

Astrology and the Child

GOD IS LIGHT," says the Bible, and we are unable to conceive of a grander simile of His Omnipresence or mode of His manifestation.* Even the greatest telescopes have failed to reach the boundaries of light, though they reveal to us stars millions of miles from the earth. We may well ask ourselves, as did the Psalmist of old, "Whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell (the Hebrew word means "grave" and not "hell"), behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me."

When in the dawn of Being *God the Father* enunciated the *Word*, and the *Holy Spirit* moved upon the sea of homogeneous *Virgin Matter*, primeval darkness was turned to Light. That is therefore the prime manifestation of Deity, and a study of the principles of Light will reveal to the mystic intuition a wonderful source of spiritual inspiration. As it would take us too far afield from our subject, we shall not enter into an elucidation of that theme here except so far as to give an elementary idea of how divine Life energizes the human frame and stimulates to action.

Truly, God is One and undivided. He enfolds within His Being all that is, as the white light embraces all colors. But He appears threefold in manifestation, as the white light is refracted into three primary colors: *blue*, *yellow*, and *red*. Wherever we see these colors they are emblematical of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three primary rays of divine Life are diffused or radiated through the sun, and produce *life*, *consciousness*

**This article comprises selected writings from Max Heindel.*

and *form* upon each of the seven light bearers, the planets, which are called "the Seven Spirits before the Throne." Their names are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus. Bode's law proves that Neptune does not belong to our solar system and the reader is referred to *Simplified Scientific Astrology* by the present writer for mathematical demonstration of this contention.

Each of the seven planets receives the light of the sun in a different measure according to its proximity to the central orb and the constitution of its atmosphere. The beings upon each, according to their stage of development, have affinity for some of the solar rays. They absorb the color or colors congruous to them, and reflect the remainder upon the other planets. The reflected ray bears with it an impulse of the nature of the beings with whom it has been in contact.

Thus the divine Light and Life come to each planet either directly from the sun or reflected from its six sister planets, and as the summer breeze which has been wafted over blooming fields carries upon its silent, invisible wings the blended fragrance of a multitude of flowers, so also the subtle influences from the garden of God bring to us the commingled impulses of all the spirits, and in that varicolored light we live and move and have our being.

The rays which come directly from the sun are productive of spiritual illumination; the reflected rays from other planets make for added consciousness and moral development; and the rays reflected by way of the moon give physical growth.

But as each planet can only absorb a certain quantity of one or more colors according to the general stage of evolution there, so each being upon

earth—mineral, plant, animal, and man—can only absorb and thrive upon a certain quantity of the various rays projected upon the earth. The remainder do not affect it or produce sensation any more than the blind are conscious of light and color which exist everywhere around them. Therefore when man returns to earth to reap that which he has sown in previous lives and to sow anew the seeds which make for future experience, each Ego is differently affected by the stellar rays. The stars are the heavenly time-keepers which measure the year; the moon indicates the month when the time will be propitious to harvest or to sow. Thus the science of astrology is a fundamental truth in nature, of enormous benefit in the attainment of spiritual growth.

The child is a mystery to us all; we can only know its propensities as they slowly develop into characteristics, but it is usually too late to check it when evil habits have been formed and the youth is upon the downward grade. A horoscope erected for the time of birth in a scientific manner shows the tendencies to good or evil in the child, and if a parent will take the time and trouble necessary to study the science of the stars, he or she may do the child entrusted to his or her care an inestimable service by fostering tendencies to good and repressing the evil bent before it has crystallized into habit.

Do not imagine that a superior mathematical knowledge is necessary to erect a horoscope. Many construct a horoscope in such an involved manner, so "fearfully and wonderfully made," that it is unreadable by themselves or others, while a simple figure, easy of reading, may be constructed by anyone who knows how to add and subtract.

This method has been thoroughly elucidated in *Simplified Scientific Astrology*, which is a complete textbook, though small and inexpensive, and any parent who has the welfare of his or her children thoroughly at heart should endeavor to learn to do this work for himself. Even though his ability may not compare with that of a professional astrologer, his intimate knowledge of the child and deep interest will more than compensate for such lack and enable him to see most deeply into the child's char-

acter by means of its horoscope. Thus shall we all come to know clearly how to discharge our duty as parents, and bring forth most abundantly the spiritual potencies of the souls committed to our care.

A CASE IN POINT*

Question: "We find the horoscope of Marjorie in the magazine for this month. We have been hoping for it, and are more grateful than we can tell you. (The child is three and one-half years old.)

"The energy that spends itself in loss of temper is already in evidence (sun in conjunction with Mars and square to Uranus), and every attempt at restraint is met with determined resistance, both mental and physical. How to transmute that energy is our problem. To quote from the horoscope: '*Be sure that you start right away, and that you start right.*' We have studied and tried to obtain results. She does not respond to kindness, and just before getting the horoscope we had almost decided that corporal punishment was the only means. I know from results that I witnessed in that correction should be done by other means. But many things are possible at school that are not practical in the home, besides, I never learned any of the methods employed with children of Marjorie's age. Mrs. R. has read many authorities on child training all of which deprecate physical punishment, but no one says what to use instead. The child takes reasoning as an opportunity for argument.

"How can we secure obedience without physical punishment? We keep our word to her in the smallest detail and she never forgets, but reward begets a sort of selfishness.

"If you can, give us some concrete example, your suggestion of method, some idea of how and what to do. We want above all things in this world to work this miracle of transmutation, and I think, though it may hurt, that we can both accept the ingratitude of the child and not complain. But honestly we do not know how."

[We introduce at this point Max Heindel's reading for Marjorie's horoscope, given in the April 1916 Rays, followed by his answer to the parent's foregoing question—Ed.]

The Moon in the first house in Pisces and trine Neptune in Cancer gives Marjorie a very restless nature and she is sure to do considerable travelling in her life. She will change from place to place and

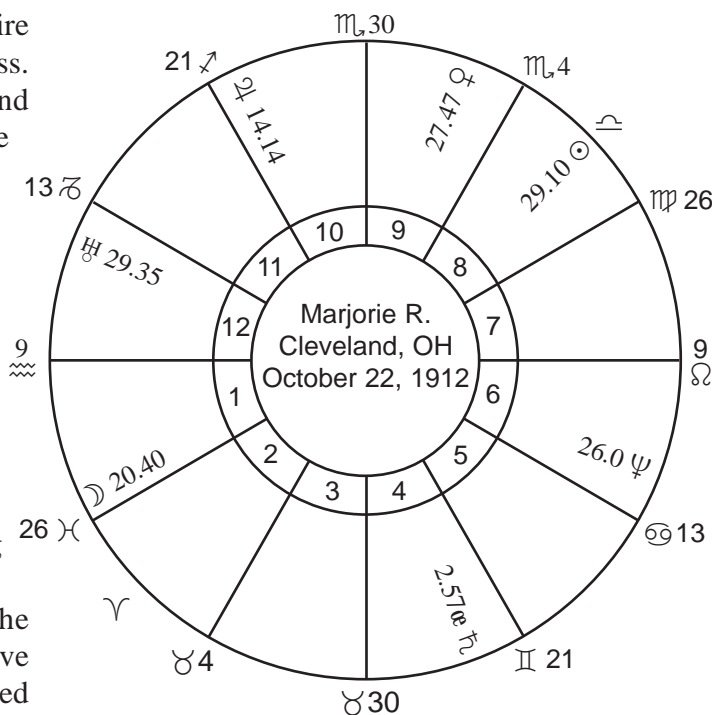
*The following discussion by Max Heindel is an apt illustration of the application of the Rosicrucian principles of education of children to a specific example. It is reprinted from the *Question Department of the Rays for September, 1916*.

long voyages are particularly shown, but this desire to wander is not dictated by a habit of shiftlessness. She will be very practical, hardworking and intensely ambitious to accomplish whatever she sets out to do. Fixed signs on the angles, and the Sun conjunction Mars in Scorpio indicate that she will have the energy and perseverance to work until she achieves. Jupiter is in his essential dignity in Sagittarius. This shows that Marjorie has a noble heart and a humanitarian instinct and the Sun in Libra also tells of her kindly inner nature. But Mars and Mercury are in the sign Scorpio, which is probably the most belligerent sign among the twelve and this shows us that her tongue can bite like a scorpion's sting when she shows the other side.

Under ordinary conditions Uranus in the Saturnine sign Capricorn gives her a certain reserve and dignity of nature, but when Marjorie is swayed by the aforementioned configuration, Sun conjunction Mars and square Uranus, it is like a bolt from the blue which transforms her for the time being to a fury. At least, that is the tendency, and the square of Mars to Uranus, which makes her impatient of every restraint, will generally be found to be the key to the trouble. If this tendency to completely lose her temper is allowed free rein, Marjorie will have a very unhappy life and be shunned by all despite the many good qualities which she otherwise possesses.

But this is just where the parents may do a great good for this soul. You have here a very difficult child whom you will find a great responsibility, but also a great opportunity for service whereby you may lay up a wonderful treasure in heaven. Be sure that you start right away and be sure that you start right. Above everything do not endeavor to break her spirit or curb her by harsh measures, but endeavor to teach her self-restraint. You will find this a difficult problem, but study it. She is worth all you can do for her, for she is a strong soul.

There, is no doubt that she will often have reason for being provoked, for the Sun square Neptune shows that treachery may be expected frequently in her life, but tell her never under any circumstances to go to law as Saturn in Gemini opposition to Venus tells her that she should be careful in the selection of her friends, for she may expect them to prove false. The Sun, Mars, and Mercury in Scorpio



will give her a very magnetic personality. She will have a wonderful healing power and if possible you should let her take up this art. Saturn in Gemini and trine to Uranus will also make her very scientific and give her ability much above the ordinary and she will also have great foresight and considerable executive ability. The Moon trine Neptune will give her a love of occultism and considerable talent as an astrologer. It will also develop the imagination wonderfully and she will have a number of psychic experience. Saturn in opposition to Venus will make courtship difficult and cause considerable jealousy, it would be better in one sense if she did not marry for the Sun square to Uranus shows that the marriage will be very unhappy, but there will be no separation, the husband will die as attested by the Sun conjunction Mars in Scorpio in the eighth house, and she will gain financially by this marriage for the husband will leave her in comfortable circumstances.

With regard to health, you will find that the end of October and the beginning of November each year will always be a rather critical time for Marjorie and she will be most liable to the so-called female troubles. There are, however, certain exercises which may be used in early life to promote the general health in such a manner that these tendencies will not work themselves out. But above all, Marjorie

should be told the truth about life as soon as it is possible. Whenever she can understand sufficiently to ask a question, be sure that it is truthfully answered so that she may know, be properly informed, and be able to take care of herself when the strong feelings shown by the Sun and Mars conjunction in Scorpio come to her at the time of adolescence.

MAX HEINDEL ANSWERS MAJORIE'S PARENTS

Some children are more difficult to manage than others. As a matter of fact, we ought to rejoice when we get such a one as Marjorie, for such children have spirit and individuality. The so-called *good* children, who are models of deportment and obedience, should really give us much more concern because of the lack of initiative in their nature. Difficult children are bound always to make their way in the world and to gather experience, either directly by a life of virtuous action and glorious service or else indirectly through a life of wrongdoing, which is later corrected and transmuted in Purgatory. But the *good* child which never gives its parents an uneasy moment is very apt to grow up in just the same way, and go through life without doing either good or bad.

You remember in the Apocalypse, how the Spirit speaks to the seven churches. To some of them there was praise, to others blame, but the most scathing, startling denouncement was given to one church in the words: "I would thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot I will spew thee out of my mouth." If there is one character that is fixed firmly upon the path of virtue, it is a converted "bad" man, for it is an axiom that "the greater the sinner, the greater the saint." Whoever treads the paths of vice with a firm step will also be strong for virtue when his feet are turned about. But the lukewarm people, who are neither hot nor cold, they are the ones that should cause us real concern. Therefore you need have no fear for Marjorie whatever. She will come out all right in the end. Only a strong soul has such configurations and shows such marked characteristics in consequence.

Now, for a method of guiding her feet into the path of well-doing. We have found that *it is best to take no notice of minor delinquencies*, those which may be called offenses, save by occasional advice

such as, "I would not do this or that; no really nice girls do so and so; and you do not want people to think that you are not nice." Unless you give latitude to the child and make allowance for the fact that the vital body is in the course of formation during the first seven years, you miss the mark. It is the vehicle of habit, therefore the child forms one habit after another, breaking itself of the old ones almost as rapidly as the new ones are formed.

By bearing this in mind you will escape continual correction of the child, which dulls its respect when truly important matters are taken up in which a certain line of conduct must be insisted upon for its good. When you come to such an issue, it is important to know what particular thing the child loves best in food, play, dress, or outdoor liberties. Then the screw can be put on, gently at first, but with increasing pressure, until the object at issue is accomplished.

A growing child should never be deprived of its meals, but the necessary nourishment can be given without the delicacies it loves; it is quite legitimate to apply the "tortures of Tantalus" by placing the prescribed delicacies on the table and allowing the child to see mother and father enjoy them and express their delight while they are eating cake or honey which is denied to the recalcitrant, until he or she agrees to do the thing required.

This we have found is one of the most effective methods of securing obedience. If the child is very fond of dress, have an ugly frock or suit which it must wear when disobedient. Then it will not want to go out among its associates, or if it does they will very soon find out the cause and with the customary cruelty of children they will jeer and sneer at the little culprit who fears that treatment more than anything that mamma might do. Thus the screw will very soon pinch it into obedience, resulting perhaps in a request to have the "naughty-dress" removed.

There are various other methods along the same line which will suggest themselves to parents. But such correctives should only be used very infrequently and as last resorts or the child will become hardened to them. In general, the appeal to its love for the parents, its desire to be well thought of, and its reason, so far as that can be appealed to, should be invoked. □