

*Chapter 9*

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## **The Astrological Quantum of Action**

**T**here are two avenues through which information not accessible to the physical senses and reason may be gained. One is the avenue of astrology. The other is the avenue of extra sensory perception. All methods of divination depend upon the exercise of extra sensory perception, which is the ability of the soul to gain information through its inner plane activities and to impress that information on objective consciousness in a recognizable form. Due to velocities on the inner plane being greater than that of light, where time stands still and objects lose all their length, the soul functioning on the inner plane readily can acquire information, including past, present and future, quite inaccessible to reason and the physical senses. It is this ability that gives divination in any of its forms its value.

While extra sensory perception plays an important part in horary astrology, and may be used in reading any chart, the correct reading of a birthchart and progressed aspects does not require the use of extra sensory perception. On the contrary, scientific astrology, through plotting the heavenly bodies, endeavors to appraise the power of inner plane energies radiated by the planets, modified by the signs as sounding boards and given harmonious or discordant trends by the aspects, to influence not merely human life, but all earthly affairs. The houses through which the energies are received indicate the department of life or world affairs thus affected.

If we could turn on extra sensory perception at will, it would no doubt outrank astrology in its usefulness. But in our present state of knowledge no one seems able to do this. And even in its use—unless it employs astrology on the inner plane—it seldom is able to time events. Astrology, on the other hand, times events within welldefined periods, but fails to give the precision of detail often obtained through the use of extra sensory perception.

Within limits which have largely been determined through statistical studies, it can be ascertained from his birthchart what the outstanding traits of character of an individual are, whether he will be fortunate or unfortunate relative to each of the 12 departments of his life, the type of events he will experience, and about when they will arrive. But in addition to the factors indicated by astrology, conditioning by environment, as explained in detail in *When and What Events Will Happen*, and the environmental conditions by which he is surrounded at a particular time, as explained in detail in *Progressed Aspects of Standard Astrology*, also influence both the individual's character and the events which come into his life.

Thus astrologers are in the same position in determining what will occur in the life of a given individual as are the physical scientists in determining where a physical object will be at a given time. By applying Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity, physical scientists can predict, from the momentum, velocity, direction of movement, and other physical conditions and a proper system of coordinates, the behavior of physical objects larger than molecular proportions. They can determine in advance where a planet will be in its orbit,

how much a rifle ball will be deflected by wind and gravitation in a measured distance, how long it will take an airplane traveling at a definite speed to cross the Atlantic. But with particles of molecular size and smaller they have no ability to make such definite predictions. Einstein admits that so far the precise laws governing the behavior of particles have baffled him, and until they are ascertained there can be no Unified Field Theory such as he had hoped to formulate.

Quite a number of years ago, Plank discovered that the radiation of energy is not a uniformly continuous process, but occurs in impulses containing not less than a definite amount of energy in each impulse. In other words, as atoms once were considered to be particles of matter which could not be subdivided further, so all energy seems to manifest in bundles which cannot be subdivided by any known means into smaller units of energy. The energy in a light beam seems to be concentrated in bundles, called photons, which have properties similar to those of particles. Yet even though a photon—the smallest unit of light—carries energy and momentum, it differs from a particle in that its rest mass is zero. That which has no rest mass is immaterial, and it is because light is thus immaterial that physicists believe it has in space a fixed velocity.

Thus, not only matter but energy also is supposed by physicists to be composed of units, or building bricks, which themselves are not divisible. The negative energy moving through a wire from lower to higher potential (called electricity) is constructed of grains, called electrons, which are the elementary, or smallest, quanta of electricity. These same electrons enter into and form the outer envelope of each atom of matter. Therefore, electrons are also elementary quanta of matter; and neither electricity nor matter can be decreased in smaller jumps" than that represented by an electron.

Not only radio waves and visible light waves are composed of photons, but Xrays and gamma rays. Yet cosmic rays, which possess far greater energy and penetrating power in their primary state, are not composed of photons, but of particles. This brings in another discovery in addition to that of both energy radiation and particle radiation being possible only discontinuously in terms of elementary quanta; the discovery that not only energy, but particles of matter also, are guided in their motion by waves. It was Davisson, Gerner, and G. P. Thompson who confirmed de Broglie's theory of the wave properties of material particles, and Schrodinger who proved that such material particles are guided in their motion in the same way that light is guided. But whether the radiation is electromagnetic in nature—which includes visible light—or particled, "The energy emitted divided by the frequency of the radiations is always equal to a certain unit of 'action,' which we call the Quantum of Action."

Furthermore, light, for instance, exhibits properties which can only be explained by assuming it to be a wave, and other properties which can only be explained by assuming it to be corpuscular. For a discussion of these apparent contradictions the reader is referred to *The Evolution of Physics* (1938) by Albert Einstein and Leopold Infeld. From this book I quote the last paragraph of the summary on Quanta:

Is light a wave or a shower of photons? Is a beam of electrons a shower of elementary particles or a wave? These fundamental questions are forced upon physics by experiment. In seeking to answer them we have to abandon the description of atomic events as happening in space and time, we have to retreat still further from the old mechanical view. Quantum physics formulates laws governing crowds and not individuals. Not properties but probabilities are described, not laws disclosing the future of systems are formulated, but laws governing the changes in time of the probabilities and relating to great congregations of individuals.

This brings us to the Principle of Indeterminacy, which was first discovered by Heisenberg and Bohr, and now has become an essential portion of modern physics. To indicate in a

few paragraphs its most important implications, I will quote from physicists of outstanding accomplishment:

The electron has a certain degree of 'freedom,' and many physicists believe that if there is anything at all that determines the position and motion of the electron within the limits set by the quantum of action, that something may well be entirely outside the domain of physics.

I believe this is true, that particles on the boundary line of velocities between those of the physical world and those of the astral world are influenced by both realms. Such particles other than within the boundaries of what the physicist calls the quantum have their position determined by physical environment. Therefore, from the physical conditions alone their positions can be predicted to be somewhere within these boundaries. But inside the boundaries of this quantum of action, their position is not determined by physical forces or external environment, but by astrological and other astral forces.

So also, by the method of statistical analysis employed in the three books, *How To Select A Vocation, When and What Events Will Happen*, and *Body Disease and Its Stellar Treatment*, from the astrological positions alone it can be predicted that an individual will have characteristics and aptitudes of a certain type, and that he will have thoughts of a certain type and experience events of a certain type during a given period of his life. But inside the boundaries of this astrological quantum of action the specific channels through which the indicated characteristics will express, and the specific thoughts and specific events which he will experience during a certain period, are not indicated by astrology, but are determined by the manner in which he has been conditioned by past events, and by the environment in which, during the period, he finds himself.

To quote further relative to the quantum of action of physics:

The product of these uncertainties can never be smaller than the quantum of action. The pilot waves can thus determine the position of an electron at a future time within a certain degree of probability. We may say that the electron is always within the pilot wave, but where it is and how it is moving within the wave is not determined by any physical law at all.

And neither is the specific occupation followed by an individual, nor the specific event which comes into his life, indicated by astrology. But the type of occupation, and the type of event, are thus indicated. Yet within the type, within the astrological quantum of action, there are alternative occupations, and alternative events.

We may define the birthchart quantum of action to lie within boundaries such as afford experiences characteristic of the prominence and aspects of the planets, and such as are characteristic of the planetary type of activity and the harmony or discord of the houses, as mapped by the birthchart.

These boundaries can only be so narrow as experiences in lower life forms provide scope for the indicated planetary and house activity. In lower forms of life, as set forth in *How To Select A Vocation*, there are opportunities to build into the soul thought elements of each of the ten families mapped in the birthchart by the ten planets, opportunities to build them into the soul relative to any department of life such as mapped by a house in the birthchart, and opportunities to build them either harmoniously or discordantly, as mapped by the aspects, into thought compounds with other thought elements mapped by other planets.

But there are not opportunities below human existence for experiences with mathematics, with foreign languages, with automobiles, with serving table in a cafe, with moving pictures, with photography, with moral or immoral conduct, or with any number of specialized vocations and activities in which man engages. These special trends are all products of

the conditioning, or educating, effects of the earlier environment, providing easier facilities for the planetary energies and house activities to express in some specialized conditions and events and offering resistance to other specialized conditions and events—that is, to alternate conditions and events—through which the same birthchart energies can express without going outside of the astrological quantum of action.

The progressed astrological quantum of action lies within boundaries such as afford conditions or an event which bears the characteristics of one or more of the planets forming the progressed aspect, and which belongs to the department of life ruled by one of the houses governed by the planets making the progressed aspect.

Usually the importance of the event to the individual, and its tendency to be fortunate or unfortunate, are also indicated by the progressed aspect; but as these are so powerfully subject to modification through intelligent conditioning and selection of environment, they, as well as the specific kind of event, lie within the astrological quantum of action of the individual who understands astrology and makes a definite effort based upon that knowledge.

Our *Case History Studies of Environment and Conditioning as Affecting Events Attracted by Identical Progressed Aspects to Those Possessing Practically Identical Birthcharts* have demonstrated that conditioning alone can change the specific event, its importance, its harmony or discord, and to which of several alternate houses ruled by the aspecting planets it relates. And they have demonstrated that even when the conditioning previously has been similar, that two widely different environments may cause the specific event, its importance, its harmony or discord, and to which of several alternate houses ruled by the aspecting planets it relates, to be different.

Even as there is a physical quantum of action, so also is there an astrological quantum of action. The boundaries of the astrological quantum of action are ascertained by the statistically determined birthchart constants and progressed constants. The value of knowing the astrological quantum of action of a character trait or an event lies in the power this knowledge gives to take proper Precautionary Actions which will ensure the character trait expressed or the event attracted will be specifically the most beneficial one of the various alternates within the astrological quantum of action.