**My experience as a Diploma holder (FAS Day 2013)**

Ok, this is a new slot in the FAS Day and it was me who gave the idea – now I regret it!

Well, I’m supposed to talk about my experience of being a Diploma holder and it is difficult to do this in only 10 minutes since obtaining and using the Faculty Diploma is a great achievement both at a personal and vocational level.

It is also not easy to separate the period previous to having the Diploma from the post-Diploma time. The whole thing is an ongoing process, from when you start studying astrology until the present moment.

When we find astrology or, for that matter, when astrology finds us things start to happen in our lives and we start a path of no return. This is the power of astrology.

Obtaining the Diploma is just (I say just with lots of inverted commas) a benchmark along the way but it can be a crucial one. I compare it to the Saturn return.

Becoming a Diploma holder feels like becoming an adult in the astrological field.

Now you feel you want to take astrology seriously and probably astrology will take you seriously from now onwards.

And our goals within astrology change as we mature as astrologers. We might start with a rather naive idea of astrology and come out from our Diploma studies with something completely different, and we need to remain open to any possible further changes for all our life. I want to share my experience about this with you.

I started studying astrology from scratch.

I had read only one book – very general about sun signs that I inherited from my grandfather. I was in my adolescence when this happened.

It seemed an interesting method of classifying people in order to understand human behaviour better which, as an adolescent, I thought it was a great thing because I thought that people were terribly complicated.

In fact I had even thought of studying psychology at the university and I didn’t because there was the “myth” out there that anyone who wanted to study psychology wanted to do it because he himself was insane and I didn’t want to be insane (I have the Sun in the 12th house if I use Placidus or Equal houses).

Not just human behaviour seemed complicated to me but also life in general.

When I was in my twenties I learned that a friend of a friend consulted an astrologer regularly who advised him about absolutely everything, including whether to go out on Saturday night and with who. Obviously, that astrologer was of a very particular kind but that’s another story. What I was caught with was that he seemed to know exactly what that friend should do at every moment, what was best for him.

And I thought: “ok, if you know exactly what’s best at every moment life must be much easier to navigate! And also, astrology can help me to know how people behave and why.”

So these were my two initial goals when I decided to study astrology:

1. Having a tool for classifying people

2. Being able to make exact predictions for myself and maybe for others

Needless to say that by the time I finished my Diploma both goals had vanished completely in the air.

Through my studies my goals became completely the opposite and I then wanted to study astrology to have arguments to convince people that astrology was not that kind of thing!

Learning astrology seriously helped me to understand the uniqueness of each individual and the potential creativity that each chart contains. And I realised that making exact predictions was not possible simply because it doesn’t work and also because it implies assuming the dangerous role of being a sort of god for others.

What definitely wasn’t in my mind at any time during my studies was to become a full time astrologer. That came naturally to me.

I was de-constructed and re-constructed again as a person through the study of astrology and, certainly, the re-construction was for better. I gained self-awareness, maturity, serenity, trust in life, gratitude, tolerance, understanding, meaning…

I was so grateful to astrology for all that that when I finished my Diploma my goal had changed again.

My goal no longer was to convince people that astrology was not about classifying people or making predictions. I felt in debt with the Gods and I strongly wished to give back something to astrology.

Also, I was very grateful to the Faculty, for existing and for providing such a brilliant and serious astrological education. How could I give back something to the Faculty, too?

The universe conspired to make all that happen and when I obtained my Diploma I was asked to become a Faculty tutor and 3 years later I joined council and took on the Exam Chair role – when Saturn was sitting exactly on my MC. This was really something I could have never imagined!

In parallel I developed my astrological practice, and this came also naturally. I started to be asked to do charts for friends, then for friends of friends and so on, and I’m seeing an average of 2 clients every week now.

My current goal in astrology is to teach it. But the word teaching has a much wider meaning to me now. It implies doing anything to make astrology known in the world.

I do that through directly teaching students (at the Faculty and at my own school in Barcelona), giving talks or seeing clients.

We don’t teach astrology to clients but we show them what astrology is and what astrology can do for them and I think this is a great contribution to put astrology in the place it deserves. In fact, many clients come to their sessions with a particular idea of astrology and go out with a completely different perspective of it!

Nothing of what I have done within astrology was done with the idea of “becoming a professional astrologer” or making a living out of astrology. It just happened, and I’m a full time astrologer since 2003.

As you can see I’m not a business oriented person (I came to astrology from the artistic field) so what I’m saying might not be helpful for anyone wanting tips about how to set up a professional practice on astrology, I’m sorry.

But what I can say is that if you do what you are really passionate about sooner or later you’ll succeed. If astrology is your passion, don’t give up, you’ll find your place in it.