

Dear Friends:

Our first session will explore the central theme from Anthony's Introduction to Astronoesis: The juxtaposition of philosophy and astrology. Here are excerpts from there.

The sensible universe is the primordial scripture, the Vision.
We Ground ourselves in this experience on Earth; the sensible universe...
(But:) We look into the Cosmos as conceived by ancient cosmologists.

...To summarize: The method here followed is the juxtaposition of philosophy and astrology—to define them and distinguish each from the other in order to illustrate how they reciprocally implicate one another into a whole and are combined in manifestation.

The astrological mandala... will allow us to juxtapose philosophy and astrology in such a way as to reveal that the sensible universe with its starry host is the primordial living scripture that embodies the wisdom of primal principles—principles that are as far beyond it as the heavens are beyond the Earth—and that the basis of astrology is an acquaintance with the wisdom-knowledge that sustains the cosmos.

In short, we are going to enter sympathetically into an analysis of experience as conceived by some of the ancient philosophers—to try to understand and appreciate the philosophic insight they summarized in the dictum: *The world is full of gods*.... In this sense the stars are a theophany of radiating intelligences, distributing their presence and informing the universe through patterns of intellectual energy.

Therefore we shall speak on the one hand of immaterial knowledge or pure hypostases in themselves: the spiritual reality, the hierarchy of wisdom-emanations existing in a distinctionless mode within this reality. Their self-sufficing and eternally august nature, the grandeur of authenticity is an inscrutable abyss, a blinding darkness to our intellect, a radiance and joy that can suffocate the unprepared but illuminate and enlighten permanently the proficient, the adept. These principles are beyond the imagination—literally.

Concomitantly and parallel to the above discussion, these principles are applied throughout the realm of manifestation. They are portrayed by the use of the astrological symbolism [applied] to our world, so that our internal and abstract understanding can be further objectified and applied to the level of analytical and empirical psychology, epistemology, and to the problems of everyday living.

And... from a little later in Astronoesis--Anthony's originally handwritten note

The symbolism proffered to us in the cosmic mandala is the most comprehensive and integral approach to philosophy that at present is available. It is within the compass of our discursive understanding yet transcends its limitations and reveals the possibility of a more universal language. It includes the subject-object dichotomy yet suggests a more

intimate resolution. Its amplitude may resolve some of the most perplexing and profound problems of existence, being, and knowledge. Its very nature demands that human preconceptions be put aside. The attempt to perceive through this manner produces thought that forces us to exclude boundaries—truly a trying to understand rather than a claim to have done so. Philosophy as wonder—and the insight into that wonder—will procure for us the inspiration for our daily and ordinary lives. (*Astronoesis*, p. 46) [*supp* 622]