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# The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth

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The concerns and questions of those who have come for sessions with me over the past 30 years have been as varied as the individuals themselves. Some are quite personal, while others are more universal. Some questions are asked with great urgency; others from modest curiosity. Some concerns come up more often, some less frequently.

In sessions, I try to respond to my clients' concerns and answer their questions to the best of my ability. Although I am not expected to know everything, to some extent, my work does involve "playing God." While this is, of course, an impossible task, I take it on because playing cosmic authority is part of the job description that comes with being an astrologer. And I admit with some embarrassment to liking that part of the job perhaps more than I should. Curiously, knowing that flaw in myself tends to keep me significantly more humble than I might otherwise be. And, of course, life itself has humbled me considerably over my 53 years.

The answers I offer in sessions vary dramatically from client to client, just as the personal mythology and belief systems of one client are not identical to those of another. The answers I give come from the astrology of my clients' charts—or, at least, from my understanding of that astrology—but also from intuition, from

common sense, and from the long background of my education in thinking and perceiving, in psychology, in history and culture, and in metaphysics.

This is not to suggest that the information I offer in sessions is infallibly correct, merely to say that it is not made up from thin air or cut out of whole cloth. The information comes from my client's chart, and I report it as dutifully as my skills and sensitivities allow. I do my best as a professional to offer insights that will be helpful to each client by their being tailored to the tools I use to reveal the meanings of that individual's life.

This is not the same, however, as telling the "real truth" of what I know.

Just as a doctor may not know the ultimate cause of a patient's illness, and a mechanic may not be able to accurately pinpoint the reason behind a problem with a customer's car, so I am often asked questions as an astrologer that I wish I didn't have to answer, especially when I know all too well that these questions are finally unanswerable.

For instance, the very essence of my work is to define a client's life-purpose, and to talk about that purpose in ways that enhance clarify and coherence in the person's life, to allow my clients to come home to themselves. I do this day-in and day-out, not only because my astrological tools allow it, but because it's my job.

Every so often, however, the burden of professional knowing becomes too great. I long to tell a more simple truth, almost like a confession. So what follows is a partial list of questions to which I routinely give professional answers in sessions, followed by the "real answers" from my personal awareness. This list represents what I actually know for sure and can offer with absolute certainty. They are the true, final, bottom-line answers that emerge from my private reverence and awe for the Great Mystery of Life:

Q: *What is the meaning of life in general?*

A: I don't know.

Q: *What is the purpose of my life in particular?*

A: I haven't the foggiest idea.

Q: *What should I do about the issues of my concern?*

A: Can't help you there.

Q: *Will I ever find true happiness? Love? Serenity?*

A: I am unable to address those questions.

Q: *Will I have enough money to be secure?*

A: I wish I could answer that for you and me both.

Q: *Will my relationship last? Are my partner and I compatible?*

A: Sorry, that is beyond my ability to perceive.

Q: *Do I have a soul mate? Will we ever meet? And when?*

A: I have no reliable information about any of that.

Q: *Will my children be all right? What can I do to help them?*

A: Impossible for me to say.

Q: *How can I best resolve issues with my parents and siblings?*

A: You would know better than I ever could.

Q: *Is reincarnation real? Have I lived before?*

A: Any answer I give would be pure speculation.

Q: *Where do we come from? What happens after death?*

A. That information is beyond my ability to grasp.

Q: *Are we destroying the earth? How can we heal ourselves and the planet?*

A: Sorry, I'm unable to tell you.

Q: *Which is spiritually correct, pro-life or pro-choice?*

A: I wish I knew, but I don't.

Q: *Does God intervene in human affairs? Is prayer effective?*

A: The answers to those questions elude me.

Q: *Is life ruled by fate or free will?*

A. I can't say, since I really don't know.

Q. *Well then, what advice can you give me?*

A. The same as that offered by Meher Baba: "Don't worry; Be Happy."

Having admitted—*confessed*—that finally I have no answers, I must also admit that I cannot live as if "I don't know." Hell, I couldn't get through even a single day without presuming that I know at least a little, and usually a great deal more. That presumption, as vain, arrogant, and foolish as it may be, is *required* by the demands of ordinary life. We must pretend to know.

In my defense, I pretend to know less now than ever before, certainly much less than I believed earlier in my life. Even so, I am probably still guilty of this seemingly necessary human folly.

Whatever the built-in pitfalls, I'm not likely to stop doing sessions tomorrow, because this work is both my passion and my livelihood. If I can judge by my clients' feedback, my professional sessions are usually provocative, insightful, and helpful. My "hits-versus-misses" ratio is apparently very high. The fact that the information I provide in sessions must finally be considered speculative does not imply that it's necessarily wrong or misleading.

Also, I've learned over time that the deeper value of sessions is based not so much on the objective accuracy of the information (which is sometimes stunning but can't be guaranteed), but rather, from the deep confirmation that comes from hearing what we think, feel, and believe through the words of another human being.

Too often, what other people tell us about ourselves misses the mark of our own self-perceptions. It's as if they're talking about a stranger, someone we hardly

recognize, but certainly not us. In the majority of the 10,000 sessions I've done, my astrological tools and intuitive empathy allow me to talk to my clients in ways they recognize as uniquely their own. Often, this recognition is shocking, to the point of clients telling me that it's as if I were speaking from inside their own heads and hearts.

At one point or another in our lives, most of us worry privately that we're whacked, that what we see and feel, especially about ourselves, is just plain nuts. It's a secret, unstated fear, and more universal than many people realize. Talking to our mothers or our best friends often does nothing to relieve these private worries. On the contrary, such conversations with our family and friends may increase our personal anxiety.

Astrological sessions—or, I should say, my sessions, since those are the only ones I know well—tend to cut through that haze and go right to the heart of my clients' self-perceptions. It's a kind of spiritual solace, a balm for our sanity, to discover that someone else sees what we see about ourselves. We relax a little into the comfort of not feeling so invisibly alone. That makes every tough decision calmer, if not always easier.

Though I downplayed this benefit early in my career, I've come to appreciate it more and more. Even when the information I have for someone in a session is not optimistic about a situation, it usually reflects their own perceptions and feelings. In this, there is extraordinary confirmation and an almost palpable sense of relief.

I do hope, however, that those who come for sessions will remember that what I seem to know about their lives (and offer with apparently confident authority) must be considered and understood from within the larger context of ultimate human ignorance, where everything that is known, everything that seems so dependable and certain, may be mere illusion, to be reduced to ashes in an instant in the shape-shifting game of hide-seek-and-change that reality plays so well.

***First there is a mountain, then there is no mountain, then there is...***