

AD: on reading degrees: From LOOKING INTO MIND

- There's one degree, the radical magazine... Now the meaning of that degree is that a radical magazine is @u<protesting>. It doesn't matter what. It is just protesting. So there is a couple of people who have that and I watch them very carefully, some have Uranus on it. And it doesn't matter what is said in class, right or wrong, good or bad, "I protest" automatically. That idea is always expressing itself. And unless a person watches that going on, he won't be aware, he thinks, "That is me. I really am like that. I really see something wrong there," rather than watching the way this thing is always making him do it. Instead of watching that, he identifies with the protesting and consequently has to follow all the way through. You could see that, if a planet is on that degree and let's say, it has no aspects, you could see it very clearly. When it has aspects, it's a little harder.
- ...after a while you develop a kind of x-ray vision. You can see the ideas that are manifesting themselves in the activity of the person, in the thought of the person, the writing of the person, the way the person lives. You can see those ideas manifesting themselves. And then when you could start doing that then of course you can try to organize and see how it constitutes the psychosomatic being.
- One of the nice things about this is that when you begin to understand mentalism you see it immediately in the chart, because you realize that's all you are--ideas. The higher part, the mind which is distinct looks upon those ideas as objects. And that's why I am saying that the practice of understanding the nature of the chart forces a person to disidentify from himself and try to take a Witness position. In other words, when I begin to understand that person's chart or my chart, I am forced to take a Witness position. Otherwise I won't have the x-ray vision; you can't have the x-ray vision into yourself and be identified with the ego. You've got to step out and look at it. Now, we can't step out easily but we can, little by little, begin to step back more and more.
- In the chart there is 360 degrees. That means you've got 360 ideas. But each one of those ideas can be combined in a variety of ways by the 10 planets. So that means that those ideas can be multiplied to the n'th degree. ...Whatever meanings you find in your life are indicated by those degrees. ...So you can see it becomes almost indefinite, impossible to list or categorize. ...In other words what we're saying is that the basic meaning of our lives is in terms of our ideas.
- For instance, I keep pounding a thought, I get a solution to something, I'm not satisfied. I keep trying to understand it more deeply and I keep doing that. You can see that that's one of the tendencies in my chart, right? You look at my Mercury degree and you say, "He's got to get to the bottom of something." You see that's a tendency. Well, is that tendency the core, the reality of my being? No. My being permeates all that, or let's say, has wrapped itself around that. But it takes these two mixed together, my being and the degrees/planets, to produce the entity you know as Anthony. SIW?
- When you recognize an essence: in degree, in plant, in nature, you recognize yourself. *Idea of Man* p.2 bottom