

Midheaven

JAN/FEB 2012 *VOL.22 No.3

Book Review by Alison Price (alison@starzology.com)

***Learning Without Tears* written by Helyn Connerr**

Introduction

Of all the astrology books I have had the pleasure of reviewing over the years *Learning Without Tears* is in a class of its own. Connerr takes the Mercury archetype, well known by astrologers, to a new level.

The author does not complicate the information being presented with an excess of technical terms, words and astrologese. She specifically uses regular language to get her message across to the layperson.

There is the option to skip the detailed astrological explanations, if you wish to clearly focus on the child's learning style, and not where it originates. With this brilliant approach, the author has subtly woven birth chart features into mainstream education, which is directly aimed at parents and teachers.

We often hear the lament that astrology is not taken seriously by science. It is portrayed as the poor relation to astronomy and psychology. This fact was brought home to us during the 2011 online heated discussions. Here lies the beauty of this original book from an astrologer's point of view. The author has parlayed astrology, and its centuries old traditions, into mainstream educational thought even perhaps without its detractors noticing.

This book is divided into three parts.

Part I: Individual Learning Styles and How They Interact

In the first section she discusses each of the twelve possible learning styles and how they manifest in every child. Presented with colorful animal characters clearly identifying each role. Areas of similarity and difference are brought out in a subset by the style groupings and divisions which are easily recognizable to the astrology student as polarity, quadruplicity and element. Connerr presents some real life parent and child scenarios and the resolutions are provided using the Mercury model.

We are challenged to explore our own learning style as parents and to consider how we default to that particular method by personally giving it preference and value

Part II: Variations and Background

She discusses how features in the whole nativity can influence each personality and provide modifications. Then goes on to explain the extraction of the essence for each Mercury archetype during individual analysis.

Part III: Identify a Learning Style

The author provides yearly assessment tables (Mercury ephemerides) so each person can discover their learning style.

The New Physics and Essential Mercury

Helyn Connerr MSc is well qualified to write this book. Her background is impressive and she has studied astrology for over thirty years. She brings a scientist's mind to an astrological problem.

Believing you can observe the energy principle of Essential Mercury in action and watch its effects, she discusses how the principles outlined are shown by planet, element, music, animals, literature, esoterica and the physical body. That Mercury, as an information receptor, is inherent in how we live, breathe and perceive.

Final thoughts

Although this book is aimed at educators, parents and children, one wonders if astrology teachers, when using this method, will find their students benefit and grasp new information in a way each learner can assimilate.

It is quite apparent that we retain our learning style throughout life. If as grown-ups, we choose to embark on further study, we will benefit by aligning ourselves with our own Mercury model. This simple practice would enhance the adult education process. Rather than thinking, "I'm too old to learn this" perhaps we need to open up our minds, because, obviously we can learn if we are presented and communicated information in a way we each can appreciate.

Learning Without Tears comes highly recommended for students, parents and educators.

You can order your copy directly from the website: www.astroinnovation.com.