

## Why Evolutionary Astrology?

By Dena DeCastro ©2009

No branch of astrology is inherently inferior or superior to any other. Astrology as a tool can be utilized well or poorly, depending upon the intent and awareness of the user. It can liberate and honour the human soul, or it can be damaging, engendering superstition and fear. It is always the responsibility of the astrologer to be conscious of its power to either enlighten, or to dishearten, the client. This remains true, regardless of the astrological tradition.

That being said, there are things about the Evolutionary approach that have made it easier for me to create readings that leave the client feeling validated, hopeful, and inspired. Following are the things I've found most valuable about the Evolutionary approach in my practice:

I am pushed beyond "description" toward providing active and dynamic interpretations of the planets in their signs and houses. Example: Having the Moon in Cancer does not mean you are moody and sensitive (although this may sometimes be the case). I would offer the range of possibilities, light and shadow, for a Cancerian Moon, and generate suggestions as to how to embrace the highest potential of that placement, perhaps finding fulfilment as a nurturer, healer, or stepping into a healthy mothering role. Alternately, I would offer ways to recognize the shadow aspects of this placement, thereby moving toward healing that part of the self.

Secondly, the ability through this approach to interpret the nodal story, the "karmic birth chart," provides me with essential information. It is to me the difference between a two-dimensional view of someone and a three-dimensional view. As Steven Forrest puts it, the karmic interpretation of the birth chart, through the interpretation of the lunar nodes, gives us "the chart behind the chart." The nodal story provides clues to the soul's history, and indicates the karmic issues that are coming to bear on the present situation. What gravitational pull is influencing the natal planets, and what is the nature of that influence? This can be understood through the South Node of the Moon. Without this piece, I feel that I am limited in any advice or recommendations I could give as to how the soul in front of me might move forward on their particular path. With the North Node, I am able to shed light on the nature of that path toward their soul's evolution and growth. Clients are not coming to me to be "described" – they want to know how to move forward in their life, how to answer their "Call." The Nodes, North and South, are the keys to exploring this question, and its answers.

Furthermore, I've come to be truly optimistic in my own philosophical viewpoint, and in my interactions with my clients, as I understand the power of our own free will. Our ability to choose – to move toward to North Node, or to express the potential of each planetary drive – is one of the most powerful and affirming principles of this approach. Our charts do not "make us" do anything. They might compel us in a certain direction, but with awareness, we can take the reins and choose differently. It is this awareness which Astrology, consciously practiced, can enliven within us. Self-knowledge is the beginning, and learning to act in accordance with that knowledge is the choice that each of us can make

every day. Prediction and determinism enter in when astrology is being misused. Only fear and superstition are the result when prediction is the goal. Even if the prediction is a “good” one, this disempowers the client, and basically tells them to wait around for this “good” thing to happen. Alternately, the embracing of the principle of free will allows me again to affirm, to show possibilities, to encourage. This approach invites the client to participate in the creation of their own life.

Finally, having received readings from the Evolutionary perspective on my own chart, I’ve found these principles to be particularly helpful in my own life. I understand that a reading is not a cure-all – it is still up to me to do the work, as it is up to each and every one of us to put into application the knowledge that we’ve gained. But with an awareness of my karmic birth chart, and the knowledge of the high and low road of each of my planets, I feel less like I am working in the dark. Instead, I have valuable affirmations, sayings, and images from those readings which help to guide me on a daily basis, and light my way.