

Uncertain birth time:

Uncertainty around a person's birth time is so common in the UK (recording birth time's was outlawed by Cromwell) that astrologers have had to devise ways to resolve it.

There are a number of options and techniques, ranging from technical procedures to divinatory forms of discovering a person's time, such as dowsing.

and the one I find best for me is dowsing. You may have heard of people dowsing with a pendulum to discern the sex of a baby; I use a similar technique to pin-point the time of birth.

Q: Why spend so much time, fussing about the time ?

A:

The birth time is important for the creation of the chart. The Earth rotates once every 24 hours, so a new sign rises over the horizon approx once every 2 hours. From the perspective of this rising point, even a time difference of ten minutes can mean very big difference in a chart - even twins have differences in their charts).

The procedure I tend to follow is ...

I either sit with a person, or talk on the phone, and while we are present in each other's company (to 'tune-in' as it were) I then dowse the time of birth (takes about 3 to 5 minutes).

Once we have the time, I use the computer to do the maths (takes 1 minute) and then we have a chart with a dowsed birth time.

The next step is to verify the chart time. Contained within a chart are symbols for ever facet of human experience. Optimism, pessimism, mastery and incompetence - speed, slowness, care and recklessness etc ...

The time of birth determines which areas of life will be most strongly coloured by these facets of experience. So, at 6 o'clock it may be that one chart will show optimism in the house of communication, signifying that the person finds it easy to talk, chatter and write. If the same person's chart were calculated to be 2 hours later, that sense of optimism would appear in a different part of the chart; the 2nd house, associated with values, resources and finance. This would indicate the person has a sense that there will always be enough money and so spends it without any concern - and, always does seem to have enough.

If a person did have one of these things, lets say it's the 2nd house, then if they were asked; one chart suggests you find money easy and the other suggests you find communicating and writing easy, the person would quickly be able to figure out which chart accurately reflects them.

So, once we have the dowsed time, we'd spend a little while, ten minutes or so, seeing if the implications of the dowsed chart match your experience of being you. If it does, then we have the correct time. If not, then the time needs to be further adjusted.

It's quite easy really and means anyone can obtain their chart.

For Horary astrologer's, of course, the birth chart is not used; a chart for the movement a question is asked is configured instead. Natal charting, or, reading a person's character and life path fro a chart drawn for the time and place of birth, is a different use of astrology than the Horary type question.

There are many forms of astrology and approaches to how best to use the symbolism of the cosmos. Like different tools in a craftsman's box, each has its own purpose, technique and value.

in kindness

Dave