

Chapter 14. Who Holds the Cards? Women and New Age Astrology

I would like to thank the Institute for the Study of American Religion for their help in funding this project. I also wish to warmly thank the people who helped at various stages of the endeavor: Naomi Abrahams, Michael Delucchi, Elsa Feher, Valerie Jenness, Phillip Hammond, Gordon Melton, Martha McCaughey and Mark Shibley. This paper was presented at the regional American Academy of Religion meetings in Oakland, California, March 1990.

1. The New Age is a movement that emphasizes that a spiritual transformation will occur after which people will be better aware that they are one with the natural world. This transformation can be achieved through various healing therapies as well as spiritual beliefs and practices (P. Lucas, "The New Age Movement and the Pentecostal/Charismatic Revival." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Anaheim, Ca., 1989).

2. J. Davis and J. Weaver, "Dimensions of Spirituality" and R. Rennie and K. Grimstad, "Spiritual Explorations Cross Country." Both in *Quest* (Spring, 1975).

3. G. Haddon, *Body Metaphors* (New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1988); D. Riddle, "New Visions of Spiritual Power" in 1 *Quest* (Spring 1975); J. Davis and J. Weaver, "Dimensions of Spirituality"; M. Daly, "The Quantitative Leap Beyond Patriarchal Religion," 1 *Quest* (Spring 1975).

4. For ease of comprehension, I will refer to all of the people at the conference interested in astrology as "astrologers." Where it is necessary to distinguish between practicing astrologers and people vaguely interested in astrology, I will refer to the former as "practicing astrologers" or "professional astrologers."

5. Robert Bellah et al, *Habits of the Heart* (California: University of California Press, 1985), 75.

6. R. Stark and W. Bainbridge, *The Future of Religion* (California: University of California Press, 1985).

7. B. Zikmund, "The Feminist Thrust of Sectarian Christianity," in *Women of Spirit*, ed. Ruether and McLaughlin (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979); M. Bednarowski, "Women in Occult America," in *The Occult in America: New Historical Perspectives* (Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1983).

8. A. Braude, "Spirits Defend the Rights of Women: Spiritualism and Changing Sex Roles in Nineteenth-Century America," in *Women, Religion and Social Change*, ed. Haddad and Findly (New York: State University of New York Press, 1985); J. Davis and J. Weaver, "Dimensions of Spirituality"; G. Ward, *The Feminist Theme of Early New Thought* (Santa Barbara, California: Institute for the Study of American Religion, 1989).

9. C. Fischler, "Astrology and French Society," in *On the Margin of the Visible*, ed. Tiryakian (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1984).

10. New Thought has been considered the predecessor to the New Age.

11. As cited in Ward, G., "The Feminist Theme of Early New Thought," 9.

12. B. Zikmund, "The Feminist Thrust of Sectarian Christianity"; M. Bednarowski, "Women in Occult America."

13. A. Braude, "Spirits Defend the Rights of Women,"; J. Davis and J. Weaver, "Dimensions of Spirituality."

14. B. Zikmund, "The Feminist Thrust of Sectarian Christianity."

15. B. Zikmund, "The Feminist Thrust of Sectarian Christianity"; G. Ward, "The Feminist Theme of Early New Thought."

16. S. Bordo, "The Cartesian Masculinization of Thought," in *Sex and Scientific Inquiry*, ed. Harding and O'Barr (Illinois: University of Chicago Press, 1987).

17. D. Riddle, "New Visions of Spiritual Power"; G. Haddon, *Body Metaphors*.

18. M. Bednarowski, "Women in Occult America."

19. C. Gilligan, *In a Different Voice* (Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1982).

20. N. Chodorow, *The Reproduction of Mothering: Psychoanalysis and the Sociology of Gender* (California: University of California Press, 1978).

21. J. Davis and J. Weaver, "Dimensions of Spirituality," 6.

22. S. Rennie and K. Grimstad, "Spiritual Explorations Cross Country," 50.

23. Minerva, "Chart Yourself" in 4 *Quest* (Spring 1975): 71.

24. Ibid., 70.

25. Daly, M., "The Quantitative Leap Beyond Patriarchal Religion," 50.

26. Ibid.

27. S. Rennie and K. Grimstad, "Spiritual Explorations Cross Country."

28. Minerva, "Chart Yourself," 70.

29. R. Stark and W. Bainbridge, *The Future of Religion*.

30. Whether the question was answered.

31. Chi-square showed significance at the .01 level.