

General Introduction

This book is one of a series of nine books featuring the harmonious aspects of astrology as they relate to our path to awakening. Its purpose is to aid us on our path to higher consciousness and ultimate awakening through the understanding of these planetary connections which the authors call Gifts. Planetary aspects are more thoroughly explained in the Astrology section below.

What are Gifts? These are the harmonious or easy planetary aspects that are part of each person's natal or birth chart and are generous handouts from the universe to us. They are not hard lessons to be learned. In fact, each Gift is an outright joyful present with which we can play and have fun. We call these harmonious aspects "Gifts" because they are like manna from Heaven, feeding and sustaining us on our life's journey.

We may have more than one Gift in our chart. Regardless, each of them is ours to use as we see fit; there are no strings attached. Just like any other gift, if we choose to put our planetary Gift in the closet and ignore it, we could miss an opportunity for more

expansive fun and adventures in life. The only real consequence is possibly a slower evolutionary path to awakening.

The Balance: Each of the Gifts contains two separate energies that must sooner or later be balanced. One of the pair may be very strong and active; the other may be rather tranquil and passive. Part of our life we might emphasize the stronger of the two and ignore the other one. We somehow “know” this though, because the neglected one is always in the background whispering to us to make it part of our behavior and action. That’s because the two planets’ energies are drawn to each other in a harmonious aspect so naturally they want a balance. That’s where the pathway comes in and is explained below.

The Mosaic that is Each of Us: When we read the chapter on our particular Gift, some of us might not resonate with all its contents. Why is that? The explanations given for each Gift are the most exact scenario the authors imagined for that aspect. Yet, we each are a mosaic of many, zodiacal signs and aspects, as well as social conditioning, beliefs and behaviors that make up our personality and character. The Gift, at this point in life, may be latent, undeveloped or be emphasizing only just a small part of its potential. Besides, the Gift does not tell us who we are. Instead it

points out our potential for growth and expansion in an area where we are truly gifted—whether we realize it now or not!

The Path or the pathway in each chapter is the road we walk down with each of our Gifts from the time we were born until we make our transition. Often, we take side trails, jump over obstacles and walk down scary, uncharted roads on our life journey. Sometimes we even stray off the path for a long time and ignore its gravitational and zodiacal pull. We think we know better!

After a while, we start to understand that if we just stopped fighting the process and relax, we'd be much happier. [Abraham-Hicks](#) calls that “staying in the vortex,” “going downstream,” or “going with the flow” rather than paddling like mad upstream just to stay afloat!

When we finally stop resisting and just let go, we are inspired to balance the energies of our Gift(s). We are then walking steadily down our path towards awakening.

Spiritual Awakening: Some of us ease in and out of Awakening, and some of us make it in one fell swoop.

Whichever is our way, permanent awakening is the goal.

Yet, what exactly is spiritual awakening? Ask any ten people what it is, and we are sure to get ten different and possibly divisive answers! The authors are aware of this and have avoided giving any set or stock method for eventual awakening. They are also still on the path!

Instead, in the book, they focus on each of us moving towards becoming conscious in all of our activities, relationships and behaviors, mindfully walking our path, rather than stumbling along blindly. This means opening our physical eyes and developing our extrasensory perception along with our talents and skills, by playing with our Gifts! Essentially, becoming conscious means recovering the knowledge that we are our soul, not our body. Our body is just the vehicle through which we express our soul!

This awakening could be just for a split second of recognition of some principle or truth or it could be permanent. The quick glimpse could be a flash of universal unity or just an insight into, say, male-female oneness. What it awakens in us is the sense that we are One with all there is; there is no separation.

What ultimate permanent awakening exactly is in terms of behavior and inner beingness seems to be different for many people, since there is very diverse opinion on it. All we know is that each small step into conscious living leads us into the brighter light of that unity which is Source. The final step into awakening seems to be a present of Grace from Source.

The other piece is that as we raise our own consciousness, we also realize we are not in this alone. We are all one and so it could be our responsibility and pleasure to help others to heal, overcome conflicts and release themselves from suffering on their way to awakening. The best approach is to teach by example or by walking our talk in our daily life.

The Shift: The “Shift” section of each chapter gives us a way to see what progress we’ve made on our path to awakening. The statements are intended to indicate a higher level vibration of the Gift, where we are beginning to observe our behaviors and notice how they are evolving and changing. By no means is the list complete; each of us has our own unique way of expressing this transformation or shift in our consciousness.

Most of the Shift items are statements of positive behaviors or attitudes that give us signs or symptoms of

a shift in our consciousness. Really, though, it's not what we DO that awakens us; it is who we are—spiritual beings involved in yet another incarnation of continuing evolution. As we become more conscious of this and live in a mindful way, we just naturally wake up at some point—aided by the Divine who infuses us with Its blessings.

Who is Source? Many words have been used to label the One Power in the Universe. In this book, the authors use various names, including: God, The Holy, The Divine, Source, Spirit, The Sacred, The Presence, Divine Mind, and others. All refer to that one unifying power of which we are a part. Through this connection we become the only source through which The Cosmic knows and expresses Itself in form. Now that's a mouthful to wrap our mind around!

GodBumps – A Direct Connection to the Divine: Most of us have experienced chills, shudders, tingles, buzzing sounds or flashes of light that have no basis in the material world. They just happened. The authors in their previous book called *GodBumps* talk about these physical manifestations, their different levels of intensity and modes and how we can use them and let them use us! They are direct connections to the spiritual realm that cannot only verify our decisions but guide us in many other ways. Throughout this current book,

there will be various references to GodBumps as a way to help us on our path to awakening. The book is available as a [Kindle reader](#) or in paperback on the [website](#).

A Lifetime Only or Many of Them? The authors talk a lot about reincarnation, especially in the Pluto book, since that planet's energy is fixed on rebirth and renewal. They view this lifetime as a continuation of a soul's timeline which produced stunning growth as well as stifling stumbling blocks. They believe that we now are all back on earth to build on the talents, skills and experience gained in eons past as well as to iron out the wrinkles we set in place as part of our life contract. All of this is directed at awakening in consciousness to our true Higher Self or spiritual beingness. The ultimate goal is Oneness with all there is.

Our Soul Group: Many people have been with us through our many life cycles. They are our soul group of parents, siblings, children, other relatives, friends, as well as some workmates, schoolmates, teachers and others. Some preceded us into the afterlife; others are still being incarnated. Each group consists of perhaps 1,500 souls who exchange roles lifetime after lifetime. In another life, our current life brother was, perhaps, our grandma. The reason for many incarnations and soul groups is to raise our Spiritual vibration.

We, the People and Each Person: This oneness we share with Source and therefore with everyone and everything is part of the sentence structure of this book. The authors use the unifying and inclusive “we” as a pronoun. It is meant both in a general, plural sense (for the many) as well as in the singular and particular (for each of us as individuals). It has a less divisive meaning than the more common “you” or “they.” Those words imply the writers are speaking down to others from a higher platform of understanding and knowledge rather than sharing what can be of benefit to all including the authors. “We” is sharing of our oneness rather than preaching.

Astrology & the Tarot

Astrology and the Zodiac: [Wikipedia](#) defines astrology as the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies. “The Modern Textbook of Astrology” by Margaret Hone says of aspects that: ...”certain traits of character and certain types of events appear to correlate with certain planetary relationships.”

Centuries of study has brought about these definitions. As the masters of astrology observed the alignment of the planets and human behavior and events they found these correlations. By no means does this mean cause

and effect but something much more subtle, and perhaps still not fully understood. Could it be that both are affected by the same underlying force?

The Planets of the Zodiac: In astronomy, our nine planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. However, in astrology, Earth is the vantage point from which we view the other planets so is not considered a zodiacal planet. So there are the remaining eight planets PLUS the luminaries: the Sun and the Moon, for a total of ten so-called planets of the zodiac.

The Signs of the Zodiac in Western and Eastern Astrology: Most of us are familiar with western astrology which calculates our chart by where the planets are in the sky at the time, date and place of our birth. Our sun sign is, for example, the place where the Sun was in the Zodiac at the time we were born. We have signs for each of the other planets as well as 12 houses involved! Lots of math involved.

However, there's a problem with this method. That is because there is a 23 degree difference between how western and eastern astrology calculates when each zodiac sign begins. So what is Aries in western astrology most likely is Pisces in the eastern method.

However, the system of calculating the connection between planets, as opposed to the signs, is the same in both the western and eastern systems. That means, for this book's authors, the aspects are the single most unifying factor in astrology because of the cross-over of both systems. Besides this, the planets are the verbs or the action words of the zodiac, so we can more easily make changes in our life by learning how these sanguine aspects aid in our energy flow.

The Planetary Aspects: As stated earlier, aspects are connections between two planets. To determine an aspect, an astrologer calculates the angular distance a planet makes to another planet. In a person's natal chart this is done for the time of our birth.

Squares (right angles) and oppositions (directly across from each other) are challenges, as are some adjoining planets, called challenging conjunctions. With these so called hard aspects, lots of constructive energy and work needs to be directed to bring them into positive alignment with our life's purpose. These "paddling up stream" aspects are not addressed in these books. Too much effort is being placed on them already. Instead of Gifts, they are challenges. Gifts, on the other hand, are sanguine, easy, positive flows of energy in our lives. That's the direction of this series of books and is what will reap us joy. We take the best and leave the rest.

The aspects that make up the Gifts are called sextiles (60 degree angles), trines (120 degree angles) and sometimes conjunctions (adjoining planets or 0 degrees) which the authors call “harmonious conjunctions.” A chart on the conjunctions, both easy and challenging, is shown below. The harmonious aspects don’t present difficulties and challenges to overcome, but rather are gifts from the cosmos to us, making it easier for us in that particular energy flow.

The nice thing about these planetary Gifts is that there is no school of hard knocks to work our way through as there seems to be with the challenging aspects. These Gifts are just wonderful potentials from the universe for us to enjoy and develop to their full power. They are like clues in the game of creating more joy in life.

Although there are no struggles involved with Gifts, the more energy we put into each one, the better. Because their power is so peaceful and easily flowing in our life, we aren’t as aware of them as we are with the more challenging aspects. They seem so natural and easy for us; in fact, we may even believe everyone has these abilities, just because we do! In this book, the authors help us become aware of each Gift so that we can consciously work with it to move us happily along the path to higher consciousness and awakening.

The Strength of the Gifts: How do we know which of our Gifts is stronger and therefore more available to us? It all depends upon how close the angles of the aspect are to being exactly 0, 60 or 120 degrees. For example if one sextile Gift is two degrees away (at 58 deg.) from being exactly 60 degrees and another Gift is one degree away (at 59 deg.) from being exact, the aspect that is one degree away is closer and is stronger. We call that difference from exact, “the orb.” So one degree of orb is closer and a stronger Gift than a two degree orb. Wider than approximately eight degrees, the connection is considered out of orb and the planets are no longer considered related.

The Gifted Planet: If all the aspects to a particular planet are harmonious ones, then we call this planet, a ‘gifted planet’. For example, the Sun could be called a Gifted Planet if we only have trines and sextiles and harmonious conjunctions to it from other planets but no squares or oppositions.

See the chart below to correctly understand which conjunctions are harmonious. When we have a Gifted Planet, such as the Sun, Pluto, etc., we’d be wise to read the entire book on that planet, not just the chapter that applies to our Gift.

Our Natal Chart Aspects: How do we know which Gifts we have and how strong they are? We need an astrologer to tell us what our ‘harmonious natal aspects’ are and how strong they are in our chart. There are many sources on line to get inexpensive or even free natal charts. From the chart it is easy to find the Gifts since each gifted aspect is listed as composed of two planets separated by “trine” “sextile” or in some cases “conjunction.” Conjunctions that are Gifts are those marked with an “X”.

| Conjunctions of Planets (“X” indicates a harmonious conjunction) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | M e r | Ve n | Su n | Ma r | Ju p | Sa t | Ur a | Ne p | Pl u |
| Moon | X | X | X | | X | | | X | |
| Mer | | X | X | | X | | | X | |
| Ven | X | | X | | X | | | X | |
| Sun | X | X | | | X | | | X | |
| Mars | | | | | | | | | |
| Jup | X | X | X | | | | | X | |
| Sat | | | | | | | | | |
| Uran | | | | | | | | | |
| Nep | X | X | X | | X | | | | |
| Plu | | | | | | | | | |

As the chart indicates, a Moon-Mercury aspect is harmonious (or any two planets that have an “X”), but if the box is blank as in Moon-Mars conjunction it is a challenging aspect so is not considered a Gift.

Current Aspects or Transits: During any year in our lifetime, the planets make aspects to each other that might match one or more of the Gifts from our natal chart. With that energy once more in a strong position because of resonance with the birth aspect, what a wonderful opportunity it is for us to put some energy into further developing the Gift at that time! We can get this activation information through a chart of our transits each year.

The Tarot – Astrology is better known and more accepted by the general public, but the Tarot is another powerful tool for raising consciousness. Its negative image was the result of Tarot having been used in the past for fortune telling and for holding connections to gypsies and witches in people’s minds even today. But that has been silently changing over the past 30 years or so. The accent has shifted to its use as a tool for psychological, emotional and spiritual development.

Tarot is first and foremost still a spiritual tool to many and is deeply rooted in the Qabalah (Tree of Life) and the western mystery schools, such as [B.O.T.A.](#) and

F.L.O. These schools' particular emphasis is on developing a higher consciousness of who we really are—spiritual beings. In their philosophy, the Tarot is the most important instrument in enlightening us as we walk the journey of the Fool. Each of the major cards or Keys along the way from The Fool (Key 0) to The World (Key 21) is an essential step on the path. When we study and embody the esoteric principles and symbols of the Keys, we will have found an unfailingly wise guide along our path to awakening.

The mystery schools also correlate the individual major arcana cards (22 in all) with each of the ten planet's energies and the 12 signs. So, as we explore the aspects, we'll see at least two of the major Tarot cards corresponding with a planet and sign. Each of these cards contributes a spiritual focus to that planet's energy. An explanation of each card's contribution is part of the commentary of the aspects in this book.