

ASTROSOPHIA

Philosophic (basis of) Cosmology

**Cosmological (symbol for)
Philosophy**

MANDALA –

ANTHONY ON MANDALA

SYMBOL

A. What/why was Anthony's Mandala?

- 1. Juxtapose philosophy/cosmology: sup622**
- 2. Symbol for Metaphysical Principles**
- 3. Juxtapose different philosophic views.**
- 4. Philosophic basis of astrology: Cosmic Epistemology**

1. JUXTAPOSE PHILOSOPHY/COSMOLOGY

Anthony wanted to represent metaphysical principles in Symbol. Of course, you cannot represent it without falsifying, but cannot communicate at all without words or symbols. Here, we have to understand what a symbol is, and the true symbolic function of deific imagination. Symbol is “para-doxa”... takes us beyond the finite limited intellect.

Cosmos itself is the symbol: it is the primordial scripture. It reveals to the initiated something of the Intelligence which expressed it. Astrology is one manifestation of the symbolism of Cosmos. Cosmic symbol is determined enough and vast enough to represent the principle. Moreover, it is itself the primordial scripture: “whose... are gods... PB: W
Cosmos is also a “Cosmic Epistemology.” It provides a “topography” of the subtle world: i.e. represents the deeper processes whereby the Universe is Manifested by the Cosmic Soul. orld is an Idea; WM is present; life is Meaningful.

2. SYMBOL FOR PHILOSOPHY/METAPHYSICS

*The symbolism proffered to us in the cosmic mandala is the **most comprehensive and integral approach to philosophy** that at present is available.*

Within the compass of our discursive understanding--yet transcending its limitations and revealing the possibility of a more universal language. It includes the subject-object dichotomy yet is suggestive of a more intimate resolution. [AD Supp 622]

*Its amplitude may resolve some of the most perplexing and profound problems of existence and knowledge. Its very nature demands that human preconception be put aside. The attempt to perceive through this manner produces thought that **forces us to exclude boundaries.***

*Truly a trying to understand rather than a claim to have done so. **Philosophy as wonder-**and the insight into that wonder--will produce for us the inspiration for our daily and ordinary lives. [AD Supp 622]*

Topography of the cosmos: separate PPT.

This root symbol of astrology represents the formulation by reason principles of a symbolic method through which those very reason principles are being manifested. Reason principles are those living meanings or categories of thought that are the substantial aspect (forms) of the soul.

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Topography of the cosmos:

[p.2] It is our belief that the astrological mandala is a fragment of an archaic wisdom, and was devised by the profoundly wise sages of the past. This mandala of the signs and planets is a rare instance--and product of--the archetypal imagination; it presents the topography of the subtle world through the forms available in sensible becoming. This root symbol of astrology represents the formulation by reason principles of a symbolic method through which those very reason principles are being manifested. Reason principles are those living meanings or categories of thought that are the substantial aspect (forms) of the soul.

From the point of view of the ancient, philosophically oriented cosmologist, the astrological mandala is a rare instance of the intellectual imagination--a symbolic reflex portraying how the Gods or Principles are involved in the fabrication of the vehicles that the individual Soul employs for its manifestation.

The chart makes available in its deific imagery a formulation by reason-principles of a symbolic method through which these very reason principles are being manifested. The symbolism reveals a topography of the subtle world, including those reason principles operative in the individual mind itself. *Astronoesis*

The sensible universe is the primordial scripture, the vision granted us, that was previously referred to, and it embodies the wisdom of the primal principles that are beyond it. Who has not thrilled to the excitement of the starry skies-- to the silent unanswered questions? *Astronoesis*

...In short, we are going to enter sympathetically into an analysis of experience as conceived by some of the ancient philosophers—to try to understand and appreciate the philosophic insight they summarized in the dictum: *The world is full of gods.*

...If we conceive of the universe as an Idea within the Self, we may be able to comprehend how various portions of that Idea were explored and described by these ancient seers, who then associated specific types of primal intelligence with the zodiacal signs. ...

Perhaps the most comprehensive symbol bequeathed to us in our attempt to penetrate the formless is the cosmic mandala or horoscope. **The meaning of symbol here must be taken in the largest sense.**

Firstly, it is **multivalent** (by this we mean it has many frameworks included within one comprehensive framework and vica versa, that one would be included in the many).

Secondly, the symbol is **a revelation of reality-through it reality speaks to us.**

Yet another meaning of the symbol is that of a vehicle for the **transformation of the lower empirical mind** to higher stages of abstraction. A good beginning to this notion has been given to us by Jung in his concept of the transcendent function. The symbol is an approach to the realm of the formless. –Supp 625

. . . the wise of Egypt—whether in precise knowledge or by native intuition—indicated the truth where, in their effort toward philosophic statement, they left aside the writing-forms that take in the detail of words and sentences—those characters that represent sounds and convey the propositions of reasoning—and drew pictures instead, engraving in the temple-inscriptions a separate image for every separate item: Thus they exhibited the absence of discursiveness in the Intellectual Realm.

For each manifestation of knowledge and wisdom is a distinct image, an object in itself, an immediate unity, not an aggregate of discursive reasoning and detailed willing. Enneads

I think, therefore, that those ancient sages, who sought to secure the presence of divine beings by the erection of shrines and statues, showed insight into the nature of the All; they perceived that, though this Soul is everywhere tractable, its presence will be secured all the more readily when an appropriate receptacle is elaborated, a place especially capable of receiving some portion or phase of it, something reproducing it, or representing it and serving like a mirror to catch an image of it. -- Plotinus Enneads

4.3.11

2. Simplicity and complexity of Reality

The One or the absolutely transcendent can be conceptually more available when the cosmic mandala is fully expanded and amplified. ...

The one is to be thought of as a continuum within which diuresis may be conceived without sundering the unity. *FRAGMENT 1*

PB: 28.2.59 words... may nevertheless evoke an intuitive recognition of its beauty; they may suggest to sensitive minds a hint of its worth and they may arouse the first aspiration towards its attainment for oneself

AD: after all the greatest joy that a human being can have is to try to **fathom the unfathomable**. When he gets to the point where he gives up then he gets enlightened -- but he better try real hard in the beginning. 3/12/82

3. JUXTAPOSE TRADITIONS/VIEWS

Is there a totally comprehensive schema or symbol that will permit us to combine the varied and many facets of truth that are to be found in each tradition, to sort out those basic and truthful presuppositions into a working hypothesis which will also aid the philosophic student in the investigation into the truth of his/her life? Such a schema does exist, and it can be used in helping us to resolve some of the most abstract problems of metaphysics as well as those emerging crises of the everyday life.

Philosophy has conceived the experiment: astrology in its most inclusive context goes on trial. *AD Supp 596*

[Anthony wanted to see the details ... triple Virgo]

This symbolism of the cosmos is vast enough to provide the polyvalent systems of conception and logic that will be necessary to synthesize the many faceted aspects of man's perpetual quest, and to reconcile the seeming contradictions among the various philosophic and religious traditions.

-to try to understand and appreciate the philosophic insight they summarized in the dictum: `The world is full of Gods.' Astronoesis

[see notes Corbin/Iamblichus // Shaw on Theurgy]

S; It sounds so exciting the way you weave together all the different views...

AD: That was one of the things I was so hopeful of doing, ...

And I couldn't accept it and there was something in me saying there is somewhere a totally comprehensive symbol that will include the divergences and everything that is fundamentally true in any one of these schools can be shown and symbolized.

when I started working with the astrological symbolism and I began to recognize that ...almost any philosophic school, that I could illustrate in terms of the astrological symbolism, the point of view that they were expounding. That I could use the entirety of the symbolism to show, for instance, where a Buddhist might be coming from, or where a Vedantist or a Naya logician might be coming from. The project I had in mind was that I would like to get all these schools, which I feel each one is enunciating a certain truth. I mean you don't have a school of philosophy existing for a thousand years without it having some grain of truth in it.

4. These diagrams will allow us to juxtapose philosophy and astrology

in such a way as to reveal that the sensible universe and its starry host is the primordial living scripture that embodies the wisdom of primal principles-- principles that are as far beyond it as the heavens are beyond the earth--and that the basis of astrology is an acquaintance with the wisdom-knowledge that sustains the cosmos. *Astronoesis*

In this juxtaposition, we will distinguish philosophy and astrology from one another, define the terms of each, and illustrate how they combine in manifestation as mutually-implicating elements of a single whole. This method allows us to develop a sharp contrast, to conceptually bifurcate the indivisible in such a way that the understanding, which can operate only in the realm of dualities, may see how it itself is manifested within the cosmic harmony that is evolving it.

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For example, instead of taking a Platonic idea like justice as something abstract and out of reach, one could see it in an astrological chart as well as in life's experiences. An idea is not a concept, but is vital, compelling, intelligence. It is timeless, but we can experience its instances in time and place. Through the astrological chart, a life's governing ideas can be understood. The geometry of astrology gives a way to mathematize the ideas, and view their orderly unfoldment. To actually see your life as a manifestation of ideas is a practical illustration of mentalism.