

Considerations Before Judgement Episode Outline

Episode outline and show notes for episode 296, titled The Considerations Before Judgement with Sue Ward, with Chris Brennan and Sue Ward.

<https://theastrologypodcast.com/2021/03/24/the-considerations-before-judgement-with-sue-ward/>

Episode released on March 24, 2021.

Most of what followed represents Chris' notes that he took in preparation for the interview, and ended up being the outline that we followed for the discussion.

Outline

- Recorded Wednesday, March 17, 2021, starting at 9:45 AM in Denver, Colorado.
- Episode 296
- With astrologer Sue Ward
- On the considerations before judgement in horary astrology.

Introduction and Background on the Horary Revival

- Introduce Sue and talk about her background in astrology.
 - Dragged to first astrology class by a friend around 1980.
 - Thought astrology was rubbish
 - At this class, Kay Way showed Sue her copy of Zadkiel's edition of Lilly.
 - Fell in love with Lilly.
 - Studied at the Faculty of Astrological Studies, and then with Olivia Barclay.
 - Became fascinated by horary and traditional astrology in general.
 - In the 70s there had been a move more towards scientific and psychological
 - Horary was seen as a bit weird and old-timey.
 - "I liked the fact that not only was I studying a very unusual subject, but we were also considered a bit weird by others who were studying it."
 - Studied with Olivia Barclay, then taught for her, then went out on her own.
- The early revival of traditional horary in the 1980s and 90s.
 - Especially centered on the revival of William Lilly's *Christian Astrology* (1647).
- Especially through Olivia Barclay and her students: Qualifying Horary Practitioner course.
 - Notable students of Olivia: Sue Ward, John Frawley, Lee Lehman, Barbara Dunn, Deborah Houlding, etc.
- The reprinting of the Regulus edition of Lilly in 1985, discussed in TAP episode 212.
 - [Clive Kavan on Publishing the Regulus Edition of William Lilly](#)
- Prior to that only photocopies Olivia made of Lilly's horary chapters floating around.
 - That and the "updated" Zadkiel edition of Lilly (1835).
 - Updated Zadkiel edition included Uranus and other things.
- Derek Appleby's book came out in 1985 as well.
 - *Horary Astrology: An Introduction to the Astrology of Time*.

- After the Regulus edition people were reading Lilly directly on their own again.
 - Olivia's approach was still very influenced by modern views on horary.
- Not just practicing the techniques, but also doing textual analysis of Lilly.
- Sometimes this textual analysis would inform or modify the techniques employed.
 - Sometimes reading the text raised questions or discrepancies.
- The considerations before judgement is one of those areas where this came up.

Background on the Considerations Before Judgement

- William Lilly has a section on considerations before judgement in Christian Astrology.
 - Lilly seems to have standardized a bunch of rules he picked up in earlier authors.
 - Some were taken directly from Guido Bonatti.
- Things that you are supposed to take into account before judging a horary question
 - In some instances they might tell you to be careful about the chart.
 - In some instances it might tell you to avoid reading that chart altogether.
- By the 1970s the considerations had become "strictures" in horary practice.
 - Dictionary: "something that closely restrains or limits: restriction, moral strictures"
 - Interpreted as rules meaning the chart can't or shouldn't be judged.
 - In the little practice of horary that survived into the 20th century.
 - Ultimately partially derived from but long removed from Lilly
 - Ivy Goldstein-Jacobson called them "cautions".
 - Barbara Watters referred to them as "strictures".
 - *Horary Astrology and the Judgment of Events* (1973)
 - Carol Wiggers called them strictures in first issue of *Horary Practitioner* 1989.
- Astrologers in the late 80s/early 90s noticed Lilly still read horaries with considerations.
 - SW: Olivia noticed but didn't broadcast because didn't want to undermine Lilly.
 - Maurice Mccann talked about the discrepancy a lot.
 - He tabulated the numbers in a 1992 article.
 - He claims that only 4 out of 35 charts in CA are free of considerations.
 - Maurice McCann, "Lilly Says... A Reference to the Considerations before Judgment," *Astrology Quarterly*, Vol. 63, No. 1, Winter 1992, pp. 38-44.
 - Argues they are something to contemplate or reflect on.
 - Not to decide if a chart can be judged or not.
 - He sort of borders on rejecting them, although it is a bit ambiguous.
 - May have been following his friend Appleby's lead to some extent.
- This was a surprise because the "strictures" were taken so seriously by some by then.
 - This raised the question then: what was the purpose of the considerations?
 - (Chris: Some of my account of this was influenced by Lee Lehman. See her really excellent entry for "horary astrology" in *The Astrology Book*, ed. James R. Lewis, 2nd ed., 2003, pp. 323-333.)
- Some astrologers came to different conclusions about what this meant.
 - John Frawley claimed they were used to get out of answering questions.
 - Was this period in the 2000s where lots of his students repeated this.
 - SW: For Maurice it indicated that Lilly didn't know what he was doing = charlatan.
 - Mccann had similar criticisms about Bonatti.

- Others like Sue said that were just useful pieces of info to take into account.
 - Mccann's critique prompted Sue's careful analysis of the considerations.
- Sue wrote a response to Maurice's article in 1993 + did other work on the considerations.
 - Sue Ward, "Lilly's Method: a Response to Maurice McCann," *Astrology Quarterly*, Vol. 63 No. 2, Spring 1993, pp. 22-31.
 - Had access to some of Lilly's workbooks.
 - Argued for retaining the considerations, against Mccann's rejection.
 - Seemed a bit annoyed at the lack of respect for Lilly.
 - The tension between tradition vs. innovation, evident in Lilly himself.
 - Part of what she showed was that a purely statistical approach is misplaced.
 - There were mitigating conditions in many instances.
 - Or he incorrectly included event charts instead of horary charts.
 - In other instances the consideration gave relevant information.
 - Lilly did seem to pay attention to them to some extent.
 - He just didn't completely reject charts in all instances based on them.
 - Mentions her void of course Moon argument already in this article.
 - First outlined this discovery in Sue Ward, "A Question of Horary," in *The Horary Practitioner*, Issue 15, October 23, 1992, pp. 5-8.
- Sue's considerations before judgement article was reprinted a few times.
 - Sue Ward, "Rules is Rules? An Essay on Rules and Strictures," *The Horary Practitioner*, Issue 16, January 20, 1993, pp. 11-19.
 - Sue Ward, "Consideration Before Judgment Revisited," in *The Horary Practitioner*, Vol. 8, No. 22, July 1997, pp. 8-20.
 - Virtually the same as 1993 version with a little extra commentary.
 - A version of the above appeared on Carol Wiggers' website, with 1995 copyright:
 - <http://www.horary.com/sward/Consids.html>
- Looks at each consideration telling you what info each gives to the astrologer.
 - What things should you know ahead of time when answering this question?

Individual Considerations

- Considerations are on pages 121-23 of *Christian Astrology*.
 - He repeats some of them in a later section titled "Aphorisms and Considerations for better judging any Horary question," pp. 298-302.
 - Probably confirms a loose equivalence between aphorisms and considerations.
 - Since he got some of them from Bonatti's aphorisms originally.
- There are 12 considerations in the initial section
 - 13 or more though if you include some of the ones from the later section.
- Language Lilly uses when describing the considerations:
 - Calls them "warnings".
- Importance of the question
 - Different from modern
 - Lilly calls them "horary questions." Later shortened to just "horary astrology."
- Discussion of whether the chart is radical, rooted, or has a strong foundation.

- “whether the figure is radical and capable of judgement”
- “the question shall be taken for radical, or fit to be judged, when...”
- Radical from Latin *radix*, meaning root or foundation.
- Description in the chart is the ultimate test of radicality.
 - Does the chart match the question?
- The rules were meant to protect the astrologer or give them useful information.
 - And confirm serious intent on the part of the querent.
 - Establish the seriousness or frivolity of the querent.
- Rob Bailey traces some of them back to early horary authors like Masha'allah, Sahl ibn Bishr, Bonatti, and al-Kindi
 - Also Pseudo-Ptolemy's *Centiloquium*, and Dariot.
- **1) Lord of the hour and lord of the Ascendant are of the same triplicity or nature**
 - Three criteria:
 - 1) Ruler of the hour and Ascendant are the same planet.
 - 2) Ruler of the Ascendant's triplicity and the hour are the same planet.
 - 3) Ruler of the hour and Ascendant of the same temperament nature.
 - Bonatti mentions this in considerations 7 and 143.
 - Bonatti says that if this happens the question will not be rooted or radical; it will be lacking in a firm foundation or intention.
 - This is listed under a section on ways the astrologer can err.
 - The whole category may have been drawn from Bonatti's "considerations" then.
 - The chart is supposed to reflect the question.
- **2) Ascendant is in the first few degrees of a sign**
 - Especially the signs of short ascension.
 - “you may not adventure judgement”
 - “unless the querent be very young, and his corprature, complexion and moles or scars of his body agree with the quality of the sign ascending. ”
 - Bonatti lists this in consideration 7 as a personal observation, saying he noticed it happen frequently when people came either to test him or who asked a question without having a true intention behind it. He says that he would then call them out on it, and either they would be impressed and start believing in astrology, or if they were trying to deceive him they would be freaked out and leave.
 - Culpeper says in aphorism 22 that the question is not yet ready for judgement.
 - Lilly p. 298: “...if few degrees ascend, the matter is not yet ripe for judgement...”
- **3) Ascendant is in the last few degrees of a sign**
 - “it's no wayes safe to give judgement”
 - except if the native is the same age as the number of degrees
 - Or unless it is an inception chart with a certain time:
 - “here you may judge, because it's no propounded question”
 - Culpeper says in Aphorism 22 of *Opus Astrologicum* “I suppose the true reason of this is fear of mistaking the significators.” Thanks Rob Bailey for pointing this out.

- Lilly p. 298 "...if few degrees ascend, the matter is not yet ripe for judgement; if the later degrees arise, the matter of the question is elapsed, and it's probable the querent hath been tampering with others..."
- **4) Moon is in the later degrees of a sign**
 - Especially Gemini, Scorpio, or Capricorn.
 - "not safe to judge"
- **5) Moon in the via combusta**
 - 15 Libra to 15 Scorpio
- **6) Moon is void of course**
 - "Unless the principal significators be very strong"
 - "All manner of matters go hardly on"
 - "somewhat she performs if void" in Taurus, Cancer, Sag, Pisces
 - Sue points out that Lilly mentions application but says nothing about perfection.
 - It just has to be within orb or applying to another planet.
 - The orb of the Moon is 12 degrees.
 - In the chart examples this seems to be true regardless of sign boundary.
- **7) Cusp of the 7th house or ruler afflicted**
 - "be weary"
 - If the matter of the question doesn't belong to the 7th house
 - "it's an argument the judgement of the astrologer will give small content, or anything please the querent"
 - "for the seventh house generally hath signification for the artist"
 - Of the 7th house, Lilly says "in astrology the artist himself" p. 54
 - Consultation chart framework.
 - Later mentions Saturn in 1st, 7th. In aphorisms also 10th.
 - Dariot and the Pseudo-Ptolemy's *Centiloquium* are sources for this one, as noted in Mccann, *Astrological Essays*, p. 32.
- **8) Saturn in the Ascendant**
 - Especially retrograde
 - The matter of the question seldom or never comes to good.
 - He cites the Arabs and Al-Kindi in particular for this and the remaining considerations
 - Al-Kindi does indeed say the 7th represents the doctor in chapter 31 of the *Forty Chapters*.
- **9) Saturn in the seventh house**
 - Either corrupts the judgement of the astrologer
 - Or is a sign the matter propounded will come from one misfortune to another.
- **10) Lord of the Ascendant combust**
 - "Neither question propounded will take"
 - "Or the querent be regulated."
- **11) Lord of the 7th unfortunate, or in fall, or malefic bounds,**
 - "The artist shall scarce give a solid judgement"
- **12) When the testimonies of benefits and malefics are equal**
 - "defer judgement"

- “It is not profitable to know which way the balance will turn”
- “however, defer you your opinion till another question better inform you”
- This comes from BNJ, Umar, A128, p. 46 in Dykes. Also in Bonatti consideration 7. Also Masha’allah.

Conclusion

- Things to promote or mention?
- Sue and Peter’s book on Lilly.
 - Peter Stockinger and Sue Ward, *William Lilly: The Last Magician, Astrologer and Adept*, Mandrake, 2014
- Excellent retyped version of Lilly’s autobiography.
 - William Lilly, *The Life of William Lilly, Student in Astrology*, transcribed and annotated by Sue Ward, The Tradition Library, TraditionLibrary.com, 2010.
 - http://thetraditionjournal.com/files/TL_thelifeofwilliamlilly.pdf
- Available for consultations?
- Classes on horary?
- How can people get in touch or find more information about you?
 - <http://sue-ward.blogspot.com>
 - Twitter: @susanward
 - Email sueward2459@icloud.com

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