

ASTROLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT

A few words about empowerment through astrology, something I know something about. I wandered off the beaten astrological path some 50 years ago, which path ceased to exist for me because it was soon obvious that it led nowhere but just on. The funny thing about “realization” is that it’s a one-way trip; you can’t walk it back or put the toothpaste back in the tube. You turn around one day and find there is no longer any trail of breadcrumbs. Like Saturn, with “realization” we consume our own child, in this case “Time.” “Realization” marks the end of time as we know it. It’s up to us where we want to go in life, which is the beauty of astrology.

More difficult is the fact that whatever realizations we manage to have effectively separate us from the community, not because the community would not be interested, but rather because if you lack the faculty you can’t see the phenomenon. In a very real sense, with any sort of realization we have just vanished into thin air as far as others are concerned. You are henceforth invisible because your very realizations are not a common experience. The larger community does not know what we are talking about. It is not in their experience, much less their realization.

And so, like a mother hen with her chicks, I have some concern for my astrological realizations. As it turns out, I have carefully documented most (but not all) of my astrological realizations and laid them out in very clear (and illustrated) books. For almost every major astrological realization (technique), I have a book that goes with the idea. I’m so responsible. LOL.

The only problem with books is that they are at best mere skeletons of a realization. Like freeze-dried food, concepts and books need the water of realization to be breathed into them. An astrological technique is nothing more than the residue of a realization of the astrologer who had the initial realization, hopefully something that can be repeated or enacted afresh as a technique. Otherwise, there is no lineage.

I apparently am guilty of this. I have no students. All these decades have gone by and while I have intellectuals who have tacked my techniques, I have not one that has shown me they have fully realized the techniques. I would know, of course. That is a little sad, IMO. It has to be my fault. I am not making myself clear enough.

Just as there are dharma empowerments, so there are astrological empowerments and the two are similar. The typical dharma empowerment consists of three parts, the Empowerment, the ‘Lung’ or reading transmission, and the actual practice instructions.

It’s no different with astrological initiation. There is the empowering initiation, where one is exposed to the realization from someone who has actually realized the technique, not just from someone who repeats the technique by rote. There is also the description, basically the book about the technique, and then there are personal instructions from the realized teacher, an invaluable pointing out of the essence of the technique. We have to be shown or have it pointed out to us!

As for me, I have had to work for it. I have travelled to Tibet, Nepal, India, China, and so on to see teachers and receive teachings. Receiving teachings is not realization, but rather the understanding and perhaps experience from which realization may arise.

I have worked with authentic teachers since the 1960s and not through ordinary school systems. Much of the more traditional coursework, schoolwork, and classroom etiquette are foreign to me. I never got out of high school. And although I was accepted at the University of Michigan, college smacked (to me, mind you) of everything but the natural learning I was used to, teaching myself or working with authentic teachers. I have stayed true to that approach. I have had the most wonderful teachers in the world, IMO.

The photo here is of my first dharma teacher, Andrew Gunn McIver, a traveling initiator for a Rosicrucian order who came to this country from Scotland. Andrew taught me of Saturn and its return and helped me to go through my first Saturn return (in my late 20s) with my eyes open – consciously. That was an empowerment. When Andrew passed, I saw to his burial and designed his tombstone, marking his grave with the symbol of the Sun.

I am considering how best to empower any fellow astrologers who might be interested in those astrological realizations that I have realized.

“As Bodhicitta is so precious,
May those without it now create it,
May those who have it not destroy it,
And may it ever grow and flourish”

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