


Using Occult Science As Background

Does there have to be any significant difference between sf and fantasy?



SF extrapolates physics, math, and chemistry to see how new discoveries might change our lives.

Fantasy can extrapolate Tarot, Astrology, math and Alchemy to see how new discoveries might change our lives.

Intimate Adventure can combine them seamlessly.

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What has Tarot to do with SF writing?

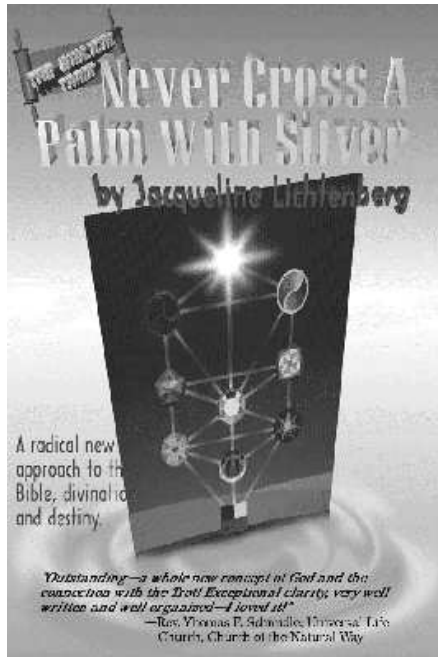
Tarot is a philosophy -- not a card game

It doesn't matter which philosophy a writer studies, as long as one is known thoroughly enough to customize it to personal fictional purposes.

Tarot is a theory about the structure of the universe, and the place of mortal creatures in that universe. It describes how the will and spirit of a living creature (such as a person) interacts with the apparently inanimate material substrata we study in the science of physics.

Tarot can be very dangerous, but not for the reasons most people think. It is therefore recommended that the beginning student of Tarot read several cautionary books on these dangers before beginning that study.

I have described some of those dangers and how to deal with them in the first volume of The Biblical Tarot, a nonfiction book from Belfry Books.



The internet provides many sites about the Tarot, filled with wisdom and drivel mixed in wild abandon. Sometimes the drivel is more fertile in story ideas than the actual fact. One person's drivel is another person's incontrovertible fact. Within that conflict lie many stories.

Why Study Philosophy?

The element in fiction that makes the "Pen Mightier Than The Sword" is theme.

A theme is a statement about the nature of Reality -- of "G-d, the Universe, and Everything" -- a statement about "Matters of Ultimate Concern" made simple, "For Dummies" by casting the statement in fictional terms.

Academics who study fiction writers have found that among the most successful writers, the ones whose work communicates across generations, each writer seems to spend a lifetime or perhaps only a "period" of a lifetime, exploring the ramifications of some particular, but large, theme.

A story without a theme usually strikes fiction consumers as incomprehensible.

In school, we learn to spot "the moral of the story." And a "moral of the story" is a theme. But not all themes are morals - or even have much to do with ethics.

Where do writers get themes? Why do writers focus their whole life's work around certain themes? How do they pick a theme to write about that will make the work popular, or make a lot of money, or make it live for generations?

You want to be such a writer? What do you have to say that anyone would want to listen to? If you don't know the answer to that, how do you discover the answer? Where does a writer begin to write? Where do they get ideas for stories?

You will never find "The" answer to all those questions. But you can find "Your" answer to them in the study of philosophy.

What Has Astrology To Do With SF Writing?

Astrology and Tarot can be viewed as two aspects of the same subject -- Philosophy.

While Tarot provides insights into the spiritual and psychological events of the story, astrology provides insights into the material and physical events of the plot.

Human lives have a pattern.

Certain kinds of things interest us at age 7, and other things at age 14, 21, and 28. People over 30 have a totally different outlook on Life. Events affect us differently depending on age. Your house burning down at age 7 is one trauma, at 28 something else, and after 60 yet another kind of challenge.

Astrologically, this cycle is depicted as the Saturn Cycle. Saturn completes one orbit every 29 or so years. Every 7 years, Saturn makes an "aspect" (a specific angle, or division of the 360 degree circle) with the place it occupied at birth. Each time it makes one of these angles, the person will face a certain type of challenge.

A writer doesn't have to "believe in" astrology to use it to plot an sf story.

Using the basics of astrology, the writer can locate the moments during a Protagonist's lifetime when he/she will be pummeled by "story-making" events, when at the same time the character is emotionally and psychologically "open" (simultaneous transits of Jupiter, the planet of Philosophy) to learning and changing as the result of plot-events.

To use the knowledge of the effect of these transits on people, a writer does not need to cast the birth chart of the character.

The novelist needs to understand the characteristic patterns of the transits, and what usually happens concurrently at a certain age to structure an intricate SF plot.

Jupiter, orbits once every 12 years. Any 24 year-old is undergoing their second Jupiter-return, and is three years past the 3rd quartering of Saturn -- 4 years from their first Saturn-return. That will be true of everyone, regardless of their natal chart (everyone on Earth, that is).

The age of 24 has a certain character for everyone -- but no two people are alike. If you are told a character is 24, but that character does not have the signature typical of 24, you won't believe the character is real, especially if you have ever been 24. Astrology adds realism to SF characters by providing life-events for characters to deal with.

Which is Real? Occult Science or Physical Science?

Which science the writer chooses to make "real" in the story-verse determines the genre – sf or fantasy.

Does the writer have to choose between Occult and Physical science?

Since these life-patterns are so common, most people recognize them as valid, even if only subconsciously. Thus if characters are living through the life-pattern experiences of a

certain age-group, modified by individual traits -- then the characters will seem like real people to most readers, regardless of whether the story is SF or Fantasy.

Whether the story is SF or Fantasy, the characters – human and alien –undergo the same life-validating and life-changing events.

What if both Occult and Physical science are “real” in a particular story-verse?

Many people believe that if Magic is real, then all the laws of science are invalid, and vice-versa. But a close study of modern Occultism shows that the Occult sciences have evolved as the physical sciences have. Modern Astrology is nothing like the Astrology practiced at the turn of the 20th Century. The modern Tarot Reader is not a fortune teller. Meanwhile, modern particle physics is beginning to look more and more like magic.

In our “real” lives, for most people, the spiritual and psychological events of life form a background largely ignored while attention is focused on the material and physical events.

Some characters in a novel may focus on the physical and act from the belief that physical science describes all of reality – while other characters may consider the spiritual ramifications of their actions cause matters to turn out “right” or “wrong.”.

The conflict between the two philosophies is fertile ground for any writer, but it is most productive for the writers of Intimate Adventure.

Novels of Ambiguous Genre – which are actually Intimate Adventure

Marion Zimmer Bradley: *Darkover Universe*

Anne McCaffrey: *Dragonriders of Pern Series*

Catherine Asaro: *Skolian Empire novels*

Jacqueline Lichtenberg: *Those of My Blood, Dreamspy, Molt Brother, City of a Million Legends, Sime~Gen Universe novels.*

Jean Lorrain: *Blood Will Tell, Sime~Gen Universe novels*

Ⓒ 1994-2004 Jacqueline Lichtenberg