

THE HAND REVEALS

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO CHEIROMANCY
THE WESTERN TRADITION OF HANDREADING

REVISED AND EXPANDED FOURTH EDITION



DYLAN WARREN-DAVIS

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A Complete Guide to Cheiromancy,
The Western Tradition of Handreading

Dylan Warren-Davis

AEON

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1st Edition published in Great Britain in 1993
by Element Books Ltd,
Longmead, Shaftsbury, Dorset.
2nd Edition published in Great Britain in 2002
by Vega Books Ltd, London.

First published in 2021 by
Aeon Books
PO Box 76401
London W5 9RG

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A C.I.P. for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN-13: 978-1-91280-772-7

Typeset by Medlar Publishing Solutions Pvt Ltd, India
Printed in Great Britain

www.aeonbooks.co.uk

To
*all my teachers who have
made this work possible.*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hand Reveals has evolved from much personal research which has spanned a decade. In making this research possible I should like principally to acknowledge and thank a number of my teachers. Firstly Barbara Lewis who by spontaneously grabbing my hand and giving me an impromptu reading (while waiting for the second course of an Indian meal), unwittingly sowed the seeds for my interest in handreading. I should like to thank Priscilla Osband and Terry Dukes—Priscilla for sympathetically showing me the rudiments of handreading and Terry for revealing the intricacies of Elemental symbolism and its application to the hand.

I should also like thank my astrological teachers, Maggie Hyde, Geoffrey Cornelius and the late Derek Appleby, who collectively taught me the symbolic language of astrology and inspired me with its potential. A particularly warm thank you to Stephanie Spindler whose friendship and encouragement so critically nurtured the early stages of the research for this book.

I would like to thank my editor Steve Eddy who, at precisely the moment I felt it was time to write, offered me the opportunity of a book contract. I would also like to thank Julia McCutchen and all at Element Books who have helped in the production of this book.

An enormous thank you must go to Kris Anderson who, in addition to drawing the large number of illustrations for the first edition of the book, has made many valuable criticisms and suggestions that have significantly enhanced it.

I would like to give a special thanks to the late Olivia Barclay, whose expertise in the field of classical astrology has been invaluable in spotting astrological anachronisms in the text and in the definition of astrological terms used in the Glossary. Thanks also to Gary Price for researching astrological calculations in Chapter 18.

I would like to acknowledge the Warburg Institute, University of London for their kind permission to use the illustrations in Figures 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. I would also like to acknowledge Regulus Publishing Co. Ltd. for their kind permission to use the illustrations in Figure 20.1.

I also must thank those who have given me permission to use their handprints to illustrate the text. Last but not least, I would like to thank the many students and clients, too numerous to mention individually, who in one way or another have led to the furthering of the knowledge found in this book.

D. W-D.

FORWARD

I was given a copy of the 1st edition of this book in the mid-90s when I became a professional astrologer. At the time it resonated and for a while I used it with friends and clients to give more insight into what motivated them as they sought to navigate life's rocky road. But as with life, other things came along and eventually it settled on the bookshelf along with all my herbal books.

Now I have more astrological knowledge, I can read this 4th edition with new eyes and was positively amazed at how the author has so succinctly delineated the humours and planets in such a way that a non-astrologer would both learn astrology by osmosis, and chiromancy by example.

The first five chapters cover the elements, humours and planets with a clarity that immediately enables you to spot your humoral "type" or temperament and gives you a few "ahah" moments.

The second part covers how to read the hands; again, in an easy to follow and logical process so that by the time I had finished the book and got friends and family to send me their handprints, I had to laugh out loud at how accurate the descriptions were.

The new section on planetary hand shapes is amazing. Reading and comparing the hands used and applying the attributions to the hands of my friends was as though they were standing in front of me speaking their planets!

It is uncanny how following Dylan's methods and examples, I was able to spot personality traits not only of my friends and family, but more importantly about myself!

It is beautifully illustrated throughout and backed by years of practise and knowledge from a gifted astrologer, medical herbalist and chiromancer. As an aside, in these socially distanced times, this would be a wonderful book for anyone seeking to meet, interview or employ people they have only met online! Indeed, the Hand Reveals!

Sharon Knight MA. QHP.
Astrologer.

INTRODUCTION

Cheirromancy (pronounced *kiromancy*) is the art of handreading in which all aspects of a person's hand are considered in order to gain an accurate picture of their inner nature. Cheirromancy is distinct from the fortune-telling of palmistry. What has come down to us as palmistry today is a rather degenerate and effete form of this ancient discipline. The word cheirromancy comes from the Greek *chir* meaning 'hand' and *manteia* meaning 'divination', literally meaning 'divination through the hand'.

In classical times cheirromancy, as its name suggests, was considered a valuable skill and held in high esteem. Cheirromancy today, however, tends to be regarded as an obscure topic. This is understandable for in the last 300 years it has been suppressed by the Church and spurned by reductionist science. Despite this, handreading still exerts much popular interest as a gentle pastime, though one which is unfortunately not taken very seriously.

What is the value of cheirromancy today? Despite biological science demonstrating the predominant neurological connection between brain and hand and acknowledging the importance of the hand for translating ideas into action as a part of Man's evolution, it cannot see any significance in handreading. This is more than a case of one hand not knowing what the other is doing: it seems that modern Man does not know what either hand is up to!

It is time to re-evaluate the topic. Contemporary physics no longer believes in matter as an absolute objective reality, as it did in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Instead it sees the consciousness of the observer as being integrally linked with the observed material world. The study of just how consciousness interacts with matter is the very basis of cheirromancy; for the premise of handreading is that the hand, and indeed the whole body, is symbolic of the psyche within it. In our technological age

where medical science prides itself on being able to print out heart and brain rhythms, it is curious that the continuous print out of the psyche on the palm is ignored!

It is understandable that after 300 years of negation, the scepticism that surrounds cheiromancy is very deep. It has so closed people's minds that it is very hard for them to accept that handreading has any validity at all. Consider a historian who knows nothing whatsoever about music, finding an untitled music score in some archive. With no knowledge of musical notation he completely fails to recognize it as a musical score. 'Perhaps it is some sort of secret message in code', he muses to himself. A passing musician just glances at the score and mentally hears the music written on it. On recognizing the melody, he exclaims, 'That's one of Bach's sonatas'. The sceptical historian remains unconvinced, 'He's just making it up', he argues. In order to demonstrate his point the musician gets his violin and plays it to him. Alas to no avail, the historian still remains unconvinced and accuses the musician of playing Bach's sonata from memory just to prove his claim. 'The score is definitely a hidden message', he maintains. The only possible way left for the musician to convince the sceptic is to teach him the violin so that he can play the musical notation directly. Finally, after many months the historian might be able to hear Bach's sonata coming from his own violin.

Just like musical notation, the hand has its own language that needs to be learnt first before 'reading' the hand is possible. Unless one learns the basic principles of cheiromancy, the hand is as meaningless as a musical score is to a non-musician. The validity of cheiromancy lies in being able to use this knowledge to interpret a person's hand successfully. It is in the actual experience of reading a hand that the knowledge is verified. In the same way that a musician on reading musical notation and hearing the sounds emitted from their instrument gradually learns to 'hear' the music in the score, so, too, it is possible for the skilled cheiromancer to 'see' intricate psychological patterns in the hand.

This book sets out to explain the principles of cheiromancy whereby diligent students should be able to read hands for themselves. It will first explain the cultural context of this knowledge and then elucidate the cosmology and symbolism used in reading the hand. As the book unfolds, this symbolism will be applied to the various aspects of the hand, thus enabling their interpretation. Finally all the strands of symbolism will be woven together so that successful handreadings may be done.

It is hoped that those who gain proficiency in reading hands will be able to see the immense potential and cultural importance of cheiromancy in many human spheres. In education it can help recognize the innate abilities that need to be drawn forth if an individual is to flourish. In medicine its diagnostic potential can enable patients to see how their psychological and emotional nature influences their physical health, so assisting the healing process. In the vocational sphere it would help people to find work that accords with their temperament and thus enhance their fulfilment in life. In psychology it offers a very practical way of gaining insight into people's minds and behaviour. Whereas spiritually cheiromancy can help people to find inner meaning in their lives.

This book will introduce people to many ideas that have long been buried in our cultural heritage. Readers at first glance can be forgiven for thinking that these ideas are out of date. The Three Worlds presented in the following chapter—Elemental, Celestial and Intellectual—may seem somewhat medieval in conception. However, when seen in terms of physical, emotional and mental experience respectively, the material is just as valid today as it has been in former centuries.

‘The Hand Reveals’ is written as a practical guide to reading hands; it is not merely theoretical. As various points are described, throughout the book, try to apply this knowledge at every opportunity to find confirmation of the ideas. There is a considerable amount of knowledge and information compressed into these pages, and even the most diligent student would have difficulty in digesting it in one reading. It is recommended that you refer back as often as necessary to go the material you have read, to allow your understanding of cheiromancy to grow gradually.

In writing a book of this nature one needs to sustain interest without getting bogged down by instructions. For this reason some of the instructional detail is intentionally cryptic, requiring the student to work out their own information using the given symbolic principles.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

Over 15 years have passed since the first publication of *The Hand Reveals*. Much has changed in the world since then. In this increasingly digital age, which is supposed to make our lives easier, paradoxically people have less time than ever for themselves. In this context, a handreading remains one of the best tools to enable an individual to see their life in perspective. Despite this potential, sadly much of the cultural importance of the discipline is still derided and ignored. Much of what I originally wrote still retains its relevance to the twenty-first century, in particular, with increasing awareness of environmental issues affecting our health and the planet, the importance of Elemental symbolism can be seen in a new light. This new edition has enabled me to enhance the work with expanded text and improved illustrations, in particular Chapter 15—Planetary Hand Shapes has been rewritten including material that the pressure of a deadline prevented in the original work.

Disappointingly, for most of the time since *The Hand Reveals* was first published, it has had a limited availability due to small print runs, poor promotion and dreadful distribution. However second-hand copies are hotly traded on the internet, showing demand for the book is very much alive.

Finally, in the preparation of this new edition, I would particularly like to acknowledge my wife Stella, whose love, support and encouragement has facilitated the re-emergence of the work.

D. W-D.