



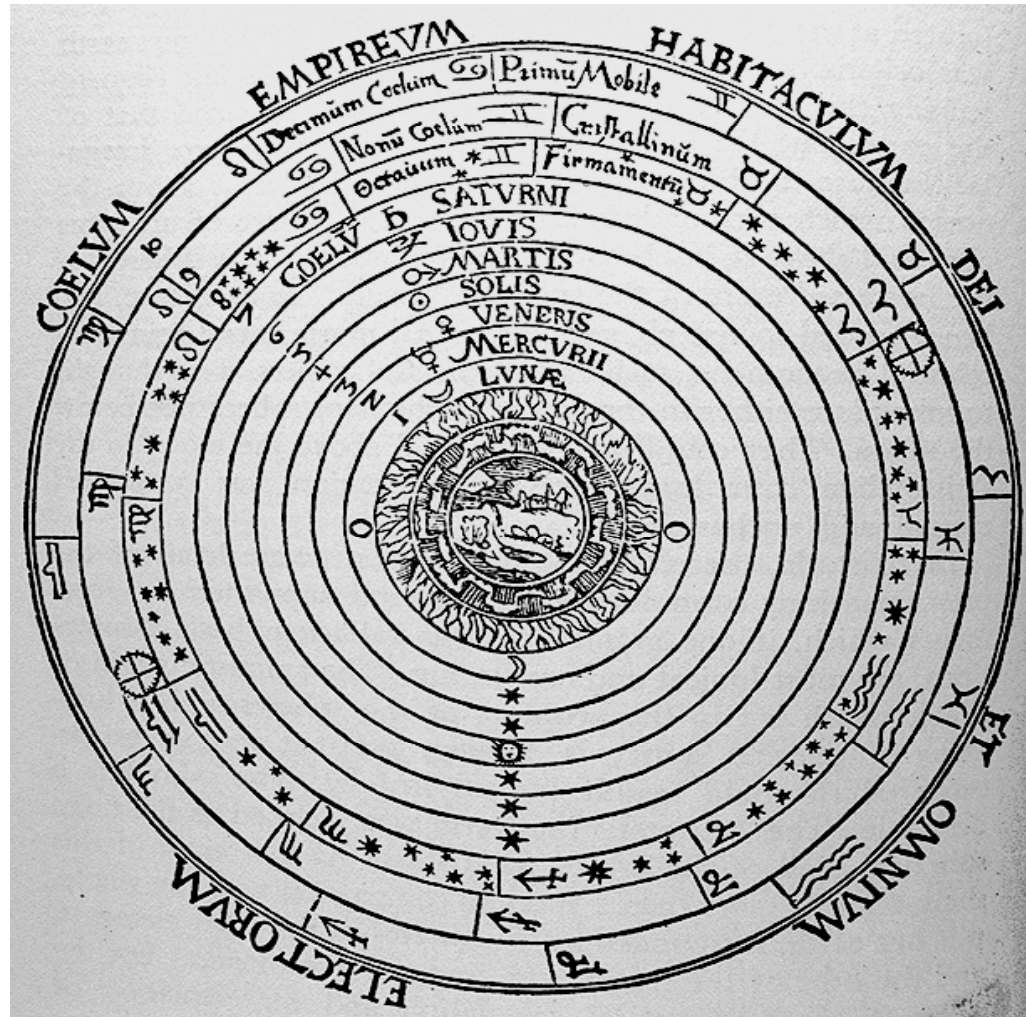
The Modern Astrologer in Search of a Soul: the soul in modern astrological texts

Nick Campion
Sky and Psyche

Space as a moral construct

Morality as the structure of space

The classical cosmos



Heaven and Hell



*They say that the sky is a place that you
go when you die, if you've been good*

Pete Townsend



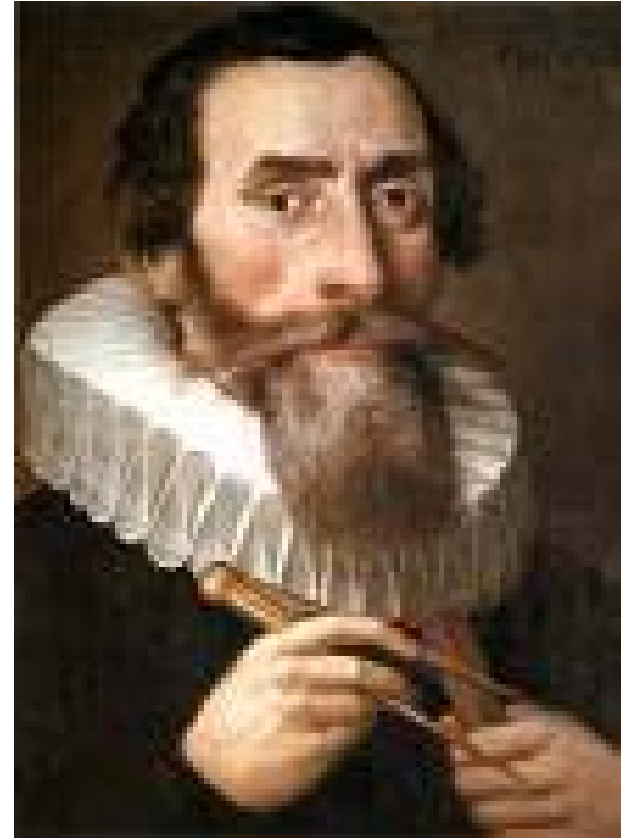
- My Question:
- Astrologers talk about Soul.....
- But what is soul????????????????

1. MODERN ASTROLOGY

Johannes Kepler

....The human being, however, **with his soul and its lower powers** has such an affinity with the heavens, as does the surface of the Earth, and this has been tested and proven in many ways, of which each is a noble pearl of astrology,

Tertius Interueniens, his major work on astrology, published in 1610.



The Principles of Theosophy

- The universe is essentially spiritual, though is masked by matter
- A new phase of history is coming which will initiate the return of the entire universe to pure spirit.
- It is necessary for individuals to prepare for the historical change and the return to spirit.
- Astrology should serve this aim.
- In the end point there will be no distinction between different levels of soul



Past Lives: the soul is an individual entity which transfers between incarnations

- Today my whole belief in the science of the stars stands or falls with Karma and Reincarnation, and I have no hesitation in saying that without these ancient teachings, Natal Astrology has no permanent value. The law which gives to one soul a nativity of good environment in which refinement, opportunity, and sound moral training are uppermost; and to another poverty, disease, and immoral training, is manifestly unjust to say the least, apart from its being without any apparent purpose (1925: vii).



Alan Leo: character

- Sooner or later it must be realised that character is destiny. That is why so much stress is always laid upon the fact that the nativity must be fully understood before 'directions' [\[i\]](#) can be interpreted. We each bring our character with us as a result of past efforts, aspirations and opportunity (Leo 1922: 35).
- [\[i\]](#). Directions are movements of the planets around the horoscopes which are used as the basis of prediction.



An Example from Alan Leo: Aries

- Represents undifferentiated consciousness. It is a chaotic and unorganised sign, in which impulse, spontaneity, and instinctiveness are marked features. Its vibrations are the keenest and most rapid, but without what may be called definite purpose, except towards impulsiveness and disruption. It signifies explosiveness, extravagance and all kinds of excess. Its influence is more directly connected with the animal kingdom, in which life is full and without the directive power of fully awakened self-consciousness (Leo 1922: 17).

Charles Carter: develops the idea of the soul's journey

- Carter was President of the Lodge and a member of the Platonic 'Universal Order'
- 'I believe, and many believe with me, that the Zodiac portrays the pathway of the soul of man and humanity'.
- Charles Carter, *The Zodiac and the Soul* (London: Theosophical Publishing house, 1948), p. 13.
-



Carter offers only two implied definitions of the soul:

- 1. A principle of unity
- 2. A simple substance which survives the death of all compound substances.
-
- He adds
- There is a Creator
- The Creator has a Divine Intelligence which must necessarily transcend that of the created.
- The creation must have a purpose, because all creation has a purpose
- Humanity has a purpose, which is eternal, as represented in the circle of the zodiac in which there is neither beginning nor an end.
- His text also assumes the emergence of consciousness through cycle of the zodiac





- Each sign has its characteristics which evoke mythic images and move in a sequence:
-
- ‘Sorrow in some form, seem part of the heritage of the negative signs. Taurus must grieve over the birth pangs of Cancer. Virgo, madonna-like, must see the agony of its children, cast out from its bosom, Scorpio of the sorrow of the battlefield, whereon all the adverse forces seem to gather together, like the waters of the red sea, to menace the advance of the soul.’
- Charles Carter, *The Zodiac and the Soul* (London: Theosophical Publishing house, 1948), pp. 23-4.



- Sagittarius ‘when the soul, impelled by the inherent energy and daring of fire, rushes forward it meets a rigid barrier to its high-flown aspirations’.
- In Libra, the square to Capricorn, he wrote, ‘seems to indicate the struggle which the soul here encounters’.
- For Carter the soul is on a journey: the hero’s journey?
-

The Emerald Tablet

That which is above is from that which is below, and that which is below is from that which is above, working the miracles of one

Tabula Smaragdina

Contained in the *Kitab Sirr al-Asar*, a respected book of advice to kings probably written about the year 800 and attributed to Aristotle, at least in its later, Latin version, the *Secreta Secretorum*

2.CLASSICAL ASTROLOGY

Plato, the collective soul and the stars

- The world, or collective soul, is part of the fundamental foundation and origin of the material world. Everything is connected by soul. The notion of 'having' a soul is therefore problematic
- The Greek *Psyche* is feminine
- The Latin *Anima Mundi* is feminine



Plato: the individual soul and the stars

- Each individual soul has a star
- The individual soul originates in the sphere of the stars
- The individual soul incarnates via the planetary spheres: when it does so it forgets the choices it has made
- The purpose of education is to remember what has been forgotten



Plato: the soul and wisdom

'he showed them [the souls] the nature of the Universe, and declared unto them the laws of destiny'.^[1]

^[1] Plato, *Timaeus* 41E-42A.

Personal responsibility

The blame is he who chooses: God is blameless



Plato, *Republic* X.617E; see also 619D; Plato, *Phaedrus*, trans H.N.Fowler, Cambridge Mass., London: Harvard University Press, 1914, 249 B.

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.

Julius Caesar, I, ii, 140-141.

The Platonic Soul

There are different versions, but, broadly:

Rational

Emotional

Animal

Plato: better and worse births

Plato concerned by the whole question of what he called 'better' and 'worse' births.

Children born at the appropriate season and phase of the planetary cycles would be 'better' and more likely to grow into upright, virtuous citizens and hinted that it would be possible to breed such people, a matter which could be achieved if couples married and hence conceived at the right time.

Plato, *Republic* VIII, 546 A.

Plato and evil

Evil in the Platonic cosmos resulted from error, that people subject to 'worse births', presumably victims of poor choices made by their daemons, were incapable of developing their rational souls and instead lived through their animal souls.

Aristotle

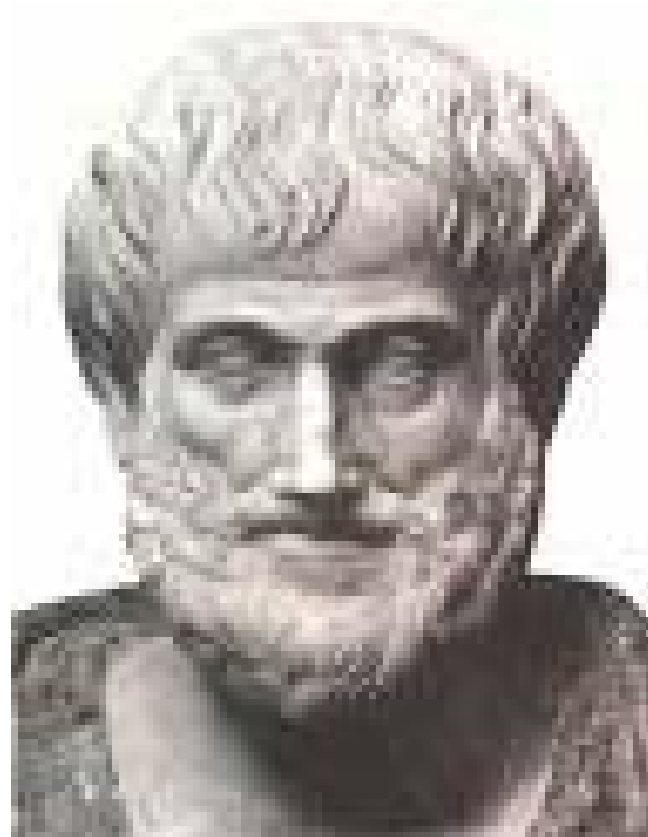
c. 384-323 BCE

Student of Plato

Tutor of Alexander the Great.

Three levels of soul, like Plato, but embedded in nature, not transcendent.

But : the 'Active Intellect'



- Hugh Lawson-Tancred spotted the potential importance of Aristotle's theories for modern psychology when he asked of Aristotle's intentions:
 - 'is he not directly anticipating the Physicalist theories so dominant in contemporary philosophy of psychology?'
- Hugh Lawson-Tancred, 'Introduction', 37.

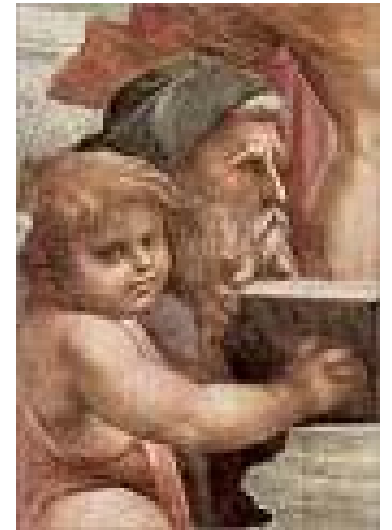
Stoic Model of the Soul

Zeno of Citium

Everything in the universe
interdependent.

Therefore soul, God, stars,
nature – and all things that are
part of nature – are inter-
related.

Soul = pneuma = breath = the life-
force which allows movement and
thought.



Soul: The Classical Astrological Theories

- Plato: soul animates the cosmos. Matter is made of soul. Soul is both in matter and transcendent
- Aristotle: soul animates matter. Most soul dies with matter. Only one part, the active intellect survives death
- Zeno/Stoics: soul animates matter. Soul is not transcendent and dies with the body.

The Corpus Hermeticum

2nd c BCE–2nd c CE

the planets replace one another from moment to moment; they do not go on working without change, but succeed one another in rotation. These daemons then make their way through the body, and enter the two irrational parts of the soul;^[1] and each daemon perverts the soul in a different way, according to his special mode of action. But the rational part of the soul remains free from the dominion of the daemons, and fit to receive God in itself. If then the rational part of a man's soul is illumined by a ray of light from God, for that [in] man the working of the daemons is brought to nought; for no daemon and no god has power against a single ray of the light of God.^[2]

^[1] The parts which feel desire and repugnance; see Scott, *Hermetica*, p. 271, n. 2; Plato, *Phaedrus*, trans H.N. Fowler (Cambridge Mass., London: Harvard University Press 1914) 246A, 253 C-D.

Hermetic Self-awareness

Poimandres continued, giving Hermes a set of instructions for salvation: look 'at what you yourself have in you;' he ordered, 'for in you too, the word is son, and the mind is father of the word...Now fix your thought upon the Light...and learn to know it.'^[1]

We are reminded of the Pharaoh's journey to the Sun as the archetypal origin of literal 'enlightenment'. 'He who has recognised himself', that is, acknowledged the divinity within, then 'enters into the Good'.^[2]

^[1] Libellus I. 6, in Scott, *Hermetica*, Vol. 1, p. 117.

^[2] Libellus I.18, in Scott, *Hermetica*, Vol. 1, p. 125.

The Hermetic ascent

For those virtuous individuals who are blessed with *Nous*, the way back to God is through the planetary spheres.^[1] The soul's shedding of seven human qualities at each planetary sphere may be the origin of the seven cardinal sins.^[2] At any rate, at each one, the vices associated with that planet are shed, in a pastiche of Inanna's shedding of her jewellery and clothing on her descent to the underworld. As the soul passes the moon it sheds growth and decay, Mercury trickery, Venus deceit, the sun the qualities of being a ruler, Mars daring and recklessness, Jupiter greed and Saturn falsehood. At the eighth sphere, that of the stars, the soul beings to praise God, and is encouraged by the sound of voices from the higher levels. Finally the soul ascends to God and, in the logical climax of Platonic theology, it is reunited with God. In fact, it becomes God.

^[1] Libellus I.25, in Scott, *Hermetica*, Vol. 1, p. 129.

^[2] Bloomfield, Morton W., 'The origin of the Concept of the Seven Cardinal Sins', *The Harvard Theological Review*, Vol. 34 no 2 (Apr. 1941), pp. 121-128.

Gnosticism: the cosmos as prison

And he placed seven kings - each corresponding to the firmaments of heaven - over the seven heavens, and five over the depths of the abyss, that they may reign. And he shared his fire with them, but he did not send forth from the power of the light which he had taken from his mother, for he is ignorant darkness.[\[1\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) 'The Apocryphon of John', x-xi, pp. 110-11, Robinson, *The Nag Hammadi Library*, pp. 384-6.

Claudius Ptolemy

Foreknowledge of predetermined events calms the soul; by knowing that the future is inevitable, one accepts it with grace. However, in the same passage, he also argued that the only point in forecasting the future was to change it and that, in any case, some events were due to chance.^[1]

^[1] Ptolemy, Claudius, *Tetrabiblos*, trans. F.E.Robbins, Cambridge Mass., London: Harvard University Press, 1940, I.3.11.



Ptolemy's model of the soul (*Harmonics* and *Tetrabiblos*)

1. Rational (7 divisions): Mercury

2A Emotional: Moon

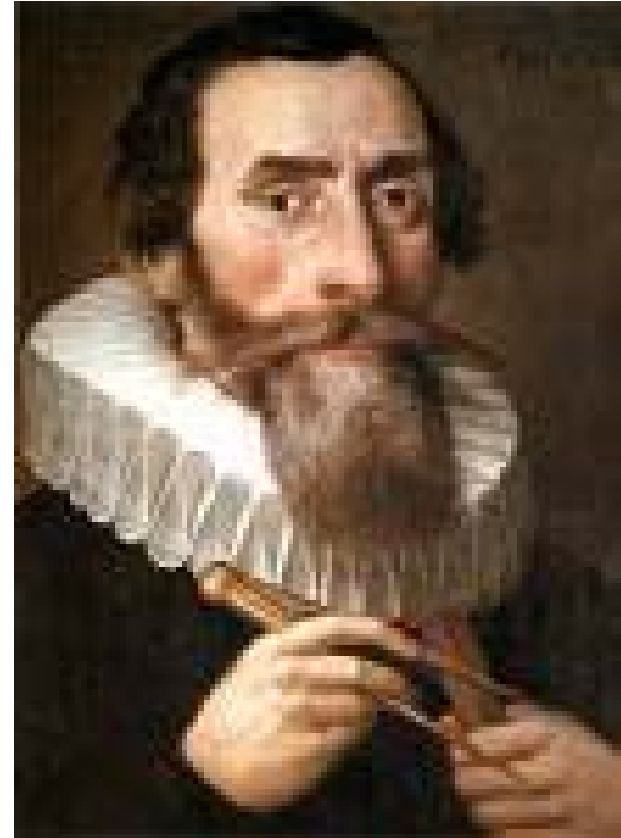
2B 'cupidinous': Moon

3.BACK TO MODERN MODERN ASTROLOGY

Johannes Kepler

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Contemporary primary sources: the web (This came out top in my search for 'astrology soul')



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Soul Astrology' website. The header features the title 'SOUL ASTROLOGY' in a stylized font, with contact information (Email: margaret@soulastronomy.com, Telephone: +44 (0)1453 755597, Updated: 7th June 2013) on the right. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Astrology, Consultations, Calendar, New Moon, Feedback, My Books, and Links. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column has a green box with the text 'Margaret on youtube.com CLICK HERE' and a vertical image of a stylized eye. The middle column contains a paragraph about Soul Astrology, a section titled 'What is Soul Astrology?' with details about readings and workshops, and three book descriptions: 'Soul Purpose Astrology - for growth and transformation', 'A Zodiac World book', and 'Gateways to the Soul - Heart of Astrology'. The right column features a portrait of Margaret Koolman and her name and title.

Soul Astrology
Email : margaret@soulastronomy.com
Telephone : +44 (0)1453 755597
Updated : 7th June 2013

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Margaret on youtube.com
CLICK HERE

Soul Astrology is a tool for me to connect with people at a deep level. This way I can help open an individual's personality for them to see how it works, and how to work with themselves more skilfully. I have been developing my brand of astrological reading for over thirty years, practising internationally. My work consists mainly of interpreting birth charts for individuals, couples and families, as well as business partners, and their businesses. I allow an hour for a reading and always record it, so that you can have a CD of the whole conversation.

What is Soul Astrology?

If you would like me to read your chart, please telephone or email me using the details given on the top of every page – see **Consultations** for more **information** on the procedure. Readings can be in person, or by phone where I email you a copy of your chart beforehand so that we can both see it during the phone call. I occasionally give workshops, or travel to a venue to give readings there – see the Calendar for my bookings so far. I have also written two books and co-authored a third:

'Soul Purpose Astrology – for growth and transformation'
a 'how to' book, friendly and easy to understand.
Out of print at present, but still available on Amazon, or Abebooks.co.uk

A Zodiac World book for children and adults: introducing the 12 Zodiac signs as characters in an adventure story, and focusing on the Transformation of Scorpio.
Out of print – looking for a publisher right now.

'Gateways to the Soul – Heart of Astrology'
- Kay Snow-Davis and Margaret Koolman
Every planet, Ascendant and Midheaven, Nodes and Part of Fortune – in every Zodiac sign, showing the spiritual potential of that placing. Easy to find your way around, to gather a spiritual reading of your own chart for yourself. ISBN: 9 780977 195121
Available from Amazon.com or Amazon.co.uk, and through any good bookshop.

Margaret Koolman
Soul Astrology

<http://www.soulastrology.com/astrology/soul.html>



- 'In Soul Astrology the perspective of the interpreter assumes **the spirit of a person to be one with the greater spirit of life**. The spirit knows exactly what it is doing in **producing a slow vibration body for its earthly experience**. The problem that we as spirit face, once the earthly life is begun, is **to remember who we really are and what we intended**. In Soul Astrology, the interpretation of a birth chart shows the spiritual function of each of the planets, and the purpose of the personality in this life. **The word 'soul' is used to express our sense of connection with spirit while in an earthly body.**'

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- Soul astrology deals with spirit
- It draws on modern scientific imagery
- It recalls the key feature of Platonic education
- It is teleological
- Soul describes a perception
- It is not the same as spirit