



BEN ROVERS ABOUT HIS PROFESSION AS ASTROLOGER

Tell us how you came into contact with astrology?

It was before the turn of the century, that I heard -on a cassette tape;-) the chart reading of someone I knew well at the time. I was immediately touched by the things being said. At the time, I was working as a researcher at university. Astrology was a very distant reality for me. There and then I knew: in due course, this is something I must explore thoroughly.

Which astrological tradition do you follow?

I like to keep my 'options' open. I study both modern and classical forms of astrology, as long as the approach allows me to apply something that I consider the core principle of the soul: free will. I cannot do much with deterministic forms of astrology. While the cosmos behaves lawfully, I follow the Hermetic premise that humans are above it. We can know God and choose to stay in bed for a day. Two things that planets cannot do. For me, free will is an essential part of working with astrology. Spiritual growth means transcending lawfulness.

What does astrology mean to you and what is its essence for you personally?

Astrology to me is like a form of knowledge that has 'brought me home'. As if I opened the door in my mind to a little room where this knowledge had been waiting for a long time. I have also discovered that astrological symbolism provides a very practical entry point for me to work with my sensitivity.

Do you have any special interests in astrology?

The alchemy of elements and modes in a horoscope is something I have been interested in for some time: how does that seemingly static distribution of elements and modes produce continuous dynamism, change and growth? Another theme I have been working on for several years is the connection between Hermetic philosophy ('so above, so below') and astrology. My research focuses on how the soul

perspective in Hermeticism can have a place within astrological chart interpretation. Where this 'project' is going to take me, I don't know, but I feel I have to do it and I very much enjoy being involved in it. This autumn, I will give my first presentations on the subject.

How do you think people can best apply astrology in everyday life?

I tend to answer: don't know/no opinion. In practice, you see people living out their horoscope in engaging with astrology. The fearful person gets scared when seeing a certain transit, the security-seeking person looks for something to hold on to, the adventurer looks in the horoscope to see if there is anything left to experience, etc. En passant, we grow in consciousness. At least, that is my hope and experience.

What is the most powerful thing about astrology?

That, as an astrologer, you can see the manifestation of the One in everything.

How do you feel about horoscope sections in newspapers and magazines?

Recently, I have been providing mini-lessons of astrology on Instagram. I have discovered that it is difficult to say something that makes astrological sense with very few words. Respect, therefore, to astrologers who provide these columns and do so conscientiously. Many roads lead to Rome, God's house has many rooms and let us allow 1000 flowers to bloom.

Do you ever go to astrological meetings?

Yep. Truth be told, I prefer to attend as a speaker because I like to hear myself talk. I can't help that (my horoscope... 😊).

Is there an astrological topic you would like to explore?

I like to delve into horoscopes of serial killers and cult leaders (I do it for the hobby). Karmic thingy probably. I would also like to delve more into how to do good astrological research in the future. The key question for me is: how can you reconcile a 'first-person perspective' in astrological research with meaningful conversation between astrologers? The usual (scientific) methods are quite suitable for facilitating conversation between astrologers, but in my view, they ignore the spiritual core of astrology. As my Geoffrey Cornelius says: a correlation is really different from an analogy.

Do you give consultations or courses?

I give regular consultations, but prefer to study, write, speak and teach about astrology. That is where my needs and talents lie. I have taught many courses and workshops in recent years. This autumn (2021) will start The Hermetic Cosmos | School of Astrology. This is a 5-year vocational Astrology course. For the last half year, I have been very busy with this.

How do you feel about astrological predictions?

I am reluctant to use elective and predictive astrology. Church father Augustine once said that astrologers should not sit on God's chair. I agree with him on this matter. In consultations, I mainly use information from progressions to empower someone here and now. For example, if I see that an important Uranus transit is coming up and in front of me is someone with a lot of planets in fixed mode, I talk to that person

about dealing with changes and whatever they may bring you, hoping that this conversation will help the person when the transit arrives.

Do you also do children's horoscopes?

That is not my specialty. Adolescents are the youngest group I encounter. The focus then is often on what their talents are, on the future and on making choices. I always enjoy these readings. In the distant past I wanted to become a career counselor for a while, I guess that has something to do with it.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben Rovers works as a professional astrologer in the Netherlands. He runs a practice in Nijmegen. He is founder of *The Hermetic Cosmos | School of Astrology*. He writes and speaks regularly on astrological, cosmological and esoteric topics. His main interest is Hermetic Astrology (a soul-centred form of astrology that connects insights from Hermetic texts with astrology). Get in touch via www.benrovers.com.