

Sky and Psyche – Week 6: Theosophy and the Astrology of Alan Leo

Purpose of the Week

This week we begin to look at twentieth century psychological astrology. The main focus will be the work of the astrologer Alan Leo and how it was impacted by his theosophical beliefs.

Tasks this Week

- Do the required reading including the reading for the class discussion
- Check some of the recommended reading
- Attend the seminar and/or listen to the recording

Class Description

We start the class with an introduction to psychological astrology and then move on to theosophy and the influence of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky on the astrologer Alan Leo. According to Campion, Leo 'created a reformed astrology of spiritual evolution'.¹ Influenced by the theosophical principle of the Sun's connection to the eternal spirit, he created the type of astrology that resulted in the newspaper columns of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. In the view of Patrick Curry 'Modern astrology is difficult to imagine without his [Leo's] intervention.'² We look at how Leo's theosophical beliefs shaped his astrology and can still be seen in the astrology of the twenty-first century.

Thought for the week: Can the astrology of Alan Leo be considered Platonic?

¹ Nicholas Campion, *A History of Western Astrology Vol 2: The Medieval and Modern Worlds* (London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2009), p. 231-232.

² Patrick Curry, *A Confusion of Prophets: Victorian and Edwardian Astrology* (London: Collins & Brown, 1992), p. 123