

Vocations: The New Midheaven Extension Process (Special Topics in Astrology Series)

By Noel Tyl

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Seeing the vocation's profile within the horoscope has been one of the most difficult tasks astrologers encounter, burdened with laborious details. Now, for the first time ever, master astrologer Noel Tyl presents the "Midheaven Extension Process," a highly innovative approach to vocational astrology that is elegant in its simplicity and relevance to the modern job culture. *Vocations: The New Midheaven Extension Process* is a much-needed guide that will change forever the process for vocational consulting.

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Editorial Review

About the Author
Noel Tyl is one of the foremost astrologers in the world. His twenty textbooks have guided astrologers for two generations, and his lecture activities reach out through sixteen countries and some 200,000 miles a year.

Tyl has written the definitive professional manual in the astrology counseling field, the 1,000 page Synthesis & Counseling In Astrology; is consulted regularly by individuals and corporations throughout the world, and directs the Master's Degree Correspondence Course for Certification of professional astrologers from his office in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

Tyl, a Harvard University graduate, is also the Presiding Officer of AFAN (The Association for Astrological Networking), astrology's world organization. His most recent titles include Solar Arcs, Predictions for a New Millennium, and Astrology of Intimacy, Sexuality, & Relationship, all published by Llewellyn Publications.

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Background and the Modern Premise

Sociological Framework

We are what we do. Our work takes up more of our living time than any other activity, including sleep. More activities in our life are connected to our work than to any other activity, including childcare. Our social status is determined more by our work and our position within that work than by any other life activity.

Over history, customs dictated the transfer of power and authority through the male extraordinarily more often than through the female. A man normally went into his father's line of work. It was supposed to be that way, to keep life going in an orderly way, and that is why the profession and one of the parents (traditionally, the father) are both represented by the tenth cusp and House, the Midheaven.

The woman was a support for the man; children were the by-products of sexual activity between man and wife, increasing the woman's responsibilities, i.e., fulfilling her needs, driving the man harder to do more, earn more, and die before his wife. Extended families grouped together to increase the scope of the family unit, the clan, their earning/survival power. Families and cultural sub-groupings became identified with certain lines of work.

Job structures took on social weight. Gradually, with ever-greater awareness of individualization, artisan guilds, trade associations, and labor unions were formed to protect workers' right against owners' (management's) exploitation. The individual grew in importance, raising the significance of standards of performance and self-respect even further. The job became a personal statement.

"What do you do for a living?" is a powerful question, and a very frequent one. The answer is almost encyclopedic in what it can say about who we are: our income level, our education, communication skill, political inclination, our imagination, emotional accessibility (the accountant-to-poet spectrum stereotypes), how we dress, the way we think, what we think about, what kind of person of the opposite gender we can normally attract, and so much more. It is the question that determines the start of relationship, i.e., "Do you have the profile/resources to make it beneficial for me to relate to you?"

Our evaluation of our job is key to understanding not only what got us to the present stage of life but also to our self-evaluation process in terms of developing into the future. In a negative situation, we say, "This job doesn't do anything for me." In a positive situation, we say, "I love this job; I identify with it; it's just what I've always wanted to do." For the most part, the days are gone when we do our job just to earn a living. In full bloom out of the psychological century, defining ego identity as never before, we now work to be who we think we are-and wish to become-and what others expect us to be. Our astrology must reflect this very important change in perspective. We've got to set our vocational course in our own best interests.

In the past, history's great astrology theorists established groups of professions to suit well-situated planets. In every sense, these astrologers were fitting the reality of life to the astrologically structured theory of their times; they were categorizing professions simplistically correlated with people's proclivities to those professions. With a strong Saturn, one would easily qualify to be a theologian, sculptor, or mining engineer. With a strong Moon, we were to consider being queens, princesses, hunters and/or "common people"! With Mars: soldiers or hunters, doctors or iron merchants. And people aligned with the Sun? These were potentates, from ambassadors to popes!

We need more measurements, of course, which is to say that, increasingly with the development of our times, we need to see how more of the individual fits into job outlets established by modern society. At the same time then, we should be able to do more than just label a job area; we should be able to suggest how a person needs to behave at work, how he or she needs to express her- or himself on the job-and what kind of job will accept and, indeed, utilize these behaviors. In this way, we begin to assess what the person can do for what job and what that job can do for the person.
While our astrological tools are ageless, we must constantly give them updated correspondence sto modern realities.

One of the most important distinctions between our relation to work in modern times and in times before is that, to a large extent, we can now choose what we want to do for a living. Indeed, without specialized interests and training and certain physical attributes, we can not be an astronaut, ballet dancer, or boxer. But within the career categories of science, the arts, and sports, for example, there are many, many job avenues from which we can choose in order to be part of those career fields that interest us. Being part of the support team in a scientific project is being "in science." Being a stagehand at a municipal theater is being part of "show business." Owning a gymnasium or working in a physical training center is being part of "sports." In life and in astrology, we use extremes, ultimates, to establish our orientations and prove our points, but we must remember that there is an ever-lengthening spectrum of gradated job considerations in any

career direction.

Job, Vocation, Profession

The word "job" comes from the obscure English word for "lump," as in a gathering of concerns. A job is something that we've got to tend to.

In astrology, the operable word for the work we do is chiefly signified across the board by "vocation," literally from the Latin vocare, to call. It is our "calling." There is the sense of inspiration involved, but that seems to have fallen away from practical use of the word to describe the work we do.

The word "profession" comes from the Medieval English wordstem for avowing, adopting a belief, usually in religious terms. This word shares equal standing with the word "career," an Old French root for a road, a course, or passage to progress. Normally, the profession, the career, requires more education, training time, and specialized experience than a vocation or a job. A doctor, a lawyer, a performing artist, an astrologer has a vocation, a profession, and a career. The house painter or beauty salon operator or salesperson has a job.

Regardless of label nuance, we must see the enormous importance of the work we do as it relates to the sense of fulfillment we seek from life. Myriad numbers of people do not have the right job for their needs, talents, and dreams. They were not led in their development to express their individual needs and talents into their best directions; they were not supported and rewarded for their individual proclivities and choices; circumstances caused detours. They entered the workplace wherever they could. Some remain there for a lifetime; some finally break out to change around the thirtieth birthday (the transiting Saturn return) or even later, with concomitant jarring astrological measurements; they can finally get their train onto what is the right track for them.

The astrologer is witness to this process, active within it. Guiding someone into a vocation, through a change of vocation, or into a second simultaneous job is one of the most crucial services offered by an astrologer to the clients she or he serves; it affects the client's entire life. It is also one of astrology's most demanding disciplines-and this is not an overstatement.

A Modern View: The Midheaven Extension Process

For the past ten years especially, I have worked intensely to modernize vocational guidance practice in my astrology work. I wanted to capture the focus of the individual's reigning need in development and his or her aptitudes and interests; and I wanted to place that into a vocational framework that would trigger recognition within the individual, "ring a bell," and set a fulfilling course for this major developmental stream in life. I knew the astrology would have to be holistic, embracing as much as possible in development, from innate endowments through parental influence or the lack of it, into education or the lack of it, and into time structures of vocational experience. But I wanted to get away from, if it were possible, all the band-aid details inherited over the generations of astrological thought, used to shore up weaknesses in any approach, all of

which made vocational analysis very cumbersome.

A key astrological concept inspired what I call the Midheaven Extension Process: we know that our Sun shines light throughout its entire system. To one degree or another, that light illuminates every planet within the system. That's the holistic premise. The gradation of illumination within the system-the varying positions and inter-relationships among the planets as they receive the Sun's light-this is the individuating function.

I took this premise and related it to the Midheaven, bringing the Midheaven to life symbolically as the focal point of vocational reference. When we extend the Midheaven and its symbolism throughout the horoscope system, we involve all or most of the planetary symbols within the horoscope. In this way, the holistic outreach of vocation can be focused individually.

We extend the Midheaven in creative ways:
• Through the Midheaven sign(s) and the condition of the planet(s) ruling the Midheaven;
• Through dispositor dynamics from the Midheaven ruler out to the planets with which it may be engaged by aspect;
• Through a powerful planetary placement in the Midheaven, usually near the angle;
• Through aspects with the Midheaven itself; those planets and their dispositor dynamics;
• Through mutual reception if present, somehow relating to the Midheaven or its ruler;
• With any stellium, increasing focus on a particular House;
background and the modern premise 5
• Through the oriental planet;
• With outstanding key measurements: the quintile, the quindecile; peregrination; the Aries Point; the Sun/Moon midpoint;
• And, perhaps above all, so very often, with the House position and sign of the Moon.

This list of nine analytical considerations may appear daunting, but please know that the Midheaven Extension Process can often distill vocational direction within twenty seconds, most often (with some practice and confidence) within two minutes of study, and, having been tested in perhaps three to four thousand cases, seems to have a validation rate of about 80 percent or higher! The measurement considerations, which we will study carefully in a moment, are really quite easy and can be seen at a glance; not all of them are involved in every case, of course. The analytical art of the process is in our selectivity among the extension contacts . . . and the common-sensical framing of development potentials within the client's reality. Please keep this in mind as we study the many examples and build our routine of seeing.

The key here is not tied to detailed memorization or overmeasurement; it is tied to our understanding of the premise: that the Midheaven signal is being extended throughout the horoscope, touching so many of the symbols of our behavioral faculties and our needs. This holistic premise gains individual punctuation quickly, as we shall see.

Observations: The Analytical Considerations

The Sign and the Planet Ruling the Midheaven

The Sign on the Midheaven ignites the Midheaven Extension Process.
For example, if we see Virgo on the Midheaven, we instantly think of things archetypally Virgoan and Mercurial: discrimination, communication, library things, dietary concerns, pets, putting things in order; if Cancer, we instantly become aware of things archetypally Cancerian and lunar: caring, nursing, cooking, affairs of the home, providing security, real estate (since Cancer is naturally aligned with the 4th House); if Capricorn: business administration, getting things accomplished; if Aquarius: inventiveness, humanitarian issues, technology, and so on.

Every astrologer learns these sign and planet identifications very early on in astrological study, and all that information comes to the forefront of analytical awareness immediately at the beginning of this Midheaven Extension Process, keyed by the Midheaven sign and its ruling planet. An initial premise is established, and the next steps of observation determine development of the initial theme one way or another.
The planet ruling the Midheaven is the chief "spokesman" initially for the early vocational statement. If there is a sign intercepted within the 10th House, the ruler of that sign is a co-ruler of the Midheaven, of course, and is also a spokesman for the vocational statement. [This is not an issue that is complicated or difficult; it works itself out easily through dispositor dynamics and other observations, as we will see.]

Double-Bodied Signs
Gemini and Pisces (and sometimes Sagittarius) are viewed as double-bodied signs (confirmed within their glyphs). When a double-bodied sign is on the Midheaven, more than one vocation-line of work-is strongly suggested, simultaneously or in succession in the life. The ruling planet-Mercury or Neptune, respectively-will develop the potential. We find that the talents need more than one outlet for development; the appeal of variety can not be put aside; there can be vocational confusion. We easily understand the myriad output potentials for "communications" (Gemini, Mercury) or aesthetic creativity (Pisces, Neptune).

Retrogradation plays no role in the Midheaven Extension Process. Neither, for the most part, does the nature of the aspect the Midheaven ruler may make with another planet. What is important is contact. Contact is contact, and no nuance is usually required. Certainly, we shall see that a triple conjunction, involving the Midheaven ruler, for example, will indeed have something special to say. That goes without explaining; that approaches our respect for a stellium (see page 15).

Immediately as the process begins, we should be asking ourselves, "Where is this Midheaven ruler going?" Or, even better, "Where does it want to go?" We want the ruler to take us somewhere conclusive, gathering up strength and definition as it extends its statement throughout the individual's need system.

Sometimes the routing of the ruler is very brief; the process is very short. Sometimes it is lengthy.

Dispositor Dynamics

The word "dispositor" is not in the dictionary. It has come into being and into astrological use probably as a nicer way to say "that which disposes of." We are really saying that planet y, ruling the sign holding planet x, is the dispositor of planet x; it influences x's position, colors it, and can even take over x's position.

If Neptune is in Virgo, its dispositor is Mercury. Mercury's influence colors Neptune because Mercury establishes the descriptive sensibilities of the sign Virgo. Mercury can carry the sense of this Neptune forward.
If that Mercury is in Capricorn, it is in turn disposited by Saturn, and if that Saturn is in Pisces, it is in turn disposited by Neptune . . . and we are back to where we started. This is important. We are discovering a routing-a loop-that links Saturn-Neptune-Mercury together, although they may not be in aspect to one another.

Sometimes the loop will end abruptly; it will not go any further; it will seem like a "dead end." This always occurs when we encounter a planet in its own sign, like Venus in Libra or Saturn in Capricorn or Mars in Aries. This "end-of-the-line" planet can present much emphasis within the vocational profile. It is called the final dispositor. Think of it as a reservoir of all the planet guidelines that led to it. But we can go further thereafter through planets in aspect with the final dispositor!

Often the networking in dispositor dynamics will bring us to a conjunction of two planets: for example, Jupiter in Capricorn is disposited by Saturn which is in conjunction with Venus. When this happens we have to be alert that perhaps a key "target statement" is being made by the conjunction and the two planets' outreach to the Houses they rule . . . or within the House in which the conjunction finds itself.

In this study, we are going to be talking an enormous amount about one planet dispositing another; it's an awkward phrase. I am recommending and using throughout the book a simple notation that says, "is disposited by." I am using the dot (•), which is used nowhere else in astrological notation. Our example here-Neptune, the ruler of the Midheaven (the 10th House) which is disposited by Mercury, which is disposited by Saturn, which is disposited by Neptune-would be written this way: P10 • O • R • P10 • O, and so forth.

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