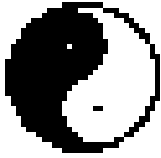


Tong Ren and Astrology By Sharon Mullen



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I have been an astrologer for 20 years, and I have studied with Tom Tam for about the same length of time. While I have long noted correlations between astrology and Tom's methods, it is only in the last year, that I have begun to actually combine the two together.

Astrology, basically, is the study of the connections between the objects of the cosmos, especially including human beings and the celestial bodies of our solar system. Nearly every ancient culture, apparently independently, observed the relationships between events on Earth and the movements of the celestial objects.

Perhaps the most obvious example involves the tides of the oceans, which are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon. The tides at the new moon are the highest, followed by those at the full moon. The lowest tides occur at the quarter moons.

As our own Tom Tam has observed, modern physics has proven that all objects in the universe are interconnected. If the position of the sun and moon change, which they, of course, do every day, the earth and all on earth also change.

At a person's birth, the planetary energies which exist at the time and place of birth connect with the person's own energy and become part of the person's mind and body. It is not clear exactly how the energies come into the person. It has been suggested, however, that they enter the body through the acupuncture points.

In the ancient world, astronomy and astrology were linked, and considered parts of the same study. Ancient astronomers, who observed the motions of the heavenly bodies, always included information about the likely affects of planetary positions on human lives. The most refined form of astrology was developed in areas which are all now in modern-day Iraq (Chaldea, Mesopotamia, Babylon).

Astrologers use charts to depict the planetary positions for a particular time and place. The birth, or natal, chart is for the time and place of a person's birth. Not unlike Chinese writing, glyphs are used to represent the planets and other astrological information.

All the planets revolve in a counterclockwise manner around the sun, within a band of energy called the zodiac. The zodiac is divided into 12 sections, known as signs. The moon revolves around the earth, also traveling through this zodiac. The sun does not actually move around the zodiac, but it appears to do so, because of the motion of the earth itself around the sun.

Because the planets are moving at different rates of speed, their relationships to each other change. (Mars, for example takes about 2 Earth years to go around the sun. Jupiter takes about 12.) As they revolve around the sun, the planets come into different positions relative to each other. These planetary positions are known as 'aspects'.

Some planetary aspects are stressful, difficult. To me, these aspects are very similar to the blockages we speak of in Tong Ren. Just as bioelectricity is blocked, so can the 'cosmic energy' be 'blocked'. (Most astrologers do not actually use these terms, but they seem to fit, nonetheless.) Generally, when two planets are on opposite sides of the zodiacal band from each other, or at right angles to each other, these aspects are difficult.

Often, there are difficult aspects within the natal chart. Much of astrology concerns itself with aspects in the natal chart, or between the charts of individuals, which may also present difficulties. Astrology also studies 'transits', or planetary positions which occur after the birth (or event) being studied. While the planetary positions in the natal chart will remain the same, the physical planets keep moving, or transiting. As transiting planets make difficult aspects with planets in the natal chart, stressful energies result.

I should note that astrology is not deterministic, as is sometimes supposed. Certain outcomes are not pre-determined from planetary aspects. We can predict areas and times of stress quite precisely, but we cannot absolutely predict the outcome. Most people, at least in our society, have some choice as to how to handle their aspects.

Interestingly, the same difficult aspect in a chart may manifest in completely opposite ways. For example, a person with his/her Sun at a ninety degree angle from Saturn at birth may be either a bully or one who is bullied. This is because the Sun represents the self and Saturn represents authority figures. While we may be able to guess from other aspects in the chart which type of behavior is likely to manifest, we cannot really know for sure.

This is like the Tong Ren concept that a blockage along the C-6 and C-7 areas could cause either hypothyroidism, or hyperthyroidism, either over-activity or under- activity.

I began my own 'guinea pig'-like experiment last year. I have now incorporated astrology with Tong Ren when working with dozens of people. After identifying the astrological difficulty, the planetary blockage, if you will, I tap along the glyphs for the planets involved with the Tong Ren hammer and then tap the doll (usually at least at the Liver 3, Kidney 1 points, to ground the energies).

Everyone I have worked on has reported a deep level of release when the chart is incorporated with the Tong Ren treatment. Sometimes, the results have been very striking, with symptoms resolving more quickly. For instance, in one case, persistent pain levels improved with use of the incorporation of astrology and Tong Ren. In other cases,

persistent depression was helped. In an MS case, one symptom which just would not resolve did indeed resolve, when astrology was incorporated.

Astrology is a complicated study, but basic information about the planets and their relationships is not too difficult to learn, especially if a person concentrates only on his own chart to start with. Hopefully, this guinea pig experiment will expand, with more people trying out the combination of Tong Ren and astrology.