

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology

Before we define Hermetic Astrology, we need to set it within an overall context.

The first concept is tradition: *paradosis* in Greek, *parampara* in Sanskrit, *paralataj* in Skythian. Tradition means 'to pass on ancient knowledge'.

The Sanskrit word *parampara* means from father to son. In ancient times the priest dynasties guarded tradition, and it was the custom that the knowledge went from father to son. Aproximately 600 BC, these family dynasties disappeared. The ancient knowledge was now passed on instead from master to pupil. The passing on was through speech not the written word. To write down knowledge is not passing on, but pinning down knowledge. We could also say tradition is the remembrance of knowledge. Tradition always passes in speech, from one spirit to another.

In general we can say there are 3 levels of tradition: the *historical level*, *mythological* and *metaphysical level*.

At the *historic level* the memories are stored.

The *mythological level* meets with the historical level, i.e. in greek mythology where the gods and half-gods(titans) fight, on the historical level there is war between the priests and the warriors. In a way these two levels cannot be separated.

The *metaphysical level* has no historical trace, it sort of passes through the mythology. Also these two levels cannot be separated.

When we talk about an *inner and outer tradition*, we can say that the mythological and metaphysical levels belong to the inner tradition, whereas the historical and mythological levels belong to the outer tradition. The role of the outer tradition is that it can catalyse the process of finding our inner tradition

The characteristic of the outer tradition is that we can find texts and films etc. about the topic, and also through meeting it in daily life. The characteristic of inner tradition is that we can find this only within ourselves.

This is the goal of tradition, to open those layers of our being, where we can revive the ancient knowledge. So now we can understand why tradition is passed from spirit to spirit.

The second concept is occultism: occult is a Latin word, which is derived from the Greek *kryptos*, which means crypt, tomb, memorial.

When we speak of occult science, then we speak of that knowledge that has to do with death, or beyond death. Naturally this is symbolic. Many hermetic texts were found in crypts. When we wish to get closer to these texts, in a certain way we have to die. The literal texts themselves may not be exciting, but that which is transmitted through the text may well be. In a way we can only comprehend these texts if we go through an 'initiational' death. This is something like when we turn away from outer perceptible experiences, and turn inwards. When we die a little in the external world, we begin to define our 'being' in the act of turning towards our spirit.

So, the ancient texts were left to us in crypts, and the real meaning of occultism can only be lived through when we take this through at a conscious level.

Such a text is that of the *Tabula Smaragdina (Emerald Table)* by Hermes Trismegistos.

Occult also means 'hidden'. In ancient times these texts *were* hidden. Today you can buy them in any bookstore. That we read these texts doesn't mean we have found the real meaning of them however, so they can still remain hidden, in spite of the fact they are right in front of us. It is only when this teaching is consciously revived within ourselves that the real knowledge begins to manifest. (In ancient times these were attached to rites of passage).

The third concept is symbolic: *Symbolon* is a Greek word which means sign, token, mark. When we speak of symbolics, then we speak of signs, we investigate marks, the print of something. We could say that our astrological chart is not reality, but is our blue print.

The Linear World View and the Cyclic World View.

Linearity and cyclicity oppose one and another. We could also say modernity and traditionality are opposed. The basic question is, how do we imagine time?

The **Linear World View** thinks of time as a line that begins somewhere in the past, and goes on and on into the future. It sees our lives as a small part of this long line.

We can trace four time line perspectives: **the Jewish, the Christian, the Mohammedan and Modern Natural Science (MNS)**.

All of these have a different beginning: Christianity starts at Jesus's birth, but according to Jewish tradition time starts at the creation of the world on October 7th 3,761 BC.

The Mohammedan starts time at the *hidzsra*. The MNS does not have a starting point, but does think time to be linear. The world view of Isaac Newton was the basis for MNS.

Buddhism, Hinduism and Taoism share a **Cyclic World View**.

If we take a **Cyclic World View**, we imagine time as a circle which always comes back to itself. The snake that bites itself in its tail is a very well-known hermetic symbol.

Reincarnation belongs to this Cyclic World View. After dying we will be reborn, and that which we gained on a spiritual level, we will take with us to our next life.



The Hermetic Structure

In general, tradition is based on those levels where the mind can get a hold, where human thinking can get started. We can define these in a hierarchical way. We will start with the lowest level:

Prapati, which means worship.

Pistis, which means belief.

Gnosis, which means knowing

Karma, which means acting, and

Magic.....

Hermetic Structure

Pistis	Gnosis	Karma	Magic
Christianity	Mysticism	Crusaders Martial arts	Black and White forms (see below)

Black magic is defined as to use knowledge on its own behalf - misuse of ancient, sacred knowledge.

White magic has three aspects:

White Magic

Kabbala

Alchemy

Astrology

There is a very thin line between being a ***kabbalist, alchemist, astrologist or a magii.***
For example, when we see a happening in the future, how do we deal with this?

Kabbala deals with numbers, letters and pictures, like the ***Tarot Cards***.

When we use this, we can see that the magic is present, likewise when we use alchemy and astrology.

Alchemy deals with metals and salts. Chemistry has replaced it in modern times.

The final goal of alchemy was to make gold out of lead. This has to be interpreted symbolically. The lead is the mind that is still contaminated with the dirt of worldly life. Gold is the mind that has set itself free from every shackle that confines it to the materialistic world.

The ***Philosopher's Stone*** also belongs to alchemy.

Astrology deals with stars or planets as symbols. To this we can put pictures, letters, numbers, plants and animals. Astrology is the most complete system.

Magic is at the summit. Magic appears through these systems.

Hermetism as religion.

We must understand that by the word 'religion', we do not mean what it means nowadays: i.e. you believe everything the priest says, live by the Bible and then you go to heaven. On the contrary! Do not believe anything you hear, but check the information. Gain knowledge by experience.

The definition of hermetic is: science above god and nature.

Hermetism has also an ancient guru: Hermes Trismegistos (HTM) - who could be likened to the Buddha in Buddhism.

It is said HTM was the last headpriest of Atlantis. He went to Egypt, built the pyramids and left his knowledge there. He wrote the Tabula Smaragdina (Emerald Table) and left it in the Cheops pyramid, where it was found much later. This contains the ***Hermetic World View***.

In Egypt he was called Toth, which in Greek is Hermes. Trismegistos means 3 times . This refers to the 3 operational levels that occur in alchemy: ***nigredo, albedo, rubedo***.

The most important hermetic work is the ***Corpus Hermeticum***.

So what is Hermetic Astrology?

In Hermetic Astrology we learn everything we learn in other astrology systems. We learn about the planets, the signs, the houses, the aspects. However, when we study Hermetic Astrology we study ourselves. Our chart can be seen as a picture of ourselves in which we can read what energies work within us, where the problems lie, what our capacities are.

It also shows us what tasks lie ahead.

In most systems the emphasis is on the future. In Hermetic Astrology however, the emphasis is on the now. It is in the moment of the present that we make our future. If we live fully consciously in the present, then our future can't be a mystery, because we know every move we make and know what the consequences of our actions are.

For example, the Third House tells us about our neighbours. Let us say we always seem to have problems with them – they are 'fools' . But if we look at our chart, we find out that we have Mars (war) in the 3rd house. That explains why we always have 'fools' as neighbours. By gaining this knowledge, we can take this a step further and next time we meet our neighbours and have a problem, we decide not to start yelling and calling names, but we just notice him or her doing the yelling. We learn to contain the Martian energy; when we know where a problem is rooted, it disappears. As time goes by, our neighbours will cease to be 'fools'.

So Hermetic Astrology is to do with observing that which happens around us, and seeing their counterpart within us in order to learn how to control these processes.

VERBA SECRETORUM HERMETIS.

1. *It is true, certain, and without falsehood, that whatever is below is like that which is above; and that which is above is like that which is below: to accomplish the one wonderful work.*
2. *As all things are derived from the One Only Thing, by the will and by the word of the One Only One who created it in His Mind, so all things owe their existence to this Unity by the order of Nature, and can be improved by Adaptation to that Mind.*
3. *Its Father is the Sun; its Mother is the Moon; the Wind carries it in its womb; and its nurse is the Earth.*
4. *This Thing is the Father of all perfect things in the world.*
5. *Its power is most perfect when it has again been changed into Earth.*
6. *Separate the Earth from the Fire, the subtle from the gross, but carefully and with great judgement and skill.*
7. *It ascends from earth to heaven, and descends again, new born, to the earth, taking unto itself thereby the power of the Above and the Below.*
8. *Thus the splendour of the whole world will be thine, and all darkness shall flee from thee.*
9. *This is the strongest of all powers, the Force of all forces, for it overcometh all subtle things and can penetrate all that is solid.*
10. *For thus was the world created, and rare combinations, and wonders of many kinds are wrought.*
11. *Hence I am called HERMES TRISMEGISTUS, having mastered the three parts of the wisdom of the whole world.*
12. *What I have to say about the masterpiece of the alchemical art, the Solar Work, is now ended*

