

InPresence 0090: The Language of Astrology

with Jeffrey Mishlove

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(00:24) Hello, I'm Jeffrey Mishlove, and today I'd like to talk about the language of astrology. Now, I've been thinking about this recently because I realize, in reflecting on the "In Presence" series over and over and over again, I seem to be advocating that those of you who are viewing this series should let go of your cherished opinions — particularly around politics, but certainly around other areas as well — because I keep getting feedback from viewers who say, "I know the truth — the truth is A, B, C, and D." And I think to myself, "Are you so sure? How can you have confidence in that? I certainly don't." And then it dawned on me: wait a second, I have Libra Rising in my astrology chart.

(01:21) The rising sign is—that means Libra, the sign of Libra, not the constellation, incidentally—the signs and the constellations are no longer equivalent, but the sign of Libra is at the horizon at the time of my birth, which was at 1:20am, for those of you who might be interested, in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin on December 4th, 1946. So, if there are astrologers out there you're welcome to look at my chart. Let me say this: I'm talking about the language of astrology because I find that language to be a useful tool in looking at personality—it's full of complexities and subtleties.

(02:09) But, is it very useful as a predictive tool? That is, is astrology useful as a predictive tool? I've already talked about that in a previous segment on why astrology endures. There's good research to suggest that mainstream astrological analysis, which is what I'm talking about today, is not a good predictive tool. Nevertheless, I do have Libra Rising and what does that suggest? That means my personality — my external persona, maybe the shallowest part of who I am as a person — likes to weigh and balance things. Libra is the sign of the scales, the scales of justice. So, typically, when I hear from viewers who tell me about their strong opinions on politics or religion, or some other thing, I'm weighing and balancing it naturally, and against its contrary.

(03:13) You know, yesterday in the "In Presence" series, I talked about [how] everything has a contrary. So, that's my superficial personality habit not to adopt any one point of view, but to say, "It could be this, it could be that. Let's weigh and balance them, let's see." Now, I finally realized that it's unrealistic for me to expect everybody to be a Libra Rising just like me! Let me say that I have to recognize that there are some people whose personalities will be more fixed, will be more stubborn, will like to cling to the notion of truth, more importantly.

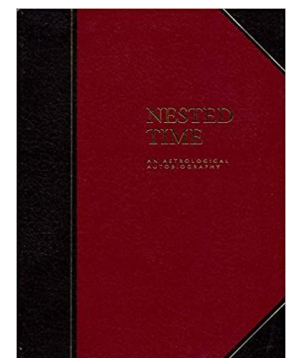
(03:58) Now, my sun sign is Sagittarius, and that's a little different. The Sagittarius is the symbol of the horse with a human head and the body of a horse — that's a Sagittarius. That typically represents a high-minded individual influenced by the planet Jupiter, the "king of the gods," who is very high-minded, who has an animal nature, yes, but the animal nature is under control, supposedly. Well, maybe not, because if you look at the legends of the god Jupiter, or Zeus, you'll see that he does seem to allow his animal nature to have quite a lot of play. But, the sign of Sagittarius is typically thought to be affiliated with high-mindedness, philosophical thinking. Now, that might represent more the core of who I am—the sun sign is deeper than the personality. The sun represents the heart, maybe the soul of an individual.

(05:08) However, Sagittarius is a mutable sign so that means I'm very flexible, I'm not the kind of stubborn type. Now, an interesting thing about my astrology chart, incidentally, is that I have no planets in any earth signs at all. Fire, air, and water are where all of my planets are located. So naturally, when it comes to finding a mate to share my life with I have been attracted to "earthy" women, and particularly for some reason Taurus. My wife of forty years is a Taurus. That's an earth sign, well grounded. So, while I have my head in the clouds, I have a spouse who is always thinking of practical matters.

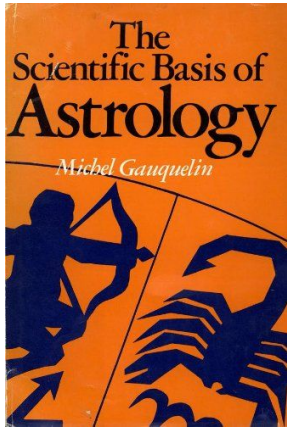
(06:02) Now, I find astrology useful in this sense, in terms of my ability to characterize myself. As I say, it's a language. I don't think of it as a system of thought as much as a language to use when talking about the person, talking about the soul. There are many other finer points related to astrology. My moon, for example, is in Aries. Aries is a cardinal sign, kind of impulsive, kind of impetuous, kind of also willing to take a leadership role, willing to be first. It's what they call a cardinal sign, which means one who takes initiative. The moon represents the emotions in astrology.

(6:56) So, I'm giving you all this information because I realize I've been, over the course of this "In Presence" series and the *Thinking Allowed* series, handing out a lot of advice. I think you're entitled to have a sense of, you know, "Who is this person giving me this advice?" Besides the actual facts of my biography, this description of myself might give you a little bit of perspective so that you can say if I'm telling you to "let go of your cherished ideals," and you're tired of hearing me say it cause you love your cherished ideals. Well, then you can say to yourself, "Oh, it's just his Libra Rising coming out. I don't have to take it so seriously." On the other hand, the fact that you are clinging to your ideals, if you do, may be a very positive thing for you, and may be very inherent in the nature of your psychological makeup. If it is you'll probably find some astrological way of explaining it, if that's of any interest to you.

(08:05) Now, when it comes to esoteric thought, astrology is actually pretty important. It's a very ancient esoteric system. It goes back to the ancient



Babylonians and Sumerians, to the earliest people who looked up at the sky and tried to make sense of it. As I've mentioned, my mentor, Arthur M. Young, the inventor of the Bell helicopter, was a deep student of astrology. For those of you who really want to dig into it, I would recommend his book, *Nested Time*. It's an autobiography that he wrote about his whole fascinating career, in which he looks at his own life in terms of the language of astrology. Sometimes, there are very uncanny things that occur.



(09:05) Now, I don't think those uncanny things that do occur with regard to astrology have anything to do with astrology as a mechanistic system. It certainly is not, to my way of thinking, a very viable mechanistic system, in spite of the research of Michel Gauquelin — which has never been, to my understanding, refuted, and which purports to show that certain planets and certain configurations—not mainstream astrology, but nevertheless not inconsistent with mainstream astrology either, just more obscure aspects of astrology—really do hold up in a statistical level. So that, for example, people who are born with Mars — the planet Mars — on the horizon or directly overhead at the time of their birth tend to be statistically more likely to become professional athletes than other people. Well, I think it's an interesting finding. Who knows what to make of it? It has been replicated, I can say that.

(10:16) Well, what does this mean for you? I guess it means if you're into astrology it gives you a little more meat to chew on. If you're not into astrology maybe it'll give you a little more appreciation for people who are. Now, let me just share one other point with you: biorhythms. Now, some of you may know about biorhythms, you can get apps for your cell phone that will calculate your biorhythm based on the date of your birth — they check fourteen day rhythms, ten day rhythms, seven day rhythms, twenty-one day rhythms — and when some of these rhythms coincide with each other it's said, "You're in danger, you're vulnerable," if that happens. So, people sometimes check their biorhythms to make sure they're not about to have a bad day and make an important decision on a bad day.

(11:15) Now, I can tell you this: scientifically, to my knowledge, there's no basis for these biorhythms whatsoever. The idea of a ten day or a fourteen day cycle that works invariably from the day of your birth is just not supported by any empirical evidence. And yet, biorhythms work. They have a pragmatic value. The reason is simply, to my way of thinking, if people periodically check and have a system that says, you know, "You better be careful on this day, you better be careful on that day," — that means that people are going to be more careful, and therefore they'll be helped. It's not so different from what in psychology is known as a "Hawthorne effect."

(12:05) Hawthorne was a big electrical plant back, as I recall, in the 1950s. They did all sorts of psychological interventions at that plant to see if they could operate it more efficiently. It was sort of like the "time and work studies" era. What they found is every single intervention helped regardless of the theoretical merit of the intervention. Isn't that interesting? So, there's a pragmatic value to

anything that you might want to do to help improve your life. Even if that thing is misguided, theoretically, the fact that you are taking the time and trouble to consider, “What can I do to improve myself?” makes a real difference. So, minimally thinking, I believe the Hawthorne effect also can apply to astrology.

(13:06) Now, as I’ve said, I don’t think astrology has much in the way of scientific merit, but it has some. That’s why I think it’s very useful for those of you who may have strong opinions about astrology — that it’s all bunk, that it’s all superstition. Well, perhaps it’s time for you to give those strong opinions a second review, a second analysis. Think twice — “Think twice before you think once.” I will leave you with that thought. Thank you for being with me. (13:46)

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