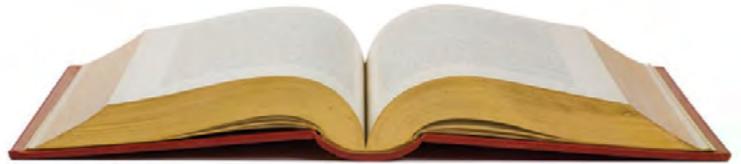
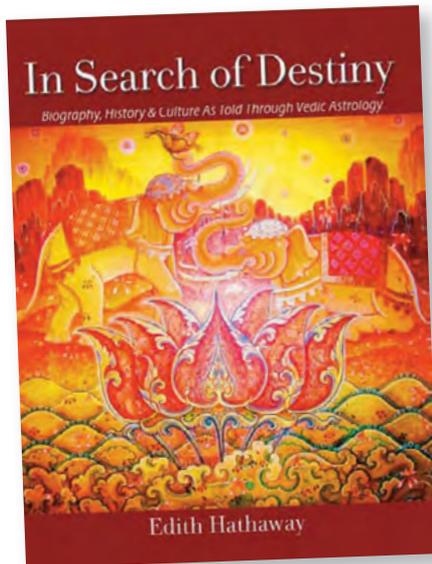


A BOOK REVIEW BY BOB MULLIGAN

In Search of Destiny

by Edith Hathaway



these chapters should be expanded to become a book in their own right.

The first chapter is an attempt to establish a timeline of history and place events and people within this framework. Without the use of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto (which most mundane astrologers use for their vast descriptive powers) Edith gives a long exposition of the Jupiter/Saturn cycle and the mutation from one element to another to describe big movements in human history. This work, like the rest of the book, is encyclopedic and scholarly.

The second chapter would be very difficult to follow if you are new to Vedic astrology because there are so many terms that are introduced in a short amount of space. However, there are adequate books listed in her selected bibliography that can be used to bring newcomers up to speed, especially those by Braha, Frawley, and Raman; these contemporary astrologers are easy to read, and are able to speak to the western mind as well as the seasoned eastern practitioner.

The next seven chapters are arranged by rising sign, each sign having between four and six case histories. (The fact that this massive book only makes it from Aries to Libra leaves us guessing that there will be a second volume.)

The case histories are well thought out, assiduously researched, and absolutely fascinating to read. For tropical astrologers, you will have to do what Dennis Harness referred to in his lectures as “hold the contradiction”. When you look at pictures of Martin Luther King, you instantly recognize him as a person with Taurus Rising; in the Sidereal zodiac he has Aries. But, there is value in

hearing how Edith interprets this in the context of her system.

Even where I have studied their charts before I found new and unique information on every single case history; i.e. Hitler was born on a Saturday, thus strengthening his 10th house Saturn. The time of his first Saturn return was the day that England promised the Zionists Palestine . . . and Saturn returned by Retrograde motion just prior to his injuries in WWI. His Second Saturn Return came just after D-Day. Even if you have no interest in exploring the vedic system there are enough tie ins with the way we work in western astrology to make the book worth the time to study.

Edith’s background in the performing arts prior to her career in astrology and her own spiritual quest gives her carefully crafted case histories some really interesting twists and there is much to discover. Case in point, the study of Martha Graham and Ammachi showed not only Edith’s scholarship but also her deep interest in the subject matter.

There are dozens of well thought out comments in each of the 31 case histories. Each chapter ends with a little exam making this appropriate for use as a class textbook. Even the addendum – Glossary, Bibliography, charts for, the United States and India, and Index are clear, well thought out, and useful. Edith Hathaway has written a book that is destined to be a ‘must read’ classic. I recommend this book to any astrologer western or eastern who has a basic grasp of astrological concepts. You will be absolutely amazed by the number of things you will learn about astrology and about the world. It is worth the effort to read and re-read.

It is not usual for a western tropical astrologer to review a vedic astrology book. But like most of my colleagues, I have read a few dozen Indian astrology books, explored the system, and have some opinion on the literature. . . . And trust me, this is truly an astounding work and a very good read. I recommend it for every practicing astrologer, regardless of background or system.

The front material: Acknowledgements, Forward, and Preface (which can be a “toss off” in many books) merit careful study. I truly recommend starting here so you understand the underlying premise and structure of this work. The foundation is laid out in a manner that only an earth sign could accomplish.

The first two chapters: “Historical Context and Collective Destiny”, and “Introduction to Vedic Astrology and Philosophy” are full of fascinating ideas and quite insightful. They are worth careful study, even for those versed in mundane astrology and already familiar with the Vedic system and terminology. Each of