

## PERSONALITY PUT OUT TO PASTURE

December 5, 2012

By Michael Erlewine ([Michael@Erlewine.net](mailto:Michael@Erlewine.net))

This will probably be my last blog in this series on transferring one's consciousness from focusing exclusively on one's personality, to something more inclusive and (note this please) less impermanent.

In the transference process, we don't abandon our personality, but we do learn to manage it or, as I tell myself, I put my personality out to pasture, and perpetually (and gently) care for it as I would care for any other person, but I no longer let it exclusively "drive the car." In the metaphor of astrology that I have been using, we discover our heliocentric chart, our Dharma Chart. In the process we loosen our death-grip (at least a bit) on our personality and ego. We simply transfer our consciousness.

"Transference of Consciousness." This may sound like an intellectual concept, but it is so much more. Astrologically, it refers to what happens when we discover that our Dharma Chart (heliocentric natal chart) is a more accurate reflection of who we are on the inside than the geocentric natal chart we have been using all along. When that happens, we find ourselves transferring our identification from the geo chart to the helio chart, and quite effortlessly at that, because it is trading up to a more accurate view of ourselves. It is inclusive, not exclusive, a step toward the center

The problem is that we tend to think that we are already at the center of the universe, and in a way we are, personally, circumstantially. But there are other persons in the world than us, and Copernicus made it clear hundreds of years ago that everything does not revolve around Earth. In fact Earth (and all planets) revolves around the Sun, which is what I am pointing out here.

Identification with the helio or dharma chart is key in consciousness transference, and it naturally brings with it increased awareness when (and as) that identification takes place. If there is a one miraculous technique in astrology, IMO, this is it, if only because it is an actual step away from just thinking geocentrically (personally), a step into another coordinate system – another dimension entirely. To put it plainly, in my life I found that this was a bit of a miracle.

It is perhaps a little unfair, but at times I am tempted to spell "geo" as "ego," and while there is nothing wrong with traditional ego-centric astrology, it is by definition Earth-centered only. Is that all we are, our personality? Taking a step beyond our personal ego (into something broader) puts our personal chart (and personality) in some relief, so that we can be aware of it and use it properly. It brings perspective.

Adding the helio or Dharma Chart is not (as many astrologers have told me) an abandoning of Earth, but rather a confirmation that Earth is our personal vehicle, but not our soul. We are more

than our (far-too-often) flawed person. We are also spirit, a discovery that, although we may be born on (and of) Earth, our true identity is the mind itself, and identifying with the Sun (something beyond our person) is a first step in that direction. In other words, we are representative intelligence of the cosmos, not just of Earth.

This is no different than many of us already believe, that astrology, while useful, is not a religion. It is useful as a relative means to know ourselves. Another way of saying this is that our standard astrological chart (personality chart) is not all of what we are. Inside that and shining through our person (attractive or otherwise) is what we could call our spirit or soul. That is what I am talking about here; the Dharma Chart is a map of the soul of spirit, which our Karma Chart is not. The Karma Chart is an extension of our Dharma Chart into the physical (Earth), and not vice versa.

## IDENTIFICATION

When we say that we identify with someone, just what is it that we mean? Whole books should be written about the process of identification, because it is a great unknown. What actually is identification?

If you have ever wondered what enlightenment feel like, that moment of identification is a sample.

By identification I don't mean simple classification, as in "I see or identify that flower or bug," although they are related. Identification here means that we identify with the person, object, or event as part of us. We include. You know, I identify with this or that teacher or person. Identify.

In the instant of identification we recognize (realize) and find (and include) some part of ourselves through the experience. Identification is so inclusive that perhaps we even lose consciousness for a nano-second or so. In that moment, like the hummingbird, we rest in midair. Certainly, for that moment it takes in all that we are. We are lost in a moment of identification. Sometime try and be aware of what happens when you identify strongly with a person or whatever. It is remarkable.

I have written many times in many articles for many years that "Identification is Circulation," and that identification is the way the cosmos communicates with itself, and it talks to (and through) us. More correct would be to say, we in fact are that overriding intelligence to the degree we are aware of it.

When we identify with someone or something, what is it that happens? It is very special indeed. As we identify, we become one with everything. There are no others or external. Outside and inside are united.

Perhaps something flows or moves within or through us (or do we move through?). We are in the present moment, exclusive of anything else. Our heart becomes the highway over which our

life can run. The process and goal are identical. Identification.

As you can see, it is beyond words what happens, but move it does. I would like to hear how you describe it. In your experience, what actually happens? For one, we intensify or have momentary tunnel vision during which our external environment fades and we imprint or experience strongly. Identification is an internal rather than an external experience. It short-circuits whatever else is happening, our day-to-day distractions, and we have an on-the-spot mini-vision. We identify.

Like that old song, "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever," so it is with identification. A passage or 'insight' is open (an open channel) through which we instantly pass or flow, the traveler and the road traveled as one.

For myself, I like to believe this is how the cosmos communicates with itself, how cosmic information flows, thus my statement "Identification Is Circulation." I won't go on, but I want you to know that I am interested in understanding this process.