

Introduction

'The Truth', as *knowledge of all things*, does not exist within any Human mind, nor in any summation of the products of science. You may search every library shelf, every available database, but you will not find 'The Truth' about reality. What you will find is 'the story, so far'. For people like myself, there's just not enough information in that 'story, so far' to feel comfortable in this world of Human creation. It's an unsettling thought that, within the universal reality, the efforts of all living things may amount to absolutely nothing. If some catastrophe were to destroy all of Life on Earth today, would there be a reaction somewhere in the universe? Has the process of our becoming, our evolution, left some indelible mark in time? If the answer to these questions is 'No!', then every Human thought, every Human emotion is, was and will always be, naught but empty mechanism. It's the uncertainty as to the value of being that drives a truth-seeker, like the author, to find out as much as he, or she, can about the nature of life. My intention has been to find a sufficiency of understanding, enough knowledge to free myself from doubts about the value of being Human—the value in being a self-aware living entity. I should make it clear from the outset that, at the time of writing, I have not achieved that sufficiency—I suspect I never will. However, what I have gathered together, in the way of understanding and realisation, may be worth something to younger truth-seekers, those for whom the march of science proceeds at far too slow a pace and has not yet caught up with their personal experience of 'being'.

First, let me make some headline statements:

- a) Time, as we experience it, is shaped in a way that guides the evolution of "now". That shaping gives rise to certain observable effects, noted over millennia and gathered under the name Astrology.
- b) The living world extends beyond the confines of space-time, touching a 'timeless zone'¹ where your past, and future, are known—a kind of collective memory.
- c) Human Beings, and perhaps all living things, are connected 'here and now' at a level beyond the immediacy of consciousness awareness—a collective unconscious, if you like.

None of the above statements are entirely novel. As a consequence of having to deal with these areas as *experienced reality*², I have developed an individual, perhaps unique, insight into the nature of life and being. As to the question, "Does being a living creature have any *real*³ value?", I can't offer up an absolute 'Yes!' or 'No!'—only a tentative *maybe*—but the question must be answered, and so 'the seeking' goes on.

Justifying statement a), I have for many years put Astrology to the test in my own life. Since 1995, I've been keeping a journal, listing the daily predictions of Astrology along with the actual events of the day, including the shifts in conscious flow typical of that *astrological shaping* I mentioned above—even in my teenage years I had begun to notice familiar 'inner states' reappearing at certain

- 1 "Timeless zone" for want of a better description—a label attached to something I experience, but don't understand.
- 2 My gift-curse was being born with some conscious awareness of those effects we call *astrological*, and (to a much lesser extent) an awareness of the collective level of existence; both are psychic talents.
- 3 *Real* here means 'in relation to the greater reality', for evolution guarantees that individuals need to value being alive rather than dead, they need to take pleasure in the necessities of survival like food, sex and communal living. If your value system is, in the above sense, entirely contained within the needs of the Human organism, you may not appreciate the need for 'Truth'.

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times of the year. Prior to 1995, testing Astrology mainly involved doing birth chart analysis for friends and family. In exchange for this service, I asked only that the recipients answer some questions aimed at finding out ‘what works’ in Astrology. I was especially interested in testing the variations in analysis due to the choice of house system. Even at this stage it was clear that the Equal House System, tested through offering analysis options like alternate *planets in houses*, was the one being accepted by recipients.

Additionally, I developed a model of Astrology that shows it to be an internally consistent system of description⁴: all of Astrology's component parts can be related to core ideas involving elementary order and organisation. The model provides a conceptual platform from which to review, update and rejuvenate the ancient art. This model has been in the public domain since 2002, when I published my first website⁵. 'The Logic of Life', the name I adopted for the organising dynamic made visible as astrological effects has, for me at least, become a philosophical touchstone, a reference frame within which all of Human activity finds its place. As such, I can recommend its use. It is the logical outline, or container, of all possible philosophies, including those of the world's great religions. Statements **b)** and **c)** stem from my personal interaction with 'life beyond the conscious', both as an individual and in groups dedicated to psychic development. In essence, psychic development involves learning to 'make conscious space' for information available at the non-conscious level—and to become relatively comfortable with that process. Some are born with this skill. Most, if not all, can achieve some degree of *conscious* relationship with this deeper level of life.

I was about seven or eight years old when I had the first in a series of ‘memorable dreams’. The format for these dreams was always the same: the dream, as a set of circumstances and activities, was repeated three times over a period of a few weeks. Each instance was *identical in every detail* and came heavily tagged with emotion. At that age “dreams are just dreams”, or so your parents will tell you, and not a particularly unusual occurrence. More than thirty years later, during a period of psychic development, I began to realise that these well-remembered dreams were intimations about my life to come. In 1989, I had my first encounter with Tina Wylie, the life-long medium who ran the White Feather Psychic Centre in Edinburgh, Scotland. At our first formal meeting she, until that day a total stranger, outlined my life story to date, including those early “odd occurrences” intended, as she put it, to enhance my interest in the *spiritual* world. She included bits of information known only to me—or so I thought! Disconcerting, to say the least. In all, I had three distinct periods of development with her. The first period, mid-1989, lasted only about six weeks before I had to stop, to rest my overloaded brain! On my first day in that 1989 training circle, eyes closed in meditation, I sensed ‘someone’ approach me. She (the voice was female) said, “Welcome to the circle although we know we wont be able to keep you here for long.” As she was speaking, I had a mental image of a toy train, running ever faster around a small track until, eventually, it crashed off the rails. Learning to share your inner space with others is no trivial matter. I had a much more productive experience with her during 1990, but it was not until my third attempt, beginning in May, 1995, that I finally settled into being part of a working psychic circle. Heady days! The summer of 1995 was especially enjoyable. It seemed that ‘The Truth’ was close at hand; soon I would understand everything about “Life”. This marked a highpoint in my exuberant expectations of the hidden realm. As one of the older, more experienced circle members remarked, “Yes, everything is wonderful at the beginning, but wait until *the testing* starts.” Actually, for me ‘the testing’ had begun two years earlier, in 1987. I was 37 years old that year and had grown weary of the Human creation, the communal delusions wrapped around simple animal mechanisms, as I saw it. I couldn’t see any value in ‘Life’; I’d had enough of role-playing Human animals. So, I sat

4 A necessary first step in demonstrating that Astrology is worthy of scientific scrutiny.

5 The site was entitled “McArthur’s Place” (initially, and only briefly, McArthur’s Park—not a sensible choice!) A later version of that site became www.logicoflife.org.uk, still in existence today, but as henrymcarthur.org.uk.

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down and asked for some sign that there was more to life than animal dreaming. I suppose you would call it prayer, a desperate reaching out for assistance to some invisible source of knowledge. Well... almost immediately I got a reply: "So... you've realised you're not the only power in the universe!" These were the first words spoken to me by my 'spiritual guide'; the content set the scene for the early period of what I now call, with the benefit of hindsight, my initiation period, my introduction to the 'The Mysteries' and my awakening to a greater reality. At the time, I was working as an Electronics Engineer in Edinburgh, Scotland. In the busyness of the day, there was little time for inner reflection, but at home in the evening I would often be engaged in conversation by my 'guide', for want of a better descriptor. Without going into too much detail, the process was like deep psychoanalysis with someone who already knew everything about you, every detail of your past *and* your future, leaving little room for evasion and self-delusion. Since dreams and delusions are part of the normal functioning of a 'Self-supporting, Self-creating' Human mind, I can't say that I was stripped of all of my own delusions, I just became increasingly aware of those processes and their protective, inner-balancing function. All part of getting to know my 'Self'!

The power-play⁶ hinted at in my guide's opening gambit was a little harder to deal with. Modern neuroscience has shown that the conscious 'Self' is not the seat of power within a Human mind. What we call '*the unconscious*' is where decisions are actually being made. During what might be called my 'dark night of the soul', I experienced a situation in which statements of a Self-supporting nature were being negated *as they arose* in my conscious mind, presumably from this unconscious level. In effect, there was no point in raising any argument in self-defence; no point in even *thinking*, and so *being*. Fortunately, as in all of these interactions, just as I seemed to reach my limit of endurance, the mood changed from challenging to supportive. Of course, both the *challenge* and the *support* were, largely, implied. Support in this context meant telling me about some activity I'd be involved in, at some future time, the implication being you will survive this challenging period and be functioning normally in the future. This worked in the long term because these instances of prediction actually came true!

More generally, my ability to learn from these inner transactions was heavily dependent on my intuition, *literally* my gut feeling, telling me that this was a productive process, and that I should just 'stick with it'. An understanding of what was actually happening did not arrive immediately, but slowly over time and after much deliberation. Learning to describe these events adequately, and in my own terms, has required a lot of self-education. Thirty years on, and I'm still learning. It has probably been true throughout all of Human history, that the content of reported spiritual experiences has been shaped as much by the minds of the recipients as by the source of such information. On asking my guide, "Why are *these* things happening to me?" he replied, "One mouth—one cup!". Absolute clarity is not something to expect from the deeper world—you get what you get and it's up to you to make the most of it. Sad, but true. In my experience, the hidden world wants to stay hidden, for the most part. Information is given out for a purpose, and the ultimate purpose may be hidden from the recipient. It seems to me that 'Life' does not really care about individuals *as individuals*; it cares, primarily, about the contribution we can make to 'The Future' and the continuing evolution of 'Life' itself.

As reported earlier, two years after this 'one-on-one' period began, I joined the White Feather Psychic Centre. My earlier experience had been a very private affair but, in the centre, things were much more open—other people could get to 'know stuff' about you. There was, what I refer to as, a 'holding pattern' in place: a conceptual structure that gave a well-defined purpose and meaning to the circle's activities. As with the spiritualist church, this involved the concept that '*spirits of the*

6 For those already conversant with astrological symbols and their meaning, at the time transiting Pluto in Scorpio was in trine aspect to my natal Jupiter in Pisces (12th house). Even the "spiritual realm" operates within the framework of Astrology.

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dead' could, through suitably trained mediums, provide information about the dearly departed, thereby "proving"⁷ that there is '*life after death*'. White Feather, Tina Wylie's guide, was reputedly the spirit of a long-dead Sioux Indian chief, and their combined intention was, primarily, to train individuals as mediums. Not everyone who joined the circle became a working medium; many were there, like myself, for temporary support and assistance with their lives. I came to think of the centre as "God's Hospital". It's a great relief to be amongst your 'own kind', and to leave behind the brutalities of everyday existence. Those of us born with heightened sensitivities tend to find the current state of this world more difficult to deal with—it wears us down more easily, it seems. Over the years, I've experienced many instances of clairvoyance, as in seeing future events in advance. That 'in advance' period could be one day, one month or, indeed, many years. The information would come in dreams, in visions while meditating or through a third party within the training circle. In fact, the standout feature of this whole period of my life was the repeated demonstration that, at some level of reality, the future was already known. In particular, some flesh was added to the bones of those childhood dreams. Unfortunately for me, the story in total was one of a long, hard journey ending in conflict generated by the 'truth-seeker/truth-speaker' telling his story and, in the process, angering those who did not want to hear that truth. Most of my early precognitive dreams have already come to pass—I was born in 1950!

The deep connectivity between individuals was made obvious in the training circle. I recall one amusing circle meditation, where the prior instruction from Tina was to 'visit the Hall of Learning', and to report back to the circle whatever we experienced there. The 'Hall of Learning', as constructed in my imaginal space, my mind's eye, was like a large village hall with a rectangular wooden floorspace. Beyond the entrance, the long left and right walls each offered a series of doors. On the wall opposite the entrance was a pair of staircases, leading to upstairs rooms. The main hall itself was empty. On emerging from meditation, the usual practice involved each circle member, in turn, standing up to talk about their experience, including the passing on of information intended for other circle members. Eventually, it was the turn of Joe Elliot. Joe was a little bemused by the discovery that three of the doors, in his version of 'The Hall...', were adorned with the letter 'H'. Well...I smiled a silent smile, but kept quiet about the fact that, in my 'Hall', I'd taken a liking to three of the rooms I found there, including one small and cosy library, so I decided to claim them for my personal use by screwing a gold, metallic 'H' to the front of each of the three doors. In retrospect, that felt a little foolish—so I said nothing. So, Joe...if you're still wondering...it was me; I did it! Thankfully, the deeper world is not without a sense of humour, which, in my case, is just as well.

Not every recorded example is quite so amusing. Looking through my journal for 1996, I find the entry for the circle meeting of Saturday, 9th March. One of our number, Tanya, had had a rough week due to certain 'domestic problems'—she was a foster mother. Being in a circle enhances the deep connections between participants, to the extent that, on that day, a consensus was forming around the idea that we should abandon any attempt to work—since everyone, including yours truly, was sharing in Tanya's depression! However, out of the blue, I was hit by a rush of exuberant energy. I was high as a kite! I recognised this as an influx of 'healing energy', since I'd been developing my own healing skills for the previous six months or more. I knew what I had to do. I stood behind seated Tanya and gave her 'aura healing'. Within minutes, we were all free of depression, including Tanya, and so the circle was able to proceed as normal.

Finally, here's one example of how a training circle functions. I think it was in the 1990 circle that one day while in meditation, seated next to Tina, the medium in charge, I was receiving information

7 To my mind, this is only proof that information about the past, present and future exists *somewhere*, and that we are all interconnected at a non-conscious level. Mediums can make these facts visible, but who, or what, is managing the mediums?

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about another circle member, Stuart. A third party, presumably “a guide”, was relaying to me the sequence of events playing out in Stuart’s meditation. When it came to Stuart’s turn to describe his meditation experience, he made his way through a list of items, all of which I recognised, and then he sat down... before exhausting *my* list. It just came out of my mouth—without thinking, I told him he had one more item to share, giving him a brief description of it. He replied, “Oh right... I’d forgotten that!”, and then proceeded with that missing item. Tina turned to look at me, a puzzled look on her face, saying “How did *you* get that? I’m the only one meant to get that kind of information.” She didn’t elaborate, and I didn’t press her for more. In that early period, I still felt like a bit of an outsider, a cuckoo in the nest, so to speak—best not to be too insistent, I thought. These examples are but a small sample of innumerable interactions with the underlying reality, over many years of my life. In total, this experience has helped me to understand many things about ‘Life’, including the part that Astrology plays in the scheme of things—not the all-defining system that some would have you believe, but a containing framework; a dynamic, logical envelope within which the creative forces of nature are at work. Even the ‘spiritual world’ adheres to the astrological clock—just look at the Judaeo-Christian bible, and note the difference between the Old Testament ‘Face of God’ (Age of Aries), and that of the New Testament (Age of Pisces). Astrology is something that everyone should study—‘Life 101’ if you like—for it comes without the fear that their individuality/personality/‘soul’ might be under close scrutiny. After all, not everyone can be Henry McArthur!