time*' the natal chart is described as the 'archetypal blueprint for the human journey of the soul.' Relating the horoscope to the moment of birth, Clark suggests that this represents the 'crossroads when the human soul becomes temporal, no longer suspended between worlds but locked onto the mortal grid.' Throughout the book 'soul' is the common thread linking each topic together, creating an inextricable relationship between them adding to the richness of the material.

Clark's creativity is on full display while grounded with sensitivity and an appropriate degree of rationality. He has skillfully and artistically given us a way to contemplate astrology on a much deeper level than pure technical understanding. As he shares in the chapter '*Metaphor*', 'metaphors and myths encourage us to see through literal expression so we can catch sight of a new way of perceiving our feelings, actions or ideas.' He illustrates this technique as he discusses client examples which are interesting as well as touching.

I could continue with highlights for every chapter but discovering what the book has to offer is a potentially enriching experience requiring a personal connection with the material. For me, '*Soul, Symbol and Imagination*' was a joy to read. Brian Clark reminds us that 'If astrology's gaze remains focused outside self with formula and facts, then the mystery of the soul's story remains unobserved.' Hence, with this quote, he summarizes the importance and significance of '*The Artistry of Astrology*'. [JL]