Determinism within the Practice of Astrology

This document is a request for your thoughts on fate and determinism within your astrology. It is an academic survey conducted by Bernadette Brady in regard to her doctoral studies at Bath Spa University, UK. Could you please take 15 minutes to complete this survey.

As a thank you for your time I can, once I receive your completed survey I will email you a special report on the results of your survey answers (example shown below). I am sure will give you some insights into some of your own astrological practice.

Additionally apart from learning some things about yourself you will contribute to this global research project.

The survey will take you about 15 - 20 minutes and you can return it posting to Bernadette Brady, PO Box 168, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 5ZX, UK
Please read this first.

A central tenet of astrology is that something is written at the moment of a birth or a moment in time and place and some component of this moment has a bearing on the future. In this survey, this component, which astrology explores via horoscopes, is labelled the “fate” of a person’s life or the “fate” contained in a moment in time.

It is often assumed by non-astrologers that astrologers believe that one’s entire life and life decisions are dictated by the “stars”, yet no one has actually asked astrologers about their ideas on fate, destiny and freewill. Thus your answers are important as they will go towards building a concept of fate (or determinism) as used in 21st century western astrology.

Therefore I thank you in advance for your contribution to this project. Your answers will be stored in a database and analysed, along with the answers of astrologers from all over the world, to help create this overall picture. The results will then form a part of my doctoral thesis.

Please be assured no information will be stored in the database which could identify you.

This survey should take you about 15 - 20 minutes.

If you wish me to email you back your personal determinism report then please clearly print your email address.

email address: _______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Section 1 – About You

1) What year were you born? _____________________

2) Male/Female _________________

3) In what country do you live? _________________

4) How long, in years, have you been studying astrology? __________________

5) As there are different types of astrology, could you please circle the type that you now prefer to use.

Horary          Medical          Financial          Esoteric          Psychological          Humanistic          Medieval

If your type is not listed then please enter your preferred astrology ______________

6) Who do you consider to be the some of the major authors who have influenced your study of astrology?

_______________________________________________________________________
Section 2 – Predictive Astrology

2.1 Please choose the statements that best fit your understanding of the nature of predictive astrology. Predictive astrology is:

1) The application of particular mathematical techniques (like transits, progressions and returns) to a horoscope in an attempt to gain information concerning the future.

2) The use of a horoscope intuitively to divine the future.

3) The application of a set of rules to a horoscope for the moment of an event in order to foretell the likely outcome of that event – horary astrology.

4) Working with a person’s natal horoscope to seek insights into their future behaviour by understanding their personality and/or psychological makeup – reading a natal chart.

If you do not use any form of predictive or natal astrology please now move to Section 3

2.2 Please choose one statement that best fits how you think predictive astrology helps you in your life:

1) I use it to understand why life can be so difficult at times.
2) It allows me to relax and let my chart inform me of the path to take in my life.
3) It gives me an understanding retrospectively of why things have happened in my life but I never use it to look at the future.
4) It explains the past and also tells me what will happen in my life, and when, so I am mentally prepared for the problems.
5) It allows me to know the time for doing spiritual practices to help me balance the planetary energies.
6) It gives me a framework for understanding, not only what has happened, but also how to make the most of the potential contained in future patterns.

2.3 Please choose one statement that best fits how you would use predictive astrology when something unpleasant happens in your life:

1) I look at my chart to simply see what it was astrologically.
2) I use it to find out why it happened and understand what the “planets” had in store for me.
3) I look at the astrology and worry about the next time the same astrological indicators will be present.
4) I look at the astrology to be prepared for a similar problem in the future.
5) I meditate on the planetary energies and seek to work with them more effectively in my life.
6) I look at the astrology and use this information to help shape my path of action in the future.
2.4 In the history of a person’s life, every time they have had transiting Mars conjunct their Ascendant they “accidentally” break a plate. Would you expect them to break another plate when Mars next conjuncts their ascendant? Please select one statement

1) No.
2) Maybe.
3) Depends on their level of awareness.
4) Probably.
5) Almost certainly.
6) Yes.

2.5 If the person does break another plate on their next Mars transit, in your opinion:

Please select one statement

0) It was only an accident and has nothing to do with their Mars transit.
1) They could not have avoided breaking a plate.
2) It was their fault as they should have been extra careful around plates on that day.
3) They were “waiting” to break the plate.
4) It was a good thing as it was a simple way to use the Mars energy on that day.
5) They are “out of tune” with Mars and need to undertake some Mars meditation or ritual to help them work with it in the future.
6) They may want to find a more productive outlet for the expression of Mars.

2.6 Astrological predictions can contain both timing (when something may happen) and event (what that something may be). For example, a Saturn transit will happen at a certain time and will have a particular quality of expression. Does the length of time being examined (e.g. one year into the future or ten years into the future) have an influence on the capacity to predict the when and what? Please select one statement.

1) No, I am able to predict both the timing of the event and the actual event regardless of how far it is in the future.
2) Yes, I have a reduced ability to define the event as the timing moves further into the future.
3) Yes, I have a reduced ability to define the timing as the expected event moves further into the future.
4) Yes, I have a reduced ability to define both the timing and the event as it moves deeper into the future.

2.7 In two years time your natal chart is going to have a series of “once in a life time” transits. Do you: Please select one statement

1) Be concerned about the events you know will happen in two years time but feel that there is nothing that you can do about it.
2) Start to take action now that will optimise a positive outcome, whatever the events are in two years time.
3) Take the events into consideration but take no action as you are unsure of the timing.
4) Not think about it as it is too far away to reliably predict either events or timing.
Section 3 – Natal Charts - If you do not use natal charts, then could you please move to Section 4.

3.1 If your primary relationship was having difficulties and you found out that your partner’s time of birth was not what you thought, and this introduced different aspects between you and your partner, would you: Please select one statement.

1) Try to change the relationship to reflect the new astrological picture.
2) Break up the relationship, knowing now why it was having difficulties.
3) Not look at the chart combinations as you would rather deal with the issues without knowing the astrology.
4) Look carefully at your partner’s new chart to see if the relationship is worth the emotional work of repairing it.
5) Meditate on the planetary combinations to try to adjust their expression in your lives.
6) Look at the new aspects and use them to help you and your partner work through any possible relationship issues.

3.2 You meet someone and you discover that their chart contains particular aspects, and you have in the past clashed with people who have such aspects. What do you do? Please select one statement.

1) Break away from the possible friendship, feeling that no matter how much you try it will only cause you emotional upset.
2) Worry, as there is reason to assume that there will be problems this time around.
3) Cannot say as you do not want to know about the charts of your friends.
4) Not end the new friendship but be ready to discontinue it if the suspected problems you see in their chart emerge.
5) Look at your own problems with the aspects and meditate on the planetary energies to help you deal with them in a new manner.
6) Learning from previous experience, take a different approach to the friendship in the hope that it will avoid the problems of the past.

3.3 Do you expect to find that members of your own family have similar astrological features or themes in their individual horoscopes, for example, a Sun-Saturn or Capricorn theme? Please select one statement.

1) You have not looked and do not intend to look.
2) You have looked but have not noticed any themes or patterns in your family’s horoscopes.
3) Yes, but you think of them as just a coincidence.
4) Yes, your family has one or more horoscopic themes, which you think has meaning for your family.
5) Yes, and you not only consider that they have meaning but you expect these themes to be reflected in some way in other generations of your family.
3.4 If you knew the birth data of a pet, would you do its chart? Yes/No please circle

3.4.1 If you know your pet’s chart do you expect to see similar astrological features in their chart as you would in one of your family members? Yes/No please circle

3.5 If you are trying to select the timing of a birth which is going to be a caesarean or induced but unexpected events occur which alter this timing do you consider that the infant has chosen their own time of birth? Yes/No / Never considered it please circle

Section 4 – Your views on fate, destiny or necessity

There are different philosophical positions on the nature of determinism (fate), and also on why, if at all, it is present in our life. This section of the survey is asking your opinion on some of these positions. With each statement please select one option of the five choices offered. If you do not believe in fate then please move to Section 5.

4.1 To what extent do you feel that the experience of fate in your life comes from:

1) the will of a single divine entity (God) in your life.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

2) a divine cosmos/nature (as gods, goddesses, spirits or energies) expressing itself in your life.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

3) your soul making a choice to enter a physical state at a particular time to enable it to evolve.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

4) your actions in a previous life.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

5) the combination of all that has happened in the past with the physical laws of nature which fixes a unique and possible future.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

6) previous events in your own personal history, and/or your family’s history and/or your culture’s history.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

7) your life being part of and contributing to the emerging patterns formed naturally by the web of life.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

8) the human desire for a pattern which strings together what is only a series of coincidences into something which appears to be meaningful.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree
4.2 Below are some statements on the purpose of astrology, for your clients as well as for yourself. To what extent do you believe that the purpose of astrology is:

1) to be used like a news report about what has happened, what can happen and what cannot happen.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

2) to show the place from which the journey of spiritual evolution begins, with the expectation that the chart will eventually becoming obsolete.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

3) to be used as a guide to learn your unique pattern of life, mortal and spiritual, so that you can reach the potential as reflected in your natal chart.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

4) to be used to help you become aware of, and attuned to, the unfolding will of a divine entity in the cosmos.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

5) to be used to help you become attuned to and interact with the emerging patterns around you – the natural or secular world.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

Section 5 – Your feelings about Astrology

5.1 How do you feel about the following statements? With each statement please select one option of the five choices offered.

1) The future is fully formed and astrology provides a tool to help read that future.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

2) Small events in your life can act as indicators of forthcoming, apparently non-related, larger events.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

3) The practice of astrology requires a divine presence in the universe – God, gods or spirits.
   strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree or disagree / agree / strongly agree

These last two questions are only if you have the time to write a few lines.

What do you like about astrology? _____________________________________________

What do you dislike, if anything, about astrology? ________________________________

Do you wish to add anything further: ___________________________________________

Thank you for your time