



A talk with Judy Hall

Tore Lomsdalen

JUDY HALL, AN internationally known author, astrologer, psychic, healer, broadcaster and workshop leader, has been a karmic counsellor for almost forty years. Her books have been translated into fifteen languages. Her specialities are past-life readings and regression, reincarnation, astrology, psychology, and natural forms of healing.

Judy has a B.Ed. in Religious Studies and an extensive knowledge of world religions and mythology. She completed her Masters degree in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology at Bath Spa University.

After one of our sessions, we sat down overlooking the majestic ruins of the Glastonbury Abbey, casting magical shadows in the late afternoon sunshine, as I asked Judy about her newly released *The Book of Why: exploring your soul's journey*. Why this book, Judy?

Judy: So many people asked me why certain things happen that I felt it was time to explore in depth our soul's purpose in incarnating – something that may include our karma but which moves beyond it. It's been obvious to me during the regressions I've facilitated that most of us plan our incarnations very carefully in the interlife so that we meet exactly the conditions and experiences needed for our growth and also as a service to others, but we forget that once we come into incarnation. So, what may appear on the surface to be traumatic or abusive can actually be a learning experience we set up for ourselves.

Tore: How many books have you written, do you remember?

Judy: About forty-five, of which eight are astrological.

Tore: Which book are you most happy with of the astrological books?

Judy: The Hades Moon, because it's the deepest.

Tore: The deepest?

Judy: Yes, it's the longest book I've ever written. It still didn't say everything... Because I don't think there was room to say everything and I had to stop because I nearly died, it was one of my near-death experiences, but it gave me the chance to say much more about a specific aspect of karma, the Moon in aspect to Pluto, than I could in a general karmic astrology book. I was very familiar with death because I almost died at the birth of my daughter and had a profound past-life reliving that I included in the book.

Tore: Near-death experience of a mother writing a book about Moon and Pluto is quite literal, isn't it?

Judy: Yes, death of a mother, death of a child and death in childbirth are a very common pattern in the past lives of anyone who has the Hades Moon in their chart – as is the feeling of abandonment that the experience can provoke. And, after all, we all have to die in the spiritual realm in order to reincarnate into the physical.

Tore: Judy, we all have a kind of way into astrology. Which was your way?

Judy: I never actually found my way into astrology – I was sure you were going to ask this question! I was asked to make the numbers up for a class that didn't have enough to function and it was an intermediate class, so I went along without ever having done any of the basics. I would never have got into astrology if I had had to do calculations, so it was the perfect way for me.

Tore: And why was that the perfect way for you?

Judy: Because I've got dyscalculia – it's now got a name, it didn't have forty years ago when I began astrology – which means that I can't handle numbers, and so doing the actual calculations of where everything was, which in those days you had to do it by hand with logarithms, I just couldn't have done that. For many years until computers came along, my tutor actually calculated and drew the charts for me.

Tore: You said in the seminar that you visualise the chart?

Judy: That was true right from the very first chart that was put up on the board. I saw a pattern in it and I also saw past lives in it, and even though I didn't know what the astrological symbols meant, the pictures came out of the symbols and the inter-relationship, the pattern that was on the chart, which is why I need charts to have their aspects drawn on them, in a way that visually presents the material to me.

Tore: So you actually have a psychic entrance into a chart?

Judy: Yes, and I think 'psychic' is the right word, because it's beyond intuition. I go in at an intuitive level, but I also see pictures of past lives.

Tore: Yes, so you actually didn't have to learn it?

Judy: No I didn't have to learn it. I felt that I already knew what it meant, that it was something that I'd done it many times before, something I was rediscovering.



Tore: Then, what actually is astrology for you?

Judy: I think it's a language – that is the best way for me to describe it. A language that speaks to me with images and symbols, whatever word you want to put on it. It's an intuitive interaction with what's going on in the sky now and what was going on in the sky when someone was born and what they'd done before.

Tore: Some say that astrology is craftsmanship and some say it's magic, so I guess you then would be on the magical side.

Judy: I think it's a craft in that you need to have certain tools and skills and abilities but I do think it is magical thinking, and yes, there's a very scientific component to it with the measurements and being precise as well. However, one of the things that have always fascinated me is – and I talked quite a lot around it with various people when I was doing the MA – how you can have the wrong chart and the right reading, and all of those things that very scientific astrologers say is not possible.

Tore: So, why then do *you* think we can have the wrong chart and the right reading?

Judy: Because it's still reflecting the energies in some way of where the person's at, and because I don't predict, or if I do – occasionally I'm told that I do predict, because there's an intuitive flow as I talk on tape – it's what comes out of my intuition, and so I'm reading the energy pattern and I think that's why it's possible to have the right reading from the wrong chart. The energy pattern will still be there, and there are infinite possibilities in one chart. It's how you tune into the one that's at that point where that person's evolved to that fascinates me.

Tore: What about divination, do you think it's divination?

Judy: I do.

Tore: A divinatory tool?

Judy: It's definitely a divinatory tool, but mostly because you're not necessarily predicting with it, not in the sense that this will happen in terms of events, but it's more divination in that the planets – to me the planets are still the gods – are interacting and this is how the impact of the gods affects us. This is what you choose to do with it and how it will show itself.

Tore: So you see the divination part of it as an interaction with divinity?

Judy: Yes.

Tore: So, where do you place divinity in the universe? What does it mean to you?

Judy: It's my belief that we are all part of consciousness, and that's divine because it's universal. So, we all have our own inner divinity because we are consciousness incarnated. I don't see God in the sense of an old man with a white beard sitting on a throne judging everyone, but I do sense gods in the form of archetypes and forces operating within our world – and throughout other dimensions. But I'm part of that overall whole.

Tore: You said as well you always see the past life in charts and you knew you had to be a karmic astrologer?

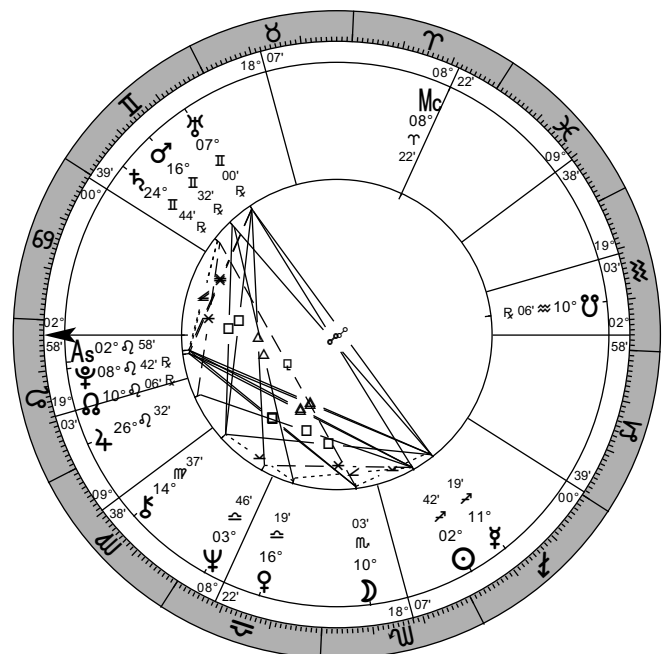
Judy: Before I even knew there was such a thing – the first chart I ever saw was General Patton's. He fortunately was somebody who believed in reincarnation and he wrote about his beliefs, but I didn't know at the time, I didn't know who he was, but I was able to read his past lives.

Tore: General Patton believed in past lives?

Judy: Yes, and he'd written about who he believed he was, as I discovered afterwards when I was researching him. But at the time this chart was put up and the tutor said, "What do you make of this?" and I said, "He's a general with the soul of a poet" I had no idea. I was so lucky in that Bob Tully was one of the very few people around at the time – this was forty years ago – who'd say "Well, that's interesting. What makes you think that?" I said, "Well, he's got that thing up there", pointing to something that looked like a trident, and Bob said "Yes, that's Neptune", and that was the poet. And I said, "And that thing up there looks like an arrow", and that was Mars and the soldier, so although I didn't even know what the symbols were I knew what parts of the chart were talking to me and saying this man is warlike and yet he's very sensitive and has the soul of a poet. Patton actually believed he was both a Roman commander and also a very ancient poet.

Tore: Interesting. But what do you think the chart or the past-life astrology can give us that the natal chart cannot give us?

Judy: Well, it's the same chart, just read differently. From my point of view, it explains why you came in that way.



Judy Hall: 25th November 1943, 21.23, Walsall, UK. Placidus houses, mean node.

When I see a chart and someone insists that's the moment things started, my question always is why? How did that come about? Why are those patterns and inclinations there? Don't forget, back then astrology was all about character and people being a particular way. I was lucky as I very quickly got into psychological astrology, which was at that time just starting. There were people saying this means it's probably due to the mother or these sorts of things, and I said, where did that start from? The baby's a blank slate – does that mean that it's impressed on them from the pattern of the chart in the womb? But how can that be, because the chart hasn't come about yet? Surely it means they brought that in with them and that's something they're working on? Because that's the only thing that made sense to me.

Tore: And that will help us to understand this life?

Judy: Yes, and to go back and unlock it if there are blockages. Changing the pattern in this life is a healing tool, it isn't just an intellectual understanding, it has to bring about change. And it helps us to know our purpose in being here too.

Tore: Who is the person who has meant most for your astrology?

Judy: Howard, Howard Sasportas, because the first workshop I went to with him was about three days after he read my chart, and I ended up co-teaching with him. Here was a man who was standing up and saying all the things I was already seeing in a chart; it was fantastic.

Tore: Was there a story behind getting the reading, or was it chance?

Judy: Well, Christine Hartley was my mentor. She made clear to me things I'd been seeing. I had just started learning astrology with Bob Tully. I had never heard of reincarnation before. I knew a lot about being psychic, because my grandmothers were. Nobody had ever mentioned reincarnation, but there was Bob saying to me that "Oh yes, you're seeing past lives", and yet I didn't even know what they were. So I was asking that question and I walked into the library and Christine's book *A Case for Reincarnation* literally fell on my head. I took it home and read it through twice, and wrote to the author, who then took me on as a pupil. She had worked with Dion Fortune and she'd spent seventy years exploring reincarnation and past lives, so she taught me how to regress people safely.

Tore: We have been talking about Uranus on this retreat, and this I guess was a kind of Uranus-changing-your-life moment?

Judy: Absolutely. Christine said: "I've got an astrologer who lives at the bottom of my garden, why don't you go and see her? So I went to see Suzie, and Suzie took one look at my chart and said "I can't deal with this, go and see Howard Sasportas"! And I spent the next week going "Oh my god, what's wrong with me? I spent the first half-hour of the consultation with Howard with him pussyfooting around – which I found out later wasn't like Howard at all – so I was really getting paranoid. In the end he mumbled something about problems with mothering and being a mother being a big issue in my life, and I said to him, "Oh, I nearly died in childbirth this time and I did die in childbirth last time". Howard sort of leapt forward, he suddenly came alive and said "Oh, thank God for that! Can we talk now, I thought you were just some housewife from Essex who hadn't got a clue, you have all this stuff in your chart and I didn't know where to begin". And of course from that moment on that was it, we just clicked and he said "I'm running this seminar on karmic astrology at the weekend, why don't you come along?" We

actually taped a couple of seminars that we gave together soon after that, a whole workshop weekend, and we were going to turn it into a book but the tape had only worked for the first few minutes. We checked it and it worked, and then it crashed out, so Howard said "Well you're writing a book, here you are, get on with it".

Tore: And then you wrote a book...

Judy: That was *The Karmic Journey*.

Tore: Do you recognise the karmic astrologer in your own chart?

Judy: That very close Pluto-Moon square that later caused me to write *The Hades Moon* put me in touch with past lives and I've got Sun-Mercury opposite Uranus and I think that is very intuitive, very psychic, that's what takes me beyond and into the esoteric viewpoint. Although I find psychological astrology fascinating and learned a lot from it, I find mundane very mundane and horary is just beyond me. I've never grasped the rules of those, so I think it's that ability to read the intuitive energetic imprint that leads me to be a karmic astrologer. I've always looked as well at what the soul is here for. I discovered the other day that someone had named me an evolutionary astrologer so I thought – oh that's interesting. I don't see why I should be one or the other. Why shouldn't one come out of the other, I want to be both?

Tore: You're well known for doing regressions. Is that to get a better chart reading, or...?

Judy: Funnily enough, it very rarely works in conjunction with astrology. I do psychic readings of the past lives when I do a chart, because I don't have somebody in front of me – I do it on tape. Several people said to me, "Well, can you take me back into a past life?", and as Christine had taught me how to go back and do past-life scenes, I refined my ability to do it. I started to regress people, but I always insisted it was for healing, not just curiosity. At that time there was nobody else doing it – Christine'd always done it, but in a very quiet way and she didn't do reframing or healing, just a rerun. By then she was a very old lady, and people like Roger Woolgrer, who later became very well known for it, hadn't even started at this point in the mid-'70s. I ended up teaching a lot of people how to do past-life healing from what I had learnt from Christine and by learning on the job, so I was always being presented with new challenges, and finding ways to heal them, and passed it on.

Tore: But you're into crystals and remedies as well: is that interrelated with astrology somehow?

Judy: It always was. The more research I've done, [the more] I've discovered why I intuitively did what I do. From the beginning I'd always had crystals around. I didn't necessarily know what they were, I'd just acquired them from all sorts of places and we had an amazing crystal shop, a sort of mineral warehouse, where I lived long before crystal shops were in fashion. I would read the chart and put crystals on it, and it was only many years later that somebody said, "Oh, I'll show you how to put crystals on the chart" – and did exactly the same process. I thought, "I've been doing that all my life". It was the same with flower essences and crystal remedies. My regression room had lots of crystals around and I'd give people crystals to hold. But it wasn't until I did the MA that I realised how old the practice was. I was researching birthstones back in Mesopotamia with stones related to the gods and the crystal healing remedies that the Mesopotamians used, which related to what crystal healers are doing now. It all fitted in together. For many, many centuries remedies were actually prescribed by astrologers.

Tore: What about your Master course at Bath Spa?

Judy: Doing the MA allowed me to research the ancient connections between stones and astrology as it facilitated access to ancient sources that were otherwise not available – and, as I gained a distinction, it gave me academic credibility. I had intended to do a dissertation on the roots of birthstones but it became such a huge subject that I only touched on a tiny part of it, the crystal chart associated with Alexander the Great (which is on my website). However, I'm still drawing on the research for my writing on both crystals and astrology.

Tore: What does it take to become a good karmic or past-life astrologer?

Judy: A huge dose of intuition and the courage to say what you see.

Tore: Astrology in the future, where do we go?

Judy: I've kind of lost track of all the different methods and things that are available now, but the one that excites me is the idea of evolutionary astrology and what your soul is here to do, that's always been my interest, that's why I look at the past to see where are we going now and where do we go in the future. So anything that looks at that I think we need for shifting consciousness, we're in a consciousness-shifting age.

Tore: So you think we are in a stage of shifting the world consciousness?

Judy: I hope so, that's what I would like to be part of.

Tore: The energy of the earth?

Judy: The energy is shifting, the vibrations are raising and yet I'm aware that a lot of people are going back to Hellenistic

astrology and to the old, to what was known before. Having gone back to look at that, there are huge karmic components and insights into other lives, because the Greeks believed in reincarnation and the Egyptians and the Babylonians all believed in soul and other lives, so I find that interesting because we're somehow going back to the roots and reapplying it or reworking it.

Tore: The topic for your next seminar in Glastonbury is...?

Judy: We're reading the Akashic record. We'll be using both the chart and the Akashic record as a map of the soul's past, present, and future possibilities and learning how you read that intuitively, how you tune into that, how you relate it to the astrology.

Tore: Thank you Judy, and good luck with your summer retreat.

Judy Hall: <http://www.judyhall.co.uk/>

Photos by Tore Lomsdalen

Tore Lomsdalen is a Norwegian living in Milan, Italy. He is currently working on his diploma exams at the Faculty of Astrological studies and at the same time following the Master grade course in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology at the University of Wales Trinity St. David. He is specialising in Cosmology and Archaeoastronomy, and writes his Master dissertation on prehistoric megalithic temples in Malta. Tore can be contacted at: post@astrolom.com



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