



The Psychology of Astro*Carto*Graphy

Jim Lewis with Ken Irving

(New York, NY; Words and Things, 2012 [1997])

*The Psychology of Astro*Carto*Graphy* is based on the ground-breaking work of Jim Lewis. The 2012 version (the Second Edition), according to Kenneth Irving, might be considered 'vastly' improved over the first edition with some updates and additional material. Lewis passed away in 1995, so the production of this volume was possible largely through the efforts of Irving, a long-time friend and associate of Lewis, and the late Erin Sullivan. It is evident that the collaboration was a labour of love, each contributor feeling as strongly about the technique as they did about the legacy of Lewis himself. So, what can you expect from the book?

Part technical, part cookbook, and part psychological in its approach, the topic is not one for beginners. There is a lot to absorb. Often, curiosity prompts us to dive into the elements of a book that seem personally relevant before considering the rest. However, in this instance there is a strong recommendation to resist that temptation. You will be disappointed if you are expecting a traditional 'how to' guide, though there are elements of the 'cookbook' in sections. In fact, the author dedicates a full page entitled 'Zen and the Art of (Not) Cookbookng' to introduce the section on 'Natal Astro*Carto*Graphy, stressing this very point. As the book's title suggests - 'The Psychology of' - *psychology* underpins the entire work. There is a distinct benefit in taking the time to digest the material and contemplate the practical application afterwards.

PART ONE: Lines Around the World, offers a fascinating discussion on 'space and time' as well as shadowed planets. The related concepts of Astro*Carto*Graphy are illustrated with detailed examples of people and events. These sections are well written, providing enough material to underscore the significance of the individual's chart set against the backdrop of the world map. As the author suggests, *'the prime value [of Astro*Carto*Graphy] lies in its ability to identify those places of the world that are corelated with the archetypes which are emerging in one's conscious as one matures.'* The examples of Jim Jones and Jonestown, the story of Harvey Milk, and an overview of some of the US Presidents highlighting the influences apparent during their presidencies, really bring the technique to life.

The popularity of Astro*Carto*Graphy since it was introduced in the 1970's, suggests that many people seem to be searching for a 'best place to live', or the best place to achieve a certain goal or lifestyle. One of the key points raised in the book is the notion that *'every planet in the horoscope seeks outer manifestation...and that every planetary principle in the chart needs to be expressed at some time in the life'*. This seems to bring us back to the idea that 'wherever you go, there you are'. There is the suggestion that you have some choice about where you might go to allow a particular planet to 'shine' or the related archetype to be expressed, or perhaps relocation may offer an opportunity to develop something previously hidden. Interesting ideas to contemplate. These are some of the important concepts shared in the early part of the book that provides the basis for understanding 'Natal Astro*Carto*Graphy', the subject of PART TWO, or 'Cyclo*Carto*Graphy', the subject of PART THREE. Personally, I approached this book with the question 'Why have certain places resonated with me so strongly?'...a query that I was able to satisfy as a result.

Regardless of your interest in the topic, or your 'leading question', reading the full book from beginning to end is sure to evoke some interesting contemplation. [JL]

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