



The Family Legacy

Astrological Imprints on Life, Love & Relationships

Brian Clark

(Stanley, Tasmania, AUS; Astro*Synthesis, 2016)

*'Memories, stories feelings, images, responses and reactions await us as we encounter our family history. Being the sons and daughters of our familial legacy, we are the genes and DNA, the blood and earth as well as the spirit and soul of our ancestors.'*¹ In this brief statement, Brian Clark speaks to the complexity of the subject, eluding to the potential richness associated with this type of enquiry, but also the trepidation some may feel at the idea of exploring family relationships and lineage.

For those who choose to walk down this path, *'The Family Legacy'* is an essential resource, rich with Clark's extraordinarily soulful perspective on every aspect of the subject. From background and foundational detail, through various techniques in delineation, to family life cycle considerations, and much more, this work is as complete as one could ask for. Clark submits that, *'We cannot know our soul until we have understood the souls of those who have been before us'*², and then proceeds to offer us the opportunity, and methods, to dig deeply so we may begin to understand ourselves and the role we have within our family system and lineage.

As we strive to make our way in life, experiencing the joys and challenges family relationships engender, one might reflect upon this inspiring and hopeful quote by Thomas Moore:

*'What if we thought of the family less as the determining influence by which we are formed and more the raw material from which we can make a life.'*³

It is one thing to look at a natal chart and discern the potentiality of the individual, but quite another to draw in the familial relationships that have influenced one's life. What Clark has done so effectively, is to offer methods of astrological analysis and insight while drawing in real-life practicalities, so that our personal experience may benefit from a new level of conscious awareness.

I first read this book when originally published in 2016. Having just finished my second reading, and with significantly more experience in the field, I felt a deeper connection with the material as my observations were validated and my perspective enriched. Intellectually, the book was thought-provoking. Emotionally, it was resonantly moving. Overall, a joy to experience.

For the consulting astrologer, or individual enthusiast, the value in Brian Clark's work cannot be over-stated. He writes about casting an 'astrological eye' over 'family threads and patterns, suggesting that it *'evokes a sense of belonging to something much greater and more profound than we can ever know.'*⁴ This speaks to my 'Why' in choosing to do such work, and the reason I am so grateful for Clark's contribution to the field. [JL]

¹ Brian Clark, *The Family Legacy*, pg. 7.

² Brian Clark, *The Family Legacy*, pg. 9

³ Brian Clark, *The Family Legacy*, pg. 11

⁴ Brian Clark, *The Family Legacy*, pg. 375.