An aspect of the Medieval Period that has always been of interest to me is in the astrological, where certain patterns and beliefs in the stars influence your actions, injuries and futures. This was a big part of the mystical side of the Middle Ages, even though in modern day it is underappreciated. I have had the pleasure of being able to ask some questions to Rebecca Law, a self-employed astrologer who has agreed to answer a couple questions on their love for their craft:

**1. Hi Rebecca, give us a little introduction to who you are and what you**

**do!**

Hi Molly, I’m a traditional astrologer, which means I work mainly with sources prior to the 20th century on which to base my practice. Most people are not aware that astrology as we know it now is a relatively uninterrupted practice since about the 3rd cent BCE. What has changed is how it is understood and what it is used for. Now it mostly psychological, but practical applications are coming back into fashion with a resurgence in traditional astrology. I do things like find missing objects, help decide on a best date to begin something, I can help a client understand whether they will get a job, or a house, and if they have it will they be pleased with it. A relationship can be considered as to whether it will be successful or strengthened and mended if broken. You can find what kind of work you are best suited to or simply what kind of year lies ahead for you.

**2. How did you get into astrology?**

When I was 18, I read a book on modern astrology and decided it was rubbish. A lot of information that is out there is poor quality. In 2016 I had a strange experience that led me to take more interest and I quickly become acquainted with techniques from the Hellenistic era, much of which has only been translated in the last 30 years. I have recently studied and qualified as a horary practitioner (the art of answering questions with astrology), from a course that centres around the techniques used by William Lilly in the 17th cent.

**3. When did you realise that you wanted to do this full time as a self-**

**employed astrologer?**

When I had a baby, I knew that for the next 5 years I would have to chose between a ‘proper job’ and absolutely no time for astrology or do astrology as the proper job. Secretly as soon as I had trained in astrology, I knew I wanted to do it professionally. I had been reading tarot as a side hustle for about 15 years. They both work with symbolic language. They help clients understand things better, to do things better.

**4.What do you love most about the work you do?**

It’s a full-time curiosity trip. You can never stop learning in this field – new translations of ancient texts are being published every year now. Working with clients really brings it alive. There is something about sitting with a person, translating these symbols for them, hearing their story, and recognising their journey, their own archetypal self, if you will, through this medium. This is true for the client but also for the astrologer. When you see someone both through their chart and what they tell you, you get an extra dimension, its more than the sum of its parts. That x-ray vision isn’t about knowing their future or knowing all their secrets and flaws, it is about deeply regarding them as entirely human and divine, hero like. Each person could be Cassiopeia thrown by Zeus amongst the stars. And it really feels like that. It makes the world feel magical, and yet you’ve done nothing but look and listen. I’d say I get as much if not more joy out of this than my clients do. It is simply wonderful.

**5. What would you say is the most difficult aspect of your job?**

Its two-fold. People misunderstand it and so they don’t always come with clear or reasonable expectations. It’s not going to change your life for you or take away responsibility for your problems. It is a tool for getting the best out of a situation much the same as other tools for exploration and advice. Secondly it can touch on a person’s life quite profoundly, and sometimes in ways that reveal trauma. It is not counselling, although some astrologers go on to study counselling too. But it does bring up themes that are barriers to a person’s success and happiness. If you are looking for the perfect relationship when you have only experienced suffering through partners or parents, that can be a cause for not finding and sustaining what you really need in love. Sometimes astrology can underscore these problems and set a person on the right path to healing, but it might also mean a person needs signposting to the right professional care.

**6. What is your zodiac sign and do you ever end up giving yourself**

**advice based on your astrology?**

My sun sign is Pisces. But I identify better with my Ascendant sign (rising sign) of Sagittarius.

Yes, I do give myself advice, but the birth chart is complex and multifaceted so I wouldn’t base it on my sun sign like you see in newspaper horoscopes. I use it to understand myself better. But mainly I use it to time things; I might acknowledge that a particularly hard time is something to weather rather than resist or push against, or I might plan to start something when things are likely to go smoothly.

Planets don’t cause things to happen in your life, they don’t exert force upon us. They describe what is happening as it is happening symbolically. But because they have predictable patterns, we might see what they will describe as happening in one year from now, or 100 years. Only a handful of astrologers predicted a pandemic in the year 2020, but every astrologer knew that 2020 was going to be an exceptional year, and exceptionally difficult for nearly everyone, on the scale of financial crisis, war, that potential level of intensity. It gave astrologers and clients an opportunity to prepare by being as flexible as possible, given we didn’t know precisely what was coming.

**7. Lots of art and history relating to astrology comes from the medieval**

**period, as I am sure you are aware: do you agree with some of the**

**Middle Age beliefs on astrology, or are there areas that are**

**inaccurate to what you do?**

In ancient times astrologers saw the motions of the planets as the gods showing us their will, but there was a mixture of fatalism and free will among various astrologers thinking. By the Medieval times it tended more towards fatalism. It was often cut and dry and could be quite damning for a person looking at their future. They had some wonderful techniques and were very grounded and practical about their astrology. It was not concerned with the kind of person you are but what will happen. Today there is a much stronger sense of free will, and there are as many theories as to the mechanism that makes astrology work as there are astrologers. Much of modern astrology is about self-exploration.

Astrology was used widely for everything from determining the future of Kings, timing battles, finding thieves, and diagnosing illness. It was used to predict death and discover witchcraft. Some of these things we would never do today from a practical point (why diagnose with astrology when you can get a blood test?) or an ethical one (what does one do with the knowledge of one’s death?).

Medical astrology is still practiced. These days we understand the humours differently as symbolic (as they would have been in the philosophies they sprang from) rather than objectively real. Medical astrology addresses getting a harmonious balance that enables health to flourish; a bit like other alternative medicines that support and do not replace scientific medical practice. You might time a surgery with it for a best outcome, or you might use astrology to help decide between two options your physician has presented you with.

**8. Do you think you are bringing a modern edge to astrology? How are**

**you doing things as an individual to separate yourself from other**

**people?**

Modern astrology is about 100 years old. It is based mainly on the psychology trends of the 20th century and was dominant in part due to the unpopularity of traditional methods perceived as fatalistic fortune telling, and the lack of modern translation of ancient texts. This has changed significantly over the last 40 years. Traditional astrology is making a come-back, from the Hellenistic era to William Lilly in the 17th century. This is largely due to many texts currently being translated from Arabic, Greek, Latin, that have until now gathered dust.

Modern technology makes it easier to discuss anecdotal evidence and collect quantitative data for research, so we can test the theories so much better. Astrology is more popular than ever, and access to quality training has never been easier. There is a huge amount of high-quality research, practice, writing, and teaching going on now. Astrology is having a Moment for sure. The synthesis of modern and traditional astrology is still in the making, so who knows what astrology will look like in another 30 years.

To separate myself from other people? I don’t know that I do anything consciously to market myself that way. I have a background in tarot, dreamwork, the western mystery tradition, ancestor veneration, folklore, and animism, so my worldview has always been different from the norm, and different from what is happening in the mainstream of astrology, or, well, the mainstream.

I have a childlike gusto for this, I’m so in awe of it. I really feel as though we are finding something awesome in the true sense of the word, in each person. It’s that glimmer of the mystical, but in a way that they can make use of in their lives. I’m not really into navel gazing, I like potential spotting and seeing it flourish in real terms. My astrology is mostly pragmatic. It needs to be actionable in the person’s life. What is lacking in people’s lives isn’t always happiness or success, it is a sense of wonder, awe, mystery, and possibility. I think my other interests help people lean into that and make use of it in ways that improve their lives.

**9. Have you found it more challenging due to the pandemic to**

**continue your work, or has there been an improvement in your sales**

**since people might feel lost or unsure of what to do in such a difficult**

**time?**

I only went pro shortly before the pandemic. At the same time, I took on higher level studies and being a full-time mum looking after my two-year-old, so I had to limit work. I timed my becoming a parent and my ‘proper job’ exit for a period in my chart running up to the difficulties of 2020 and it was a godsend that I did.

I know established astrologers saw a marked increase in clients and have had to turn away custom or refer people on. People are looking for support and strategy for navigating what is happening in such unstable times. They want to know if they should totally change direction rather than staying in the same streams of employment and lifestyle.

I know that pre-pandemic, astrologers knew 2020 would be a world-shaking game changer. What I didn’t expect was quite how personal it would be and so quickly. Every reading I did in 2019 for 2020 looked terrible. I thought I was losing my touch and just seeing everything negatively. But telling people they won’t get what they want, and they need to shore up their resources and strategies is a good thing when it is true; it means they can prepare and adapt better if they are willing to engage with difficult news. It’s not about telling people what they want to hear, even if they do get a bit miffed with you at the time.

**10. What would you like to say to anyone who is thinking of looking**

**into astrology as more than just a hobby?**

Read professional astrologer chart analysis online from publications such as the mountain astrologer. Do every one’s chart who will let you. Get honest critical feedback from people who don’t know you, so you know where your skills need sharpening. Join a local association, or an online one. There is a lot of chaff out there so it is important to get to know the community so you can find the quality teachers and books. You can self-learn but that is a long, long journey. It is well worth investing in a high-quality certificate and diploma because your starting point when you do people’s charts will be more advanced. Don’t leave off going pro too long though, a few years is enough, and you will learn more from actual practice than any theory – its s steep learning curve and getting to know the community will provide you with something of a mentorship.

Thank you so much Rebecca! It was a pleasure to talk to you. If you are interested in talking to Rebecca more, you can get in contact with her on her website: <https://crownofstarsastrology.com/>

Pictures for the page:

Rebecca Law



Me

