

GEOCOSMIC JOURNAL



WINTER 2004

Editorial Commentary

By Ronnie Gale Dreyer

When I decided to study Jyotish (Vedic Astrology), more than 30 years ago, it was like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack. There were no courses, schools or teachers that I knew of, and other than an occasional article in *American Astrology* magazine, the only books for sale were poorly bound editions by the late B.V. Raman, India's most revered astrologer and editor of *The Astrological Magazine*. University and public libraries housed some of the ancient texts, but the translations were often mediocre, and the books themselves so badly produced that they had to be handled with kid gloves. Bookstore owners cringed when I asked them to order copies from India because they took months to arrive, and that was only if their orders were not misplaced or completely lost. Unless you knew someone who taught Vedic astrology, you packed a suitcase and traveled to India for an extended stay—which is what I did in 1976.

Upon my return, I discovered a vast array of astrologers who had been to India or had found teachers here in the U.S. Slowly but surely, more ancient texts were translated and imported, and new authors emerged from India and the rest of the world, making Jyotish, which probably dates back to the first or second

millennium BC, accessible to modern Western audiences. In 1992, Dennis Harness, David Frawley and a few others organized the First International Vedic Astrology Symposium in San Rafael CA with B.V. Raman as its keynote speaker, and the rest, so to speak, is history.

How times have changed with one 12-year Jupiter cycle. Once regarded as antiquated, fate-oriented and intimidating, Jyotish is now respected in the West as a system of knowledge, and embraced by astrologers looking toward the future by learning from the past. At present, there are Vedic astrology conferences, schools and organizations throughout the world with more and more students and attendees every day.

I am pleased to be guest editor for this milestone *Geocosmic Journal*, the first publication of a major Western astrological organization to highlight Vedic astrology as its theme. The articles are a wonderful cross-section of topics in Jyotish written by some of today's best practitioners, each with a working knowledge of both Vedic and Western astrology. If you read them in the order they are presented and digest them over time, rather than devouring them all at once, you will have a superior crash course in Vedic astrology.

In *Fundamentals of Jyotish*, I introduce you to the basics of Vedic Astrology using Julia Roberts' chart. Well-known astrologer Dennis Flaherty presents the Moon's Nodes' mythological roots and shows how they contribute to, and hinder, our search for consciousness. ACVA President Dennis Harness, and ACVA online instructor Maire Masco, present the history and rich mythology of the 27 nakshatras (Moon Mansions), which will surely pique your interest. Liz Houle, long-time student of Western and Vedic astrology, provides a wonderful perspective on singer Joni Mitchell, showing how planetary yogas have influenced her life and her songs. Dallas astrologer Joni Patry teaches us about Predicting with Transits, using Princess Caroline's chart and a technique called Bhavat Bhavam (derived houses). Last but not least, astrologer and teacher Gary Gomes sets the record straight about remedial measures, and how to strengthen planetary afflictions.

I feel honored and blessed to be part of this momentous Jyotish Renaissance, and look forward to many more Jupiter cycles filled with ancient texts, sacred knowledge and eternal truth.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kris Brandt Riske

GUEST EDITOR
Ronnie Gale Dreyer

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Stephanie J. Clement
Susan Hopper
Terry Lamb

ADVERTISING
Arlene Nimark
1242 E. 8th Street
Brooklyn NY 11230
718-377-0482; 718-252-4306 fax
ads@geocosmic.org

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Kris Brandt Riske
2405 W. Gregg Drive
Chandler AZ 85224
480-963-3315
kabr@prodigy.net

NCGR HEADQUARTERS

Terry Lamb
Executive Director
8810-C Jamacha Blvd., PMB 183
Spring Valley CA 91977-5683

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Fundamentals of Vedic Astrology: Julia Roberts' Horoscope

By Ronnie Gale Dreyer

This article is an introduction to Jyotish, also known as Vedic, or Hindu, astrology, and to some of the concepts and techniques included in the articles in this issue of Geocosmic Journal.

Jyotish (Sanskrit for "Science of Light"), is based on the Sidereal, or Nirayana, zodiac, which is fixed in relation to the stars, as opposed to the symbolic Tropical, or Sayana, zodiac, which is based on the Vernal, or Spring, Equinox. The difference between the two zodiacs lies in the ayanamsa, the difference in degrees and minutes between 0° Aries in the sidereal zodiac, and the Vernal Equinox. Since the earth's rotational axis moves slowly in a circular, or "precessional," motion, the Vernal Equinox, the point where the Sun crosses the celestial equator each year, moving from south declination to north declination, never quite returns to its starting place. Instead, the vernal point moves in a retrograde manner through the zodiacal belt at an annual rate of approximately 50.23 seconds per year,¹ though it varies slowly over time.

Known as the "Precession of the Equinoxes," this slow and steady backward movement of the vernal equinox takes approximately 71.67 years to

advance one degree ($71.67 \times 50.23'' = 3600$ seconds or 60 minutes or 1 degree). Although that is relatively inconsequential over one lifetime, over many centuries the Vernal Equinox has moved farther and farther away from 0° Aries, though the Equinox and sidereal 0° Aries actually coincided around 291 AD. In 2004, the Krishnamurti ayanamsa is around 23°50', which means that the Vernal Equinox falls at around 6° Pisces 10' in the sidereal zodiac. This figure may vary slightly from astrologer to astrologer, as there are several different ayanamsas in use. The one most commonly utilized is named for Lahiri, who formulated it, and at present it is 23°56'—only about six minutes difference from the Krishnamurti ayanamsa.² Other commonly used ayanamsas are those used by B. V. Raman, Sri Yukteswar, and the Fagan-Allen ayanamsa, favored by Western siderealists who use the sidereal zodiac but do not subscribe to Vedic astrology.

Calculating the Chart

To arrive at the Vedic sidereal positions, you can of course use any of the current software programs available, or you can simply subtract the

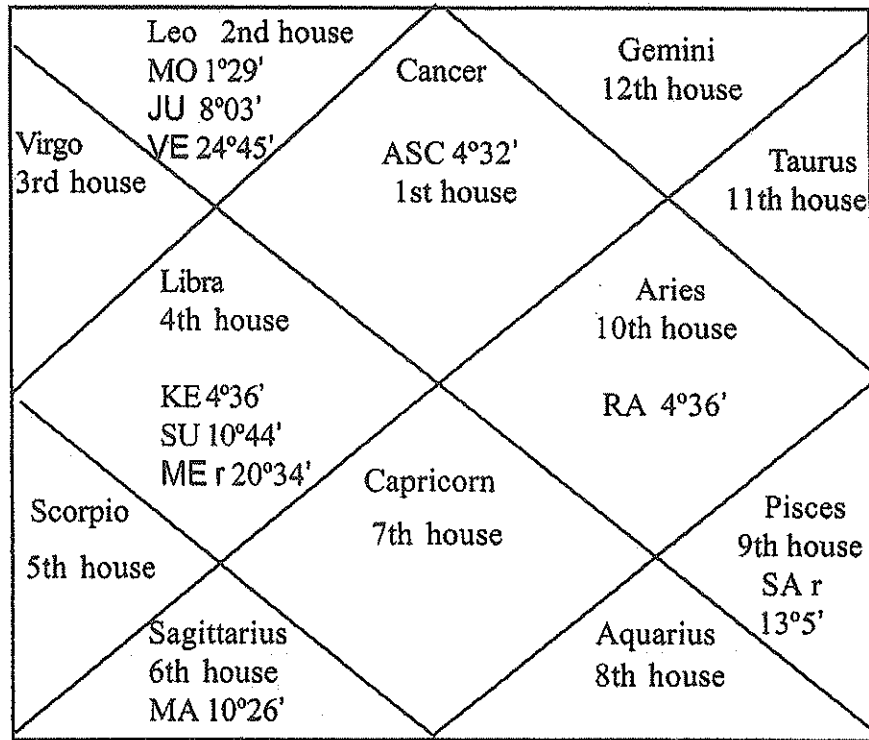


Fig. 1. North Indian Chart

Pisces 9th house SA r 13°5'	Aries 10th house RA 4°36'	Taurus 11th house	Gemini 12th house
Aquarius 8th house	Julia Roberts October 28, 1967 00:16 AM EDT Smyrna GA 33N53 84W30		Cancer 1st house ASC 4°32'
Capricorn 7th house	Geocentric, Krishnamurti Whole Signs, True Nodes		Leo 2nd house MO 1°29' JU 8°03' VE 24°45'
Sagittarius 6th house MA 10°26'	Scorpio 5th house	Libra 4th house KE 4°36' SU 10°44' ME r 20°34'	Virgo 3rd house

Fig. 2. South Indian Chart

Table 1—Julia Roberts' Tropical and Sidereal Positions

	<i>Tropical Positions</i>	<i>Sidereal Positions</i>
Sun (Surya)	4° Scorpio 03'	10° Libra 45'
Moon (Chandra)	24° Leo 47'	1° Leo 29'
Mars (Kuja)	3° Capricorn 45'	10° Sagittarius 26'
Mercury (Budhi)	13° Scorpio 53' R	20° Libra 34' R
Jupiter (Guru)	1° Virgo 22'	8° Leo 4'
Venus (Sukra)	18° Virgo 04'	24° Leo 45'
Saturn (Sani)	7° Aries 09' R	13° Pisces 50' R
North Node (Rahu)	27° Aries 55'	4° Aries 36'
South Node (Ketu)	27° Libra 55'	4° Libra 36' ³

ayanamsa of the year you were born from the tropical positions. (The ayanamsa is easy to find in any software program, book, or even almanac.) Using Julia Roberts as an example (October 28, 1967, 12:16 a.m., Smyrna, Georgia), we first subtract the Krishnamurti ayanamsa for October 1967 of 23°19' from her tropical ascendant of 27° Cancer 51', arriving at a sidereal ascendant of 4° Cancer 32'. Known in Sanskrit as Lagna, the ascendant is the sign that rises on the Eastern horizon at the exact moment of birth, and constitutes the first house of personality, destiny, and general life path—making it the most important house of the chart, and the one that best defines one's individuality and life choices. The ruler of that ascendant and where it is placed will also help define all facets of the person's destiny and personality. If the ascendant and its ruler are strong, so will the character be strong, and if it is weak, the life force may also be weak. But don't despair, because within the system of Jyotish there are so many ways to strengthen your weaknesses, and direct the events of your life so that you can fulfill your destiny, or karma.

Like most classical systems, Vedic astrology utilizes the whole sign house system, whereby an entire sign, or rasi, comprises each house, or bhava. This is not by any means the only house system used in India, but it is the most common and the most straightforward for beginners to

use. In Roberts' chart this means that the entire first house is made up of the sign of Cancer, her rising sign. To that end, the second house will be Leo, the third house Virgo, the fourth house Libra, and so on. Each house contains the entire sign and all planets that occupy that sign. Even if the ascending degree is 29° Cancer, for example, the entire house would still be Cancer, with the exact ascending degree falling towards the end of the house.

After subtracting the ayanamsa from the ascendant, we then do the same with all the planets, or grahas. Julia Roberts' sidereal lagna retains the same sign as her tropical ascendant because it is above 23 degrees; many of her planets, however, change signs. Although most modern Vedic astrologers use Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, I have only used the traditional grahas—Sun through Saturn, and North and South Node (Rahu and Ketu). By taking that ayanamsa and subtracting it from her tropical planets we get the positions as listed in Table 1.

The next step is to draw the horoscopes, and I have used both North and South Indian diagrams, which vary from region to region. To read the North Indian-style chart (Fig. 1), follow the signs-houses by starting with the ascendant (the top central box) and proceeding **counterclockwise**. The houses are always in the same positions, but the signs contained therein vary de-

Table 2—Planets in Dignity, Exaltation and Debilitation

<i>Planets</i>	<i>Rulership</i>	<i>Exaltation</i>	<i>Debilitation</i>
(Grahas)	(Swakshetra)	(Uchcha)	(Neecha)
Sun	Leo	10° Aries	10° Libra
Moon	Cancer	3° Taurus	3° Scorpio
Mars	Aries, Scorpio	28° Capricorn	28° Cancer
Mercury	Gemini, Virgo	15° Virgo	15° Pisces
Jupiter	Sagittarius, Pisces	5° Cancer	5° Capricorn
Venus	Taurus, Libra	27° Pisces	27° Virgo
Saturn	Capricorn, Aquarius	20° Libra	20° Aries
Rahu	Aquarius	Taurus, Gemini	Scorpio, Sagittarius ⁵
Ketu	Scorpio	Scorpio, Sagittarius	Taurus, Gemini

cancer when she was only 10 years old. It also means that her life, charmed as it is, will always have its ups and downs.

Planetary Aspects

The next step in examining the Moon is to look at its associations with other planets, since those might influence the graha more than the graha itself. The primary means by which we look at a planet's association with another planet is through its aspects, which are slightly different from the way we are used to judging aspects.

Drishti (Sanskrit for "seeing, viewing, beholding with the mind's eye, wisdom, intelligence, look glance, turn the eye to") is the word we use to mean aspects. Planets that aspect one another are said to be face to face, influencing each other, looking at each other, and therefore, knowing each other and providing knowledge. For that reason, planets only aspect other planets in a forward motion; if Jupiter aspects Saturn, for example, Saturn does not necessarily reciprocate the aspect. In that case, Jupiter will have more influence over Saturn quite often than Saturn itself. If Jupiter and Saturn mutually aspect each other, then Jupiter and Saturn will be influenced and modified by each other.

In Jyotish, aspects are defined by the nature of the planet, and NOT the nature of the aspect. Aspects from a natural benefic strengthen a planet and aspects from a natural malefic weaken it. Planets that aspect another planet give the result of their natural tendency, and the house(s) they rules. Rather than categorizing an aspect by its type (ie. square, trine, etc.), they are judged by the planets that are involved. If Mars rules the second house and aspects Venus, then the aggressive, hostile, energetic Mars colors the nature of Venus. By the same token, Mars' rulership over money and assets will also accompany love, beauty and whatever else Venus represents in the chart.

Two or more planets that occupy the same sign and house form a powerful and influential relationship with one another. While many Vedic astrologers use the word "conjunction" to describe this association, planets that share the same sign and house may be separated by a much wider orb than our normal conjunction and yet still be potent. Although these combinations are not considered to be "drishti" per se, but rather fall under the category of double and triple planetary yogas (planetary combinations), they are still one of the main associations (along with mutual aspects and mutual reception) that planets form with each other. The conjunction is defined by the na-

pending on the rising sign. In this chart we can clearly see the order of the houses. To read the South Indian-style chart (Fig. 2), in which the signs are always in the same place, begin with Aries, which is the second position from the upper left corner, and proceed clockwise. Placing a diagonal through it marks the Cancer ascendant. We then place the planets in their appropriate signs.

Julia Roberts' Lagna and Lagna Lord

To understand the course of her journey, we begin with Roberts' lagna. Cancer is a cardinal, water sign that represents, home, family, emotions, and often turmoil that lies beneath the surface. Cancerians are devoted to their families, and quite often, their relatives and loved ones are instrumental in helping them achieve their goals. It is no wonder that Julia went into the family business of acting—her mother ran a drama school throughout Julia's childhood, and her older brother Eric (with whom she has a difficult relationship) was an established actor when Julia started out. Her older sister Lisa, also a struggling actress, welcomed her younger sister to share her New York apartment after Julia graduated high school. Without the support of her family and doors that opened for her, she might not have succeeded. George W. Bush's family relationships are also clearly seen through his sidereal Cancer ascendant. Although family is of utmost importance, Cancerians are very sensitive, and since their feelings often stay beneath the surface, they are accustomed to relationships that fall in and out of favor. As close and loyal as they are to those they love, they are equally unforgiving to those they feel have betrayed them.

After examining the rising sign, we move on to the planets that occupy the first house (Roberts does not have any planets there), and then we analyze the chart ruler, that is, the planet that rules the ascendant. To assess what area of the chart will dominate the individual's life, our first step is to see the sign and house that the ascendant lord occupies. Remember that classical Vedic astrology does not use Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto,

and that we use traditional rulerships so that Mars rules Scorpio, Jupiter rules Pisces, and Saturn rules Aquarius.

Using Julia Roberts' chart, we see that the Moon, which rules her Cancer ascendant, is placed in Leo, a fixed, fire sign that is dramatic, independent, egotistical, controlling, and magnanimous. It occupies the Magha Nakshatra (Moon Mansion), which contains the royal star Regulus and whose natives, according to Dennis Harness, are "great actors and performers on the stage of life."⁴ The Moon is placed in the second house of finances and—because the houses relate to parts of the body—the face. With the ruler of the first house of destiny placed in the second house of assets in the grand sign of Leo, it is no wonder that her face is her fortune, she is known for her huge smile, and the role that catapulted her to fame was *Pretty Woman*. Additionally, the last movie she starred in was called *Mona Lisa Smile*.

Once we view the location (sign, nakshatra, and house) of the ruling planet, we can then assess whether the planet is generally favorable or unfavorable. There are many layers that reveal the quality of each planet in the chart, and in this article we will skim the surface with a few easy to use, yet profound, rules that apply to the lagna lord. As already stated, if the ruling planet is beneficial, the person should be able to fulfill his or her destiny without too many obstacles.

First, we see if the planet is in its dignity (rulership), exaltation, or debilitation. While Vedic Astrology does not use detriment, a planet is usually not strong if placed in the sign opposite its ruler. Although the planets are exalted and fallen in specific degrees where they have the greatest strength (see Table 2), they are still considered exalted or fallen in the entire sign.

Her ruling planet is not in any of the above positions, but we do notice that the Sun in her chart is located at 10°45' Libra—its exact degree of debilitation. That means that what the Sun represents in the chart both as Karaka (significator), and as the lord of a house, will be problematic. The Karaka of the Sun is the father, and Julia lost her father twice as a child, first through her parents' divorce, and later through her father's death from

ture of the two planets; if Mars and Jupiter are placed in the same sign and house, the leadership abilities of this combination will prevail. Additionally, Mars will get the influence of Jupiter, while Jupiter gets the influence of Mars.

A planet always aspects the house (and planet occupying that house) that is seven places from itself. Even if a house is unoccupied, it still receives the planetary aspect. In Julia Roberts' chart, Mars in the sixth house aspects the unoccupied twelfth house even though there is no planet present. Planets that aspect each other by seventh house aspect are called mutual aspects because they face, and therefore, influence each other. Like the conjunction, two planets that aspect each other by mutual aspect are defined by the combination of what they represent, as well as the influence of one planet on the other. It is important to note that mutual aspects are NOT oppositions, and are judged by the nature of the planets involved. In Julia Roberts' chart, Sun and Mercury form a mutual aspect with Rahu. (I did not include Ketu because the North and South Node are always opposite each other, and therefore seven houses apart.)

While every planet aspects the seventh place from itself, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn also have special full aspects. Mars aspects four and eight places from itself, Jupiter aspects five and nine places from itself, and Saturn aspects three and ten places from itself. Some people feel that Rahu, as well as Ketu, aspect five and nine places from itself, while others feel that only Rahu, and not Ketu, aspects forward. After all, Ketu is headless with no eyes; it cannot see, and therefore, cannot aspect. The key is to always place the planet aspecting as the first position. Julia Roberts' sixth house Mars, for instance, aspects Saturn in the ninth house (four places), the twelfth house (seven places), and the first house (eight places).

Other mutual aspects include Mars aspecting Saturn by fourth house aspect, and Saturn aspecting Mars by tenth house aspect. That always occurs when Saturn is four signs ahead of Mars. In Julia Roberts' chart, Mars is in Sagittarius in the sixth house, which aspects Saturn in Pisces in the ninth house. In return, Saturn aspects Mars by tenth house aspect. Other than seventh house aspects

forming full, mutual aspects, Mars and Saturn in this particular situation is the only exception. (Mutual reception has the same effect as a full, mutual aspect, but it is not classified as an aspect.)

Using Roberts' chart again, we can see that her ruler, the Moon, reaps the benefit of its association with Venus and Jupiter, the two most powerful natural benefics, in the second house of money. The natural benefics are Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter, while natural malefics are Sun, Mars, Saturn, and the Nodes. There is not much more one could ask for in a ruling planet. Other than that, the Moon only receives a full fifth house aspect from Rahu in Aries in the tenth house, which links material (Rahu) ambition (tenth house) to her destiny.

Other means by which planets become strong are whether they are placed in the house of a friend, enemy, or neutral planet. Since the Moon and the Sun are best friends, the Moon's placement in Leo, ruled by the Sun, provides Roberts' ruling planet with a very comfortable living space, so to speak. Additionally, the yogas that involve the Moon also add to the story of Roberts' life. Sanskrit for "union," yogas refer to planetary combinations, which yield specific results including conjunctions, mutual reception (also called Parivartana Yoga) and certain spatial relationships. Julia's Moon and Jupiter combination constitutes a Kesari (Lion) Yoga, formed if the Moon and Jupiter are angular from each other, that is, in the same house, fourth, seventh, and tenth places from each other. Anyone born with this yoga is said to be passionate, emotional, famous, wise, and able to defeat enemies like a lion.

All of the above associations have their most profound effect during the Dasa (planetary period) and Bhukti (sub-period) of the planets involved. Just as we have done for the ascendant, we can define each house of the chart by viewing the sign that makes up the house, planets occupying that house, and the condition and position of the house ruler. Although this is a simplistic look at the chart, and there are many more rules, even a rudimentary look such as this can reveal a great deal about character, periods, trends, karma, and destiny.

Vimshottari Dasa System

What distinguishes Vedic astrology from so many other astrological systems, is the unique Vimshottari Dasa system, which divides the lifetime into planetary periods spanning 120 years. Each period, the first of which is determined by the Moon's Nakshatra, is ruled by a different planet in the following order: Ketu: 7 years, Venus: 20 years, Sun: 6 years, Moon: 10 years, Mars: 7 years, Rahu: 18 years, Jupiter: 16 years, Saturn: 19 years, Mercury: 17 years. Julia Roberts was born with the Moon in the nakshatra of Magha, which is ruled by Ketu. That is why she is born in Ketu Dasa, with the rest of her dasas following suit.

The qualities of the dasas are determined by the general quality of the planetary ruler, the sign and house the planet occupies and rules, and the planetary associations. Her Venus Dasa brought her the most wonderful and the most devastating experiences. Though Venus in Leo is part of a Raj, or Royal, Yoga promising status, and a Dhana, or prosperity, Yoga guaranteeing money, it is also tainted by its Mutual Reception, or Parivartana (Sanskrit for "exchange") Yoga, with the Sun, ruler of Leo, placed in the 4th house at 10° Libra—its exact debilitation degree. This means that from time to time during its Dasa, Venus exchanges places with, and brings on the results of, the fallen Sun, karaka of the father who literally fell out of Roberts' life—first through her parents' divorce, and ultimately through his death on December 3, 1977 in Venus Dasa, Sun Bhukti—the two planets forming the Parivartana Yoga.

On the other hand, Venus Dasa brought her meteoric rise to the top with the release of the film *Pretty Woman* in 1990, and made her the darling of the movie industry and fans throughout the world. She also got married to country singer Lyle Lovett, since Venus is the karaka of marriage.

Like the Venus Dasa, the debilitated Sun Dasa, which began in early 1994, was disappointing in the beginning—she got divorced in 1995, and starred in several box office flops. In 1997, she finally bounced back with *My Best Friend's Wedding*, the same type of light comedy that made her a star, followed by the hit movies *Notting Hill* and *Runaway Bride*, released in 1999. She also had a

highly publicized romance with Benjamin Bratt, famous for his role in the TV show *Law and Order*. Her renewed popularity heralded the present Moon Dasa (2000-2010) and, even with the usual ups and downs, her present state of personal happiness, professional recognition, and fabulous wealth.

At present, Julia Roberts continues to lead what most people consider to be a charmed life. She is in the Moon Dasa, which is her best one yet in terms of personal and professional fulfillment. The Moon is her ascendant ruler, and due to its association with the great benefics, Jupiter and Venus, this period promises to fulfill her great destiny. Thus far Jupiter's influence brought recognition and opportunity when she won the Best Actress Academy Award in March 2001 for her title role in the movie *Erin Brockovich*, and Venus's magic touch brought marriage in July 2002. Because Jupiter is the karaka of children, and her fifth house ruler, Mars, is placed in the sixth house and aspected by Jupiter, the Moon Dasa, Jupiter Bhukti (December 16, 2002-April 16, 2004) brought her fertility, as did Jupiter's transit through sidereal Leo (July 29, 2003-August 28, 2004), the house that natal Jupiter, Venus, and the Moon occupy. On June 1, 2004, she officially announced that she was pregnant with twins.

Of course, most people do not have an ascendant lord quite like Julia Roberts', but whatever destiny we do have, can be fulfilled to the best of our abilities.

Julia Roberts' Vimshottari Dasa (according to Krishnamurti Ayanamsa):

- Ketu. October 28, 1967-January 14, 1974
- Venus. January 15, 1974-January 14, 1994
- Sun. January 15, 1994-January 14, 2000
- Moon. January 15, 2000-January 14, 2010
- Mars. January 15, 2010-January 14, 2017
- Rahu. January 15, 2018-January 14, 2035
- Jupiter. January 15, 2036-January 14, 2051
- Saturn. January 15, 2051-January 14, 2070
- Mercury. January 15, 2070-January 14, 2087

Birth Data

Julia Roberts, October 28, 1967, 00:16 AM, Smyrna GA, 33N44, 84W23, "AA" Rodden rating, from AstroDataBank software. From birth records.

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Endnotes

¹ This is the figure used by astrologer and mathematician, K.S. Krishnamurti, whose ayanamsa I use throughout this article.

² Because Lahiri and Krishnamurti's ayanamsas differ by only six minutes, they give very similar results. The timing of dasas, or planetary periods, between these two ayanamsas differ by about five weeks, and every so often, the difference in ayanamsas may cause a planet to be in a different sign.

³ This is the order in which the planets are always listed. They also correspond to the days of the week as follows: Sunday-Sun, Monday-Moon, Tuesday-Mars, Wednesday-Mercury, Thursday-Jupiter, Friday-Venus, Saturday-Saturn.

⁴ Dennis Harness, *The Nakshatras*, p. 39.

⁵ There are differences of opinion about whether Rahu and Ketu rule signs, and where they are exalted and debilitated.

RONNIE GALE DREYER is an internationally known consultant, lecturer, and teacher based in New York City. She is the author of *Healing Signs, Vedic Astrology, Venus, Your Sun and Moon Guides to Love and Life*, and a contributor to the anthologies *Under One Sky* and *Astrology for Women*. Ronnie was a pioneer in bringing Vedic astrology to Western audiences. She conducts ongoing Ve-



Ronnie
Gale
Dreyer

Teacher, lecturer and author.
Books: *Healing Signs, Vedic Astrology, Venus and Your Sun and Moon Guide to Love and Life*. Soon to be Published: *Vedic Astrology in Action*.

- Individual consultations
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P.O. Box 8034, FDR Station
New York, New York 10150-8034
Tel. 212-799-9187
Email: RGDreyer@aol.com

Visit Ronnie's website at:
www.ronniedreyer.com

dic astrology classes and workshops throughout the United States, and has been on the faculty of conferences throughout the world. Ronnie teaches for ACVA's online college (American College of Vedic Astrology), and is on the faculty of SJC (Sri Jagannath Center). She was Corresponding Secretary and Presiding Officer of AFAN (Association for Astrological Networking) from 1992-2003, and is currently editor of NCGR's *memberletter* and Web site. Ronnie is the proud recipient of the Jyotish Kovid (Indian Council of Astrological Sciences), AFAN's Jim Lewis Community Service Award (1998), and the Marion D. March Regulus Award for Community Service (2002). Her new book, *Vedic Astrology in Action*, will be published in 2005. Ronnie can be contacted at 212-799-9187, RGDreyer@aol.com, www.ronniedreyer.com.

Consciousness and the Nodes of the Moon: Descent into Darkness, or Ascension into Enlightenment

By Dennis Flaherty

Western astrologers are often amazed that Vedic astrologers refer to the North and South Nodes of the Moon, known as Rahu and Ketu, as planets, and not just invisible astronomical points on the ecliptic. After all, planets can more or less be observed, and following that rationale it makes sense that the ancient astrologers of India did not recognize Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, known collectively as the trans-Saturnian planets. So why are the Nodes of the Moon given full planet status?

To answer this question we examine the meaning of *Graha*, the Sanskrit word for planet, which means "to seize," "to take hold of." Etymologically it is similar to the English word "grasp," and herein lies the answer to the mystery of why astrologers of ancient India considered Rahu and Ketu planets, for regardless of whether you can see the phenomena, the criteria for a planet is not whether you can see it, but whether it has a discernible effect.

In fact, the only time these points on the ecliptic become visible is during eclipses of the Sun and Moon, and thus they are regarded as shadow planets, as they are only seen in contrast to the usual observable planets. The ancient astronomers observed that these eclipses took place at least twice a year on or very close to the Moon's nodal points on the ecliptic. The very definition of a Solar or Lunar eclipse is that the New or the Full Moon must conjoin the Moon's Nodes within a certain number of degrees; the closer the conjunction, the more total the eclipse.

The phenomenon of eclipses engrained the mystery of the Moon's Nodes even deeper in the minds of ancient astrologers. These points in the sky were the forces of darkness that consumed the Sun and the Moon. Thus, in the ancient world, the story of the Moon's Nodes came to represent the classic struggle between the forces of light and dark, and were portrayed in the creation myths of both Eastern and Western cultures, as the archetypal struggle between the

Gods and the Demons, with the existence of humanity hanging in the balance. Following this symbolism, in Western astrology the nodal points on the ecliptic are portrayed as the dragon's head and tail, and in eastern astrology they are portrayed as *chaya grahas*, or shadowy planets.

Mythology of the Moon's Nodes

The origins of Rahu, the Moon's North Node, lies in the Puranic Hindu creation myth, in which the Devas (gods), and the Asuras (demons), are locked in a perpetual struggle for dominion of the universe. At one point in the epic battle the Asuras gain an advantage as they come to know the mantra for restoring life to the dead. The Devas entreat Lord Vishnu, the great preserver of the Hindu trinity (with Brahma and Krishna), to assist them in their struggle. He instructs them to churn the cosmic water in search of Amrita, the nectar of immortality, which will restore the balance in the great cosmic war. But shortly after the amrita is recovered it is stolen by the demons, after which Lord Vishnu himself reclaims it for dispensation among the Gods, Planets, Sun, and Moon. While Vishnu hands out the Amrita, a serpent demon named Rahu, slithers in between the Sun and Moon and partakes of the nectar of immortality. The Sun and Moon discover him, as these shadowy grahas can only be seen during eclipses, and once Rahu is revealed Lord Vishnu smites him by hurling his discus, which cuts the demon in half. But because Rahu has already drunk the nectar of immortality he does not expire. Instead, the demon becomes a disembodied head without a body (North Node, or Rahu), and a serpent's body, or tail without a head (South Node or Ketu).

In Hindu mythology not all the serpents are demonic beings. There is a category of serpent-like beings called Nagas, who are protective, not destructive, of both the Gods and humanity. Lord Vishnu employs the help of a Naga, Vasuki-Naga, to churn the cosmic waters to find the amrita that will protect the Gods. Lord Vishnu himself sleeps upon a Naga, Sesha-Naga, his protectorate float on the sea of creation. The existence of our world, as we know it, is said to be Lord Vishnu's dream in Hindu cosmology, so Sesha-Naga assures Lord

Vishnu a sound sleep, thus protecting Lord Vishnu's dream, which protects humanity's existence.

Further, in Hindu mythology there are eight great Naga Kings. They are divided into four categories, much like the four castes of ancient Indian society: the Celestial Nagas, who protect and maintain the heavenly realm; the Divine Nagas, who maintain the weather and the earthly realm; the Early Nagas, who protect and maintain the flow of the rivers; and the Hiding Nagas who protect the earthly treasures and grant blessings. A popular Indian myth concerns the Naga King of Lake Mucilinda. It is said that in the fifth week after attaining Perfect Enlightenment, Gautama Buddha arrived on the shores of Lake Mucilinda. There he meditated under the branches of a great Banyan tree, until a catastrophic storm arose and afflicted the Buddha. The Naga King arose from beneath the lake and wrapped his serpent coils seven times round the Buddha, and protected him for seven days until the storm passed. The Naga King then transformed himself into a young man and paid homage to the Buddha.

As we can see from this example, the mythology of India draws a distinction between the deceitful demonic serpent and the sagacious spiritual naga. The mythological lore of the serpent-nagas embraces much of the eastern symbolism of the Moon's Nodes, from the descent into the darkness of eclipses to honoring the ascent to Perfect Enlightenment of such spiritual sages as the Buddha.

Astrology of the Moon's Nodes

The Moon in its orbit around the Earth intersects the ecliptic at two points—the North and South Node. The Moon's North Node (Rahu), or ascending Node, is the point on the ecliptic where the Moon rises above the ecliptic, and crosses from south to north. In Sanskrit, Rahu means "to engulf," "to conceal," or "hide." It is engrossing and materializing in its effect and therefore, draws the consciousness to the ongoing fulfillment of worldly gratification, carrying with it the insatiable craving to possess everything the world has to offer, and fulfill the soul's every desire. Rahu is associated with the power of the mind, as it is

symbolized as a head without a body. The mind, without feelings and sensation to balance it, creates illusion, and Rahu thus is the indicator of worldly illusion. Rahu's serpent-naga embrace is associated with material intoxication, the process of involution, the descent of spirit into matter, and the mind's illusory identification with the material world. The placement of Rahu by sign, house, and association with other planets, identifies the desires of each soul and an awareness of a material world waiting to fulfill and embody those desires. The serpent-naga embrace of Rahu in right association can lead to worldly success, fulfillment of ambition, and even fame, but in wrong association can lead the consciousness into worldly addictions, confusion, and the soul's descent into the darkness of insatiable desires.

The Moon's South Node (Ketu), or descending Node, is the point on the ecliptic where the Moon crosses from north to south, since the Moon falls below the ecliptic at this point. In Sanskrit, Ketu's meaning suggests an "arrow," a "sign," something that points the way. Hindu astrologers recognize Ketu as *gnana karaka*, indicator of knowledge, and *moksha karaka*, indicator of enlightenment. While Rahu has an engrossing effect on consciousness, Ketu's effect on consciousness is liberating, other worldly, and ultimately transcendent. Where Rahu is driven to hold and possess, Ketu is driven to let go and perceive. Herein lies the mystery of Ketu's liberating effect. Ketu represents the process of evolution, the gradual liberation of consciousness from the engrossing effect of matter, thus associated with spiritual insight and heightened modes of perception, which lead us into transcendence, that is, the evolution of consciousness, spiritual discipleship, and transcendent vows of poverty and chastity that many devotees of the spiritual path embrace. The placement of Ketu by sign, house, and planetary association identifies where the consciousness longs for freedom from the bonds of the material world. The serpent-naga embrace of Ketu in right association can lead to enlightenment and success on the spiritual path, but in wrong association can lead to distortions in perception, paranoia, and the soul's descent into the darkness of delusion.

In keeping with the Moon's Nodes and their effect

on consciousness, the following shows their intoxicating effects on the planets of consciousness and intelligence themselves—Moon, Sun, and Mercury—and demonstrates how they transform the consciousness of the individual through examples of noted personalities who have the Moon, Sun, and Mercury closely conjoined the Nodes of the Moon.

The Moon with Rahu

The Moon (*Chandra*) is one of the most important planets in Vedic astrology, as it is indicative of *manas*, the observing mind of the individual. Sanskrit has many words for consciousness and the Moon represents the ability of the mind to observe the world of phenomena—as you see, your world becomes. When Rahu conjoins the Moon it intensifies the awareness of the mind and thus intensifies the senses for worldly gratification. The mind yearns for more sensation, and more knowledge for greater satisfaction. This combination of Rahu with the Moon will increase the perception of the mind to extraordinary levels, often resulting in genius.

On the light side, Karl Marx, social theorist and philosopher, had this combination. His perception of social inequity and class distinction compelled him to write *Das Kapital* and *The Communist Manifesto*, thus persuading a generation to embrace his humanistic concepts of equality. Another pure genius with this combination was Emanuel Swedonborg, revered Swedish scientist and mystical thinker. He experienced a mystical revelation in 1745 that compelled him to interpret his revelations in his book *Arcana Coelestia* in which he asserted that heaven and hell were not places of existence, but states of consciousness to be experienced in the mind.

On the dark side of consciousness, we find cult Minister Jim Jones, whose insatiable drive for spiritual knowledge started him on the transcendent path by founding the Peoples Temple, but ended with his descent into delusion and collective tragedy when he moved to Guyana and founded Jonestown, causing the ensuing mass murder of his followers there in 1978. The infamous murderer, Charles Manson, also had Rahu

with Moon and shared a similar fate. His personal magnetism and mental powers of persuasion over his followers coerced them to do his bidding, even to commit murder. The notorious "Manson Family" was finally put behind bars in one of the most sensationalistic trials of its kind.

The Moon with Rahu gives the ability to hold sway over the masses for both good and evil. The serpent-naga embrace of Rahu with the Moon can raise the consciousness to a level of humanitarian genius like Marx and Swedenborg, or can lead the consciousness into a descent of pure evil genius and madness as exemplified by Jones and Manson.

The Moon with Ketu

When Ketu conjoins the Moon it draws the mind to other worldly and mystical realms of experience. The emphasis is on heightened consciousness and mystical perception, and this intensification of perception loosens the grip of the mind on the things of this world.

Sri Ramana Maharishi, one of India's modern revered saints, had the Moon with Ketu, having just been born after a lunar eclipse. His enlightened philosophy was simply: "Be as you are." He was known as the "Silent Mystic" as he often communicated his teachings in the language of silence, as an experiential flow to those who were seekers of enlightenment. The German composer Richard Wagner's other worldly yearnings found expression in the transcendent medium of music, being most revered for his famous cycle of operas, *Der Ring des Niebelungen*, which pointedly expresses the eternal conflict of the forces of dark and light in the transcendent universal language of music.


Those who represent the descent of consciousness into delusional madness include Ted Bundy, the infamous serial killer who had Ketu with the Moon. Here the other worldly intoxication draws Bundy's consciousness into the world of sexual fantasy and murderous compulsions. Like

Manson, his charisma was so persuasive it is believed he lured over 100 women to their deaths.

The serpent-naga embrace of Ketu with the Moon intensifies the consciousness to experience other worldly realms. It can give the mystical and elevated visionary modes of consciousness of Ramana Maharishi and Wagner, or it can herald the descent of the mind into the addictive delusional states of madness as it did with the serial killer Bundy.

The Sun with Rahu

In Vedic astrology, the Sun (Surya) is indicative of the *Atma*, the consciousness of the true self—the final goal of the transcendent science of Yoga, whereby the self wishes to experience and gain recognition for the true self. When Rahu



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conjoins the Sun this thirst for self recognition is turned outward, rather than inward as in Yoga. It leads the self, in the form of the ego, to seek recognition in the world, thus fueling the need for even greater ego recognition and achievement. This combination can lead to fame and material success due to the worldly nature of Rahu.

On the light side of Rahu with the Sun, we have Richard Alpert, the famed Harvard psychology professor, who later became known by his spiritual name "Ram Dass." In search of expanding his consciousness, Alpert, along with his Harvard colleague, Timothy Leary, "tuned in and turned on" through hallucinogenic drugs to fuel his consciousness. After being dismissed from Harvard, he embraced Eastern philosophy and became famous as a western-eastern style Guru with books like *Be Here Now* and *The Only Dance There Is* and celebrity on the lecture circuit. Likewise in searching for outer recognition, former child star model and actress Brooke Shields has Rahu with the Sun. By the early age of 11 her mother had gained her national notoriety as a child model, and by 13 she was not only a famous actress but achieved millionaire status.

On the dark side of the Rahu Sun combination we have Germany's Manfred Von Richthofen, who achieved fame as the World War I flying ace known as "The Red Baron." Born into a prestigious military family, his thirst for worldly recognition was so intense that within two years of military combat, he was credited with shooting down more than 80 allied planes. He died at age 26.

The serpent-nagas embrace of Rahu with the Sun intensifies the ego's need for worldly success and material gratification. Once the Atma realizes the illusory nature of ego gratification, the consciousness can ascribe to the yogic path, as in the case of Ram Dass. Fame and fortune often follow these people, but the insatiable drive for yet more is hard to turn inward, often leading to imbalance and eventual downfall of the self as in the case of Von Richthofen.

The Sun with Ketu

When Ketu conjoins the Sun it intensifies the consciousness of the Atma to turn within. This repre-

sents itself in the ego's drive to relinquish, or renounce the world. The consciousness identifies with what is spiritual, or mystical, or at the very least that which is non-worldly. This is often motivated by some loss the self has experienced in the world at large, which leads to distrust.

On the light side, Paul Newman, famed Hollywood actor, has Ketu with the Sun. After achieving phenomenal success portraying highly individualistic heroes in such films as *The Hustler*, *Hud*, and *Cool Hand Luke*, he later turned to philanthropy when he co-founded "Newman's Own," a non-profit organization whose proceeds go to charity. Sources close to the actor say the death of his son, Alan Scott Newman, due to a drug overdose, was a motivational spiritual turning point in the actor's life. The German military strategist and general, Erwin Rommel, had Ketu with the Sun. He gained fame and distinction as the "Desert Fox" for his brilliant military perceptions and strategies, which delayed the defeat of the German army in Africa during World War II. When he was implicated in the plot to assassinate Hitler, he ultimately sacrificed himself for a greater worldly need beyond the preservation of self. His untimely suicide ensured his family's safety as well as worldly fame.

On the dark side, famed film director and actor, Roman Polanski, has Ketu with the Sun. A Polish Jew, Polanski lost most of his family at Auschwitz, and later his wife Sharon Tate in the infamous Manson murders. Having fame and distinction gave Polanski little protection from personal tragedy. Unable to cope and hide from the loss, he later lost his reputation due to sexual impropriety with a minor. He became a pariah in Hollywood, and had to flee the fame he had gained in this country to escape criminal prosecution.

The serpent-nagas embrace of Ketu with the Sun gives a compulsion to give up the very things by which the ego has gained recognition, and usually occurs due to some personal trauma that the ego must eventually relinquish. This removes the consciousness from personal accomplishments and begins the road to transcendence of the material as with Paul Newman, or on the road to incomprehensible loss as with Roman Polanski, and

the attempt to deny loss by embracing the ephemeral and transitory.

Mercury with Rahu

In Vedic astrology, Mercury (Budhi) is a planet of consciousness. It represents intelligence—the discriminating, discerning quality of the mind. When Rahu conjoins Mercury, the intelligence and discernment of the individual become intensified in a worldly manner. The desire to comprehend all that the phenomenal world has to offer drives intellect and, therefore, the intelligence functions in a materialistic, commercial, and business-like manner.

On the light side we have Honore De Balzac, famed playwright and novelist. His prolific works penned over 2000 highly developed characters. I often say: “a good Mercury never buys retail.” This is exemplified by the financial genius J.P. Morgan, who had Rahu with Mercury. Here we find an intellect that dedicates itself to accumulating as much money as the world had to offer; so intoxicating was his thirst for wealth that he became the richest man of his time.

On the dark side we have the likes of Grigori Rasputin, the mad Russian monk who exerted a dark manipulative influence over Alexandra, wife of Czar Nicholas of Russia, and exploited his victims for money and power. When Rahu conjoins Mercury it intensifies the acquisitive properties of the intellect. Lastly, on the dark side, the infamous Anton Lavey, the author of *The Satanic Bible* who founded the first Church of Satan in San Francisco in 1966, had Rahu with Mercury. Lavey’s altar of worship during his services was a naked woman, revealing his descent into madness by worshipping the material as if it were the spiritual and transcendent.

The serpent-nagas embrace when Rahu is with Mercury gives a voracious thirst for worldly knowledge and the power that comes with that knowledge. This can create powerful persuasive intellects such as Balzac and Morgan, or disturbed, manipulative con men like Rasputin and Lavey.

Mercury with Ketu

When Ketu conjoins Mercury, the intellect thirsts after mystical or spiritual knowledge, and is drawn away from the everyday world and led towards the realm of spiritual vision or escapist fantasy.

On the lighter side we find Joseph Campbell, famed author of *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, and spiritual visionary in the field of comparative religion and mythology. In 1988 a series of television interviews with Bill Moyers under the title “The Power of Myth,” introduced Campbell’s transcendent spiritual views to millions of television viewers. John Robbins, heir to the Baskin Robbins fortune, has this combination as well. Visionary writer and idealist, Robbins espoused a humanistic vision to end world hunger with his book *Diet for a Small Planet*, all the more credible for having turned his back on the family money.

On the dark side, Johann Eckart, dubbed “Hitler’s Spiritual Grandfather,” was a dramatist and poet whose mystical visionary perceptions, altered by his addiction to morphine and alcohol, influenced Hitler. Noted psychic Uri Geller’s telekinetic powers, although tested and verified by the Stanford Research Institute, were largely used in sensationalistic public displays for personal gain.

When the serpent-nagas embrace of Ketu conjoins Mercury, the intellect is either drawn to visionary and prophetic modes of consciousness as in the case of Campbell and Robbins, or to escapist fantasy as the likes of Eckart and Geller portray.

In conclusion, the sages of India say we are all drunkards in this world; the only thing that separates us is the wine of consciousness that we choose to drink. Rahu’s is a wine of worldly intoxication, whereas Ketu’s wine and intoxication is not of this world. The difference in their effects on consciousness can be best summed up by the famous Chinese, or Hindu iconography of the Dragon, or Naga clutching the pearl. The dark worldly consciousness of Rahu grasps it as the pearl of material wealth. The light other-worldly

Nodes Continued on Page 49

The Nakshatras of Vedic Astrology: Ancient and Contemporary Usage

By Dennis M. Harness, Ph.D. and Maire M. Masco

In these twenty-eight mansions do lye hid many secrets of the wisdom of the ancients by which they wrought wonders on all things, which are under the circle of the Moon—Cornelius Agrippa, Alchemist/Magician (1500 CE)

Historical Origins of the Lunar Mansions

Before the ecliptic was divided into the 12 signs of the zodiac, the ancient Indian astronomers recognized 27 divisions called *nakshatras*. The primary usage of the *nakshatras* is a fundamental difference between Western and Vedic astrology. One must deeply encounter and explore the *nakshatras* to appreciate the diversity and richness of Vedic astrology.

The Moon takes about 27.3 days to complete its sojourn around the ecliptic. The *nakshatras* represent the average daily movement of the Moon against the fixed stars. A small constellation or a single star identifies each daily segment. Originally the length of each *nakshatra* varied, but by the time the *Surya Siddhanta*, a classical astronomy text, was written (c. 500 CE) the segments

were fixed to a length of 13°20' of arc, or 27 *nakshatras* within a 360° zodiac.

The Sanskrit term *nakshatra* translates as “that which does not decay” (*na*–not and *kshatra*–destructible). *Naksh* can also indicate “approaching,” “to worship,” “to guard,” or “protect.” *Tra* is a suffix implying a tool or instrument. Thus, the *nakshatras* are themselves a means of worship.¹

Each *nakshatra* has a symbol that emphasizes its meaning. Unlike the zodiac or “circle of animals,” the *nakshatras* are symbolized by inanimate objects. *Swati* is shown as a blade of grass blowing in the wind, *Chitra* is shown as a pearl, and *Anuradha* is symbolized by a lotus flower. Each *nakshatra* is governed by a Vedic deity. So we find *Ashwini* ruled by the Ashwin twins, the physicians of the gods, and *Hasta* governed by Savitar, the creative force of the Sun.

The Rig Veda is a compilation of hymns to the gods and the first known composition in an Indo-European language. Historians agree that the Rig Veda was originally transmitted through an oral tradition, and that it was written down, or *codified*, no later than 1500 BCE. Several *nakshatras* are mentioned by name in the Rig

The Nakshatras (Lunar Mansions)

<i>Nakshatra</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Ruler</i>	<i>Gana</i>	<i>Deities</i>
1 Ashwini	00° 00'-13° 20' ♃	Ketu	Deva (Godly)	Ashwin Kumars, Shiva
2 Bharani	13° 20'-26° 40' ♃	Venus	Manushya (Human)	Yama
3 Krittika	26° 40' ♃-10° 00' ☿	Sun	Rakshasa (Demon)	Agni
4 Rohini	10° 00'-23° 20' ☿	Moon	Manushya (Human)	Brahma, Prajapati
5 Mrigashira	23° 20' ☿-6° 40' ♀	Mars	Deva (Godly)	Soma
6 Ardra	6° 40'-20° 00' ♀	Rahu	Manushya (Human)	Rudra
7 Punarvasu	20° 00' ♀-3° 20' ♃	Jupiter	Deva (Godly)	Aditi
8 Pushya	3° 20'-16° 40' ♃	Saturn	Deva (Godly)	Brihaspati
9 Ashlesha	16° 40'-29° 59' ♃	Mercury	Rakshasa (Demon)	Nagas
10 Magha	00° 00'-13° 20' ♃	Ketu	Rakshasa (Demon)	Pitris
11 Purva Phalaguni	13° 20'-26° 40' ♃	Venus	Manushya (Human)	Bhaga
12 Uttara Phalaguni	26° 40' ♃-10° 00' ♃	Sun	Manushya (Human)	Arayman
13 Hasta	10° 00'-23° 20' ♃	Moon	Deva (Godly)	Savitar
14 Chitra	23° 20' ♃-6° 40' ♀	Mars	Rakshasa (Demon)	Tvashtar
15 Swati	6° 40'-20° 00' ♀	Rahu	Deva (Godly)	Vayu, Saraswati
16 Vishakha	20° 00' ♀-3° 20' ♃	Jupiter	Rakshasa (Demon)	Indra, Agni
17 Anuradha	3° 20'-16° 40' ♃	Saturn	Deva (Godly)	Mitra, Radha
18 Jyeshtha	16° 40'-29° 59' ♃	Mercury	Rakshasa (Demon)	Indra
19 Mula	00° 00'-13° 20' ♃	Ketu	Rakshasa (Demon)	Nirriti
20 Purva Ashadha	13° 20'-26° 40' ♃	Venus	Manushya (Human)	Apas, Varuna
21 Uttara Ashadha	26° 40' ♃-10° 00' ♃	Sun	Manushya (Human)	The Ten Vishvadevas
22 Shrivana	10° 00'-23° 20' ♃	Moon	Deva (Godly)	Vishnu, Saraswati
23 Dhanishtha	23° 20' ♃-6° 40' ♀	Mars	Rakshasa (Demon)	The eight Vasus
24 Shatabhisha	6° 40'-20° 00' ♀	Rahu	Rakshasa (Demon)	Varuna
25 Purva Bhadra	20° 00' ♀-3° 20' ♃	Jupiter	Manushya (Human)	Aja Ekapada
26 Uttara Bhadra	3° 20'-16° 40' ♃	Saturn	Manushya (Human)	Ahimbudhnya
27 Revati	16° 40'-29° 59' ♃	Mercury	Deva (Godly)	Pushan

Veda. New academic research by Dr. David Frawley² and B.N. Narahari Achar³ suggests that all of the nakshatras are to be found in the Rig Veda, where they are referenced by their associated deity.

The earliest reference to the complete solar zodiac based on 12 sign divisions is found in Mesopotamia c. 450 BCE,⁴ yet the Indian astrologers

were using the 27 divisions of the nakshatras far earlier. The original lists of the nakshatras always start with Krittika, which is associated with the Pleiades. There has been much speculation about why the nakshatra order would start with what we now consider the third in the list. The earliest Indian star calendars were based on the 27 nakshatras, and some scholars believe that the nakshatra system was developed during the time

when the vernal equinox occurred in the asterism of the Pleiades. The period when the Pleiades heliacally rose at the vernal equinox was 2720-1760 BCE.⁵

Historical and Contemporary Use of Nakshatras

The primary use of the nakshatras in ancient Indian culture was to determine when religious rituals were to be conducted. The position of the Moon was critical to the successful outcome of any ritual or sacrifice. Nakshatras were also used in the naming of children. Each nakshatra is associated with a particular syllable or sound and these would be the basis of the religious name given to a child. In addition to their traditional usage, contemporary usages of the nakshatras include:

Muhurta or Electional Astrology: The nakshatras are classified by quality. Some lunar mansions are "light" or "sharp," while others are "moveable" or "fixed." These categories are used primarily in muhurta, or electional astrology.⁶

Mundane Astrology: The Moon's location can be used in mundane astrology, as the Moon's nakshatra reflects the social behavior patterns due to its reflection of the general public.

Vedic Synastry: The nakshatras are used extensively for relationship compatibility, even in contemporary India because certain nakshatras are considered more compatible than others. Vedic astrologers have developed an elaborate point system that measures Moon compatibility (kuta point system).⁷

Navamsha Harmonic Chart: The nakshatras are connected to the navamsha, or 9th harmonic chart. Each nakshatra is divided into four equal parts (padas), which correspond to the 108 divisions used to calculate the navamsha chart. (The navamsha chart is used extensively in Vedic astrology to reflect one's marital karma and one's deeper spiritual tendencies.)

Vedic Dasha System: Perhaps the most well known use of the nakshatras is as the basis of calculating the Vimshottari Dasha System. The

dashas are planetary periods, which reflect developmental cycles. The full cycle is 120 years, which is the theoretical natural length of a human life. The planet that rules the natal Moon's nakshatra determines in which Dasha cycle the individual begins life.

Vedic Mythology and Spirituality: The mythological and spiritual depth of the nakshatra material and its applications are coming to fruition in the West. Exploring the rich mythology of the nakshatras offers both spiritual and psychological insight. According to the Taittiriya Brahmana 1.5.2, "One who offers worship here reaches the world of heaven beyond. That is the *nakshatrahood* of the *nakshatras*." Thus, the nakshatras create a cosmic bridge between the human mind and the universal mind. They are the lunar mansions of the Vedic gods and goddesses, the celestial palaces of these divine beings. According to Dr. David Frawley, "the ancient Vedic sages looked to the origins of the human soul, the eternal or light part of our nature, in the heavens, among the stars, in the realms of light and eternity ruled by the creator or cosmic lord."⁸ To the ancient seers, the *nakshatras* and planets in the sky were spiritual forces dispensing divine blessings on humanity. The heavenly lights reward us with the fruits of our karma according to our spiritual efforts made through worship, prayer and meditation.

Personality Analysis: The 27 nakshatras offer a deeper analysis of personality, character and temperament than the 12 zodiac signs. They reflect the most intimate aspects of one's mental, emotional and spiritual nature. The nakshatras are an important tool for self-discovery.

The Nakshatras: The Lunar Mansions of Vedic Astrology

Dawn is the head of the sacrificial horse. Heaven is his eye. The year is his soul. His form are the nakshatras and the stars are his bones.—Taittiriya Samhita of Yajur Veda VII 5.25

The following brief descriptions of the lunar mansions provide basic information in regard to temperament (*Deva*=divine, *Manushya*=human, and

Rakshasa=demonic), motivation, symbols, deities, and the shakti, or power, of each nakshatra. The astronomical correlation with the fixed stars and sign constellations is also presented. *Remember to subtract approximately 23 degrees from your tropical natal chart planets if you have not already calculated your sidereal Vedic horoscope.*

1. Ashwini: Star of Transport (Aries 00°00'-13°20'). The symbol for Ashwini is a horse's head representing a dauntless spirit of adventure and headstrong nature. The ruling deities are the *Ashwin* twins who ride in a golden chariot and shower healing energy down to the earth plane. They are the "Physicians of the Gods." Their shakti⁹ is the power to quickly heal and reach what they desire. This is a nakshatra of initiation, revitalization and transformational healing. The Ashwini natives have a *deva*, or godly temperament, and their primary motivation is dharma. The ruling planet is Ketu (South Node of the Moon), which gives a mystical and mysterious bent to their life journey. Ashwini is formed by three stars in the head of the constellation of the Ram (horse).

Our ancestors fashioned heaven as a dark horse with pearls. They placed darkness in the night and light in the day. Brahaspati (Jupiter) broke the rock and released the rays.—Rig Veda X. 68.11

2. Bharani: Star of Restraint (Aries 13°20'-26°40'). The symbol for Bharani is a clay vessel or yoni, reflecting the potent creative energy that is contained in this lunar mansion. The ruling deity is Yama (the binder), the God of Death. According to Atharva Veda, Bharani is the final nakshatra listed, revealing its connection with the end of life. Another name for this asterism is *Apabharani*, which translates as "the waters that carry things away." The shakti is the "power to cleanse and remove impurities." Bharani has a *manushya*, or human, temperament and the primary motivation is *artha* or prosperity. The ruling planet is Venus, reflecting the creative nature and strong sexual desires of this nakshatra. Bharani is formed by three stars above the tail of the Ram.

3. Kritika: Star of Fire (Aries 26°40'-Taurus 10°00'). The primordial flame

is the primary symbol of this nakshatra, representing purification by the sacred fire (*yagna*). The ruling planet is the Sun, and Agni, God of Fire, is the residing deity. The shakti of this lunar mansion is "the power to burn away the negativity to get to the truth." According to the Atharva Veda, Kritika is the first nakshatra reflecting the stars rising at the spring vernal equinox during the height of the Indus Valley civilization (2720-1760 BCE.). Interestingly, the Moon is exalted (3° Taurus) in this powerful nakshatra. It has a *rakshasa*, or demon, nature, with a primary motivation of *kama* or desire. The other symbol for this asterism is a razor, reflecting the cutting activity of this nakshatra, which can heal or destroy. Kritika is formed by the star cluster of the Pleiades, the seven stars residing in the upper torso of the Bull.

Note: An ancient seal from the Indus Valley region depicts a six-headed deity surrounded by goddesses. This could reflect the connection of the god Mars (Karttikeya, Skandha, or Subramaniya in Sanskrit) with the Pleiades.

4. Rohini: Star of Ascent (Taurus 10°00'-23°20'). The symbols of this asterism are a chariot, a temple, and a sacred banyan tree, which is the home of the Goddess of the ancient Indus Valley civilization. Rohini provides movement toward the divine as well as a place of worship. It has a *manushya* temperament, with a primary motivation of *moksha*, or spiritual liberation. The divine Krishna is said to have had both his Moon and Ascendant in this lunar mansion. The primary deities are Brahma and Prajapati, the creators of the universe. The shakti experienced here is the ability to "foster growth and creation." Rohini, known as "the red one," correlates with the rose star Aldeberan, the red eye of the Bull constellation.

5. Mrigashira: Searching Star (Taurus 23°20'-Gemini 06°40'). The symbol for Mrigashira is an antelope's head. People born with this nakshatra prominent often have the face of a deer. It has a *deva* temperament and *moksha*, or spiritual liberation, as its primary motivation. It is an excellent asterism for research of religious or philosophical truths. The ruling planet, Mars, reflects the energy of the spiritual warrior. The

primary deity is Soma, the Moon God, who imparts the divine nectar of ever-new bliss. The shakti of Mrigashira is the "power to give fulfillment." It is formed by three faint stars at the head of the constellation of Orion.

6. Ardra: Star of Sorrow (Gemini 06°40'-20°00'). The primary symbols for Ardra are a human head, which represents thinking, and a teardrop, which represents overcoming suffering. It is an excellent rising nakshatra because it reflects brilliant mental abilities (Albert Einstein, Robert Hand). Rudra, Lord of the Storms, is the deity of this lunar mansion. The ruling planet is Rahu (North Node of the Moon), and denotes the sharp, fierce activity of this asterism. Ardra can represent the clarity and emotional cleansing that occurs after the storms of the soul recede. The temperament is manushya and its primary motivation is artha, or wealth. The shakti of Ardra is "the power to make gains in life through greater effort." The fixed star Betelgeuse in the constellation of Orion, and Sirius, the Dog star, are associated with this lunar mansion.

7. Punarvasu: Star of Renewal (Gemini 20°00'-Cancer 03°20'). The primary symbols of this illuminating nakshatra are a bow and a quiver of arrows. The sky is the limit with this nakshatra. Punarvasu means "the return of the light," and has the divine ability to bring spiritual light into darkness. Punarvasu reflects purity, *satya* (truth) and strong moral values. It is a deva nakshatra with the primary motivation of *artha*, or material prosperity. Its shakti or power is "the ability to gain wealth or abundance." The main deity is Aditi, the Cosmic Mother, who bestows her creative abundance on all who seek her blessings. This lunar mansion is ruled by Jupiter, the great benefic, and is reflected by the Gemini twins, Castor and Pollox.

8. Pushya: Star of Nourishment (Cancer 03°20'-16°40'). Pushya is considered to be the most auspicious of the 27 lunar mansions. The symbols for this asterism are a lotus, circle, arrow, and the udder of the sacred cow. The ancient name of Pushya in the Rig Veda was Tishya, the Celestial Archer. It has a deva temperament with the primary motivation of *dharma*, or right action. The ruling planet is Shani, or Saturn, which

grounds the energy of this powerful nakshatra. The chief deity is Brahaspati, the High Priest of the Gods. The shakti of Pushya is "the ability to create spiritual energy." It is formed by North and South Aselli, the two donkeys that reflect the manger, and birth of the Christ child, which occurs under the spiritual energy of this benefic lunar mansion.

O wise Maruts, let us carry off the wealth of food which you have bestowed on us; give us, O Maruts, such thousand fold wealth as never fails, like the star Tishya (Pushya) from heaven.—Rig Veda, V.55.13

9. Ashlesha: Clinging Star (Cancer 16°40'-30°00'). The symbol for this intense nakshatra is the coiled serpent at the base of the spine, reflecting the potent kundalini energy that resides here. Ashlesha means "the entwiner" and denotes the challenges of our addictions to sensory attachments. It is a very mental asterism ruled by Mercury and located in Cancer, which is ruled by Moon. The main deities are the Nagas, the Serpent Kings. The shakti revealed here is the "power to inflict poisonous venom." Ashleshans have a rakshasa temperament with a primary motivation of *dharma*. Great mystical talents and enlightenment can be experienced if the primordial energy of this lunar asterism is harnessed. The Buddha had this nakshatra rising under a benefic full Moon during his blessed birth. The King Cobra protected the Buddha from the storms of life as he performed his *tapas* (spiritual austerities) under the bodhi tree. The nakshatra Ashlesha is formed by six stars in the constellation of Hydra, the Water Snake.

10. Magha: Star of Power (Leo 00°00'-13°20'). Magha means "the mighty one," reflecting strength and spiritual leadership. The great Indian saint, Paramahansa Yogananda, had both his Moon and rising sign in this powerful nakshatra. Its symbol is the king's chamber or palequin. The deities are the *Pitris*, the great protectors and fathers of humanity. Magha people have a fiery rakshasa temperament with a primary motivation of *artha*, or material prosperity. The ruling planet is Ketu, which reveals the mystical nature of this asterism. The shakti is "the power to leave the body." Magha is correlated

with the bright fixed star Regulus, the kingly star located in the heart of the Lion.

11. Purva Phalguni: The Fruit of the Tree (Leo 13°20'-26°40'). This creative nakshatra is ruled by the planet Venus denoting brilliant skills in the fine arts and a love of pleasure. The sensual singer Madonna has both her Ascendant and Moon residing here. The symbols associated with this asterism are a swinging hammock, a couch and two legs of a bed reflecting a place of rest and enjoyment. The primary motivation experienced here is *kama* or pleasure. The shakti is "the power of creative procreation." The deity is Bhaga, the God of Prosperity, who protects marital happiness and bestows family inheritance. The temperament is *manushya* or, human. Purva Phalguni is formed by two stars, Leonis and Zosma, which are found at the rear flank of the Lion.

12. Uttara Phalguni: Star of Patronage (Leo 26°40'-Virgo 10°00'). The symbol for this service-oriented lunar mansion is a healing bed or two legs of a cot. This is the "social worker" nakshatra who is always helping the friend in need. They possess great skills in the healing arts and counseling fields. These natives have a *manushya* temperament, while their primary motivation is *moksha* or spiritual liberation. The deity is Aryaman, God of Patronage, and son of Aditi, the Cosmic Mother. The shakti associated with this asterism is "the power of giving prosperity through marriage." The ruling planet is the Sun and reflects the ability to shine their healing light on those with whom they come into contact. Uttara Phalguni is formed by two stars at the tail of the Lion.

Straight be the paths and thornless on which friends will travel to present our suit. May Aryaman and Bhaga lead us together! May heaven grant us a stable marriage!—Rig Veda X.85.23

13. Hasta: The Hand (Virgo 10°00'-23°20'). The symbol for this nakshatra is the palm of the hand. The primary deity is Savitar, the Sun God, who promotes creativity. He is called "the golden handed one." The shakti of Hasta is "the power to manifest what one seeks and place it in their hands." Hasta natives can have great dexterity, and are skilled with handi-

crafts and the healing arts. Hasta is ruled by the Moon, and in the sign of Virgo, ruled by Mercury, reflecting the very mental, intellectual nature of this lunar mansion. It has a deva temperament with a primary motivation of *moksha*, or spiritual liberation. Hasta is formed by five stars (fingers) in the constellation of Corvus, the crow.

14. Chitra: Star of Opportunity (Virgo 23°20'-Libra 06°40'). The symbol for the brilliant Chitra nakshatra is a bright jewel or pearl. Chitra translates as "the beautiful one" or "pretty pictures," which reflects its ability to arrange things nicely and in an artistic fashion. The deity is *Tvashtar*, the divine celestial architect. The creator of Astro*Carto*Graphy, Jim Lewis, had his natal Moon placed here. Chitra natives are often successful artisan types. The shakti is "the ability to accumulate merit in this life." Chitra has a *rakshasa* temperament with a primary motivation of *kama*, or desire. The animal associated with Chitra is a female tiger, which reveals its passionate, sensual nature. Mars is the ruling planet, and is represented by the beautiful, high magnitude, fixed star, Spica, at the beginning of sidereal Libra.

The Universe is uncaused, like a net of jewels in which each is only the reflection of all others in a fantastic interrelated harmony without end.—The Upanishads

15. Swati: Self-Going Star (Libra 06°40'-20°00'). The symbol for Swati is a single blade of grass blowing in the wind, reflecting its independent and autonomous nature. It has a *chara* or moveable nature and is ruled by restless Rahu. A love of educational travel and the need for positive change is often experienced here. The primary deity is *Vayu*, the God of the Wind, and Prana. The shakti is "the power to scatter like the wind." Other symbols for this lunar mansion are a sword (discrimination), and a priest or priestess. Swati is of deva temperament with a primary motivation of *artha* or attainment of wealth. Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning, is the female deity associated with Swati. A very intellectual nakshatra, Swati demonstrates excellent communication skills, and has the capacity to achieve justice (Libra) through personal power. Swati is located by the bright star, Arcturus, in the constellation of Bootis.

16. Vishakha: Star of Purpose (Libra 20°00'-Scorpio 03°20'). The symbols associated with Vishakha are an archway and a potter's wheel. The archway is a symbol of moving through thresholds of spiritual initiation, and the potter's wheel symbolizes the patience that must be developed to progress on the spiritual path. Vishakha is ruled by Jupiter, reflecting a deep connection with one's soul purpose, and has a rakshasa temperament with a primary motivation of dharma. Its animal symbol is a male tiger. The main deities are Radha, the divine consort of Sri Krishna, and Indra/Agni, and its shakti is "the power to achieve many and various fruits in life." Vishakha is formed by four stars of the Northern Scales.

17. Anuradha: Star of Success (Scorpio 03°20'-16°40'). Anuradha is symbolized by a lotus flower, reflecting the ability to blossom in any life situation. The primary deity is Mitra, God of Friendship and Partnership. Anuradha individuals have the great ability to gather people together for social and spiritual activities. The spiritual teacher, Ram Dass, has his natal Moon in this nakshatra. Anuradha has a deva temperament with the primary motivation of dharma or right action. The shakti is "the power of worship." The ruling planet is Saturn, which gives tenacity and discipline when needed. Anuradha contains three stars in the body of the Scorpion including Alpha Centauri, the closest star to our solar system.

18. Jyeshtha: The Chief or Elder Star (Scorpio 16°40'-30°00'). The symbols for Jyeshtha are an earring and an umbrella. The earring is a symbol of Vishnu's discus, and the umbrella symbolizes protection and status. Jyeshtha also translates as the "eldest" or "senior most." It is related to the eldest sister Alakshmi who, in Jyeshtha, is in the opposite constellation to Rohini, her beautiful sister located in Taurus. Issues with jealousy and betrayal can be experienced here. Jyeshtha has a rakshasa nature with artha as the primary motivation. The chief deity is Indra, King of the Gods. He is the spiritual warrior and "dragon slayer." The shakti of this asterism is "the power to rise, conquer, and gain courage in battle." The ruling planet, Mercury, reflects the

troubled, yet creative genius of this lunar mansion. Albert Einstein, Friedrich Nietzsche, Howard Hughes and Vincent Van Gogh all had their natal Moons in this nakshatra of the creative eccentric. The sharp Mars-like nature of Jyeshtha is reflected through the fixed star Antares, which is located in the heart of the Scorpion.

Note: *An interesting seal was found in the Indus Valley area dated 2400 BCE. It depicted a pair of scorpions on one side and an antelope with an arrow through it on the other side. The antelope/arrow is a symbol of the nakshatra Mrigashira, which is opposite the sign of the Scorpion.*

19. Mula: Foundation Star (Sagittarius 00°00'-13°20'). Mula translates as the "root" or original star, which is symbolized as a tied bunch of roots. It is located around the galactic center of our universe. The ruling planetary deity is Ketu, which reflects the mystical nature of this asterism. The primary deity is Nirriti, the Goddess of Destruction. She lives in the Kingdom of the Dead and is associated with the powerful goddess, Kali. The shakti revealed here is "the power to ruin, destroy, and to break things apart." The 9/11 tragedy occurred when Mars and Ketu were conjoined near the point of the galactic center in the middle of this intense nakshatra. Mula has a rakshasa temperament with a primary motivation of kama. Mula is formed by a group of stars around the tail of the Scorpion.

20. Purva Ashadha: Invincible Star (Sagittarius 13°20'-26°40'). Purva Ashadha means "early victory" or the "undefeated, the unsubdued." The symbol is a fan or a winnowing basket, which rids corn of the husks. The fan can signify popularity as their name is fanned around a lot by the public. The popular talk show host Johnny Carson, and the infamous Adolph Hitler, have their natal Moons in this asterism. The primary deity is Apas, the Cosmic Waters. Varuna, the God of the Waters, is considered a secondary deity for this nakshatra. The shakti experienced here is "the power of invigoration." Purva Ashadha has a manushya temperament with a primary motivation of moksha, or spiritual liberation. It is formed by the stars Kaus Borealis and Kaus Australis in the Archer's bow.

21. Uttara Ashadha: Universal Star (Sagittarius 26°40'-Capricorn 10°00'). Uttara Ashadha translates as "later victory." The symbol is an elephant's tusk, which is associated with Ganesha, the Elephant God and remover of obstacles. Another symbol, planks of a bed, signifies security, rest, and peace. The main deities are the ten *Vishvadevas*, such as *Vasu* (goodness), *Satya* (truth), *Kratru* (will power), *Kama* (desire) and *Kala* (time). This nakshatra is ruled by the powerful Sun. The shakti is "the power for unchallengeable victory." These natives have the humanitarian vision to see all races as equal. Abraham Lincoln's Moon resided here, and this asterism has a manushya temperament with a primary motivation toward moksha, or spiritual liberation. The animal symbol is a male mongoose, which has no female counterpart, reflecting the independence and, at times, loneliness associated with this nakshatra. Uttara Ashadha is formed by two stars in the breast of the Archer.

Note: A 28th nakshatra called *Abhijit* is sometimes in the last five degrees of Uttara Ashadha (Capricorn 5-10°). This asterism is usually used for muhurta or electional astrology and not for natal chart analysis. *Abhijit* is considered a *laghu* or light nakshatra, which is auspicious for healing, travel or starting a business.

22. Shravana: Star of Learning (Capricorn 10°00'-23°20'). Shravana translates as "the hearing," with its primary symbol being an ear. It is a deva nakshatra with the capacity to hear the astral sounds of Krishna's flute, and the celestial bells or the cosmic Om. The natives of this asterism usually have brilliant minds and the capacity to study other cultures and spiritual dimensions. The movie director, George Lucas, and Vedic scholar, David Frawley, both have their natal Moons in this auspicious nakshatra. Material success is a result of the primary motivation of this asterism being *artha* or wealth. The primary deity is Vishnu, the Preserver of the Universe, and Saraswati, Goddess of Learning, is the female deity associated with Shravana. The shakti is "the power to provide connection with others." Shravana is formed by three stars in the head of the Eagle constellation, Aquilla.

23. Dhanishtha: Star of Symphony (Capricorn 23°20'-Aquarius 06°40'). The symbol for Dhanishtha is the drum, indicating a love of music. This lunar mansion is sometimes called "the kingly star" due to the fame and wealth that can occur under its influence. Marilyn Monroe and Princess Diana both had their natal Moons here. The shakti is "the power to give abundance and fame." Marital difficulties and a fiery temper are observed here due to the rakshasa temperament, the animal totem of a female lion, and the ruling planet Mars. The primary motivation of Dhanishtha is dharma. The deities are the eight *Vasus*, such as *Soma* (water), *Dhara* (earth), *Anala* (fire), *Apa* (space) and *Dhruva* (nakshatras). Dhanishtha is formed by four stars located in the head of Delphinus, the Dolphin.

24. Shatabisha: The Hundred Stars (Aquarius 06°40'-20°00'). Shatabisha also translates as "the hundred healers" or "the hundred flowers." The primary deity is Varuna, God of Medicine and the Cosmic Waters, which provides the natives with a strong connection to the healing arts. Varuna is the Cosmic Man pouring his healing waters onto humanity. Astrologer Ronnie Gale Dreyer and author of *Healing Signs*, has her natal Moon in this powerful nakshatra. The shakti of Shatabisha is "the power of healing." The symbol for Shatabisha is an empty circle, reflecting the independent nature and autonomy experienced through this lunar mansion. This nakshatra can also be a challenging birth star for early marriage. Its ruling planet Rahu indicates a love for travel and adventure. It has a rakshasa temperament with the primary motivation being dharma or right action. Shatabisha is formed by a large group of faint stars in Aquarius, the Water Bearer.

25. Purva Bhadrapada: The Burning Pair (Aquarius 20°00'-Pisces 03°20'). The symbols for this unique nakshatra are a sword, the first two legs of a funeral cot, and a two-faced man. The sword represents the ability to cut through negativity to get to the truth, and the two-faced man indicates the ability to see both sides of an issue. The deity is *Aja Ekapada*, a one-footed goat that is the vehicle for the fiery god, Agni. The shakti is "the power to raise a spir-

itual person up in life." This nakshatra is ruled by benefic Jupiter, which reflects the high idealism of this asterism. Martin Luther King had his natal Moon in this lunar mansion. These natives are often successful in the business world due to their human temperament, with a primary motivation toward artha, or prosperity. Purva Bhadrapada is associated with two stars, Markab and Scheat, located in the body of Pegasus, the Winged Horse.

26. Uttara Bhadrapada: The Warrior Star (Pisces 03°20'-16°40'). The symbols for Uttara Bhadrapada are the last two legs of a funeral cot, or twins. Bhadrapada translates as the "scorching" or "burning pair" related to the twin nakshatras of Purva and Uttara Bhadrapada. A woman born with Uttara Bhadrapada as her birth star is considered blessed by the goddess Lakshmi, and is considered "the gem of her family." The animal symbol is the sacred female cow of India. The deity is *Ahir Budhnya*, the Serpent of the Deep Sea, and part of Lord Shiva's army, which reflects the warrior nature of this lunar mansion. Uttara Bhadrapada has a manushya temperament with a primary motivation of kama, or healthy pleasures. The ruling planet, Saturn, provides great depth and spiritual discipline. The shakti is "the bringing of the cosmic rain." Uttara Bhadrapada is associated with the stars Pegasi and Andromedae, which complete the square of the constellation of Pegasus.

27. Revati: The Wealthy (Pisces 16°40'-30°00'). The symbols for Revati are a fish and a drum. The fish is a symbol of deep spirituality as well as the twelfth sign of Pisces. The drum is a marker of time reflecting the final lunar mansion according to the constellations. This auspicious nakshatra has a *deva* temperament with a primary motivation of moksha, or spiritual enlightenment. The deity is *Pushan*, the nurturer and protector of travelers and animals. Revati is ruled by the intellectual planet Mercury, and resides in a constellation ruled by benefic Jupiter. The animal symbol is a female elephant. The shakti is "the power of nourishment symbolized by milk." Revati is one of the most benefic nakshatras for spiritual growth and development of psychic abilities. It is formed by 32 faint stars at the tail of the Fish constellation.

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Endnotes

¹ Dennis M. Harness, *The Nakshatras*, Twin Lakes: Lotus Press, 1999, Introduction by David Frawley.

Nakshatras Continued on Page 50

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Vedic Astrology in Practice: The Many Sides of Joni Mitchell

By Liz Houle

"I think at 21, I was quite old . . . 'Both Sides Now' is like an old person reflecting back on their life. My life had been very hard. I had gone through a lot in life. When I wrote 'Both Sides Now,' Chuck Mitchell said to me, 'Oh, what do you know about life, you're only 21.' But I knew a lot about life. I'd gone through a lot of disease and personal pain. Even as a child. I'd had three bouts with death. I was not unaware of my mortality. But somehow, still, I was very young for my age, in spite of my experience."—Joni Mitchell¹

***Rows and flows of angel hair,
And ice cream castles in the air,
And feather canyons everywhere,
I've looked at clouds that way...***

Joni Mitchell was born Roberta Joan Anderson at 10:00 p.m. on November 7, 1943 in Fort Macleod, Canada. Her father was a grocer, and her mother was a schoolteacher. The *dasa* that a person is born into is significant, and Joni was born during a Jupiter *dasa*. Jupiter is in Leo in the third house of the fine arts of music, hearing, and one's own efforts. Mars afflicts Jupiter with its fourth house aspect, and Saturn aspects Jupiter almost exactly with its third house aspect.

At the age of seven she began taking piano lessons. Joni had the prodigious ability to play songs by ear and as a result she didn't bother to learn to read the notes. She would try to improvise during her lessons by pretending to read the notes as she played but the teacher would always catch her. In adulthood Joni would remember, "I was constantly rapped on the knuckles at piano classes because I'd listen to what the teacher played and I'd remember it. So I never learned to sight read properly and she'd bust me on it . . . That kind of killed my interest in piano for a good 15 years or so."²

***But now they only block the sun,
They rain and snow on everyone,
So many things I would have done,
But clouds got in my way...***

According to Joni Mitchell's official website (www.jonimitchell.com), Joni contracted polio when she was nine years old at a time when many children were also afflicted with the dreaded disease. As she convalesced, she truly developed an artistic sensitivity: "A great sorrow hath humanized me." Mitchell credits her recovery from the often-fatal disease and her return to her life in

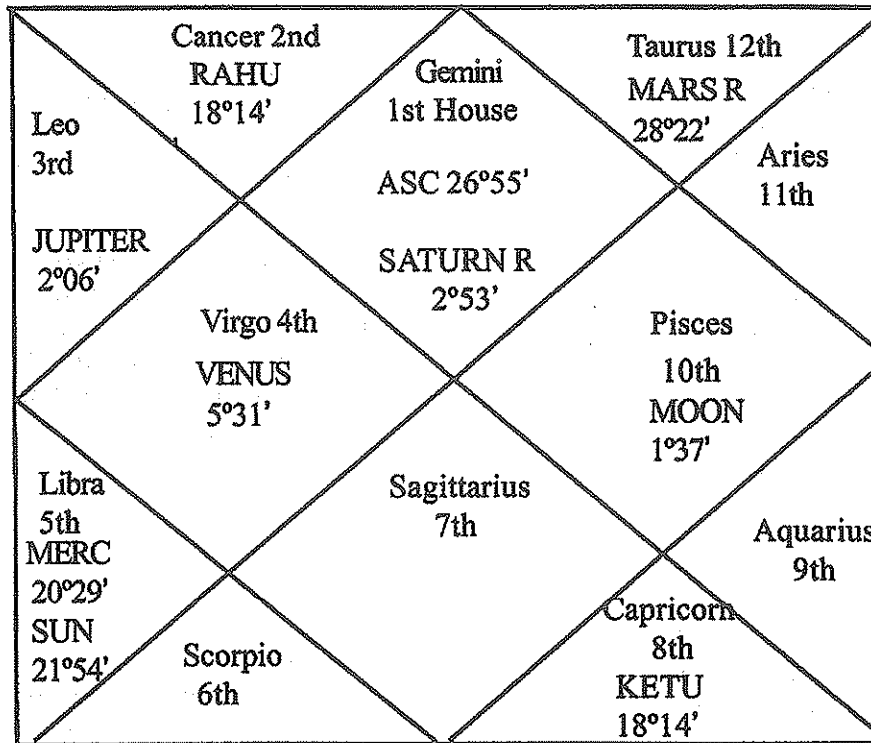


Fig. 1. North Indian Chart

Pisces 10th MOON 1°37'	Aries 11th	Taurus 12th MARS R 28°22'	Gemini 1st ASC 26°55' SATURN R 2°53'
Aquarius 9th	Jonl Mitchell November 7, 1943 22:00 MWT Fort MacLeod, Canada 49N43, 113W24		Cancer 2nd RAHU 18°14'
Capricorn 8th KETU 18°14'	Lahiri Ayanamsa, Whole Signs, True Nodes		Leo 3rd JUPITER 2°06'
Sagittarius 7th	Scorpio 6th	Libra 5th MERC 20°29' SUN 21°54'	Virgo 4th VENUS 5°31'

Fig. 2. South Indian Chart

Saskatoon to her attentive and loving mother.

In 1952, she was in her Saturn Dasa, Ketu Bhukti. Saturn is placed in her first house indicating its strong influence on her body and life in general. It is a natural malefic, and rules the eighth house of chronic illness, and ninth house of blessings, opportunities, and mentors. Therefore, it has the dual effect of positive and negative influences. Ketu is placed in the eighth house of chronic illness so it is clearly indicated that during Saturn Dasa, Ketu Bhukti she would suffer from some illness but also realize her God-given talents. The fact that she would have the strong love and support of her mother is evident in several ways. The benefic Moon, karaka of mother, is in the tenth house and aspects the fourth house, which is the house that corresponds to the mother. Venus, the ruler of the twelfth house (Taurus) and fifth house (Libra), is both a natural and functional benefic in this chart, and is placed in the fourth. Its mutual reception with Mercury, the ruler of the fourth placed in the fifth, emphasizes the care she received from her mother. It was while she was suffering from polio and nursed by her mother that she began to form her life's mission that would bring her to world prominence. (Since the twelfth house represents foreign countries, its placement in the fourth house of residence indicates that her future success came about after moving to the United States.)

***Moons and Junes and Ferris wheels,
The dizzy dancing way you feel,
As every fairy tale comes real,
I've looked at love that way. . . .***

Although she had been singing in coffee shops and clubs for several years, and she already had a mildly successful album, Joni's career turned dramatically in 1968, when her song "Both Sides Now," which she put on her album "Clouds," became a huge hit for Judy Collins. Once it became known who actually wrote the song, Joni Mitchell's career really took off. Her first Grammy Award soon followed.

It is no wonder that this occurred during her Mercury Dasa, Venus Bhukti. Mercury (ruler of the first and fourth) and Venus (ruler of the fifth and twelfth) form two Raj Yogas. Literally meaning "Royal Unions," or "King Making," Raj Yogas

promise rise in life especially during the planetary period of the planets forming the association. They indicate success as the result of good karma from past lives, and give the person special gifts, which may or may not include financial rewards. The gifts may be extreme intelligence, talent, or prominence in a certain sphere.

Raj Yogas are formed when the lord of the first, fifth, and ninth houses (trikona or trinal houses), are associated with the lords of the first, fourth, seventh and tenth houses (kendra or angular houses). These associations, known as *sambandha*, can be two planets either occupying the same sign/house, forming a mutual aspect (seventh houses apart), or in mutual reception (Parivartana Yoga).

In Mitchell's chart, Mercury, as lord of the first and fourth, and Venus, lord of the fifth, are in mutual reception, fitting one of the qualifications for Raj Yoga. Mutual reception is known as Parivartana Yoga (*parivartana* means exchange), and is formed when two planets (in this case, Mercury and Venus) literally exchange signs, and are placed in the house ruled by the other. Because the fourth and fifth houses are highly auspicious, the connection between Mercury and Venus guarantees her success during their Dasa-Bhukti period, and makes the connection between these planets and houses even more blessed. The combination of benefic Venus and Mercury, especially with Mercury as the ruler of her Gemini ascendant, gives her musical talent as a singer, musician, and songwriter. Mercury's influence also resulted in Mitchell's dual lifelong passion: her love of painting and her love of writing music. Additionally, Venus' position ahead of the Sun creates a Vasi Yoga assuring success. (*According to Mantreswara's "Phaladeepika," the Parivartana Yoga between the fourth and fifth houses is called a Maha Yoga, and is the most auspicious type of mutual reception-Ed.*)

With all these yogas, even someone from modest means, as Joni Mitchell, is guaranteed success. In the 1970s her "Ladies of the Canyon" album sold even better than "Clouds" on the strength of the single "Big Yellow Taxi" with the instantly recognizable lyric "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." The song is a hit to this day having

been redone many times by various artists over the years. Later, Joni would say,

"That is a powerful little song . . . I turned on the TV one day and I saw a woman. . . . She picked up a guitar and she sang 'Big Yellow Taxi.' And this little rainbow of kids, little yellow kids and white kids and black kids and brown kids started singing my song, in grade three. And they knew all of the words. And I wept."³

The fact that Joni Mitchell created such powerful songs can be partly explained by her ascendant (lagna), which is 26° Gemini 55' in the nakshatra of Punarvasu. When the name Punarvasu is broken down: *Punar* means "to repeat" or "again," and *Vasu* means "a ray of light" or "a gem." Mercury rules the sign of Gemini, while the nakshatra itself is ruled by Jupiter, giving prominence in communications. Her album "Clouds" also included her song "Woodstock," a major hit for Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, and quickly became an anthem for the times. But according to *All-Music Guide*, it was her landmark 1971 album "Blue," "a luminous, starkly confessional set written primarily during a European vacation," that established her as an icon of pop music, and one of its "most remarkable and insightful talents." Many more such acclaimed albums would follow in the years to come; but even with all the successes under her belt she still suffered from some deep insecurities, including her formal education or lack thereof.

***But now it's just another show,
You leave 'em laughing when you go,
And if you care, don't let them know,
Don't give yourself away...***

"In a 1972 interview Joni Mitchell said: 'It's like I came through the school systems completely unscathed in a way, and completely unlearned in another way. Which makes me feel terribly ignorant. I find that the most common phrase in my vocabulary is . . . I DON'T KNOW, I just don't know.'⁴

The words of a young woman in angst, or a philosopher pining for the truth? Saturn, ninth house ruler of higher learning, is located in Mitchell's first house so searching for higher knowledge would be a central theme of her life.

Since the ruler is Saturn, it will always be a cross to bear for her. Although Saturn rules the eighth house, which led to limitations of the physical body, it also rules the ninth house, forming a simple raj yoga (lord of trikona in trikona). With the ninth house ruling teachers, it ensured that she would encounter wise mentors who would enrich her life. Not coincidentally, she dedicated her first album to one of her high school teachers—Mr. Kratzman—who taught her to "love words." He told her once that if she could paint then she could also paint with words. This piece of wisdom made a huge impact on Joni. After high school, she attended the Alberta College of Art in Calgary, but left her painting studies after only one year to pursue her singing and songwriting career.

The fourth house rules obtaining educational diplomas, so even though Joni obtained some great mentors, she would still have trouble completing her courses of study. This is because the fourth house ruler (Mercury) is closely combust a fallen Sun in Libra, and in her Chandra lagna (Moon as ascendant chart) the fourth house from the Moon holds a malefic Saturn, which rules the harmful twelfth house from the Moon.

She was dirt poor and an unknown folk singer when she gave birth to a daughter on February 19, 1965, and subsequently gave her up for adoption. Mitchell didn't tell her parents that she was pregnant. "*The scandal was so intense,*" she recalls. "*A daughter could do nothing more disgraceful. You have no idea what the stigma was. It was like you murdered somebody.*"⁵ Her pregnancy was very difficult as was the birth. Joni worried for years about the child's health because of the difficult nature of the pregnancy. She had her daughter at the very beginning of her Mercury Dasa, Mercury Bhukti. The fact that she would lose a child in some way is clearly indicated by Venus, the ruler of the fifth house of children and the twelfth house of loss, placed in the fourth house (twelfth from the fifth house of children) indicating loss of the indications of the fifth house—children. With Venus in a Parivartana Yoga (mutual reception) with Mercury, these two planets always strongly influence each other. Mercury occupies the fifth house of children,

combust a fallen Sun in Libra, so problems with having and keeping children are plainly shown.

*Tears and fears and feeling proud,
To say I love you right out loud,
Dreams and schemes and circus crowds,
I've looked at life that way. . . .*

Marriage would prove to bring mixed blessings. Saturn in the first house throws a malefic aspect onto Joni's seventh house of marriage. Her first marriage to Chuck Mitchell dissipated quickly, lasting only three years and ending in 1967, leaving her penniless. She was forced due to her circumstances to give her daughter up for adoption, and then she decided to move to New York City. This all occurred in her Mercury Dasa, Ketu Bhukti. Ketu is four houses away from Mercury showing a change in residence at that time. At the same time, in 1967, transiting Saturn was in her tenth house, conjunct her Moon, which is the ruler of the second house of money—leaving her in financial dire straits. Besides conjoining her Moon, transiting Saturn aspected her seventh house of marriage by tenth house aspect. With natal Saturn aspecting the seventh house, this transit caused an already troubled marriage to end.

Saturn's transit to the Moon causes a difficult phase of life called *Sade Sati* (7½), and refers to the approximate 7½ years when Saturn transits the house before the Moon, of the Moon, and after the Moon. This is considered a generally unfavorable time, but can also bring about improvements in life. *Sade Sati* occurs every 29-30 years (the length of a Saturn return), and it would be exactly 30 years later when she would reunite with her daughter. After losing her baby in a poverty-stricken state she would be reunited with her in wealth and fame.

Not that Joni Mitchell ever felt comfortable with world fame. "I really enjoyed playing clubs for about 40 people. . . . That I could handle. When it got to the big stage I found that I didn't enjoy it. It frightened me initially. I had a lot of bad experiences, including running off many a stage. . . . That kind of attention was absurd." Saturn in the first house made Joni uncomfortable with being in the limelight. Her natal Moon is waxing and bright in the tenth house, and aspected by benefic

Venus, so along with all the Raj Yogas mentioned previously her fame was assured. Many famous artists have the Moon in the tenth house as it gives them sensitivity to what pleases the public. However, her Moon is alone in the tenth house with no planets on either side, and it is closely aspected by malefic Saturn. That means that Mitchell will always feel a bit alone and uncomfortable in the world, and unable at times to deal with all of the attention.

In 1972, she announced her retirement from the music business, built a retreat in the Canadian bush, and swore she would never come back. After two years she returned to her musical career and compromised by taking breaks periodically from her touring schedule.

During one of her respites Joni married for a second time on November 21, 1982 to bass player and sound engineer Larry Klein. She was in Ketu Dasa, Venus Bhukti, Rahu Antardasa, when they exchanged vows. Ketu is eleventh from the Moon showing a period of gains, and Venus, karaka of marriage, is seventh from the Moon highlighting marriage and relationship issues. The marriage lasted over 10 years. Joni's seventh house of marriage is aspected not only by Saturn but Jupiter (fifth house aspect) and Mars (eighth house aspect) as well. This gave her more than one marriage and difficulties staying with one person. The ruler of the seventh house, Jupiter, is in the third house of entertainment showing that she and her husbands would perform together—and they did. But the third house is not a favorable position for the seventh ruler, so it harms marriage. Jupiter, the ruler of the seventh house and the karaka (indicator) of husband, is aspected by Mars and Saturn, which harm the longevity of married life, as well as the fact that Venus, natural karaka for marriage, is already debilitated in Virgo.

Jupiter, placed six houses away from the Moon, creates a difficult Sakata Yoga, which indicates a strong soul that has many lessons to learn, and must face many ups and downs in life. Since natural benefics ruling kendra houses become less favorable, Jupiter, as seventh and tenth house ruler, is a functional malefic for Gemini rising, even though it is a natural benefic. Lastly, in her Navamsa (9th harmonic) or marriage chart, she

has Rahu, a malefic, placed in the seventh house of marriage, causing upsets in partnerships. On the positive side, Venus is seven houses away from the Moon, so it shows the possibility of happiness and benefits from marriage. She did receive a lot of love and support from both her husbands, and they helped further her career.

***But now old friends are acting strange,
They shake their heads; they say I've
changed,
Well something's lost, but something's
gained,
In living every day. . . .***

In 1997, Joni was reunited with her 32-year-old daughter, Kilauren Gibb. This momentous event took place during Joni's Venus Dasa, Rahu Bhukti. Because Venus rules the fifth house of children, and Rahu is located in the second house of family members, the period centered on her daughter and grandchildren. Additionally, Rahu is in the fifth house from the Moon so in Chandra Lagna it again points to issues surrounding children. The Raj Yogas that Venus forms also resulted in more honors for Joni Mitchell, as she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame that same year.

An individual's life can be summed up at a glance by looking at the Kendra or angular houses, and Joni Mitchell's chart is no exception. Looking at Saturn, Venus (with Mercury's influence) and the Moon, placed in her first, fourth and tenth houses, respectively, one sees hardships, sorrow, beautiful music, art, and fame. Jupiter's rulership of two Kendra houses indicates prolific work—she would produce 22 albums in her 30 plus years-career, and earn the most prestigious awards. Her chart is complex with many very positive and negative influences working simultaneously. From learning more about her life story, one can begin to appreciate how the strong benefic and malefic influences result in a life of extreme ups and downs. Fortunately, she has always been able to turn her difficult experiences into beautiful works of art, and since she is still in her Venus dasa until 2009, one can safely bet that there will be much more to come from her in the near future.

***I've looked at life from both sides now,
From win and lose and still somehow,
It's life's illusions I recall,
I really don't know life at all—***“Both Sides Now,” words and music by Joni Mitchell

Joni Mitchell's Vimshottari Dasa (according to Lahiri Ayanamsa)

- Jupiter-November 7, 1943-November 22, 1945
- Saturn-November 23, 1945-November 21, 1964
- Mercury-November 22, 1964-November 21, 1981
- Ketu-November 22, 1981-November 21, 1988
- Venus-November 22, 1988-November 21, 2008
- Sun-November 22, 2008-November 21, 2014
- Moon-November 22, 2014-November 21, 2024
- Mars-November 22, 2024-November 21, 2031
- Rahu-November 22, 2031-November 21, 2049

Birth Data

Joni Mitchell, November 7, 1943, 10:00 p.m. MWT, Fort Macleod, Canada, 49N43, 113W25. Rodden Rating of “A” in AstroDataBank. She is quoted through her agent.

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Endnotes

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Mitchell Continued on Page 50

Predicting with Transits: Princess Caroline of Monaco

By Joni Patry

Transits, or Gochara, can be defined as the constant motion of the planets' cycles, especially their positions in the sky at any given moment. As they travel through a natal house, and form aspects to natal planets, the transits trigger events in an individual's life, granting us the ability to make predictions and time life cycles and occurrences. You may see potential in a chart, but it will only manifest through the onset of dasas (planetary periods), and the activation of planetary transits, which bring to life all the indications of the houses they activate and the planets they aspect.

To forecast events based on planetary transits, I use the following rules listed in order of importance, and the steps to be followed to make a final assessment. I will also illustrate the simple yet complex way to make accurate predictions, based on analyzing the different charts within a chart, showing how we are all interrelated. Taken step by step, one layer or viewpoint at a time, we can with a well-trained eye view all our relationships through the lens of our natal chart. Take these principles and apply them to see the truth and light that the science of Jyotish has intended.

When assessing a question or matter, we must examine:

- The house pertaining to the matter in question
- The ruling planet of the house pertaining to the matter
- The karaka, or indicator, of the matter or thing in question

For example, if the question asked concerns children, we examine:

- Planets occupying and aspecting the fifth house of children
- The fifth house ruler, the house in which it is placed, and the aspects it receives
- Jupiter—house position and natal aspects it receives (Since Jupiter is the karaka, or natural indicator, of children, that is, it naturally rules children in everyone's chart, Jupiter's condition shows the prospects of children in a chart.)

These are the three major assessments that must be taken into consideration when a question like "Will I have children" is posed. A question that involves timing like "When will I have children?" in-

corporates the dasas (planetary periods) and transits.

Prediction with Vedic Astrology Is A Two-Fold Process

The dasas are the main tool for predicting how an individual is at any given moment. The mahadasa (main period) and bhukti (sub-period) rulers must first be assessed, after which the transits are analyzed and blended with the outcome of dasa analysis.

In the first place, the house occupied and ruled by the planetary lord of both the mahadasa and bhukti will be of paramount importance. If either of these planets conjoins other planets, the houses those planets rule become active as well. When analyzing transits, the dasa rulers will be the most important planets to focus on. If you are in Saturn's mahadasa and Mars bhukti, the transits of these two planets will weigh in far more than other transiting planets. Likewise, transits to natal Saturn and Mars have more far-reaching consequences during their dasas, than at other times. They are like a land mine getting ready to explode when transited.

Steps for Analyzing Transits

There are many variables when assessing transits, but it is most important to assess:

- the house occupied by the transiting planet
- the natal planets that the transiting planet aspects
- the house ruled by the natal planet that the transiting planet aspects
- the houses the transiting planet aspects.

In India transits are viewed as more accurate from Chandra Lagna (literally meaning "Moon as Ascendant"), and I always assess the transits from the Moon to give more confluence. If transits from Chandra Lagna confirm the same event after repeating the above four steps for analyzing transits, I can make my prediction with conviction. Additionally, I always see where the mahadasa and bhukti ruler are placed in the Navamsa (ninth harmonic) chart with an eye to-

wards placements that concur with my prediction. I do not use the transits in any divisional charts.

Charts Within Charts

There are many layers within a chart, and the people who touch our lives are therefore in our charts. Bhavat Bhavam (meaning from house to house), or derived houses, brings out the multidimensional part of our chart that connects us to other people and their lives, and allows us to make specific instead of general vague predictions.

The way it works is simple: you turn the chart according to the matter specified, or the person within the individual's life, and that house becomes the ascendant of the chart. For example, since the spouse is the seventh house, we find out everything about the spouse's life by placing the seventh house as the lagna (ascendant). We then time events by placing the transits around the chart as previously stated. The rules are the same only you read the spouse's life through the original person's chart. In the case of multiple siblings and spouses, I have found that no matter how many times one marries, the spouse is always the seventh house, because we only have one spouse at a time.

When it comes to siblings in Vedic astrology, the eldest sibling is the eleventh house and the youngest sibling is the third house. To compute older siblings, we take the eleventh house from the first house for the first oldest, the eleventh from the eleventh (the ninth house) for the next oldest, and continue to take the eleventh house from the preceding house as we go around the chart. When computing younger siblings, we take the third house from the first house for the first youngest, the third from the third (fifth house) for the next youngest, and the third from the fifth (seventh house) for the next youngest, and so on as we did with the older siblings. Whichever sibling you are inquiring about becomes the ascendant, and you would read that chart exactly as you would any chart, including transits for predictions.

For children, the fifth house is the oldest child,

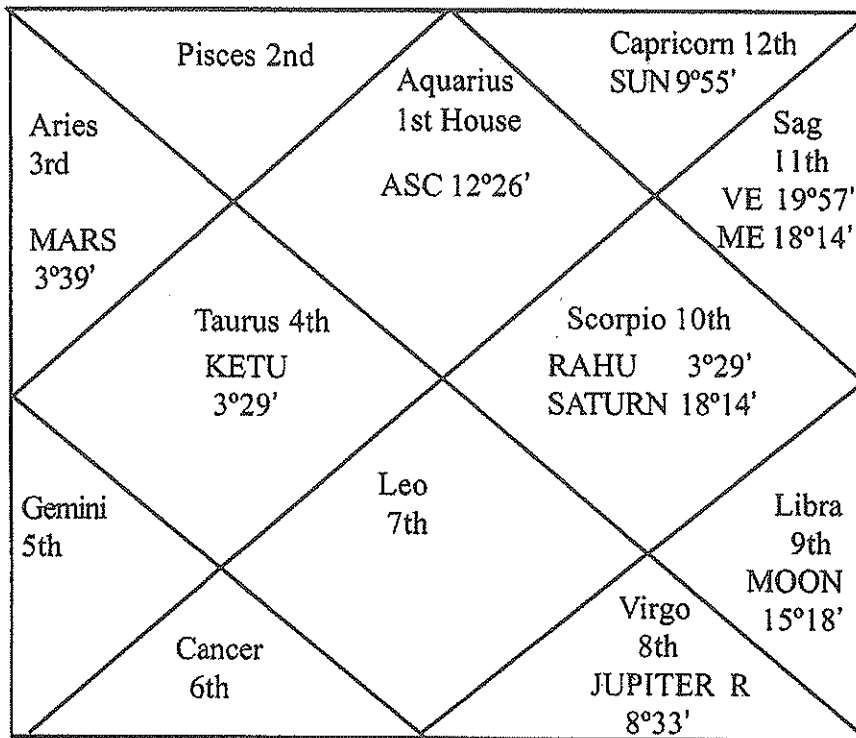


Fig. 1. North Indian Chart

Pisces 2nd	Aries 3rd MARS 3°39'	Taurus 4th KETU 3°29'	Gemini 5th
Aquarius 1st ASC 12°26'	Princess Caroline January 23, 1957 9:27 AM CET Monte Carlo, Monaco 43N44, 7E25 Lahiri Ayanamsa, Whole Signs, True Nodes		Cancer 6th
Capricorn 12th SUN 9°55'			Leo 7th
Sagittarius 11th VE 19°57' ME 18°14'	Scorpio 10th RAHU 3°29' SATURN 18°14'	Libra 9th MOON 15°18'	Virgo 8th JUPITER R 8°33'

Fig. 2. South Indian Chart

and the seventh house, which is the third house (sibling) from the fifth (child) would be the second child. The ninth, which is the third from the seventh, is the third born and so on. In a sense, we are simply taking the third house from each child to arrive at the next born, since they are the siblings (third house) to each other. The natal twelfth house is the 8th from the fifth house, and with difficult malefics here there could be danger to the first-born child. The same goes for the second house for the second born, for it is the eighth from the seventh. But don't forget to read the planets from the house we are inquiring from (as to house rulerships) and not the natal ascendant. Grandchildren are the fifth house from the fifth (ninth house), your children's children.

In viewing the life of the mother, as we will for Princess Grace, Princess Caroline's mother, we always begin with the fourth house, and the karaka for mother, which is the Moon. As the eighth house from the fourth, the eleventh house may indicate the mother's death. The eleventh house is the house of adoption because it represents death of, or separation from, the mother.

In Vedic astrology, the ninth house indicates the father, and the Sun is karaka for the father. The fourth house may indicate the death of the father because it is the eighth (death) from the ninth house (father). The twelfth house to any house can indicate the end or loss of the indications for that house. The seventh house will be the mother's mother, or maternal grandmother (fourth from the fourth), and the ninth from the ninth house (fifth house) will be the paternal grandfather. The sixth house will be aunts or uncles from the maternal side (third from the fourth), and the eleventh house indicates aunts and uncles on the paternal side (third from the ninth). As you can see the possibilities are endless.

Life of Princess Caroline of Monaco

To illustrate some of these techniques, I have chosen some specific events in the life of Princess Caroline of Monaco. Princess Caroline was born January 23, 1957, at 9:27 a.m. CET, Monte Carlo, Monaco. Her lagna is 12° Aquarius 19', and her chart ruler, Saturn, resides in the tenth house

with Rahu in Scorpio. Rahu and Saturn are planets of separation, indicating the public leadership role she took on due to force and separation after her mother, Princess Grace, died in a car accident. Ketu in her fourth house reveals the loss.

Princess Grace was the former Grace Kelly, the beautiful movie star who thought she would live out a fairy tale dream when she married Prince Rainier of Monaco, a decadent, opulent, and wealthy principality in Europe. In reality, Grace felt miserable and trapped in her marriage. She once stated: "If I had the choice I would divorce him. But I have no choice. He would keep my children."

To see Princess Grace in her daughter Caroline's chart we must make Taurus, which occupies the fourth house, the ascendant. If we look at the seventh house from the fourth (Caroline's tenth house), we find Rahu and Saturn in Scorpio indicating a dictatorial husband. With Rahu and Saturn, karakas of foreigners, located there, and its ruler Mars, located in the twelfth house (from the fourth) of foreigners, it is no wonder that her husband whisked her away from her homeland.

Transits for Princess Grace's Accident and Death

On September 13, 1982 Princess Grace was driving with her daughter, Princess Stephanie, when their car plunged over a cliff. It was said that the two were arguing, and that Grace lost control of the car after suffering a mild stroke. Stephanie was hospitalized for injuries from which she recovered. Grace, however, never regained consciousness, and died the next day from head injuries.

Since we are looking for indications of an accident, we will concentrate on the transits of Mars and Ketu, indicative planets for accidents, while Saturn and Rahu show separation or death. Additionally, the houses noted for accidents and death are the sixth, eighth (death) and twelfth (accidents, hospitals, losses) houses, so the planets that rule these houses must be flagged when looking for transits in this event.

At the time of her mother's accident, Caroline was

running Saturn Mahadasa, Mercury Bhukti. Transiting Mars (accidents) conjoined natal Saturn and Rahu in the tenth house (thereby aspecting the fourth house of mother), while transiting Ketu (accidents) conjoined natal Mercury (ruler of the eighth house of death) and Venus (ruler of fourth house of mother) in the eleventh house. With Saturn transiting her eighth house, and transiting Rahu aspecting her Moon, it was almost inevitable that there would be an accident or death in Caroline's life, and that it could possibly be her mother.

With the indications of possible death or accidents to Caroline's mother, we must then confirm by turning the chart so that Taurus, which occupies the fourth house of mother, is the new ascendant. With the fourth house as the new ascendant, Venus and Mercury are now in the eighth house with transiting Ketu. Venus rules the first (physical body) and the sixth (accidents). Transiting Saturn is in the fifth house aspecting Jupiter, ruler of the eighth. Transiting Rahu is in the second house (maraka-death inflicting) aspecting the Moon, ruler of the third (travel by car) in the sixth house (accidents). Transiting Ketu aspects Mars in the twelfth house of loss. When looking at the navamsa, always refer to the dasa rulers as well. Saturn (mahadasa lord) is in the twelfth, and Mercury (bhukti ruler) is in the ninth. Saturn in the twelfth brings loss, and it aspects Mercury. Additionally, the Moon (mother) is in the second house with Ketu, indicator of loss. All the indications outlined before are here for the death of the mother through an accident.

Stefano's Death in a Boating Accident

Stefano Casiraghi, Caroline's second husband, was an Italian businessman who loved the fast lane. On October 3, 1990 he died as a result of an accident while participating in a speed boat race. She had three children with him, and deeply mourned his death. At the time of his death, Caroline was running Saturn Mahadasa, Moon Bhukti. This means that the natal and transiting positions of Saturn and the Moon will be most influential during that Dasa. In the Navamsa, Saturn is in the twelfth house and Ketu, indicator of loss, is with the Moon, which rules the seventh (spouse).

In Caroline's natal chart, the Moon rules her 6th house (accidents), and Saturn rules the twelfth house (loss). At the time of Stefano's accident, transiting Saturn was in her eleventh house conjoining her Venus and Mercury. Mercury rules the 8th (moolatrikona) house of death. The Sun, ruler of her seventh (spouse), is placed in the twelfth house (loss). Transiting Rahu conjoined her Sun, while transiting Ketu was in her sixth house of accidents, aspecting natal Saturn (ruler of the twelfth) and Rahu in the tenth house (by fifth house aspect). Transiting Rahu aspected both natal Ketu in the fourth and natal Jupiter in the eighth (by fifth and ninth house aspect). With Jupiter, the traditional karaka of husband, and Rahu, the karaka of separation, the idea of loss or separation from the spouse is a great possibility. Transiting Mars in her fourth conjoined natal Ketu (and naturally aspected natal Rahu), exactly aspected natal Saturn (ruler of twelfth house of loss, and first house of physical body) in the tenth house, and aspected natal Venus and Mercury (by eighth house aspect). In addition to Mercury ruling the moolatrikona eighth (as stated above), Venus is the karaka of love, and transiting Saturn often causes separation or death.

The transits for that time period indicate the likelihood of some loss, or even accident, but because transiting Rahu conjoined the ruler of the seventh, it is clearer that it may involve the spouse.

The next step is to turn the chart so that the seventh house of Leo becomes the new ascendant. Transiting Rahu conjoins the Sun, which is now the first house ruler placed in the sixth house (accidents), with transiting Ketu exactly conjoining Uranus, planet of sudden unexpected changes, in the twelfth house of loss. Additionally, transiting Mars exactly aspected natal Saturn, ruler of the sixth, and Saturn transited the fifth house (sporting events), conjoining Mercury and Venus, and aspecting natal Jupiter, which rules the eighth, by tenth house aspect.

One last note: transiting Moon often triggers an event that you can predict down to the day. Since Caroline was running a Moon Bhukti, the Moon was even more significant. On the day that Stefano died, the Moon transited the eighth house from the seventh, showing that death could

be triggered that day. From this assessment it was not a good day to be racing boats 150 miles per hour!

How to Predict Marriage or Relationship

Every astrologer is asked the question: when will I meet someone, fall in love, or marry. In my experience, the chart can time when you meet someone you truly love, and when you commit exclusively to that person. The actual wedding may not necessarily be in the picture as it can be stressful and anti-climactic—in fact, anything but loving and wonderful. When timing a meaningful relationship, we should take note of the dasa cycle, and the transits of Jupiter, the planet that grants opportunities. Auspicious times are as follows:

- Transiting Jupiter aspects the seventh house from the Lagna or Moon, or the ruler of the seventh house from the Lagna or Moon.
- Transiting Jupiter aspects Venus in a man's chart, or Jupiter in a woman's chart (Venus/Mars in Western culture)
- Dasa ruler should occupy, rule, or aspect the seventh house of the Rasi or navamsa chart.
- Transiting planet in mutual reception (parivartana yoga) with a planet connected to the seventh house by placement or rulership. (Example: transiting Venus is in the seventh house in Sagittarius and transiting Jupiter (ruler of the seventh) is in Libra. I actually had this at the time of my marriage.)

If there are three or more of these variables in a chart you can strongly predict a relationship at that time. When Princess Caroline married Stefano on December 29, 1983, there were four variables that pointed to marriage:

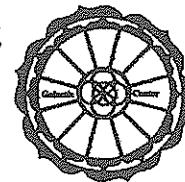
- Transiting Jupiter was placed at 1° Sagittarius in the eleventh house, thereby aspecting her seventh house by ninth house aspect
- Transiting Jupiter aspected the seventh house in Chandra Lagna
- Transiting Jupiter aspected Mars, ruler of the seventh house in Chandra Lagna
- Transiting Jupiter aspected Venus, karaka of love.

Bingo! 3 or more and it happens!

Pregnancy, or Birth of Children

The same rules apply when predicting pregnancy and childbirth. We use the fifth house, and Jupiter as the karaka of children. Pinpointing a fruitful time often applies to conception, rather than

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birth of a child. Since Jupiter is the karaka for children, its transits are most important. Auspicious times for pregnancy are as follows:

- Transiting Jupiter aspects the fifth house from the Lagna or Moon
- Transiting Jupiter aspects the ruler of the fifth house from the Lagna or Moon. (Chandra lagna is sometimes considered more important than the Rasi chart.)
- Transiting Jupiter aspects Jupiter, karaka of children
- Dasa lord rules, occupies, or aspects the fifth house
- Dasa lord occupies fifth house in Navamsa, or Septamsa Chart (seventh harmonic and the divisional chart indicating children).

The birth of Caroline's first child, son Andrea on June 6, 1984 fits the requirements as follows:

- Transiting Jupiter was 16° Sagittarius in the eleventh house and aspected the fifth house
- Transiting Jupiter conjoined Mercury (18° Sagittarius), the ruler of the fifth
- She was running Saturn mahadasa Mercury bhukti.

With these three hits you can confidently predict that Caroline would conceive at that time.

Ed. Note: (This article is adapted from Joni Patry's book *Eastern Astrology for Western Minds*.)

Princess Caroline's Vimshottari Dasa (according to Lahiri Ayanamsa):

- Rahu - January 23, 1957-May 22, 1963
- Jupiter- May 23, 1963- May 22, 1979
- Saturn - May 23, 1979- May 21, 1998
- Mercury - May 22, 1998- May 22, 2015
- Ketu - May 23, 2015-May 21, 2222
- Venus - May 22, 2222 - May 21, 2042
- Sun - May 22, 2042- May 21, 2048

- Moon - May 22, 2048 - May 21, 2058
- Mars - May 22, 2058- May 21, 2065

Birth Data

Princess Caroline of Monaco. January 23, 1957, 9:27 a.m. CET, Monte Carlo, Monaco, 43N45, 7E25. (Rodden rating "A." Quote from the news) The birth data and biographical information obtained from the AstroDataBank Software.

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JONI PATRY has been a practicing astrologer and teacher for over 25 years, and is certified to use both Vedic and Western techniques. Based in Dallas where she was born and raised, she is the director of the Galactic Center, where she teaches a comprehensive curriculum, maintains a busy consulting practice, and holds a variety of classes and workshops. Joni is a frequent speaker at national and regional conferences, and her articles and research have been published on her comprehensive Web site, and in numerous magazines and astrological journals. She holds Level II certification from ACVA, and serves as their conference coordinator and faculty member. Joni is on the board of CVA (Council of Vedic Astrology), and a member of NCGR, AFAN, and ISAR. She organized the first national conference on Vedic Astrology specifically for Westerners. Her new book, *Eastern Astrology for Western Minds*, strives to teach Western astrologers how to incorporate Eastern techniques into their practice. Joni can be reached at Galactic Center, 4601 W. Lovers Lane, Dallas TX 75209, 214-352-2488, joni@galacticcenter.org, www.galacticcenter.org.



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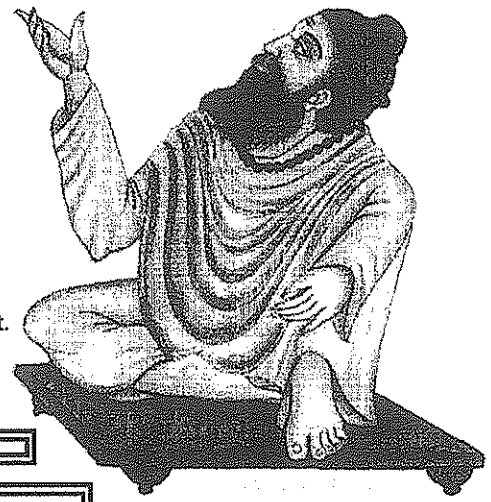


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Planetary Propitiation: How Remedial Measures Work

By Gary Gomes

Remedial Measures (known as *Upayes*) are an integral part of Vedic Astrology or Jyotish, so integral, in fact, that some experts say that there is more written on remedial measures than on chart interpretation techniques. These remedies are supposed to correct weaknesses and deficiencies in a chart and hence in our lives. To understand the significance of remedial measures, we begin with the concept of reincarnation.

From the perspective of Hindu spiritual belief, liberation (known as *Moksha*) is the highest goal in life. Simply stated, *Moksha* can be interpreted as the resolution of desires and merging with God. Basically, we reincarnate into this world because we have not yet gotten things quite correct; we still have lessons to learn, desires to overcome, and the planets act as agents of *karma*. Thus, our birth is the result of actions or efforts in past lives; pleasant results come from actions that we have mastered previously, unpleasant results are the manifestation of areas of our lives that we have not quite mastered.

The planets and their influence on our lives are examples, if you will, of either successful or poor test preparation. We are rewarded for answering

questions correctly, and penalized for not studying others enough. Our problems may even be caused by bad behavior in previous lifetimes, but this is certainly not the only reason we experience challenging periods or dilemmas. Many of us marvel at how well we have succeeded at a particularly challenging task, so difficult karmas can even be helpful to our progress as human beings, allowing us to overcome these challenges, and bring us closer to spirituality. We should always think of life's stumbling blocks as stepping-stones to great achievements and inner growth.

The idea of planetary propitiation is not unique to Vedic Astrology. There are Western, Chinese, Mayan, Aztec and Sumerian (to name just a few) systems of planetary worship, some of which are still in existence. (Western, Hebrew and Arabian astrological traditions all have special ways of worshipping planets, along with certain amulets, herbs, metals, and stones that are attuned to planetary energies.) Temples to Zeus, Apollo, Artemis, Aphrodite, and Ares are all part of ancient Greek worship, probably inherited from Babylonia and certainly passed along to the Romans. Systems and procedures to gain the support of the planets existed throughout the Middle

Ages. Because of the strong adherence to tradition, Indian Astrology developed a wide array of remedial measures that are still practiced today as a central part of the Hindu religious tradition, ranging from complicated, elaborate, and lengthy ceremonies to extremely simple but effective approaches.

Origins in Parasara's *Hora Sastra* and Other Texts

The primary reference text for most students of Hindu Astrology is the classical Jyotish treatise, *Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra*. Some scholars regard this text as a compilation of astrological techniques supposedly gathered by different astrologers of the Parasara school; others opine that it is indeed the authentic writings of Sage Parasara himself. The text is filled with techniques to alleviate suffering, bring about the birth of a child, remove poverty, and eliminate the effects of a variety of *curses* that have accumulated through previous births.

A great portion of *Hora Sastra* refers to planetary afflictions, some of which have already been corrected by virtue of their auspicious planetary positions in the horoscope. For example, the auspicious placement of naturally benefic Jupiter, Venus, or Mercury in the first (the most common correction), fourth, seventh, and tenth *kendra* (angular) house will nullify certain negative combinations in a chart that may otherwise cause poverty, ill health, or other types of planetary afflictions. The logic behind such nullification is relatively straightforward—the presence of beneficial planets in favorable positions indicates that if some negative activities have previously occurred, the individual has performed actions that protect him or her from the intent of malefic planets to inflict danger. In terms of minimizing damage, Venus and Jupiter are considered the strongest planets, with Parasara giving each highest placement in different sections of the text.

Many Indian texts identify the worship of certain deities through mantras, installation of statues, feeding priests, and a variety of charitable acts to help mitigate the negative combinations that occur in the chart. There are even prescribed reme-

dial measures for certain difficult planetary periods, such as the following:

“There will be physical distress if Jupiter be the lord of the second or seventh, or be in the second or seventh. The remedial measures to obtain relief from the above evil effects are the recitation of Shiva Sahasranam (the thousand names of Shiva, a standard prayer in India) and giving a cow and gold in charity.”¹

Different deities (like Durga, Vishnu, Lakshmi, and others) would be worshipped to minimize the negative effects of other planets.

There are about five chapters in Parasara's text that give specific remedies for birth chart afflictions, especially childlessness. (The fifth house represents children, and is a reflection of past life credit, so factors in a chart that would deny or limit children would naturally be considered a poor karmic outcome.) Granting the ability to conceive is discussed a great deal in Hindu texts, since the presence of a child is considered a spiritual blessing, with the potential of inviting additional souls in the world, and giving these souls a chance at liberation. (In traditional Hindu society, the presence of a male child is considered critical, not only for economic and cultural reasons, but because the male offspring performs a ceremony after the father's death, designed to allow the father a good afterlife.) Some recommendations (among many) for granting a child include: observe a fast on Monday, or give a cow and five gems to charity, accompanied by feeding Brahmins (Hindu Priests) according to one's means.

There are also specific idols that should be constructed and installed in appropriate locations in order to offset certain negative combinations in a birth chart. (The extent of these are too great to present even a representative sample of these procedures.) Some of these approaches are simple; some are extremely elaborate and time-consuming, and normally require the assistance of a priest trained in India, or someone conversant with these rituals and the Sanskrit language.

The rituals contained in Parasara's *Hora Sastra* are not the only prayers that can be offered to the deities or the planets. They are, however, quite spe-

cific, and have an image of purity to those of us who have encountered this book in the West. But even in the Vedas (the original scriptural texts of Hinduism) we find ourselves getting close to what we in the West would call "magic." The last of the four Vedic books, the *Atharva Veda*, is filled with practical magic ceremonies, and seems to share a great deal with Tantra, a relatively recent (13th century) system of worship, geared to a balance of male and female energies, and paying a great deal of attention to the energy of the universe.

Mantras to Remedy Afflictions

In James Braha's seminal book *Ancient Hindu Astrology for the Modern Western Astrologer* there are a variety of very powerful planetary mantras, as they are devotional mantras intended to evoke the love and care of the spiritual entity to which they are recited. Although they may be a bit complicated to our ears, these mantras for planetary worship are far less so than those practiced by Indian priests. Many individuals may be concerned about the pronunciation of these mantras, but they are, in reality, not as difficult as they seem. Some individuals concerned about the deleterious impact of speaking mantras out loud incorrectly can always repeat these mantras mentally. (*The bibliography includes website listings where you can go to hear their correct pronunciation.*) The following is a list of Tantric planetary mantras (easier to pronounce than the Puranic mantras)² for each planet along with the recommended number of repetitions:

The Sun: *Om Harang Hareeng Harong Sa Surya Ya Nama-Ha* (say 6,000 times)

The Moon: *Om Sharang Shareeng Sharong Sa Chandra Masay Nama-Ha* (say 11,000 times)

Mars: *Om Karan Kareen Karon Sa Bhooma Ya Nama-Ha* (say 10,000 times)

Mercury: *Om Baran Bareen Baron Sa Budha Ya Nama-Ha* (say 9,000 times)

Jupiter: *Om Garang Gareeng Garong Sa Guru Ah-Ya Nama-Ha* (say 19,000 times)

Venus: *Om Darang Dareeng Darong Sa Shukra-Ya Nama-Ha* (say 16,000 times)

Saturn: *Om Pram Preem Proum Sa Shani-Ya Nama-Ha* (say 23,000 times)

Rahu: *Om Baran Bareen Baron Sa Rahu Vay Nama-Ha* (say 18,000 times)

Ketu: *Om Taran Tareen Taron Sa Ketu Vay Nama-Ha* (say 17,000 times)

The commencement of the Puranic or Tantric mantras should be started during the waxing phase of the Moon (between the New Moon and Full Moon), and on the day of the week ruled by the planet in question: Sunday-Sun, Monday-Moon, Tuesday-Mars, Wednesday-Mercury, Thursday-Jupiter, Friday-Venus, Saturday-Saturn. For Rahu and Ketu, the North and South Lunar Nodes, use the day ruled by the lord of the sign in which Rahu or Ketu is placed. If Rahu is placed in Aries, the mantras for Rahu should be started on a Tuesday, the day of Mars, and if Ketu is in Libra, the mantra for Ketu would be started on Friday, the day of Venus. There are also accompanying yantras and kavachas (visual images and planetary talismans) that have number squares associated with the planets and, in the case of yantras, show anthropomorphic images of the planets. These can be worshipped with the mantras shown above and kept on an altar at home, or carried around so that you know where they are at all times.

Mantras, yantras, and the Vedic rituals indicated in Parasara are all said to be gifts that the creator God Brahma gave the planets, for the planets were granted the power to do good for those who worshipped them. In some ways, all remedial measures are ways of attuning ourselves to the energy of the planets and to the pattern of the greater universe. It is also important to note that these rituals are not easy; they require a great deal of sustained effort for the fruits of these labors to be seen. Why? Because the karmas that we encounter in the birth chart are, in fact, the accumulation of many lifetimes. It would be a bit disingenuous to think that patterns strong enough to cause a life pattern could be nullified with little effort.

It is also worth noting that the planets, when propitiated, will not necessarily give any effects outside of their basic nature. One should not expect

Saturn mantras to bring easy prosperity, but they will bring opportunities for work and exposure that can lead to financial gains. **This is an important qualification when analyzing remedial measures.** Mars, for instance, acts suddenly and quickly in a Vedic chart; it may bring about the significations of the houses it rules, but it will do these things abruptly and without much warning. If you have Taurus rising, for example, Mars rules the seventh house (Scorpio) of relationships, and the twelfth house (Aries) of financial expenses connected with property, and these areas will be emphasized with the propitiation of Mars.

Inexpensive/Folk Remedies

In many parts of India, people are too poor to afford extensive rituals or gemstones (see below), yet they need help from nature in balancing their charts to take away troubles. For this type of activity, there have been a variety of ingenious techniques in dealing with planetary afflictions. One technique for dealing with malefic Saturn transits has the family placing a horseshoe over the threshold of the front door. Another method involves putting five pounds of black dahl (lentil beans—also called Black Urad) with black cloth, iron nails, mustard seed oil, and mantras to Saturn in a large bag, mixing these up and placing these in a river. What this amounts to is worshipping the planet by sacrificing elements that the planet rules, or that the planetary deity likes. (This form of astrology views the planets as active intelligences that have consciousness.)

Similar rituals exist for other planets. These can be done by anyone, but again, the rituals should be done on the day of the week that the planet rules, and when the Moon is in an appropriate position for rituals. (*This is Muhurta or Electional Astrology.*) I also know individuals who have, if their charts call for more than one marriage, either married a rock for the first marriage, or held two different marriages on the same day. I view it as an ingenious solution to a difficult karmic pattern, and one that seems to work.

A variety of truly inexpensive rituals can be found in a classical text called *Lal Kitab*. The book is an

Urdu (North Indian) Text that contains simple and effective do-it-yourself rituals. The following are some general techniques demonstrated in *Lal Kitab*:

For Sun:

- Fast on Sundays
- Recite or listen to *Harivamsha Purana* (another sacred book from India)
- Give wheat, jaggery (a food mixture common in India), or copper to charity
- Maintain good moral character
- Wear ruby or, in place of ruby, copper (this is especially useful for poorer individuals)
- Throw copper coins into flowing water
- Keep main entrance of the house in the east
- Keep away from black marketing and black marketers
- Serve government officials
- Do NOT give articles pertaining to the Sun if the natal Sun is exalted (in the sign Aries)

For Moon:

- Fast on Monday
- Worship Lord Shiva or go on a pilgrimage to Shiva or Krishna Temples
- Milk, rice, or silver to be given as alms (as religious offerings)
- Wear a white milky pearl, or silver
- Bless the mother or any ancestral female relative
- Place silver nails in the feet of the bed (nail under the bed posts)
- Drop silver or rice in the crematorium. These can be offered to the graves of one's ancestors.
- Take a bath in Ganges or running water
- Give things pertaining to the Moon to charity when it is debilitated (in Scorpio), but not when it is exalted (Taurus)

For Mars:

- Fast on Tuesdays
- Worship Lord Hanuman
- Throw masoor (red dahl) into water
- Work in the service of the brother
- Sleep on deer skin
- Use pure silver

For Mercury:

- Fast on Wednesdays
- Give green things in alms or drop these in running water
- Drop copper coin with a hole running water
- Give bangles and clothes of green color to eunuchs (*for the modern reader, this would indicate people who practice celibacy, have low sex drives, or are even rigid*)
- If natal Mercury is in debility (in Pisces), give away in alms the things of Mercury, but never when natal Mercury is in exaltation (in Virgo)
- Help daughter, sister, father's sister, and wife's sister as much as possible

For Jupiter:

- Fast on Thursdays;
- Worship Lord Hari (Vishnu) or water a tree
- Wear topaz or tie a yellow thread around the right arm
- Serve a Brahmin, family priest, or a Sadhu (spiritual seeker or monk)
- Recite the Garuda Purana (a sacred text from India)
- Plant yellow flower plants
- If Jupiter is debilitated (in Capricorn), donate commodities belonging to Jupiter (yellow sapphire, cows, yellow clothing, teaching) to charity

For Venus:

- Fast on Fridays
- Wear diamond
- Perfume clothes using cream and face powder
- Wear clothes that are clean and ironed
- Never wear worn out or burnt clothes

For Saturn:

- Fast on Saturdays
- Give wine to Bhairon (Bairava, the awful form of Lord Shiva) in the Bhairon temple (these temples are currently only in India; if someone wishes to do this, consult with a Shaivite (Shiva) priest)
- Milk for the serpents (give someone's iguana or pet snake some milk)
- Distribute oil and wine free of charge

- Give a loaf of bread with mustard oil to dogs and crows

For Rahu:

- Obtain items containing silver when mental peace is disturbed
- Give red colored grains to cleaners or sweepers, or those who perform that work may be helped in other ways
- Drop barley or wheat equal to the weight of the sick person in running water
- Barley should be kept under the bed by the bedpost at night and be distributed in the morning to the poor
- To solve problems of business or trade with the government, drop charcoal equal to the weight of the native in running water
- Worship Saraswati and Durga
- Never accept electrical items, steel vessels, or blue clothes
- Wear black onyx
- Live in a joint family
- Never use tobacco

For Ketu:

- Don't reveal secrets or bemoan ill luck to anyone because then the ill effects will be multiplied.³
- When progeny is affected by a badly placed Ketu, give a blanket to a temple
- Give lime and bananas to charity
- Feed a white and black pet dog in the house, or such a dog, daily
- Drop black and white items in water

Contemporary Approaches to Remediation

The remedies in *Lal Kitab* are useful for setting guidelines for actions that we can take in real life that do not involve rituals or priests. For instance, one can seek favor from the Sun by helping those in authority; favor from the Moon can be derived from helping one's mother or women in crisis; Mars can be approached by helping brothers or co-workers; Mercury can be propitiated by studying or helping students; Jupiter encourages individuals to help priests or religious people (these

need not necessarily be Hindu); Venus' aid can be sought by helping teenage girls and individuals who sacrifice for others; Saturn can be approached by helping the needy, homeless, or elderly; Rahu's influence can be affected by helping non-conformists or those who seek to disrupt the established order; and Ketu can be propitiated by practicing silence or helping the handicapped.

Gemstones

Gemstones are the most commonly prescribed remedial measures in Vedic Astrology, and they do have great utility and power. They are shown in the *Lal Kitab* passages above, but the basis of the recommendation of stones comes from their planetary rulership in *Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra* as follows:

Sun rules Ruby, Moon rules Pearl, Mars rules Coral, Mercury rules Emerald, Jupiter rules Yellow Topaz (or Yellow Sapphire), Venus rules Diamond, Saturn rules Blue Sapphire, Rahu rules Gomed (or Hessonite Garnet), and Ketu rules Cat's Eye. These ownerships were interpreted in later texts to mean that these stones could be, and are, used to gain the favor of the planets, as are their substitute stones, typically given as: Red Garnet for the Sun; Moonstone for the Moon, Red Jasper for Mars, Peridot or Jade for Mercury, Citrine for Jupiter; White Sapphire or Zircon for Venus, Amethyst or Lapis Lazulli for Saturn, Onyx for Rahu, and Tiger Eye for Ketu.

There are many other substitute stones that can be used to gain the support of the planets, and there are many combinations of precious stones that can be set in bangles and worn on the arm to avert planetary problems. The most commonly used method of prescribing stones, however, is to shore up weak planets in the birth chart, increase the energy of positive planets, or wear a stone for the current major planetary period that the individual is experiencing, and these are usually set in rings or pendants. In prescribing gemstones, however, caution must be exercised in that stones for naturally malefic planets have difficult effects associated with them. Additionally, it is very easy to activate any the planet's negative qualities, even when prescribing gems for natural benefics

if they are inauspiciously placed in the natal chart.

Most gems can be worn on the ring finger (the stone must touch the skin—so the back of the ring or pendant should be open), but some astrologers recommend special conditions for wearing the stones, such as chanting the Tantric or Puranic Mantras over the gems, and wearing stones on certain fingers—Jupiter stones on the index finger, Saturn stones on the middle finger, stones for the Sun, Mars and Moon on the ring finger, and stones for Venus and Mercury on the little finger. Stones for Rahu and Ketu would be placed on the finger of the planet that rules the sign in which Rahu or Ketu is placed. The timing of the purchase, setting, and wearing of the stone are all important and should be done on a day, date, and time favorable to the planet being honored. Many times I have seen gemstones produce both extremely positive effects, either in terms of improving some part of life or in terms of alleviating stress. I have also had clients who wore gems that were not good for them, and who experienced relief when removing the gemstone.

Muhurta, or Electional Astrology

One critical point in remediation that, due to space limitations, has been barely touched upon is Muhurta, or electing a favorable time (month, week, day, and hour) to commence an activity, and ensure its success. Known as Electional Astrology, Muhurta is an extraordinarily powerful remedial measure in itself, and helps us work with the favorable energy of the universe to overcome deficiencies in our birth charts. Selecting an appropriate time to commence the remedial measure is also important, especially since the time during which one can commence an activity changes every 24 minutes—the unit of time in India called Ghati.

Although the subject of remedial measures is enormous, I hope that I provided a glimpse into this fascinating element of Vedic astrology to make you want to explore more. In 90 percent of

the cases shown in this article, there is a common and very important theme: **one is not merely a slave to past Karma**. A subtext is that our

actions are, to a very large extent, under our control, but it is done with divine cooperation and assistance, so it corrects our action and brings us closer to the spiritual realm.

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Ammachi's Puja sites

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Endnotes

¹Parasara Muni, (Translators: R. Santhanam and G.S. Kapoor), *Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra*, New Delhi: Ranjam Publications, 1989, p. 715.

² The Puranas, Sanskrit verse texts believed to date from about 4th century BC-1000 AD, were intended to give the general population exposure to the lessons of the divine through concrete examples, especially through stories of the various deities. In India, Puranic mantras are devotional in nature and consist of praise to the Gods. They are generally considered incapable of harming anyone. Tantric mantras, on the other hand, are small powerhouse mantras, which contain the essence of the deity, and come from the Shiva-Shakti tradition. These are usually considered a bit more potent but also more unpredictable (and somewhat harsher) in their effects.

³ This is especially true from my experience. Since Ketu amplifies effects, the recitation of woes to anyone makes Ketu more critical, and the individual becomes more isolated and withdrawn. One of the most effective spiritual practices for Ketu is a vow of silence!

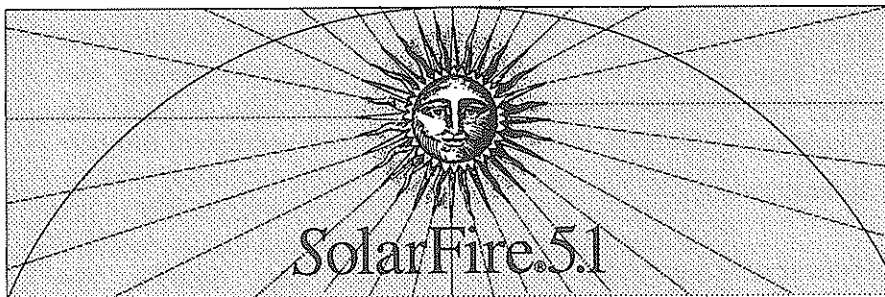
GARY GOMES (Gangadhara Girish/Swami Kampananda) is a Hindu astrologer (Jyotishi) based out of Massachusetts. He is Vice President of the Council of Vedic Astrology, and on the faculty of ACVA's online college. Gary holds degrees in Sociology and Business Administration from the U. of Massachusetts, and is an ordained Swami of the Temple of Kriya Yoga. He has studied with several prominent Indian and American astrologers, has an international clientele and has been on the faculty of numerous international conferences. His articles and book reviews have appeared in *Mountain Astrologer*, *The International Astrologer*, *Express Star Teller* (India), *Indigo* (S. Africa), *ACVA Journal*, *NCGR memberletter*, and *Gochara* (UK). Gary is Assistant Professor of Jyotisha at the Hindu University of America and a Reiki Master. He can be reached for personal, business and marriage consultations at: Crystal Expectations, 854 Brock Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02744, 508-990-7898, crystalx@verizon.net.

Nodes Continued from Page 17

spiritual consciousness of Ketu holds it as the pearl of enlightened wisdom. Does it not all depend on the wine your consciousness chooses to drink?

DENNIS FLAHERTY, one of the few Westerners practiced and certified in Vedic and Western astrology, is an internationally known astrologer with over 20 years consulting and teaching experience. Certified through Professional Astrologers Inc. (PAI) as a Western astrologer, he then received the Jyotish Kovid and Jyotish Vahcaspata from the late B.V. Raman of the Indian Council of Astrological Sciences. Dennis served four terms as President of the Washington State Astrological Association, and currently serves on AFAN's

Steering Committee as Education Chair. He is President of CVA (Council of Vedic Astrology), a founding board member of ACVA (American College of Vedic Astrology), and director of the NW Institute of Vedic Sciences in greater Seattle where he consults and teaches an astrology curriculum, having graduated over 20 students from ACVA. Dennis writes *The Mountain Astrologer's* "Jyotish Currents" column, alternating with Ken Johnson, and his Vedic Astrology audio-correspondence course has been widely distributed in several countries. Dennis can be contacted at: Northwest Institute of Vedic Sciences, 611 Main Street, Suite C, Edmonds WA 98020, 425-778-6487, vedicsciences@vedicsciences.com; www.vedicsciences.com.



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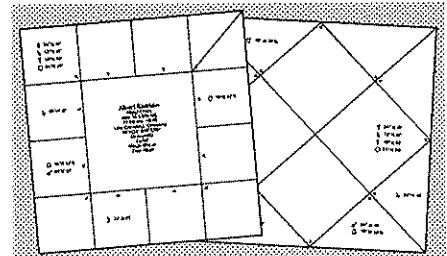
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Nakshatras Continued from Page 26

² David Frawley, *The Rig Veda and the History of India*, Dehli: Aditya Prakashan, 2001, p. 7. Frawley believes the main Vedic period ended by 2500 BCE, a substantially earlier date than is commonly accepted. John Keay gives the time span of 1700-900 BCE to the Vedic culture, however this is surely to change with future archeological work.

³ B.N. Narahari Achar, "Searching for Nakshatra in the Rgveda," (*Electronic Journal of Vedic Studies*).

⁴ John North, *The Norton History of Astronomy and Cosmology*, New York: Norton & Co., 1995, p. 39.

⁵ Asko Parpola, *Deciphering the Indus Script*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994, p. 204.

⁶ For further information on choosing an auspicious lunar nakshatra, see *The Nakshatras*, by Dennis Harness, pp. 113-116.

⁷ For excellent overview of kuta point system for compatibility, see *Light on Relationships*, by Hart DeFouw and Robert Svoboda, and *The Best Bet: Forming the Right Relationship*, by Jaya K. Sekhar.

⁸ Dennis M. Harness, *The Nakshatras*, Introduction by David Frawley.

⁹ According to Frawley, the shakti is "the power of the devata or the deities ruling the lunar mansion."

Mitchell Continued from Page 33

² Stacy Luftig, *The Joni Mitchell Companion*, p. 52

³ Stacy Luftig, *The Joni Mitchell Companion*, p. 204

⁴ Stacy Luftig, *The Joni Mitchell Companion*, p. 51

⁵ Stacy Luftig, *The Joni Mitchell Companion*, pp. 194-5

⁶ Stacy Luftig, *The Joni Mitchell Companion*, p. 40

LIZ HOULE, B.A., Level III NCGR, is a professional astrologer and web developer in New York City. She has studied astrology for over a decade, and has taken classes with some of the top astrologers

DENNIS M. HARNESS, Ph.D, is Curriculum Dean at Kepler College and holds a doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies. A professional astrologer, he has studied both Eastern and Western techniques for more than 20 years. Dennis enjoys tutoring students for the ACVA certification program. He also teaches workshops on Vedic Astrology and Transpersonal Psychology throughout the U.S. Dr. Harness was the Executive Vice President of the American Council of Vedic Astrology, and is presently the President of the American College of Vedic Astrology. He is the author of *The Nakshatras: The Lunar Mansions of Vedic Astrology* (Lotus Press) and was awarded the title of Jyotish Kovid and Jyotish Vachaspati by the Indian Council of Astrological Sciences. Dennis can be reached at PO Box 2149, Sedona, AZ 86339, 928-282-6595, dmharness@aol.com, www.acvaonline.com, www.vedicastrology.org.

MAIRE M. MASCO is a student and administrator at Kepler College. She is a project manager and instructor for the American College of Vedic Astrology. Her articles have been published internationally, and she has promoted astrology and astrological education on five continents. Maire is a professional Vedic astrologer, and can be reached at 2632 Harvard Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98102, 206-568-8436, maire@nwrain.com, or mairemm@comcast.net.

ogers in the U.S. including Carol Jepson for Western Astrology and Ronnie Dreyer for Vedic Astrology. Liz does her best to attend as many NCGR, UAC, and ACVA conferences as possible. She feels that being an astrologer is equivalent to being an eternal student of astrology. Liz has published Eastern and Western astrology articles (several have been published in NCGR's *memberletter*), some of which are available on her website—www.geocities.com/astrologernyc. She is available for astrological consultations, and to create and develop websites. Liz can be reached at 201-438-4491, jamayla@aol.com.

The Horary of Absent Persons

By Anthony Louis

One of the remarkable features of horary astrology is its ability to inform astrologers about the status of absent persons. This article briefly reviews the rules that have been handed down for questions about missing persons and illustrates these rules with several cases.

When someone has been missing for any length of time, the most pressing concern is whether that person is alive or dead. Our starting point is a passage from pages 151-152 of William Lilly's classic 1647 text, *Christian Astrology*:

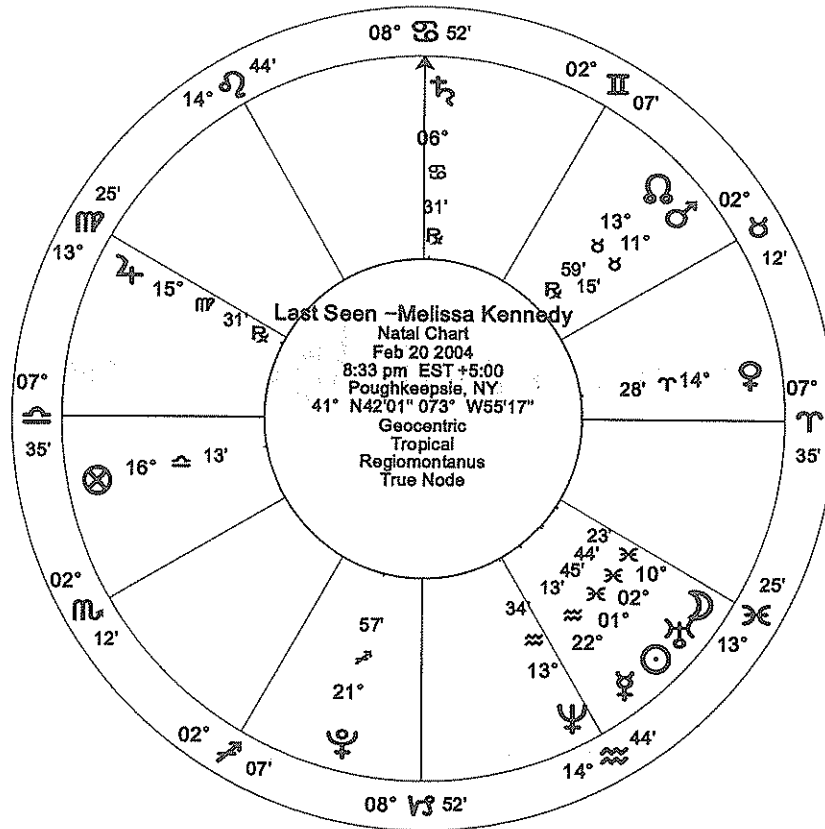
If a Question be demanded of one absent in a general way and the *querent* hath no relation¹ to the party, then the 1st House, the Lord of that House and the Moon shall signify the absent party; the Lord of the 8th House or Planet posited either in the House or within five degrees of the Cusp of the 8th House shall show his death or its quality.

In judging the Question, see first whether the Lord of the Ascendant, the Moon and Lord of the 8th House or Planet in the 8th House be corporally joined together; or that the Moon, Lord of the Ascendant and Lord of the 8th are in opposition² either in the 8th and 2nd,

or 12th and 6th, for these are arguments the party is deceased, or sick, and very near death.

See also if there be any translation of the light of the Lord of the Ascendant unto the Lord of the 8th, especially in degrees deep, lame or deficient; or on the contrary, that there be any translation or carrying the virtue or influence of the Lord of the 8th unto the Lord of the Ascendant; or if the Lord of the 8th be posited in the Ascendant, or if the Lord of the Ascendant and the Moon be placed in the 4th House, these are testimonies the party absent is dead.

If the Lord of the Ascendant be separated from a bad Aspect of the Lord of the 6th, you may say the absent hath been lately sick; if from the Lord of the 8th, he hath been in danger of death, but is not dead; if from the Lord of the 12th, he hath been lately much troubled in mind, in fear of imprisonment, arrest, etc.; if from the Lord of the 2nd, he hath been hard put to it for money, or in distress for want; if from the Lord of the 7th, in some quarrel or contention; if from the Lord of



the 9th or 3rd, he hath been crossed in his journey (if he was at Sea by contrary winds, or Pirates), if at Land by Thieves, bad Ways, etc., and so of the rest.

In judging this question, I have ever found, that if the Lord of the Ascendant be in the 9th, 10th, or 11th (though many reports went the absent was dead) yet I found him to live.³ Now if you find the absent alive, and you would know, when happily you may hear of him; see in your *Ephemerides* when the Lord of the 11th and Lord of the Ascendant come to a trine or sextile Aspect, and about that time, if not that day, news will be had of him; or if the Moon apply to a sextile or trine of the Lord of the Ascendant, see how many degrees she wants of the Aspect, and give days, weeks or months, viz. For every degree in moveable [cardinal] Signs a day, in common [mutable] Signs weeks, in fixed Signs months.

If a report of a missing person appears in the news, there is often mention of a time that the person was last seen or heard from. It is wise to check several sources to verify the correct time. The chart is then cast for the time and place that the absent person was last seen or heard from. The astrologer proceeds to analyze this event chart, using horary principles. The following eight cases were taken from well-documented sources.

Case 1: College Coed Disappears for Two Weeks

Melissa Kennedy, a 21-year-old Bard College senior, was reported missing on Friday, February 20, 2004. The studio arts major was last seen boarding a Metro North train at 8:33 p.m. in Poughkeepsie, New York.⁴ Her family described her as outgoing and headstrong. She turned up safe 15 days later, having called the Southampton Town Police at 11:57 p.m. on Saturday, March 6, 2004 to say she had seen a missing person report about her. At the time of this

writing there were no further reports about her whereabouts.

I have generally followed Lilly's method of using Regiomontanus houses, traditional rulers, and a fixed formula for the Part of Fortune (ASC + Moon – Sun).⁵ Libra (a sign associated with the arts) rules the Ascendant, making Venus the ruler of the missing studio arts student; and, as Lilly advises, the Moon is her co-ruler. Venus in Aries fits the description of her as outgoing and headstrong. Venus in the seventh house suggests the possibility of some "quarrel or contention" as well as visiting a boyfriend or significant other. Venus separates from a square to Saturn, which rules the fourth and fifth houses and is posited on the Midheaven. There could have been distress at home due to family, children, love affairs and career matters.

Her co-ruler the Moon, in Pisces and conjunction the sixth cusp, is opposition Jupiter, which lies in Virgo and conjoins the twelfth cusp. The sixth and twelfth house involvement suggest that psychological distress played a role in her disappearance. A report on *NYNewsday.com* stated: "NYPD sources said it appeared Melissa Kennedy suffered from psychological problems that might have prompted her to run away."⁶

We can be reasonably confident that she is still alive. None of Lilly's criteria for death appear in this chart. The Part of Fortune rises in the first house—generally a good omen. Venus rules both the first and eighth houses and makes no aspect to Mars in the eighth. Her co-ruler, the Moon, makes no aspect to eighth ruler Venus and forms a harmonious sextile to Mars in the eighth.

As Lilly would have predicted, at the time Kennedy resurfaced, transiting Venus (ruler of the Ascendant in the missing student chart) at 1 Taurus 36 was closely applying to sextile the position of the Sun (ruler of the eleventh) at 1 Pisces 45 in the disappearance chart.

Case 2: Sarasota Girl's Kidnapping

An 11-year-old Florida sixth-grader, Carlie Brucia, disappeared on Sunday, February 1, 2004 while walking home after a slumber party. About 6:20 p.m., Joseph P. Smith, a tattooed man in a

work shirt, approached her, took her by the arm, and abducted her. She was found murdered early Friday, February 6, 2004 in the parking lot of a Sarasota church, just miles from where she was kidnapped. Police were able to catch the killer because the deed was recorded on a carwash surveillance camera.⁷

Leo (a sign associated with children) rises, making the Sun the ruler of the little girl. The Moon is her co-ruler. Though Lilly was unaware of the modern planets, it is striking that the Sun (ruling the missing child) is closely applying to a conjunction with Neptune, modern ruler of the Pisces eighth house of death. In Lilly's terms, the "Lord of the Ascendant" and the modern "Lord of the 8th" are "corporally joined," an indicator that the missing person is dead.

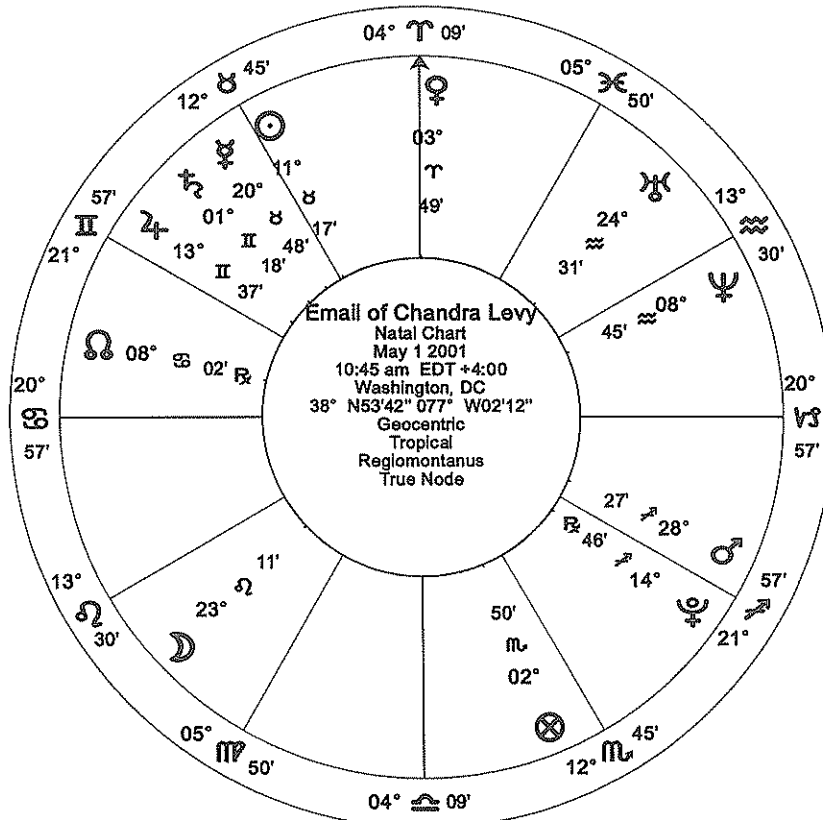
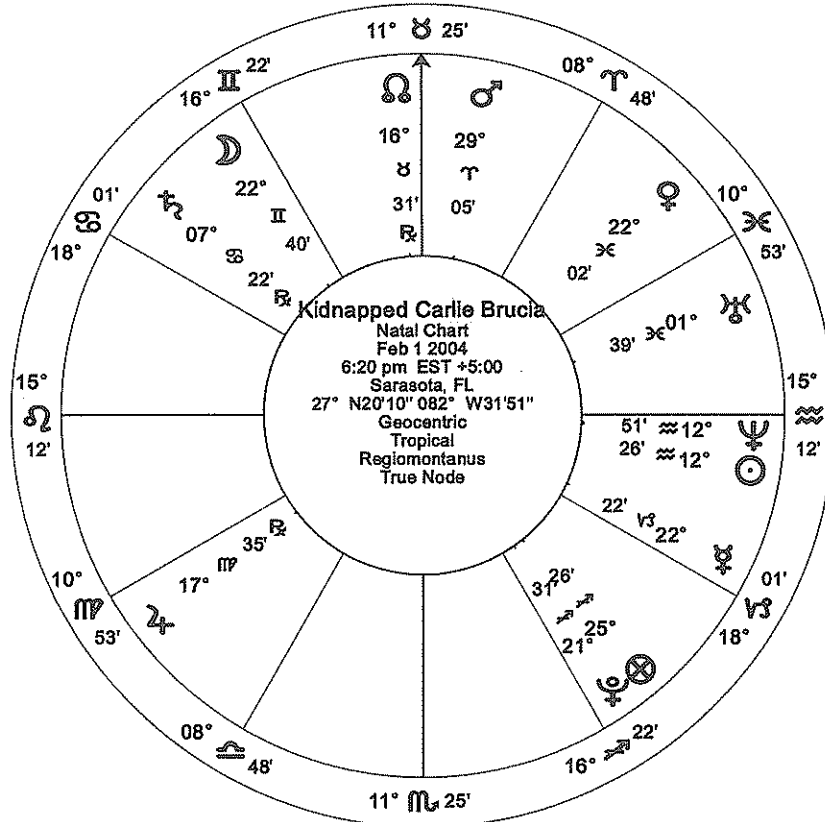
The Ascendant-ruler Sun opposes the Ascendant from the sixth house. Jupiter, the traditional ruler of the Pisces eighth house, is mutually applying to a quincunx with the Sun (ruler of the girl). Lilly used only the major aspects of Ptolemy and did not give much weight to the quincunx. Modern astrologers, however, view the quincunx as related to sixth and eighth house issues.

The Moon (co-ruler of the girl) forms a partile square with Venus in Pisces in the eighth, another indicator that the child may be dead (though Lilly mentions only the conjunction and the opposition). The body was found when the Full Moon of February 6 perfected across the Ascendant-Descendant axis of the disappearance chart. At the time of her discovery, the quincunx between the Sun and Jupiter became exact.

Case 3: Chandra Levy

The Justice Department's Bureau of Prisons intern Chandra Levy disappeared from her Washington, DC apartment on May 1, 2001. The subsequent investigation led to the downfall of Congressman Gary Condit. She sent her last email on May 1, 2001 at 10:45 a.m. in Washington, DC, and then disappeared without a trace. Her body was found a year later, on May 22, 2002 at 9:30 a.m., by a man walking his dog on a steep hill in Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC.⁸

Cancer rises, making the Moon the significator of



the missing woman. The Aquarius eighth cusp has Saturn as its traditional ruler and Uranus as its modern ruler. Uranus not only rules the eighth but also occupies the eighth house. The Moon (Chandra's ruler) is rapidly approaching an opposition to Uranus (ruler of the eighth house of death). The Moon at 23 Leo 11 also applies (with an eight-degree orb) to square Saturn (traditional ruler of the eighth house) at 1 Gemini 18. According to Lilly, the chart suggests that she is dead.

In *Christian Astrology*, Lilly connects the sign Leo with places "where wild Beasts frequent, Woods, Forests, Desert places, steep rocky places, inaccessible places, Kings Palaces, Castles, Forts, Parks, in houses where fire is kept, near a Chimney." The Moon (Chandra) in Leo suggests that she may be found outdoors in a park or in a steep rocky place. The Moon opposition Uranus and then square Saturn in Gemini suggests a sudden accident (Uranus), perhaps a fall against a rock or hard surface (Saturn) while running or jogging (Gemini).

Case 4: A Missing College Student

This is a tragic case that was in the local news in New England and to which I had a personal connection. In May 2003 my son's friend Jeff was home from college, which he attended in Maine. Jeff asked if I could do a chart to locate his college friend Ryan, a 21-year-old student⁹ who had disappeared on Saturday night, April 26, 2003, in Maine. Ryan was last seen leaving a college fraternity party in Biddeford, Maine, near the coastline. He reportedly drank a lot of alcohol at the party and wandered off on foot, never to be seen again. News reports stated that Ryan was last seen at 11:00 p.m. Jeff was worried because it was a very rainy and windy night, and Ryan appeared to be intoxicated.

Sagittarius (a sign associated with universities) rises, making Jupiter the significator of Ryan, the missing college student. The Moon, as usual, is Ryan's co-ruler. Because Pluto is in the first house and conjunction the Ascendant, it also becomes a significator of the missing student. Jupiter (Ryan's primary significator) occupies the eighth

house of death. The rulers of the eighth house are the Moon (Cancer eighth cusp) and the Sun (Leo intercepted in the eighth). The Sun (eighth ruler) closely applies to square Jupiter (the student), an indicator that Ryan is probably dead. The Moon (Ryan's co-ruler and eighth ruler) mutually applies to square Pluto (Ryan's co-ruler, a modern signifier of death, and the modern ruler of the twelfth house of undoing and intoxication). The Moon (Ryan's co-ruler) also applies to square Saturn, the traditional planet of death. Mars, traditional ruler of the Scorpio twelfth house, applies to an opposition to Jupiter (Ryan) in the eighth house of death. Mars also rules the fourth house of endings.

A modern technique, unknown to Lilly, is Charles Emerson's Death Point (Mars + Saturn - MC).¹⁰ I have found that Emerson's Death Point frequently signifies the manner of death through its conjunction or opposition to a key point or planet

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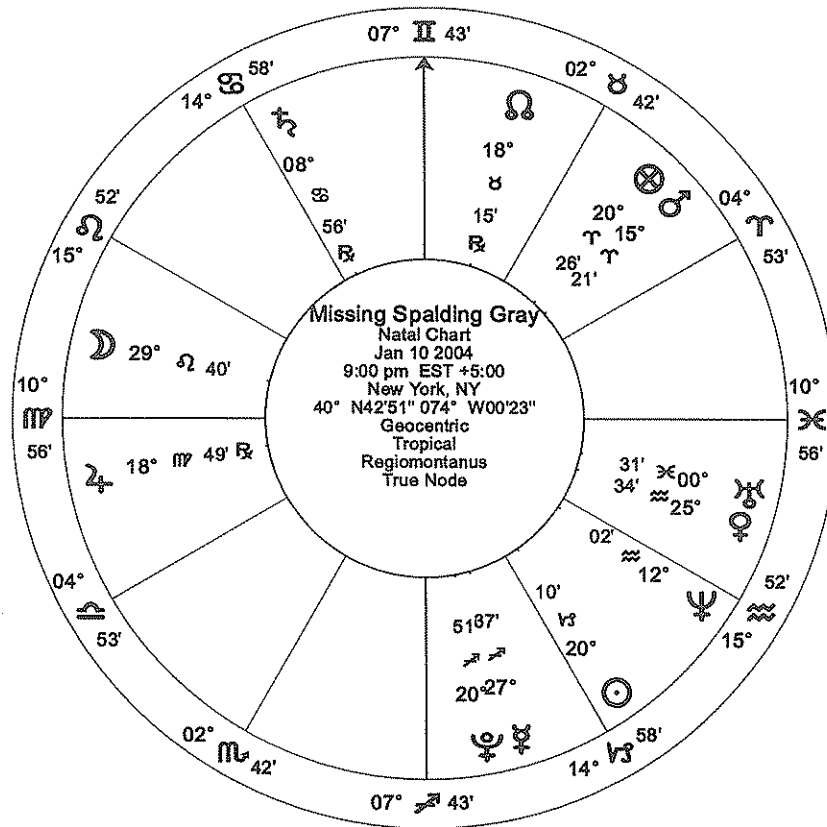
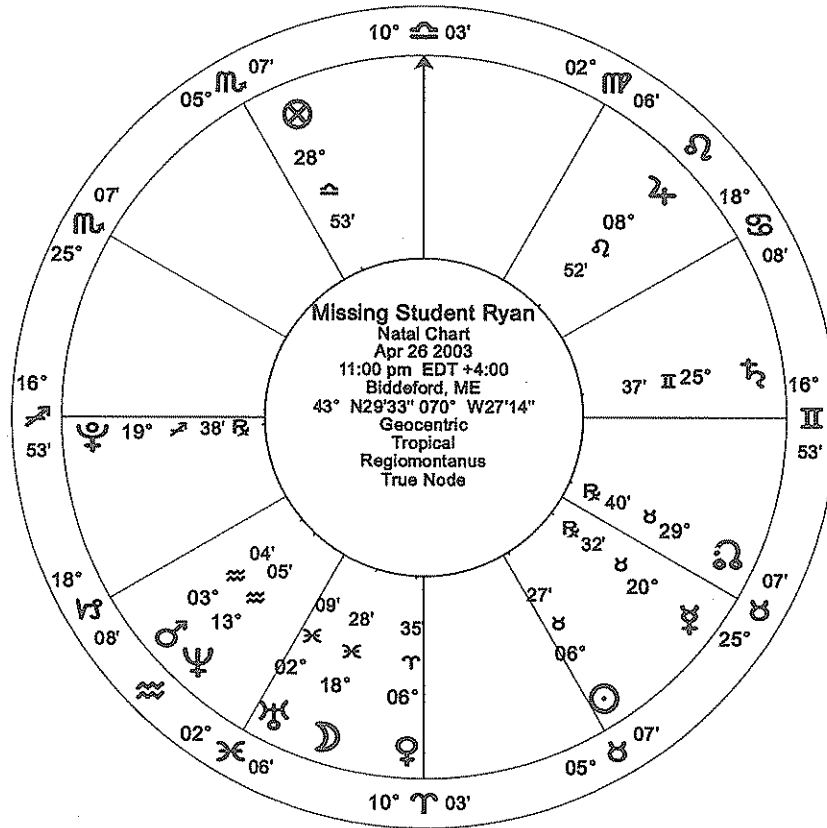
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in the chart of a missing person later discovered to have died. In Ryan's chart the Death Point calculates to 2 Pisces 36, very closely conjunction Uranus as well as the cusp of the third house, suggesting death related to a sudden accident (Uranus) while running or walking (third house) near the sea or in a dreamlike state (Pisces). The Moon (Ryan's co-ruler) is in the third house in Pisces and at the same time is square Saturn and Pluto (natural signifiers of death), suggesting a similar outcome.

I told Jeff in May 2003 that the chart suggested his friend Ryan had died, probably from an accident on the beach or from falling asleep due to alcohol intoxication and being washed out to sea (strong Pisces influence). On Saturday, June 28, 2003, Ryan's body was found. It had washed up on a small island near the mouth of the Saco River in Maine. At the time of the discovery of the remains, transiting Sun (exalted in Aries and Almuten with Mars of the fourth house of endings) was exactly sextile its position in the disappearance chart.

Case 5: Spalding Gray

According to CNN, the actor/writer Spalding Gray¹¹ "was last heard from at 9:00 p.m. Saturday [January 10, 2004] when he called his Sag Harbor home on Long Island and spoke with his six-year-old son, saying, "I'll see you soon."¹² The call was made from Manhattan on January 10, 2004. Gray was known to have been depressed for some time, especially after a 2001 car accident in which he was severely injured. He had made suicide attempts prior to his disappearance and said he wanted an ocean wave to sweep him away. In October 2003, he jumped off the Sag Harbor-North Haven Bridge, but was rescued. In September 2003, he left a message that he was planning to commit suicide by jumping off the Staten Island Ferry. A worker reportedly had seen Gray on the Staten Island Ferry on the night before he disappeared. On the afternoon of March 7, 2004, Gray's body was found in the East River off Brooklyn.¹³

With Virgo rising, Mercury (a natural ruler of writers) becomes Gray's primary significator. The Moon is his co-ruler as is Jupiter in the first house in Virgo. Mercury (Gray's primary ruler) is in the

fourth house of final endings and separates from a conjunction with Pluto (a modern natural signifier of death). Jupiter rules the fourth of final endings and is posited in the first, which rules the writer. There is thus a mutual exchange of rulers; the ruler of the first (the missing person) is in the fourth (final ending) and the ruler of the fourth is in the first.

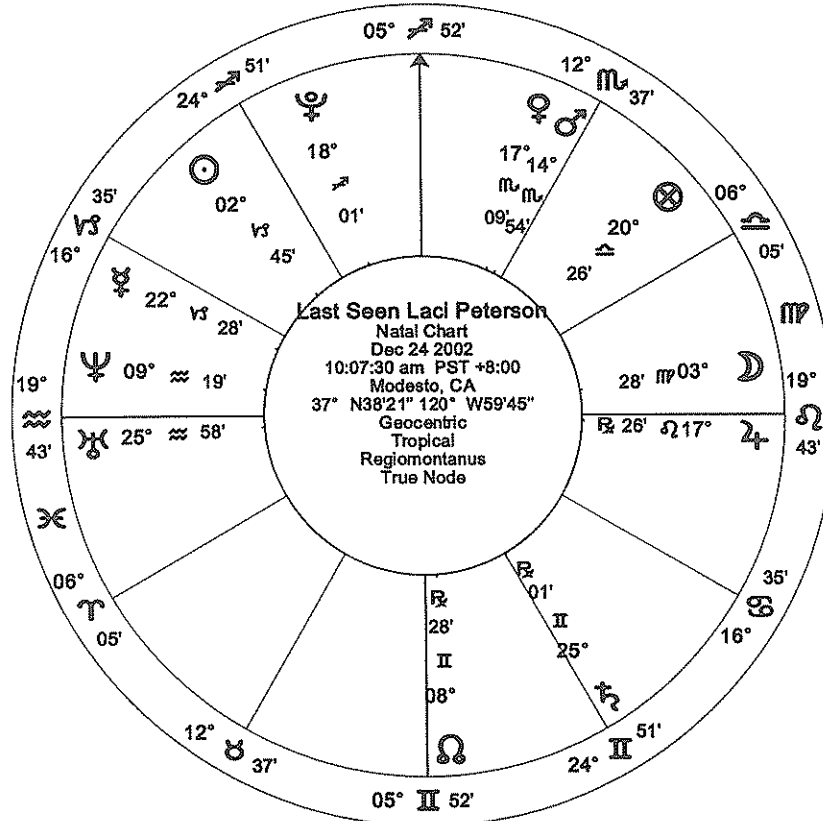
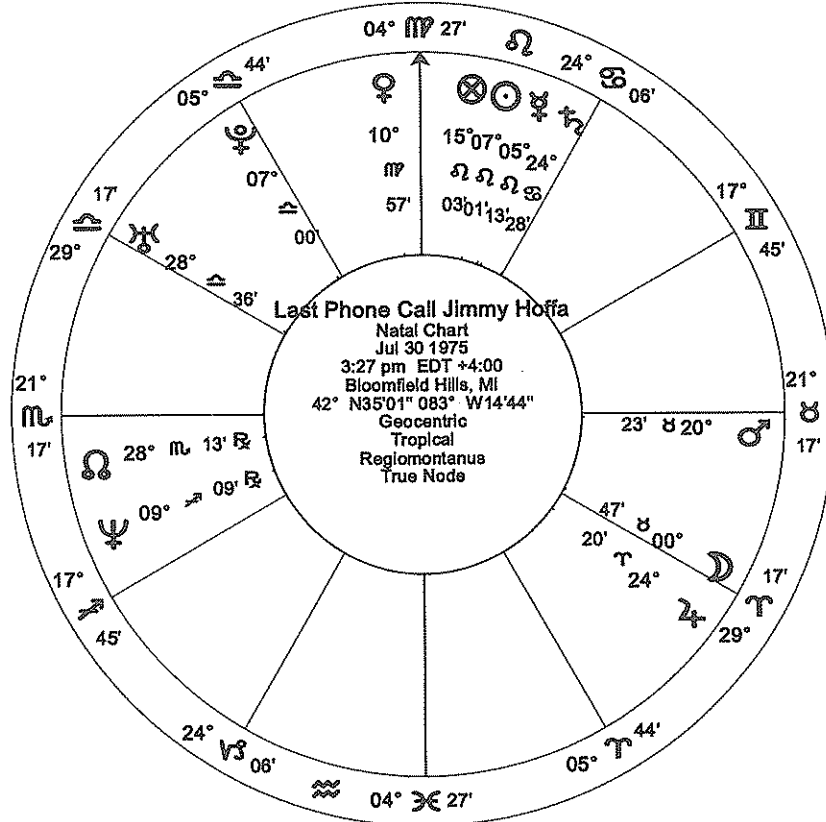
Mercury applies to an opposition to Saturn (traditional ruler of death) in about 12 degrees. Mars rules the Aries eighth cusp and resides in the eighth house of death. Mars (death) mutually applies to quincunx Jupiter (Gray) from the eighth to the first house, and this quincunx perfects in about three degrees.

The Moon (Gray's co-ruler) lies in the twelfth house of suicide and undoing, and applies to an opposition of Uranus in Pisces in the sixth. Emerson's Death Point lies at 1 Virgo 18, so that the Moon will soon form an opposition to Uranus and simultaneously conjoin the Death Point in the twelfth house. Recall that Uranus in Pisces and in aspect with Emerson's Death Point also occurred in the case of the missing college student who was washed out to sea. The modern Part of Death¹⁴ (ASC + eighth cusp - Moon) at 16 Aries 09 conjoins Mars, ruler of the eighth of death. In addition, the medieval Part of Death (ASC + Saturn - Moon) at 20 Cancer 12 is almost exactly opposition the Sun, which rules the twelfth of self-undoing.

Case 6: Jimmy Hoffa

This famous missing person case has never been solved. On July 30, 1975, Jimmy Hoffa had a lunch date with an alleged mobster in Bloomfield Hills, an exclusive suburb of Detroit. He was due home for a barbecue at 4:00 p.m. but never arrived. Hoffa disappeared without a trace. The last contact anyone had with Hoffa was at 3:27 p.m. when he telephoned his friend Louis Linteau.¹⁵ He was never heard from again. Speculation arose that he was murdered by the mob and that his body was buried in cement or incinerated.

Scorpio (a sign associated with the underworld) rises, making Mars the primary significator of Hoffa. The Moon is his co-ruler, and Neptune in



Sagittarius in the first is a modern co-significator. Neptune is also the modern co-ruler of the Pisces fourth of final endings. Neptune (ruler of the fourth) posited in the first brings the final ending (fourth) to the missing person (first); we saw a similar configuration is the chart for the disappearance of Spalding Gray.

Mercury rules the eighth of death and lies in Leo (a fire sign) in the ninth house, where Mercury is combust the Sun; these facts would support the speculation that his body was incinerated or at least that fire was somehow involved in his demise. Ascendant-ruler Mars (Hoffa) lies in Taurus, the sign of its detriment, and is closely opposition the Ascendant. Mars (Hoffa) makes a wide square (15 degrees) with Mercury (ruler of death). The Moon (Hoffa's co-ruler), however, squares Mercury (ruler of death) in four degrees, an indication of death. The Moon (Hoffa) also is opposition Uranus (unexpected disruptions) on the cusp of the twelfth of secret enemies. Hoffa's rulers, Mars and the Moon, both in Taurus (an earth sign) would be consistent with the theory that he was buried in cement.

Mercury in Leo in the ninth mutually applies to trine Neptune in Sagittarius in the first, suggesting a positive connection between the ruler of the eighth and the planet in the first, signifying the missing person. Lilly, however, believed that such aspects occurring in signs of long ascension (Cancer through Sagittarius in the Northern Hemisphere) could actually have negative influences (as if the trine were stretched to form an opposition by the obliquity of the ecliptic).

Jupiter is the traditional ruler of the Pisces fourth house of final endings. Jupiter is closely square Saturn, the traditional ruler of death. Jupiter (the final ending) also is opposition Uranus (which conjoins the twelfth cusp of hidden enemies) and is sesquiquadrate to Neptune in the first. These aspects support the meaning of the aspect Moon (Hoffa) square Mercury (death), suggesting that Hoffa is dead. The medieval Part of Death (ASC + Saturn - Moon) at 14 Aquarius 57 is almost exactly opposition the Part of Fortune, suggesting that his luck has run out. With Pisces ruling the cusp of final endings, the Hoffa case has remained a mystery for a long time.

Case 7: Laci Peterson

Modesto, California police reported that several neighbors last saw the eight-months pregnant Laci Peterson walking her dog between 10:00 and 10:15 a.m. on Christmas Eve, 2002.¹⁶ On April 14, 2002, her body washed ashore in the San Francisco Bay area, a day after the fetal remains of her baby boy were recovered in that location. Laci's husband Scott was charged with the murder. The chart is cast for 10:07:30 a.m., the midpoint of the 15-minute range when she was last seen before her December 24, 2002 disappearance.

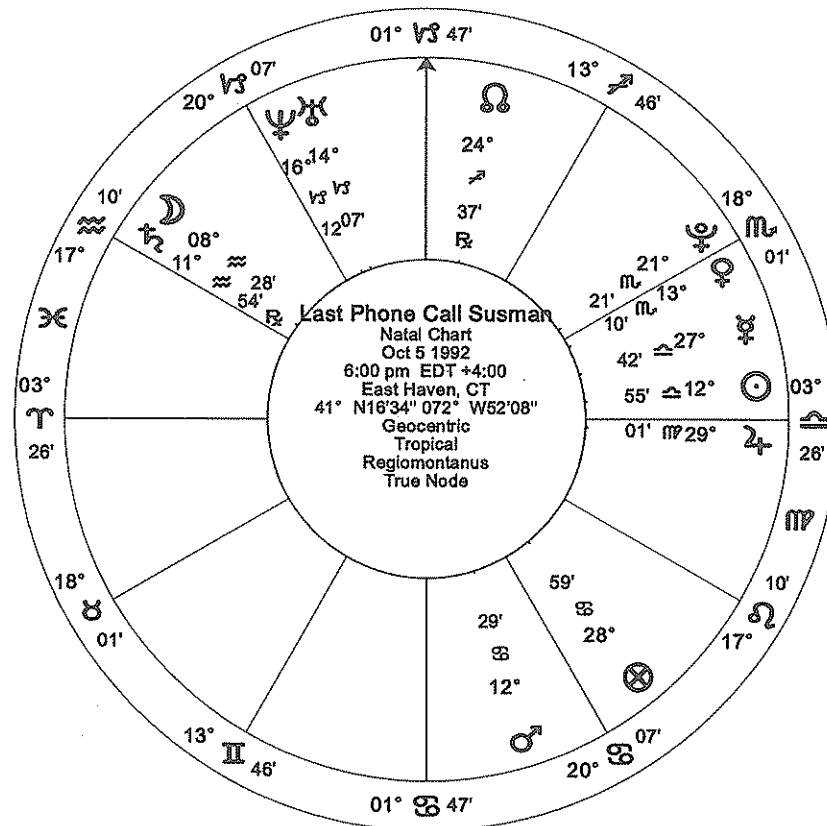
Aquarius rises and Pisces is intercepted in the first house, giving four potential rulers of the first house (missing person): Saturn, the traditional ruler of Aquarius; Uranus, the modern ruler of Aquarius; Jupiter, the traditional ruler of Pisces; and Neptune, the modern ruler of Pisces. As usual, the Moon is co-ruler of the absent party. Saturn on the cusp of the fifth house is descriptive of Laci's pregnant state, as is the fact that the sign Pisces is intercepted (like a baby in the womb) in the first House (Laci).

It is striking that although four of the 10 planets occupy the ninth, tenth, or eleventh houses, none of the planets ruling the missing person occupy these houses. This fact is consistent with Lilly's finding that the absent party is alive when the ruler of the Ascendant occupies the ninth, tenth or eleventh house.

Venus rules the eighth house of death. Venus (death) and Jupiter (the missing person) mutually apply to a partile square. Venus (death) will advance to square Uranus, modern ruler of the Ascendant (Laci). The rulers of the sign intercepted in the first and the sign on the Ascendant thus both receive squares from the "Lord of death," signifying the death of both Laci and her unborn child.

Case 8: The Missing Orthodontist

This case appeared in my 1998 book *Horary Astrology Plain and Simple*. When the body was discovered in 2001, the location matched the description I had written many years earlier. The lo-



cal press ran the story of the accurate horary prediction on the front page of the *New Haven Register*.

On October 5, 1992, Dr. John Susman, an orthodontist, disappeared without a trace. He left work at 5:15 p.m. and telephoned his brother at 6:00 p.m. from his home in East Haven, Connecticut, on Long Island Sound, to say that he had received a disturbing call on his answering machine: "Sus, you're a dead man, it's coming soon." The police and FBI could not determine whether the mysterious voice was that of Dr. Susman or of an anonymous caller. After telephoning his brother, Dr. Susman was never seen or heard from again, although over the years there were reports of "sightings" of the missing orthodontist by local residents on their travels to various spots around the world.

Because I had once been a patient of Dr. Susman, I was particularly interested. When the report of his disappearance appeared in the newspaper, I studied the chart and concluded that the doctor was dead and would not be discovered for a long time. Whenever friends and colleagues asked

about alleged sightings, I told them that the chart convincingly indicated that Dr. Susman had died on the day he disappeared and the police would eventually find the body near his East Haven home.

I wrote up my analysis of the chart and submitted it to the *Horary Practitioner* in 1995, but it was denied publication because there was not yet a definitive outcome. About the same time Llewellyn asked me to revise my 1991 book on horary astrology, and I decided to include this chart.¹⁷ The revisions were completed in 1996 and the revised text came out in early 1998.

Surveyors came across Dr. Susman's remains just after 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2001 "a few hundred yards northwest of Susman's cottage on Cosey Beach Avenue. There near two large boulders, within sight of Caroline Creek and Long Island Sound, a muddy brown patch marks the spot where police collected Susman's remains from the ruins."

Aries rises, making Mars the primary ruler of the missing orthodontist. Mars also rules the eighth house of death, occupies the fourth house of final

endings, and lies in Cancer, the sign of its fall. The Moon is co-ruler of Dr. Susman and so is the Sun, which is Almuten (the planet with the most dignity) of the Ascendant. Mars, ruler of the first (Susman) and eighth (death) lying in the fourth (the end, the grave) suggests that the missing person is dead. The Sun, Almuten of the first (Susman) is in partile square to Mars (ruler of the eighth of death). The Sun (Susman) is in Libra, the sign of its fall.

Venus and Pluto straddle the Scorpio eighth cusp and become co-rulers, with Mars, of death. The Moon (Susman's co-ruler) applies to square both Venus and Pluto at the eighth cusp. The Moon is also applying to conjoin Saturn, the natural ruler of death. The modern Part of Death (Ascendant + 8th cusp - Moon) at 12 Capricorn 59 opposes Mars, the doctor's primary ruler, which resides in the fourth house of final endings.

The Moon, Susman's co-ruler, rules the fourth cusp of final endings and the grave. The Moon applies to conjoin Saturn in Aquarius in the eleventh house and will then quincunx Mars in the fourth and square Venus near the eighth cusp. An image unfolds of a fall (Saturn) in an area where water meets land (Aquarius), perhaps involving a head injury (Moon quincunx Mars) or heart attack (Sun square Mars) that resulted in death (Moon square Venus at eighth cusp). Mars (Susman's primary ruler) opposition Neptune and Uranus (modern rulers of the twelfth) raising the possibility of a drug reaction, suicide or foul play. The newspaper reporter who interviewed me for the story also had spoken with forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee and confirmed that Dr. Lee had come up with the same possibilities as shown in the chart for what might have caused Dr. Susman's demise.

Endnotes

¹ When the querent has a personal relationship with the missing person, the appropriate house is chosen and the chart is cast for the time and place that the astrologer understands the question. For example, the third house for a sibling, the fourth for a parent, the fifth for the querent's child, the sixth for a pet, the seventh for a spouse or partner, the tenth for a boss, the eleventh for a friend, etc. When the chart

is cast for the documented time and place of last contact with the absent party, the first house represents the missing person.

² In my experience, the square aspect is also significant.

³ The cases presented here were included because they have well-documented times of disappearance. Otherwise, they were taken at random from news reports. No attempt was made to select cases that would show the validity of Lilly's method. Nonetheless, of the seven cases in which the absent party died, none have the Ascendant ruler in the ninth, tenth or eleventh houses (as Lilly's rules would have predicted.)

⁴ www.nytimes.com/2004/03/07/nyregion/07missing.html

⁵ Unlike Lilly, I sometimes use the modern planets, certain modern and medieval Arabic Parts, the square aspect of the ruler of death and the quincunx aspect.

⁶ "College student missing for weeks surfaces on LI," by Joshua Robin, March 8, 2004, <http://www.nynewsday.com/news/local/manhattan/nyc-nymiss083700130mar08,0,2856081.story?coll=nyc-topheadlines-manhattan>

⁷ "Missing girl's body found; murder suspect held," Los Angeles Times, Feb. 7, 2004 - 12:14:45 a.m. PST, http://www.tdn.com/articles/2004/02/07/nation_world/news03.txt

⁸ The news reports on Chandra Levy are well summarized at <http://www.astrodatbank.com/NM/LevyChandra.html>

⁹ Jeff told me that according to the obituary, Ryan was born in Connecticut on June 1, 1982.

¹⁰ See Barbara H. Watters, *Horary Astrology and the Judgment of Events*, Valhalla Paperbacks, 1973, p. 173.

¹¹ AstroDataBank gives Gray's birth data as June 5, 1941 at 1:51 a.m., Providence, Rhode Island. Gray's natal chart has Pisces rising with Aries intercepted in the first house. Mars rules his eighth cusp (death) and is posited in Pisces (the sea) in the twelfth house (suicide).

¹² Actor-writer reported missing, Spalding Gray

last seen Saturday evening, by Jonathan Wald, CNN, Wednesday, January 14, 2004. Posted: 5:32 a.m. EST, <http://www.cnn.com/2004/SHO/WBIZ/Movies/01/13/missing.actor/>

¹³ "Spalding Gray's body found in East River," Larry McShane, Associated Press, March 8, 2004.

¹⁴ Because this formula uses the eighth cusp, the modern Part of Death will vary depending on which house system is used.

¹⁵ "The Hoffa Files 1: An Unheeded Warning," originally published December 19, 1992; September 8, 2001, by Jack Kresnak and Joe Swickard, Free Press Staff Writers, <http://www.freep.com/news/metro/hoffafilesone8.html>

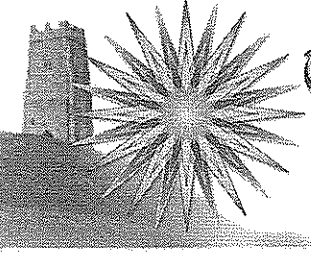
¹⁶ "No call back on sighting of Laci," by Patrick Giblin, Modbee.com, Last Updated: April 21, 2003, 03:33:56 p.m. PDT, <http://www.modbee.com/reports/laci/story/6274768p-7219758c.html>

¹⁷ *Horary Astrology Plain and Simple*, Llewellyn Publications, 1998, pp. 232-234.

¹⁸ *The New Haven Register*, page A5, Monday, June 18, 2001.

¹⁹ Occupations signified by Aries include dentists, those who work with metals and those whose work relates to the head. It is striking how often the Ascendant of the missing person chart describes a key aspect of the absent person.

ANTHONY LOUIS is the author of *Tarot Plain and Simple* and *Horary Astrology Plain and Simple*, both published by Llewellyn. He has lectured widely and written numerous articles and book chapters on astrology. His rectification of the chart of composer Richard Wagner recently appeared in *The Mountain Astrologer*. His texts on vocational astrology, secondary progressions and solar returns are featured in the report writer of the Halloran Software AstrolDeluxe program. He is a member of NCGR and the Astrological Society of Connecticut, whose Web site he manages. His e-mail is tonylouis@aol.com.



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The Trials and Transits of Martha Stewart

By Melanie Schlossberg

Martha Stewart and her courtroom drama continue to loom large in the public's consciousness. Stewart was convicted of lying to federal investigators on March 5, 2004, on charges connected to her 2001 sale of ImClone stock. Analysis of her life and possible motives by pundits has taken up countless published pages and hours of television and radio air time. However, a reading of her transits from December 20, 2001, to February 4, 2002, illuminates one of the most puzzling aspects of her situation: Why?

Why did Stewart make choices that put first her reputation, then her company and eventually her freedom at risk? A former stock broker herself, shouldn't Stewart have known better? On a day when seven million shares of ImClone stock were traded, why were her 4,000 shares so compelling? The crucial six-week period began with the first phone conversation about the trade with her broker, Peter Bacanovic, and ended with the initial interviews by the Securities & Exchange Commission. These events would motivate the investigation and become the source of the charges against her.

Again, analysis of her motives has crowded the airwaves and newsstands. But astrological interpretation brings deeper insights into the personality behind the actions. Stewart's current pro-

gressed lunation cycle, which began in 1990 and will conclude in 2019, reached the Full Moon point just after the verdict in the case was handed down. This 28-year cycle, now at its crossroads, gives the context for this devastating period in the larger framework of Stewart's personal development.

A Fiery Chart

A look at the transits that impact Stewart requires an understanding of her natal chart. Stewart has a strong fixed chart heavy with fire. Three of her inner planets are in signs of fire: Sun in Leo, Moon in Sagittarius and Mars in Aries. Both Sun and Mars are dignified, and her Sun is conjunction the Midheaven, which is in a fixed sign, as are all the angles of her chart. Successful from a young age, she achieved her greatest fame and fortune by creating a multimedia empire based on old-fashioned, creative and approachable projects for the garden, home and entertaining. Known for her meticulous craftsmanship, high ideals and stubborn personality, Stewart has become one of the richest, most recognized people in the United States.

Stewart's balance already is tipped toward fire, and the placement of her Sun leads this overweighting. Her company, Martha Stewart Living

Omnimedia, is a perfect example of the effect of her Sun-Midheaven conjunction in Leo: She literally has created an international company that not only is named after her; it *is* her. Her name and face are synonymous not only with the products Stewart sells, but with her trademark style, a perfectionistic aesthetic.

Stewart's Sun is conjunction Pluto as well. This is the other side of Stewart. Gone is the Martha who plants lavender and roses under the noonday sun with fluffy dogs by her side and songbirds in the background. As with one of her own craft projects, Stewart combined the Leo and Pluto energies to create a life that is extraordinary from the ordinary middle-class upbringing of her youth. She has the confidence bordering on arrogance of Leo fused with intense Plutonian power and mystery. She has an important secret to tell us, and with all her Leo generosity and splendor, she will reveal those secrets to us; in fact, she often affects a conspiratorial air on her television show. Now we can make our own lip balm, plant heirloom basil and fold napkins into swans. Now we live better with Martha Stewart.

What inspires the conspiracy theories and the horror stories surrounding Stewart? Why do so many people hate her? Tales of Stewart's merciless treatment of employees and business partners are rampant. Even avid fans, often good cooks and skilled crafters in their own right, have wondered if Stewart has conspired against her audience by rigging recipes and projects to fail so no one could ever be as good as she is. The power of Pluto conjunction Sun may drive some of this rancor, but her Sun is also in a partile square to a Scorpio Ascendant. This fuels her intensity and obsessive drive for success because it is connected to her Sun-Midheaven, but it also makes her defensive and prone to fits of passion and anger directed at those who cross her. Stewart is someone especially sensitive to those who challenge her persona because both the Ascendant and Midheaven relate to reputation, personal (Ascendant) and professional (Midheaven).

A perfect example of her Scorpio Ascendant in action is a television interview she did on CBS on June 25, 2002, shortly after the stock-trade scandal was first publicized. The interview was con-

ducted under the agreement that Stewart could appear on air only if she answered questions about her stock sale. Stewart was interviewed as she chopped cabbage for a cooking demonstration that was part of the spot. Though she had expected the questions, the more her interviewer probed, the angrier Stewart became. And although her answers were polite, the chopping sounds became louder and more violent as the interview progressed. When Stewart lifted the knife into the air as if to make an exclamation point, everyone watching knew the topic was no longer cole slaw. Just as a scorpion will sting when it feels threatened, those with a Scorpio Ascendant are capable of lashing out with the hypothetical knife if they fear for their own safety, and in this case, Stewart clearly felt she was being attacked.

The role of her Ascendant has further influence. The ruler of her Ascendant, a dignified Mars in Aries, is in trine to her Sun. This has given Stewart the boundless energy she has drawn on to accomplish her professional career, from running a multimillion-dollar business to harvesting her own eggs from her chicken coop and coloring them for Easter with homemade dyes. Aries, the child of the zodiac, gives energy to the immature side of Leo. The arrogance and need for attention that her Sun brings are more apparent in Stewart because of this trine. Mars in Aries encourages her to act on decisions before reflecting. This quality is useful, of course, and necessary in order to accomplish a great deal in a short amount of time—an advantage to any executive. But at some point everyone must spend time in reflection to give meaning to actions. The air element, which generally rules thought, is weak in Stewart's chart. Jupiter is the only planet in air, and in Gemini is in its detriment. There is a tremendous amount of action in Stewart's life, which makes it very likely that there is not as much personal contemplation. This fiery ability to act has served her well. However, in December 2001, thoughtfulness would have served her better.

The Trade and the Troubles

We pick up the chain of events in Stewart's life on December 20, 2001. On that date Stewart had a phone conversation with her Merrill Lynch stock-

broker, Peter Bacanovic, concerning her stock in ImClone, a biotech company that had a colon-cancer treatment, a drug called Erbitux, under review by the Food and Drug Administration. Generally, when a drug application receives approval, share prices rise for the company that produces the drug. Conversely, when a drug application is rejected, the producing company's share prices fall. It was rumored that the drug would not receive FDA approval.

The content of this conversation plays a key role in all the events that follow. It has been established that during the phone call, Bacanovic recommended that Stewart sell the 3,928 ImClone shares she had remaining out of 5,000, the rest having been sold previously in October. Stewart chose not to sell at that time. She alleged in her defense at trial that she also told Bacanovic to sell the shares if the share price fell below \$60.

On December 27, 2001, Stewart returned a phone call from her broker's office while en route to a vacation in Mexico. Bacanovic's assistant, Doug Faneuil, testified in court that he told Stewart at this point that Sam Waksal, CEO of ImClone, had attempted to sell his own ImClone shares earlier that day. Stewart told Faneuil to sell her ImClone shares. Stewart's sale saved her from a loss of \$45,000—relatively small change for Stewart, given the size of her portfolio and business. The next day, December 28, 2001, after its stock had fallen throughout the trading session, ImClone announced that the FDA had denied approval of its drug, Erbitux.

The first significant transit at that time was a square from Saturn in the eighth to Stewart's Venus in the tenth. Using a three degree orb for applying and one degree for separating, this triple-pass transit lasted from June 8, 2001 to April 17, 2002. Saturn in Gemini represents communications and networking; it transited Stewart's eighth house, which governs legal affairs and joint resources. From that alone it could be assumed that Stewart would face many lessons in this area of her life. Venus in the tenth house connects her friends and relationships to her career. This natal placement came into play shortly after her conviction, when she asked her friends to write letters to the judge on her behalf to plead

for a lenient sentence.

Peter Bacanovic and Sam Waksal were both good friends of Stewart's. They had been introduced to Stewart by her daughter, who had dated Waksal and attended college with Bacanovic. Had Stewart consulted an astrologer during that time, she would have been warned of tensions and strife with close acquaintances concerning business affairs that might lead to the breakdown of these relationships.

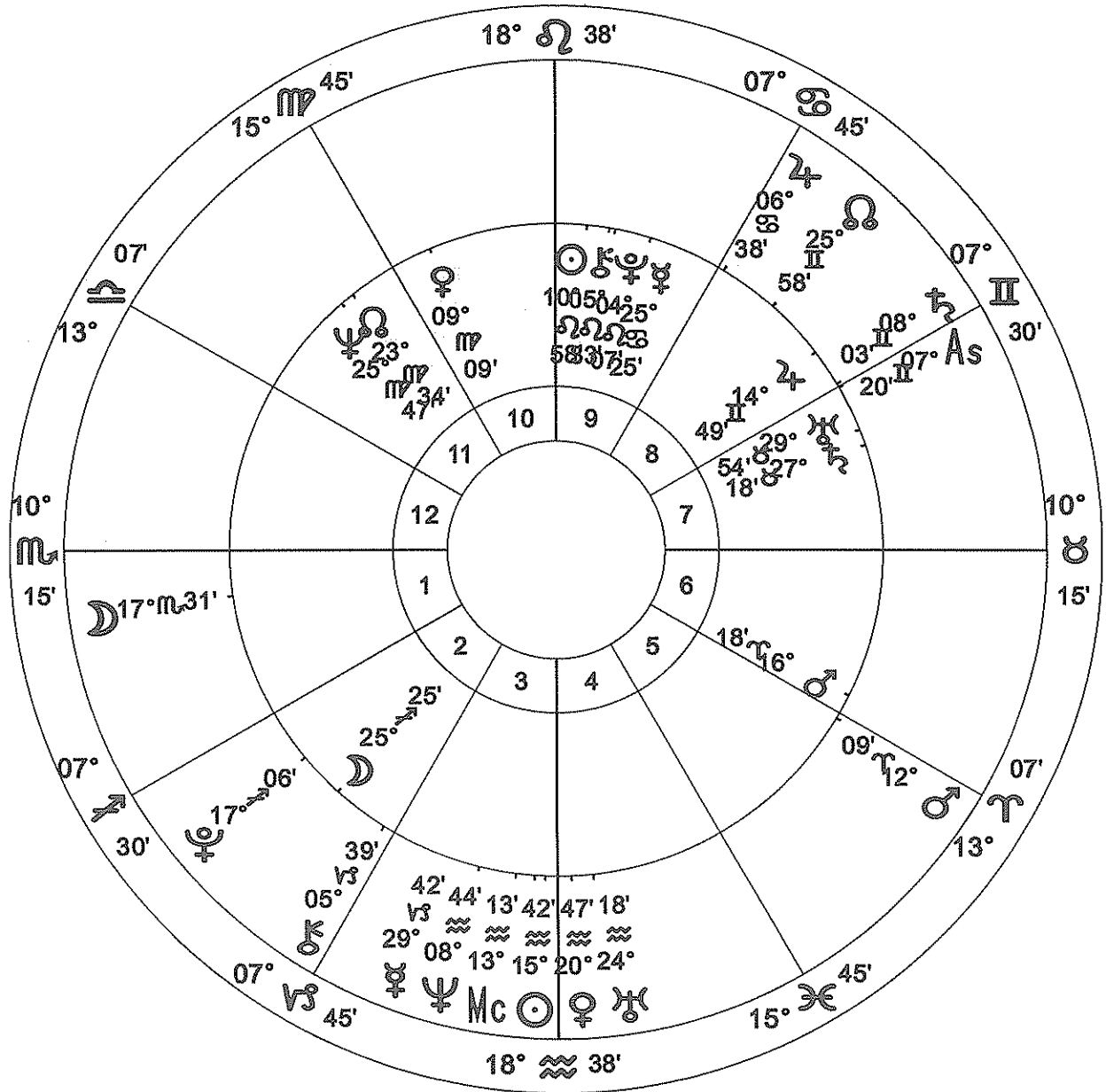
Interestingly, at the end of this transit, Mariana Pasternak, a close friend of Stewart's for nearly 20 years, began to talk to the government about Stewart's stock sale. She ultimately delivered damning testimony against Stewart in court. Pasternak had accompanied Stewart to Mexico for the fateful vacation and was present when the phone calls were made on December 27, 2001. Over the years, Stewart had proved to be a reliable and helpful friend to Pasternak, even paying off some debts for Pasternak, but, according to Dominick Dunne in the May 2004 *Vanity Fair*, "Pasternak's testimony sealed Martha Stewart's fate." Dunne also mentions that Pasternak's ex-husband sold \$600,000 worth of ImClone stock on December 28, 2001, the day after Stewart made the call to Bacanovic's office, which Pasternak had witnessed.

The next critical transit that influenced events was Neptune in opposition to Stewart's Sun. This transit encompassed the entire event by beginning on December 19, 2001, the day *before* the initial phone call with Bacanovic, and lasting until January 11, 2004, just before Stewart's trial began. In the third house nearing the IC, this opposition implies that someone close to Stewart's home wants to erode her ego by way of communications. The opposition suggests that someone or a number of people, as in Stewart's case, have come into Stewart's life to challenge her situation. Possibly even her own persona played that role to some extent.

Astronomy tells us that Neptune's surface is covered by clouds and ferocious storms. Astrology relates this to the planet's influence on human events, an influence characterized as a clouding of vision and washing away of reality. What is

Inner Wheel
Martha Stewart
 Natal Chart
 Aug 3 1941
 1:33 pm EDT +4:00
 Jersey City, NJ
 40° N 43' 41" 074° W 04' 41"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node

Outer Wheel
Transits Feb 4 2002
 Event Chart
 Feb 4 2002
 12:00 pm EST +5:00
 New York, NY
 40° N 42' 51" 074° W 00' 23"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node



there one minute is washed away the next. When Neptune transits the natal chart, it signifies that a deepening of inner vision is required in order to see in spite of the clouds—similar to putting fog lights on a car. The betrayal on Pasternak's part is a good example of this Neptune opposition. Stewart received the lion's share of attention for making this trade because her fame and reputation made her a much more desirable target. Neptune makes its influence felt here as the media frenzy over Stewart overshadowed the other questionable trades in ImClone that were made during this period, and there were many. Here Neptune is acting as cloud cover for all the other deeds, and Stewart's inflated Sun functions as a distraction.

Neptune has a glamorizing effect; it is a façade that covers reality, much as celebrity hides the real person underneath the media creation. Stewart may have felt some of this transiting euphoria, and felt that she was too important to be implicated in anything "so trivial"; after all, this trade was not financially significant to her. Of course, as noted, Stewart's status and celebrity not only as the domestic diva but as a successful executive in this age of corporate crime and sensational media again made her the perfect target. For example, in April 2003, Stewart was given an offer by prosecutors: Be charged with making false statements and serve only probation, instead of risking the uncertain outcome of a trial. Stewart, misled by Neptune, rejected this offer. The idealism of Neptune made her Sun even more defiant. She may not have known how strong the forces against her were until her trial, when Neptune separated from her Sun.

On a more practical level, transiting Neptune's placement in the third house is highly significant. Considering this placement, information that she was given might have seemed very fortunate. However, when Faneuil told her that Waksal was trying to sell his own stock in ImClone, Stewart was in receipt of inside information. This information was *not* good to have; it was illegal. Faneuil is at fault for passing on the information, but when Stewart sold her stock because of it, she implicated herself.

The introduction of Mercury a week later, on Jan-

uary 7, 2002, is when Stewart made her critical error. On that date, the SEC questioned Bacanovic about Stewart's ImClone sale, and Mercury hit 4 Aquarius conjunction transiting Neptune and opposition Stewart's Sun-Pluto conjunction. In mid-January 2002, Mercury turned retrograde, just in time for Stewart to be contacted by the SEC to set up an interview about her ImClone trades. Her voluntary interview with the SEC took place under the influence of this transit on February 4, 2002. Statements Stewart made in this interview formed the basis of the federal case against her as investigators believed she was lying to them.

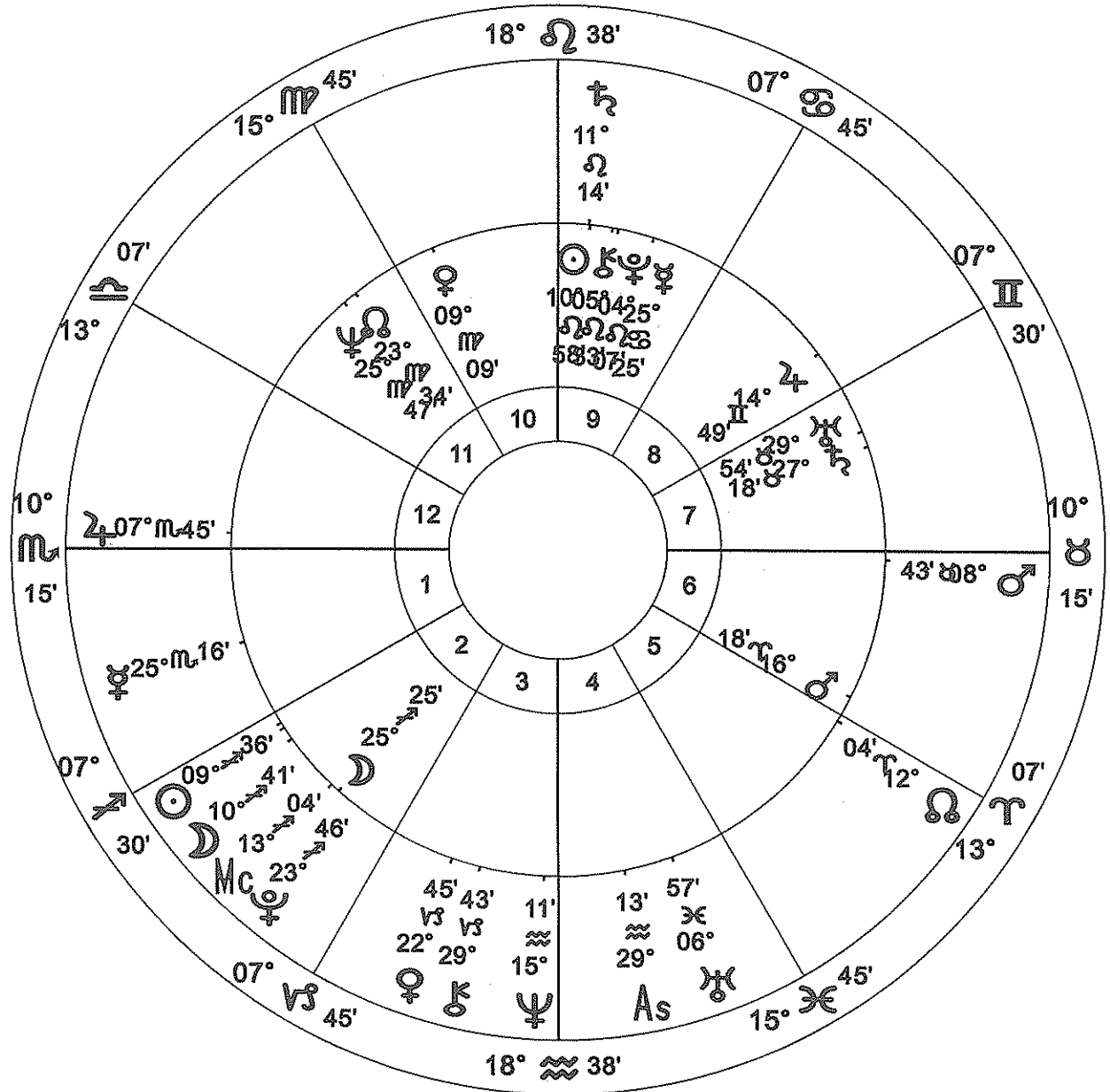
At the time, February 4, 2002, Stewart claimed she had not been informed of Waksal's attempt to sell his ImClone shares. She also stated that she had a verbal stop-loss agreement with Bacanovic, which the government contended at trial was not supported by written proof and therefore was a lie.

Neptune is an elusive planet that was predicted by mathematical calculations long before it was located by astronomers. For a number of years it could not be found in the sky even though its location had been determined. Galileo and a number of other astronomers from a much earlier age actually had already recorded Neptune, but as a star. So it was there all along, just not understood for what it was, a planet. It is the same with the stop-loss agreement paperwork. The defense claims there is written documentation of this agreement. But there is speculation about when certain handwritten comments concerning the stop-loss order were noted, whether they were made before or after the investigations began. (There is an insightful article about this specific piece of evidence written by Henry Blodget at Slate.com). The government "ink expert," Larry Stewart, who testified on behalf of the prosecution was ultimately charged with perjury for his testimony during the trial. He testified that he personally tested the ink samples, when his assistant actually had performed the tests. Perhaps at a later date, after further scientific analysis, it will be discovered whether this evidence is real or was falsified.

An afflicted retrograde Mercury conjoined with

Inner Wheel
Martha Stewart
 Natal Chart
 Aug 3 1941
 1:33 pm EDT +4:00
 Jersey City, NJ
 40° N 43' 41" 074° W 04' 41"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node

Outer Wheel
Transits Dec 1 2005
 Event Chart
 Dec 1 2005
 12:00 pm EST +5:00
 New York, NY
 40° N 42' 51" 074° W 00' 23"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node



Neptune certainly implies that Stewart lied to the investigators. The question is why? Had Stewart told the truth about her conversations prior to the sale, she would have been fined for improper trading. The reason this case escalated the way it did was because she was suspected of lying. As the ruler of the underworld, Pluto is about both power and secrets. This was a power struggle: federal investigators vs. Martha Stewart.

An example of Stewart's defensiveness was given earlier in relation to her Scorpio Ascendant. The conflict with investigators shows perhaps much the same energy in a different setting. Her actions and integrity were being questioned. Mercury in the third house suggests that communications are quick, and Stewart responded without fully thinking of the implications of her responses. Interestingly, Ann Armstrong, Stewart's assistant, testified that on January 31, 2002, she witnessed Stewart alter an e-mail from Bacanovic. Immediately afterward, Stewart told Armstrong to restore the e-mail to its original form. Retrograde Mercury is often associated with changing decisions. Though this was a relatively quick transit, in true Plutonian fashion, it transformed Stewart's life.

On June 4, 2003, Stewart was formally indicted, charged with one count of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and securities fraud, and two counts of making false statements. The securities fraud charge was dropped after the prosecution rested its case in Stewart's trial because the judge concluded there was not adequate proof that Stewart acted to protect the share price of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. On March 5, 2004, after a surprisingly quick trial (it had begun on January 20), Stewart was convicted on all remaining charges.

Seeing the Light

On March 15, 2004, 10 days after her conviction, Stewart resigned from the board of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. (She had resigned from her post as CEO on June 4, 2003.) Just after effectively surrendering all control of her corporate affairs, her progressed Full Moon became exact, March 18. The progressed Full Moon is the halfway point of the 28-year lunation cycle. Lunation

cycles begin with a progressed New Moon as the starting point for a new journey. However, as is the case with all New Moons, the light of the Sun renders the Moon invisible. What occurs during the progressed New Moon may not be understood until later, when the Moon separates from the Sun. During the Full Moon phase, the Moon is completely visible, lighted by sunlight rather than shadowed by it. It is at this point that the journey is fully understood.

This lunation cycle began with Stewart's progressed New Moon in 1990, the year in which she proposed *Martha Stewart Living* magazine to Time, which began publishing *Martha Stewart Living* in 1991. And 1990 is the year in which Stewart proposed to K-mart that it introduce a line of home products. Initially, K-mart, which already had been working with Stewart, rejected the idea. However, as is typical with a progressed New Moon, the seed of the deal had been planted, and later in the cycle bore incredibly popular fruit.

But it's important to consider what that seed ultimately has grown into. With the K-mart deal, Stewart achieved the pinnacle of her person as product. As a domestic diva and media mogul, Stewart's name became concretely a commodity with the line of home goods for K-mart. Was it Stewart's original intention to sell her very self? Stewart's first career, launched during her high school years, was fashion modeling. She is comfortable using her physical self as a marketing tool. Now may be a time for Stewart to turn her focus to her personal and spiritual development.

What will lead Stewart to this period of self discovery? She will face a series of transits in mid to late 2005 that will do this job. The planets involved are Saturn, Neptune and Pluto. During the writing of this article, there has been talk of a mistrial. Stewart's trial has been fraught with deceit and controversy, which has prompted the defense to request a new trial multiple times. Her sentencing hearing has been delayed so that the judge may spend more time pondering this possibility. If Stewart is granted a mistrial, these transits will occur during and after the second trial. Neptune will continue its series of transits to Stewart's natal chart as it begins to cross her IC in

April 2005. This can be seen as the dissolution of her home and a time when she is withdrawn or unseen by society. In December 2005, Pluto will form a conjunction with Stewart's Moon. Pluto, the god of the Underworld, here signifies the prison system, wielding a dark, powerful control over her mind and body. This will occur in the second house, the house of values, resources and security. The traits of the second house, which Stewart's Moon depends on, will be out of her control for the years of this transit.

Transiting Saturn may represent the retrial itself. In September 2004, it will form a conjunction to Stewart's Mercury, which it will transit until June 2005. This will be a restrictive and difficult time of communication for Stewart, typical of a trial. In the fall, Saturn will move to her Sun. Coinciding with the Pluto-Moon conjunction, this planetary activity again represents how a system and authority figures who are much stronger than Stewart will bear down on her ego and life force. If Stewart is not granted a mistrial, these transits must be interpreted more psychologically and less literally. There is speculation that if Stewart receives jail time, she will be sentenced for 12 to 18 months. If that is the case, some transits will occur just as she is preparing to go back home. What will she come home to? Whether it is agreed that she is guilty of these charges or a victim of her own success, Stewart's image is tarnished. And it is her image that she sells. It is clear, considering the transits that Stewart will face, that she must redefine her notion of self-worth and success, no matter what or when the final outcome of her trial.

As Ariel Guttman and Kenneth Johnson point out in *Mythic Astrology*, "It is more often than not a tragedy for the man himself when he fails to recognize that his thirst for power is rooted in his own unconscious. By neglecting his psychological depths and projecting his Plutonian power into the outside world instead, he may engineer his own downfall. Pluto issues can only be settled by facing them at home, in the realm where they originated—the unconscious."

Stewart's Sun is as high as it can get in her chart, and her fall from grace has been devastating. Over the next 14 years (the remainder of this lu-

nation cycle), Stewart must reevaluate her spirituality, success and material status in order to reconnect with her Sun. The lesson is to be a Leo with humility and grace, one that does not need to be in the spotlight to shine.

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MELANIE SCHLOSSBERG makes art, casts charts, and reads cards in Boston, MA. She holds a BFA in metalsmithing from Syracuse University, and recently completed the certificate program at The Astrology Institute. She is an NCGR Level II.

Kennedy and Nixon: The Astrology of the Presidency Since 1960

By Armand Diaz

Call them to mind. John F. Kennedy, the youthful war hero presiding over Camelot with his beautiful wife at his side; the dry, self-effacing humor; the statesman who went to Berlin and averted disaster in the Cuban missile crisis; the fallen leader. Richard M. Nixon, the essential political fighter; the bitter enemy of the press; the jowls perpetually covered with a five o'clock shadow; the disgraced leader.

These are our images of Kennedy and Nixon, the two men who did the most to shape the presidency of the United States in the last half of the 20th century. Since Kennedy, every president has tried to step into the limelight that he created. Since Nixon, every president has tried to step out of the shadow that he created.

The flow of events never ceases, and we cannot help but simplify our images. At some level, we know that the reality must be more complex, but our images seem to condense into a form too solid to change. When the event is important or the personality is strong, our myth-making function kicks in to shape the historic shorthand we create. On the surface we might have a one-dimensional caricature, but beneath the image lies

the power of heroes and gods. We lionize and demonize. Presidents become kings, their aides become henchman.

Kennedy and Nixon have been subjects of our myth-making for decades. It is natural to associate great events in the present with distant epics. But it is dangerous to accept oversimplified images as reality, and it is a mistake to accept myths without understanding what they are trying to tell us. The more we understand about our attitudes to these men and their times, the more we can take control of our political present and future. Astrology can help us to decode both the myth and reality of the presidencies of these two men.

Left, Right and Quincunx

Although the Republican Party in the past 20 years has more or less aligned itself with conservative forces, we have to remember that the two major parties have historically never been aligned on the left-right, liberal-conservative axis. For example, throughout most of the 20th century, the Democratic Party was split between Northern liberals and conservative Southerners.

Or consider that Republican Teddy Roosevelt was an early champion of environmental conservation. We can see the complexity of our political split in the Sibly chart of the United States, where the Cancer Sun is quincunx the Aquarius Moon by sign, and sesquiquadrate by degree. Certainly, Cancer is a more traditional, conservative sign, while Aquarius is more progressive, but the uncomfortable aspect between them shows that it is not a matter of simple opposition. Indeed, few candidates for national office get far without speaking to both of these signs, and that's why we have such trouble boxing them or their parties up as liberal or conservative.

Sagittarius is a fitting sign for the U.S. Ascendant, and Jupiter, ruler of the Ascendant, is a likely symbol for the U.S. president. Jupiter (Zeus) is the chief god, but he is not the only god on Olympus. He is most powerful, but not omnipotent, and he is not omniscient. He tosses the thunderbolts, to be sure, but he also plots, and is given to deception (especially with regard to his wife). He also does not rule everywhere; his brothers, Neptune and Pluto, rule the Seas and the Underworld. Like the U.S. president, Jupiter has to bargain and trade; he yields on some issues so he can press forward elsewhere. In the U.S. chart, Jupiter is in the sign of its exaltation, Cancer, symbolizing a leader that, hopefully, will give of himself for the protection and growth of the group¹. And it is worth noting that both the Sun and Jupiter in the U.S. chart disposit to the Aquarius Moon, a hint as to how the Sun-Moon-Ascendant yod-by-sign can be resolved.

How do we relate Kennedy and Nixon to the nation's chart? At first glance, JFK appears to resonate mostly with the Aquarius side of the United States. His Sun (7 Gemini 30) is conjunction the U.S. Uranus (8 Gemini 55), while his Uranus (23 Aquarius 43) is conjunction the U.S. Moon (27 Aquarius 10). Clearly, Kennedy identified with the progressive and humanitarian ideals of the United States, and he saw the U.S. as a force to change the world for the better. His inaugural address reads like a true Aquarian-Uranian manifesto, as he speaks of "breaking the bonds" of misery and improving conditions throughout the world. Consider these excerpts²:

"Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human values to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world."

"To those new states we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of tyranny shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny."

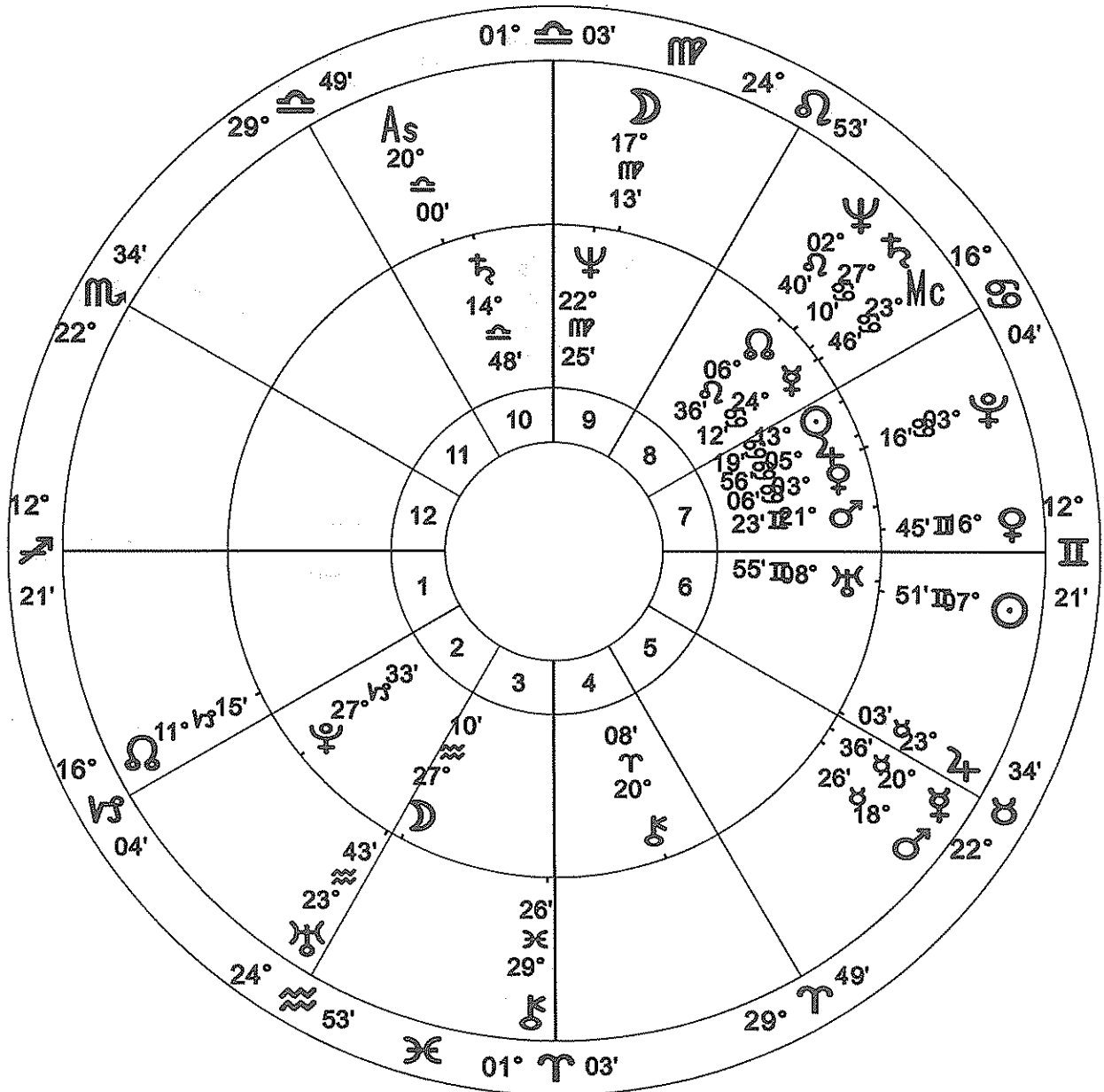
"To those people in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves."

Kennedy called the United Nations, "our last best hope in an age where the weapons of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace. . . ." And finally, speaking in true Uranian spirit: "Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah—to 'undo the heavy burdens . . . and let the oppressed go free.'"

Kennedy also tapped into the Cancer aspects of the U.S. He was strongly supported by his family, and in some ways he was the product of his father's ambition to land a member of the family in the White House. Kennedy's Pluto is conjunction the U.S. Venus and Jupiter, and his South Node is conjunction the U.S. Sun, suggesting that he might dredge up some of the worst aspects of these planets in the collective psyche (albeit not necessarily in the open), while his Cancer Midheaven further shows his resonance with the U.S. stellium in Cancer. And while he expressed idealism and truly worked to make the ideals into reality, his Aquarian impulse was often tempered by his more Cancerian caution. Thus, while he wanted the United States to be a beacon of freedom, he perpetuated and in some cases intensi-

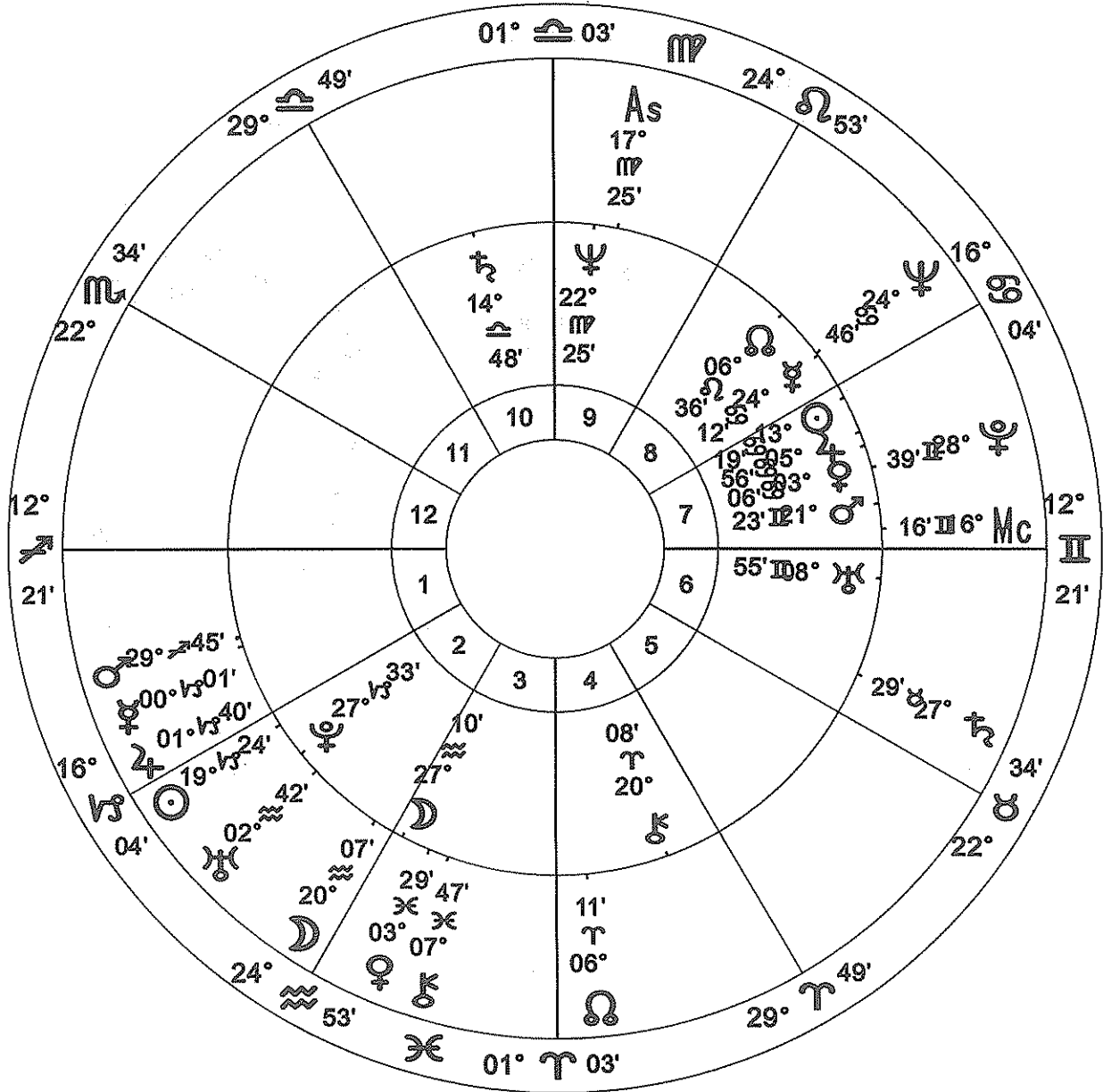
Inner Wheel
United States
 Natal Chart
 Jul 4 1776 NS
 5:10 pm LMT +5:00:39
 Philadelphia, PA
 39° N 57°08" 075° W 09'51"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Outer Wheel
John F. Kennedy
 Natal Chart
 May 29 1917
 3:00 pm EST +5:00
 Brookline, MA
 42° N 19°54" 071° W 07'18"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



Inner Wheel
 United States
 Natal Chart
 Jul 4 1776 NS
 5:10 pm LMT +5:00:39
 Philadelphia, PA
 39° N 57° 08" 075° W 09' 51"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Outer Wheel
 Richard Nixon
 Natal Chart
 Jan 9 1913
 9:35 pm PST +8:00
 Yorba Linda, CA
 33° N 53' 19" 117° W 48' 44"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



fied our connections with dictators and unsavory governments out of a fear that "freedom" might mean "Communism," particularly in the Western Hemisphere. Today we might decry George W. Bush for his "preventative" war in Iraq, but we need to remember that Kennedy plotted similarly, if less obviously, for the "preventative" overthrow of Cuba and a coup in South Vietnam.

For many, Kennedy isn't remembered for such nefarious acts, but Richard Nixon is. Nixon's "plumbers" and "dirty tricks," his political hardball, make up his image in our memories. His Jupiter is in Capricorn opposition the U.S. Jupiter, suggesting that as President he might confront and challenge the image of the U.S. leader, which is reinforced by his lunar Nodes squaring the U.S. Jupiter, implying a destiny at cross purposes with that of the ruler of the U.S. chart. His Sun is widely opposition the U.S. Sun and Mercury, while square the U.S. Chiron. We can see how he "wounded" the image of the presidency with these difficult aspects. Nixon's Pluto is conjunction the U.S.'s seventh house Mars, and his Sun is approaching (by eight degrees) the U.S. Pluto. His natal Pluto-Mars-Jupiter opposition falls in the first and seventh houses of the U.S. chart. This powerful opposition can create a power-grab, an overzealousness to win and to be in control, and we know how this played out for Nixon and the country.

But Nixon's Moon is nearly conjunction the U.S. Moon, and in fact he left a significant legacy in diverse progressive areas. A Quaker, he was an early supporter of civil rights and desegregation, and he was instrumental in making integrated schools a reality in the resistant South. Given his tarnished image in the U.S., it is sometimes forgotten that he forged at least a rapprochement with both the U.S.S.R. and China. In fact, Nixon ran his first congressional campaign on a platform he called "practical liberalism," while Kennedy ran as a "fighting conservative."

Competitors

The two men liked each other, at least at the start of their relationship, when they entered Washington politics as freshman congressmen in 1947.

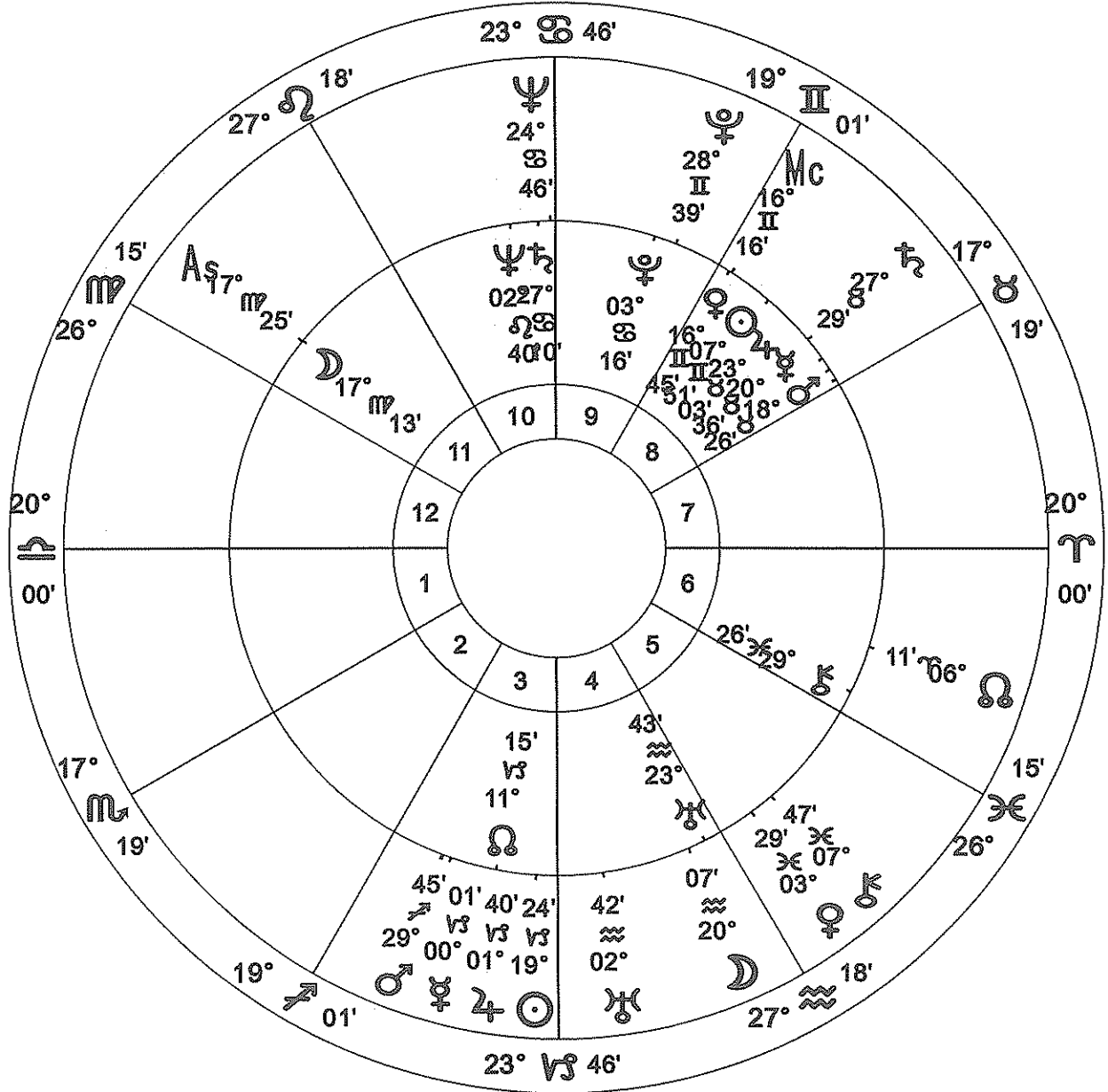
In the early fifties, JFK actually personally delivered a check from his father for Nixon's senatorial campaign. When Nixon was Vice President, his office was across the hall from Kennedy, who was then in the Senate. Kennedy's Venus is conjunct Nixon's Midheaven, and his Moon conjunction Nixon's Ascendant, while his Mars is trine Nixon's Sun. Clearly, there is room for a harmonious and productive relationship, and we can see why Nixon might be disposed to like Kennedy and even be energized by his political colleague. Other interaspects are less sanguine. Nixon's Saturn sits on Kennedy's Jupiter and Mercury, which might inhibit Kennedy's expression and political growth, but is also likely to make Nixon feel uncomfortable with Kennedy in these areas. Significantly, Nixon's Neptune is closely conjunction Kennedy's Midheaven. Kennedy's legacy and his leadership was something Nixon could never see clearly; it was a subject of Neptunian idealization and perhaps paranoia even after Kennedy was dead.

We can see these hard interaspects at work in what was probably the most pivotal event in the 1960 election: the first televised debate between Nixon and Kennedy. They had agreed to discuss domestic politics at this first meeting, and Nixon was cautioned not to be too hard on Kennedy. But Kennedy steered the debate to international issues, tricking Nixon, who, anxious to appear affable and likable, seemed to defer to Kennedy. Although many of those listening on radio thought the debate a draw or even gave Nixon the advantage, the television audience saw a calm and relaxed Kennedy easily leading a haggard-looking Nixon.

Other events in the campaign also have Neptune's elusive fingerprints on them. Nixon was hospitalized for close to three weeks at a key point in the campaign and looked none the better for it when he emerged. The Kennedy campaign had its own brand of "tricks," which plagued Nixon, and although they were softball compared to Nixon's later hardball, he apparently used them as a model for his later exploits. Perhaps most significantly, Nixon believed that Kennedy's victory in the election was rigged, although it could never be proven. This from a man whose Neptune was

Inner Wheel
John F. Kennedy
Natal Chart
May 29 1917
3:00 pm EST +5:00
Brookline, MA
42° N19'54" 071° W07'18"
Geocentric
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Placidus
True Node

Outer Wheel
Richard Nixon
Natal Chart
Jan 9 1913
9:35 pm PST +8:00
Yorba Linda, CA
33° N53'19" 117° W48'44"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



conjunction not only Kennedy's Midheaven but also his Saturn.

The 1960 Election

The 1960 election was very close. Kennedy did not win the popular vote but carried the electoral college. The Republicans were ready to charge that voting in Illinois was rigged, but they were stopped by Nixon's concession of the election. In the end, both men would eventually serve as President and neither would emerge the better for it.

The position of Uranus at the time of the 1960 election is telling. The planet of revolution was in detriment in Leo, the sign of royalty, and indeed the election anachronistically gave a democracy "America's Royalty" and the era of "Camelot." Royalty, however, cannot be expected to do well in a democracy, a truth which is liable to be ever more apparent in the Aquarian Age. Kennedy was assassinated before the end of his first term, his brother Robert was assassinated a few years later, and Edward Kennedy has had to deal with many tribulations throughout his political life. As if to seal the message on our psyches, JFK's son was killed in a plane crash at his Uranus opposition, which was also the Uranus opposition of the 1960 election and JFK Sr.'s Uranus return. The lesson for us seems to be that we should pay attention to the message, but must not place too much importance on the messenger—uneasy is the head that wears the crown in the new age.³

Much has been written about the Jupiter-Saturn cycle, which, when it has occurred in earth signs, has coincided with the death in office of seven U.S. presidents. Kennedy's 1961 inauguration occurred a month prior to the Saturn-Jupiter conjunction of February 19, 1961 at 25 Capricorn. This point is very close to the U.S. Pluto at 27 Capricorn 33, and acts as a trigger which releases the country's Plutonian energy, which is opposition to the Cancer stellium and which represents a very traditional power. It makes sense to see this buried Plutonian energy as being that of the monarchy from which the U.S. has broken (the chart of England has the Sun at 9 Capricorn 54), and what better shadow for a democracy than a deep attachment to the monarchy from which it re-

belled? The chart of the election shows Jupiter in Capricorn conjunction Nixon's Jupiter and opposition the U.S. Jupiter.

Like Kennedy, Nixon brought the question of royalty to the presidency, but it was in the form of concentrated power, not an era of Camelot. Bernstein and Woodward expressed the monarchical quality of the Nixon presidency as well as its ultimate futility, when they titled one of their books on the fall of the Nixon presidency as *All the President's Men*.

The Saturn-Jupiter conjunction occurred opposition the U.S. Mercury and Nixon's natal Neptune, emphasizing opposition to the U.S. leader (Mercury rules the U.S. seventh) and triggering Nixon's "sacrifice" of the office of president. Twelve years later, as Nixon had his fifth Jupiter return, the Watergate scandal broke. Thus both men fell after their elections, as Jupiter falls in Capricorn.

The combination of the Jupiter-Saturn activity near Nixon's Sun, Jupiter and Neptune at the time of the 1960 election set a pattern for Nixon which would eventually ruin his political career. He came to see the power struggles of politics in increasingly ruthless terms, while failing to clearly see his opponents. Much of the "dirty tricks" campaign which so smeared Nixon's name after the 1972 election was unnecessary as it was directed at Ted Kennedy (who was not going to be a candidate, as he had troubles of his own) and McGovern (it was clear he would lose in a landslide). But after 1960, Nixon could not trust even his own successes. In the years that followed, Nixon, as much as anyone, lionized and demonized Kennedy. For example, he sought to recreate the "cultured" air of the Kennedy years in his own White House, and probably did a better job, although he never received credit for it. Yet the shadow side of his feelings for Kennedy were never far behind.

Back to the Future

Were it just a matter of Kennedy and Nixon, the story would end at Nixon's resignation. But the legacies of Kennedy and Nixon continue to influence the presidency. Kennedy was an inspiring

President who, in true Uranian fashion, moved the country to break the boundaries of Earth itself by going to the Moon. His short term was followed by that of his Vice President, Lyndon Johnson. The country grieved at the loss of Kennedy, and his assassination obviously deeply wounded the country's psyche. Yet five years after Kennedy's tragic death, his opponent in the 1960 election was elected president, and at the 1972 election Nixon won by a landslide, a sharp contrast to both his loss in 1960 and to his eventual image as a disgraced politician.

With the fate of these two men set, patterns emerge in which the themes of the 1960 election reemerge in different forms. Since Kennedy's era, the image of youth and personal charm has become an important part of the presidential resume. Both Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, like Kennedy, have a Libra Ascendant⁴, Clinton has a significant first house Libra stellium, and Carter's Sun is trine to Kennedy's. George W. Bush also has a Libra emphasis, with a stellium that includes the Moon, Neptune, Jupiter and Chiron. When we speak about how a candidate presents—Al Gore was too stiff, as was Bob Dole—we are looking for the Venus in the President. We shouldn't be surprised to find Venus active in the White House—the U.S. Saturn in Libra, is elevated in the U.S. chart, and Libra is on the U.S. Midheaven. Kennedy's chart is ruled by Venus, but his Pluto conjunction the U.S. Venus also sends out a cautionary word on this phenomenon.

While Kennedy contributed a Venusian "star quality" to the presidency, Nixon's contribution is somewhat darker. After Nixon, the provision for a special prosecutor remained in existence for almost three decades, an extra check on the power emanating from the Oval Office. The urge to "bring down" the president is certainly a fallout from Watergate, reaching its most recent climax with the impeachment of Bill Clinton. While the Iran-Contra affair during the Reagan years was diffused, in part to maintain stability of the government after the wrenching trauma of Watergate, the Republicans quickly began to chip away at Clinton with Travelgate, Whitewater and, finally, Monicagate. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that behind these consistent attacks lies

the logic that what killed the goose might just as well kill the gander.

Then there is the Republican Party's controversial winning of the presidency in the 2000 election, which serves as a kind of balance for the Democratic Party's narrow (and questionable) victory in 1960. Odd as it may seem, Al Gore could commiserate with Richard Nixon on this point (Gore's Moon is conjunction Nixon's Jupiter). Whether the scale has been reset or election hijinx will escalate remains to be seen, but it is worth noting that voting irregularities represent a fundamental threat to democracy.

George W. Bush's Sun (13 Cancer 46) is closely conjunction the U.S. Sun, and he is certainly more the traditionalist than the progressive side of the country. However, we have to note that his chart has a seventh house Gemini-Uranus emphasis in synastry to the U.S. chart which we can associate with the more progressive side of the country. Like the U.S. itself (also the United Nations), he has Uranus in Gemini, and he was elected with Uranus in Aquarius (the First World War and the League of Nations). Like Kennedy, and even reminiscent of him, he has spoken of the need to fight tyrannies around the world. The North Node of the U.S. chart falls on Bush's Ascendant, and the job of president may bring out the best in him, although his South Node falls in the U.S. first house, near the Ascendant, and he may not bring out the best aspects of his job as the "head" of the country.

Bush's Saturn is in detriment at 26 Cancer 30, and he thus faces reelection in 2004 at his second Saturn return, a time of reckoning for the past 30 years of his life, of course, but also the Saturn return of Watergate, and the Saturn opposition to the Saturn-Jupiter conjunction of the 1960 election. The 2004 election seems to hold the possibilities of either freeing the presidency from the weight of the Kennedy-Nixon era, or giving us the chance to relive the drama one more time.

Certainly, Kennedy and Nixon showed sides of the presidency which are not in concert with the role of a leader in a democracy, although they approached the office from different angles. With Kennedy, the country got something akin to a Royal Family; with Nixon, it was a deep suspicion

of the power of the presidency. Subsequent presidents have had to live with both images of the office, as though both a glamorous shine and a corrosive tarnish have been attached to the office.

The lesson to be learned from Kennedy and Nixon is significant: As we move into the Aquarian Age we need to learn to live without the emotional attachment to powerful leaders. We find time and again, in politics and elsewhere, that our leaders either disappoint us or are taken from us abruptly, both of which are part of the process of weaning us from individual personalities to abstract principles. We need to be wary of too much power in one person, whether it is gained through "dirty tricks" or personal charm.

Endnotes

¹ See Campbell, Joseph. *The Masks of God: Primitive Mythology*. New York: Penguin Books, 1987, (pp. 165-166), for an interesting take on this.

² Goldzwig, Stephen R. and Dioisopoulos, George N., "In A Perilous Hour," *The Public Addresses of John F. Kennedy*. *Great American Orators*, No. 22. Greenwood Press, Westport, CT., 1995.

³ Martin Luther King is another example. Even Elvis, the King of Rock & Roll did not make it past his Uranus return. It is interesting to note that eight of the first thirty-five (22.8 percent) Presidents died in office.

⁴ I exclude Johnson because as Kennedy's Vice President he went through a different process in being selected as the Democratic nominee.

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U.S. Sibly Chart. July 4, 1776, 5:10 p.m., LMT, Philadelphia, PA (39N57, 75W10). From Campion, Nicholas (1996). *The Book of World Horoscopes*. Bristol, UK: Cinnabar Books. Chart 370.

1960 Election. November 1, 1960. The first Tuesday in November. Specific times not applicable to this discussion.

George W. Bush, July 6, 1946; 7:26 a.m. EDT; New Haven, CT (41 N 18, 72 W 56); AA: Birth Certificate.

Jimmy Carter, October 1, 1924; 7:00 a.m. CST; Plains, GA (32 N 02, 84 W 24). AA: Marion March quotes birth certificate.

Bill Clinton, August 19, 1946; 8:51 a.m. CST; Hope, AR (33 N 40, 93 W 36); A: from mother's memory.

Al Gore, March 31, 1948; 12:53 p.m. EST; Washington, D.C. (38 N 54, 77 W 02); AA: Birth certificate.

John F. Kennedy, May 29, 1917; 3:00 p.m. EST; Brookline, MA (42 N 20, 71 W 07). A: Private correspondence citing Kennedy's mother, according to Lois Rodden.

Richard Nixon, January 9, 1913; 9:35 p.m. PST; Yorba Linda, CA (33 N 53, 117 W 49); AA: Birth Certificate.

ARMAND DIAZ, M.A., was born July 30, 1962, 2:25 p.m., EDT, Whitestone, NY. A latecomer to astrology, he began serious study only when learned that charts no longer needed to be calculated by hand, previously relying on more low-tech methods of divination. Certified to NCGR Level III, he can now calculate charts and progressions by hand, although he does not do so with any frequency. In addition to his astrological consulting practice, he works as a speech pathologist, and teaches in the graduate speech, language and hearing program at Hofstra University. He can be reached at zitofon@macdialup.com.

Anatomy of Death

By Denis Saunders

Astro-psychology concentrates on the first and fourth houses and the personal planets. Because this can be helpful to promote self-awareness and understanding, it is in popular demand. This has caused a tendency to overlook the traditional, and truer, role of astrology as a divine gift mapping the individual's road in life, and why I take every opportunity to show the correspondence between the celestial indications of a proven event and its terrestrial manifestation.

Death is a proven event and, except in suicide, can be said to be beyond the control of the subject. In the examples used in this article, it is definitely so, as each made efforts to avoid death. In each individual chart, the celestial indications of death will be found from the cusps of the first, eighth, fourth and tenth houses, with explanatory notes from the rulers and the planets occupying the houses. Where death is caused by an ailment, further details may be gleaned from the sixth and twelfth houses or, if from other reasons, the relevant house or houses.

CASE 1

This elderly lady, in spite of her great age, was seemingly well and in full possession of her faculties until she *suddenly* suffered a *stroke*. She was taken to a hospital where it was discovered that

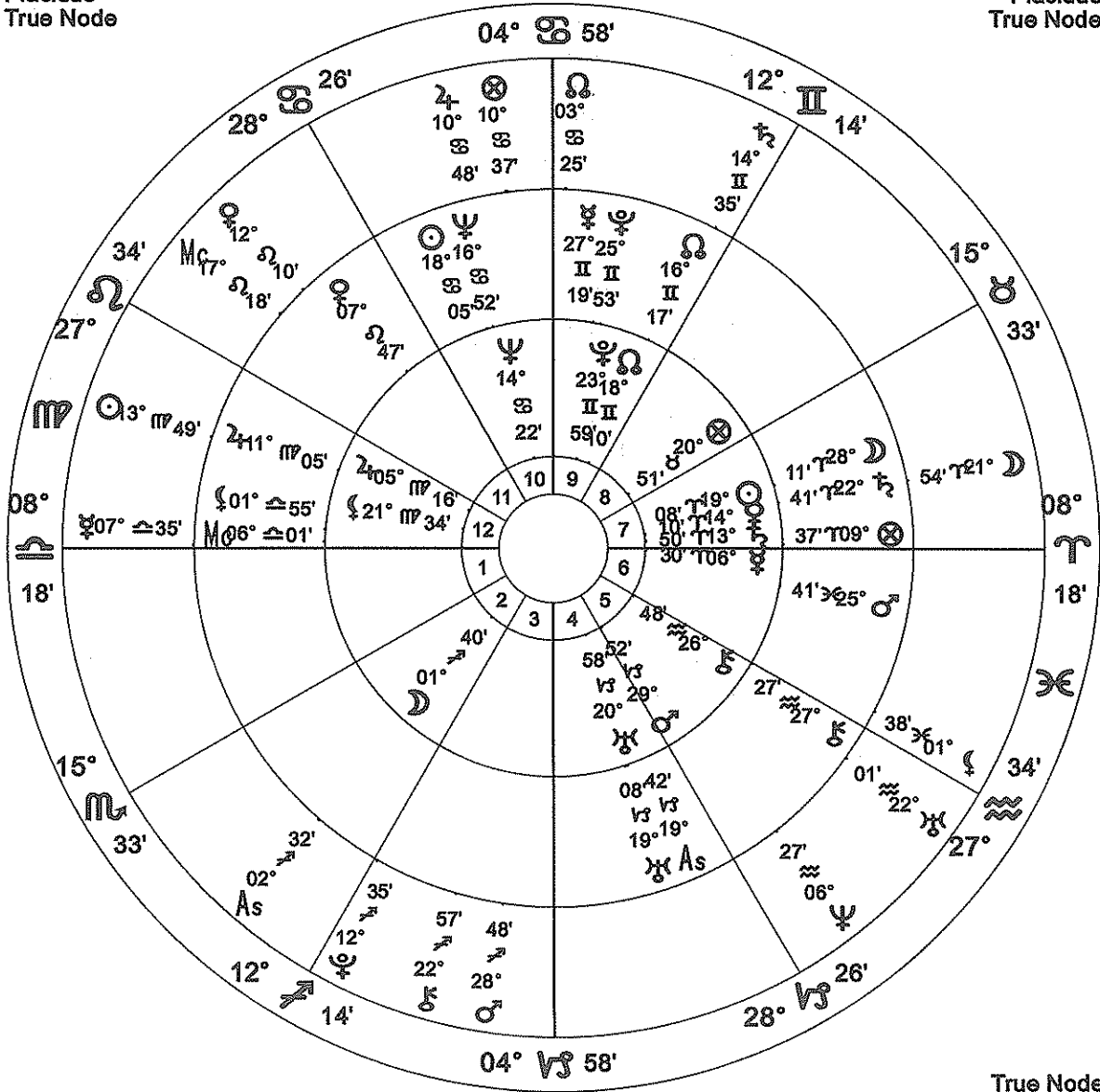
she had a *malignant tumour* of the *colon*. She also had a *failing heart* and fluid on the *lungs*. She was given two days to live, but her family took her home, put her on homeopathic medicine and nursed her until she died *painlessly* and *peacefully* two weeks later.

What are the planetary indicators? The first is the Venus-ruled Taurus cusp of the eighth. Taurus here signifies a peaceful, natural and often painless death. It is also a sign signifying apoplexy. Venus is in the seventh opposition her Ascendant, of which it is also the ruler, and square Uranus opposition Neptune from the fourth to the tenth, and forming a grand cross. We thus see that Venus is carrying a heavy burden; not only is it badly aspected, but it is also in detriment. However, there are mitigating factors. Neptune, which rules the fluids of the body, in spite of its bad aspects, is accidentally dignified by being in the tenth and being the highest planet in the chart, besides being with the fixed star Canopus that turns bad to good. However, Canopus also indicates a sudden death. Venus is accidentally dignified in the seventh, an angle, and the natural house of Libra, and Fortuna occupies the eighth, providing protection at death with its trine to fourth house Uranus.

The secondary ruler of the eighth is Mercury, placed in the sixth. In the radix, it points to the

Inner Wheel
Case 1
 Natal Chart
 Apr 9 1909
 5:30 pm EET -2:00
 Port Elizabeth, SAFR
 33° S58' 025° E40'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Middle Wheel
Case 1
 Sec.Prog. Naibod in Long
 Sep 6 2001
 5:36 am EET -2:00
 Port Elizabeth, SAFR
 33° S58' 025° E40'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



True Node
 Placidus
 Tropical
 Geocentric
 26° S15' 028° E00'
 Johannesburg, SAFR
 10:25 am EET -2:00
 Sep 6 2001
 Event Chart
Transits Sep 6 2001
 Outer Wheel

lungs and suggests clear mental faculties at the time of death, which was the case. The lady could speak and reason, she could eat; her bowels functioned in spite of the malignancy. Her one difficulty was vision; she seems gradually to have lost her sight, and sight comes under Mercury.

Next, we look at Uranus in the fourth. Uranus here, traditionally, tells of sudden unexpected death. And that, too, was the case. It is the planet that signifies blood circulation and, in Capricorn, denotes in old age. The ruler, Saturn, is also in the seventh and conjunction Venus, suggesting arteriosclerosis.

Then there is the Dark Moon Lilith rising just below the horizon. Lilith is an indicator of denial, denying the greater good of the subject. Although it is not a direct indicator relating to death we will see that in this chart it does have a relevant connection. Unfortunately, so little is known about Lilith that it is difficult to give it a precise meaning.

One other planet draws our attention: Jupiter in the twelfth. Jupiter represents excessive growth that can become uncontrolled, which is exactly what a malignant tumour is. It is in Virgo, the colon, and the ruler of the twelfth is the Sun. The Sun is exalted and in the seventh so it has a double dignity. It represents the heart and circulation and is conjunction Venus and Saturn, which is in fall.

This then is the picture of what can be expected at the time of transition as presented by the radix, and from these indications, our sights are set mainly on Venus, Mercury, Uranus, Sun and Lilith. However, to discover *when* the death manifestation is possible, we have to proceed to the progressed chart and note the movement of the Midheaven and Ascendant points that are the controllers of all the predetermined inscriptions in the chart.

In its inexorable movement, the Midheaven counts off the days of our lives at one degree a year. As it aspects planets in the radix, it evokes the energies of those planets in terms of their natures and the meanings of the houses, denoting an event related to the public being of the sub-

ject. The corresponding Ascendant, if it aspects a planet or a cusp, likewise represents an event that refers to the body and personality of the person. In indications of death, both *must* be involved. A third essential requirement is a quincunx of relevance. Furthermore, at least two other severe aspects would be necessary before the astrologer could decide on a death event, and, of course, *one should never predict such an event to a client!*

What, then, do the progressions tell us? The Midheaven has come to the conjunction of the radical Ascendant. Although I do not allow orbs between planetary aspects, I do allow a small orb for the personal points. When birth occurs in a large city, the coordinates are never exact. Often, times given on the quarter hours are inexact. I suspect that the lady was born a few minutes before 5:30 p.m., and that the Ascendant is nearer seven degrees. To continue, it now is conjunction Lilith in Venus' sign. The Ascendant has formed a conjunction to radical Uranus, and progressed Uranus has regressed to an exact square with the Sun, symbol of the personality. Venus is sextile both the radical and progressed Midheaven and radical Lilith and the progressed North Node, indicator of fate, sextile radical Venus. Lilith is trine the eighth house cusps.

From these progressed positions, we can see that an event is ready to manifest, and that it is an event concerning the eighth house. The relevant planets, with the exception of Mercury, are the only ones involved. As the fluid on the lungs was the actual cause of death, we must look to the transits for its involvement. And there it is right on the horizon line conjunction the progressed Midheaven. Transiting Lilith at the degree of radical Venus square the progressed North Node-South Node axis is forming a T-square of stress that is receiving a conjunction from transiting Saturn of disintegration. Saturn is also sextile radical Venus. Lilith is also trine radical Neptune. The transit Sun = p. Jupiter/Lilith and is opposition radical Saturn.

There is a quincunx between progressed Uranus and the radical North Node and between progressed Mercury and progressed Chiron. Thus, all conditions for our investigation are completed in

a true and indisputable traditional manner, with only Ptolemaic aspects used.

Finally, the declinations also tie the three charts together: transiting Jupiter parallel progressed Sun, and North Node antiparallel radical Uranus.

CASE 2

This unfortunate lady contracted a sexually transmitted disease from the man with whom she was living. Cancer of the cervix ensued. She had chemotherapy and radiation, then stronger radiation, all to no avail because oncology's promises are, as my grandmother used to say, like pie-crust—easily broken. She had a hard, painful death in spite of morphine and died two weeks before her forty-second birthday.

Her radical chart paints the exact picture of the circumstances and events that would occur. The first thing to notice is the Moon's South Node in the first house, the mark of a short life. It is in Aries, in a critical degree and its dispositor is Mars. Traditionally, the period of life governed by Mars is between 34 and 45 years of age. Then, Neptune in Scorpio, in the seventh house, confirms that a partner would be a weakling and one to take drugs, which he did. It also shows sexual depravity. Being the natural ruler of the twelfth house, Neptune also suggests that he would be a secret enemy.

The sixth and twelfth houses are overly large, 45 degrees placing an emphasis on health. Pluto in the sixth shows the pollution connected with impure coitus, while Chiron in the twelfth determines that it cannot be healed. She was never hospitalized, receiving treatment from private practitioners; Uranus of physical treatment indicates the chemotherapy and radiation. The twelfth house rising Moon refers to the condition of her health during the period, one day up, another down.

Scorpio on the cusp of the eighth determines that the lady would die from an involvement of the female genitalia and that it would concern overgrowth of tissue by Jupiter. This was to be the primary cause of death, but the actual cause of death would be the nervous system.

Before we proceed to the progressed positions, let me point out the strength of this radical chart. Notice that Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto are all in their own signs, and the Sun is exalted. This causes extra energy into their symbolic meanings, increasing their potential power. Uranus is in detriment, increasing its potential for harm.

When death was about to occur is shown by the progressed planets. The Ascendant is sextile the Sun, the Moon is opposition the radical Ascendant, Jupiter is quincunx Mars, Pluto is square Jupiter and the North Node of Fate is trine the progressed Midheaven. It waited for the exact moment when the transits would dictate the transition by aspecting the radical planets. At that time, these aspects were active:

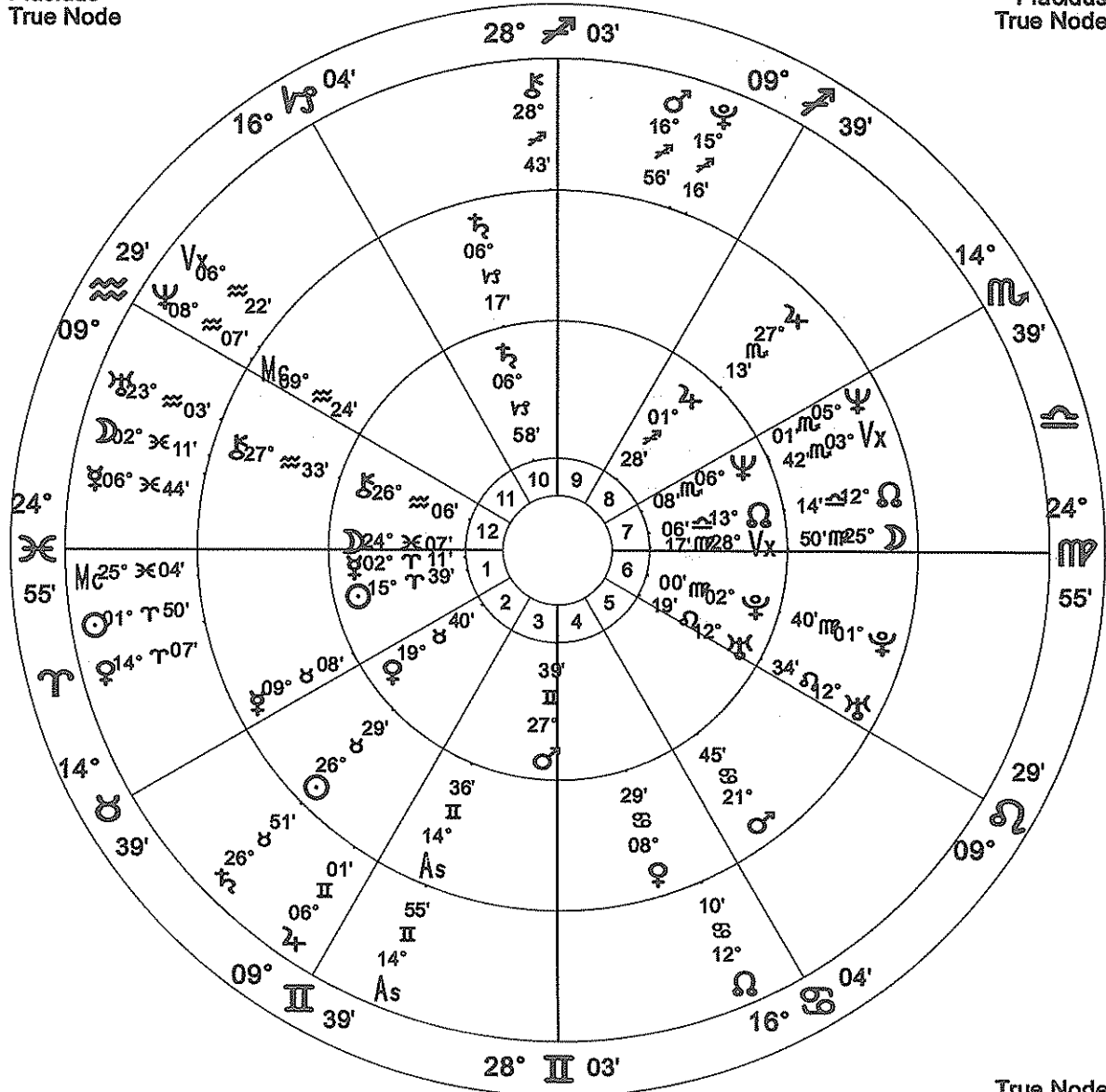
- Midheaven conjunction Ascendant
- Ascendant sextile Sun, at the same time conjunct progressed Ascendant
- Sun trine Jupiter and quincunx Pluto
- Moon semisextile Mercury and opposition Pluto
- Mercury sextile Saturn and trine Neptune
- Venus quincunx the eighth cusp
- Jupiter in a yod, the Finger of Fate, with Saturn and Neptune
- Saturn square Chiron and progressed Sun
- Pluto opposition progressed and transiting Ascendants
- Transiting Vertex, the Spiritual Ascendant, square Neptune

There were a lot of transit hits, but only those planets concerned with the death are involved.

I would like the reader to look at Mars. Although it does not feature in either the progressions or transits, it is a most important planet. It is on the cusp of the fourth house of the end of life. It is a malefic and it receives an opposition from the Midheaven and a square from the Ascendant, Moon and Mercury, making it highly dangerous. Worse still is the fact that by progression it has moved to 21 Cancer in the fifth house of sexual consort. At that point it is under the rays of the fixed star Pollux and its meaning incorporates “. . . or murdered.” Anyone having a sexual disease, a sure basis for malignancy, who has relations with

Inner Wheel
Case 2
 Natal Chart
 Apr 6 1959
 4:58 am UT +0:00
 Hounslow, ENG
 51° N29' 000° W22'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Middle Wheel
Case 2
 Sec.Prog. Naibod in Long
 Mar 22 2001
 5:36 am UT +0:00
 Hounslow, ENG
 51° N29' 000° W22'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



True Node
 Placidus
 Tropical
 Geocentric
 26° S15' 028° E00'
 Johannesburg, SAFR
 11:50 am EET -2:00
 Mar 22 2001
 Event Chart
Transits Mar 22 2001
 Outer Wheel

another without disclosing the information concerning the infection, is guilty of murder. Enough said.

I mentioned the actual cause of death as the nervous system for several reasons. The lady was, in her last days, nursed at home by an organization that cares for the dying. She was given drugs. I am of the opinion that for the sake of the suffering patient and the family, euthanasia is at times practiced. With this, I am entirely in agreement. The chart has several indications that this might have been so. The sign on the cusp of the fourth is Gemini, whose ruler Mercury rules the nervous system. Saturn in Capricorn rules the nervous system. Progressed Fortuna and transiting Venus = Sun/South Node; the reading, from Ebertin's *The Combination of Stellar Influences*, page 88, is "The termination of associations. The function of the autonomic nervous system." Furthermore, Uranus, which also has connection with the nervous system, is with the fixed star Acubens—poison.

To complete the delineation, these are the declinations:

- Transiting Mars parallel progressed Saturn contraparallel radical Pluto progressed Ascendant
- Transiting North Node and Ascendant contraparallel progressed Saturn parallel progressed Pluto Ascendant radical Pluto contraparallel Saturn
- Transiting Saturn contraparallel progressed Midheaven parallel radical Uranus
- Transiting Neptune parallel progressed Jupiter contraparallel radical Venus

CASE 3

This is another cancer death. The lady, who was feeling reasonably well, noticed blood in her stool. She consulted a specialist, who discovered a small tumour of the colon. It was excised and, at the operation, it was discovered that the malignancy was also in the liver. After the operation, the cancer, having now entered the lymphatic system, galloped through the body. She refused chemotherapy and radiation.

The idea that excising a tumour will end the matter is, I believe, a fallacious one because cancer is often a systemic disease. Surgery sometimes can accelerate the process of destruction. Financially, the cost was crippling, and she had to surrender some insurance policies. After the operation, there was no quality of life.

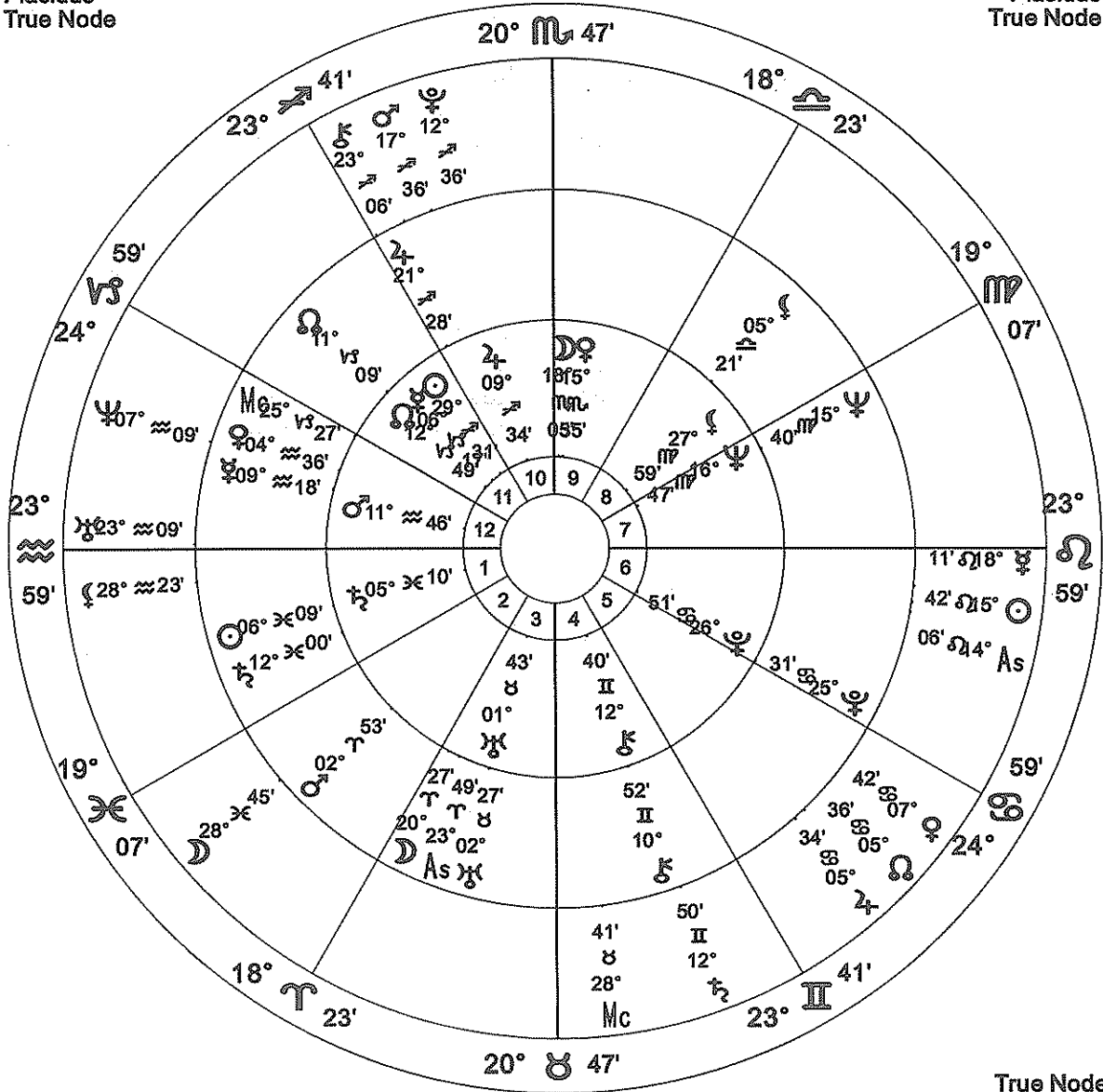
We know that Virgo rules the colon, and there you have it—Virgo on the eighth house cusp. The colon appears to have been the primary focus, but it was the liver's destruction that brought about death. Jupiter square Saturn, ruler of the twelfth of hospitalization, is a picture of that fact. Jupiter determines liver, and Saturn determines hardening, consolidation. Furthermore, Jupiter is opposition Chiron, placed in the end of life fourth, means that death would be from a liver condition that could not be treated. Mars as occupant of the twelfth indicates the operation that she had for the tumour. Note that its dispositor is Saturn. Mars also shows the anger that the cancer engendered. She considered that she had always lived on a clean diet. However, she was a confirmed coffee addict, and coffee is ruled by Mars and by Pluto, the planet of death, natural ruler of the eighth. Mars is in the sign of one's own undoing and is a secret enemy. Pluto is placed in the sixth of sickness, in Cancer, sign of the stomach, and Cancer's ruler, the Moon, is square Mars from the ninth house that rules the hepatic (liver) system. The Moon's solstice point falls in Mars. These movements are not coincidences! Note also that radical North Node is at a critical degree.

Mercury, as ruler of the eighth, is very important. In the radical chart, it is sextile Saturn and opposition the Moon's South Node. At the time of death, by progression it was sextile Jupiter and by transit square the Moon Saturn, as traditional ruler of the Ascendant and as the rising planet, is also important. The radical Saturn was square Jupiter and opposition Chiron. By progression, it came to the square of Chiron and by transit to the conjunction with Chiron.

Two other small points are worthy of mention: transiting Lilith was conjunction progressed Sun and sextile radical Mercury; at death, the radical horizon/Descendant line was exactly on the ce-

Inner Wheel
 Case 3
 Natal Chart
 Dec 22 1935
 9:10 am EET -2:00
 Durban, SAFR
 29° S55' 030° E56'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Middle Wheel
 Case 3
 Sec.Prog. Naibod in Long
 Aug 8 2001
 5:36 am EET -2:00
 Durban, SAFR
 29° S55' 030° E56'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



True Node
 Placidus
 Tropical
 Geocentric
 29° S55' 030° E56'
 Durban, SAFR
 6:35 am EET -2:00
 Aug 8 2001
 Event Chart
 Transits Aug 8 2001
 Outer Wheel

lestial equator. It might mean something.

Finally, the declinations:

- Transiting Jupiter parallel progressed Pluto contraparallel progressed North Node radical Sun
- Transiting Pluto contraparallel progressed Uranus parallel radical Uranus

All three people died from cancer, and in all three, Jupiter played a prominent part. Yet Jupiter, according to many astrological textbooks, is said to give a happy death, especially when placed in the eighth house. However, Case 2 died a hard death. When placed in the tenth, it is said to denote prominence, fame and fortune in public life. That was certainly not so for Case 2. In the twelfth, it is said to denote good treatment and a happy stay in hospital. Case 1 was cared for at home and did not have a happy illness. In the next case, Jupiter also features, and the subject did not have a happy end to life. This shows that while Jupiter can bring blessings, like every other planet it also can bring the reverse. And, like every other planet, it must be read according to its placement in a house and the aspects it receives.

CASE 4

This lady died in a motor accident early in her forty-sixth year. There are a number of signs that she would die prematurely. For example, the eighth house holds Uranus, the planet that foretells accidental and unexpected death, especially as it is square Mars in the eleventh. Mars, when badly aspected in the eleventh spells disaster. The Sun is also in the eighth, signifying, according to Sepharial, that about the forty-fifth year would be critical. It is afflicted, meaning that a premature death is likely, and with a sudden and violent end. The eighth house cusp is on Pluto's Node, and if the cusp is progressed at one degree a year for 46 years, it falls on the radical Moon!

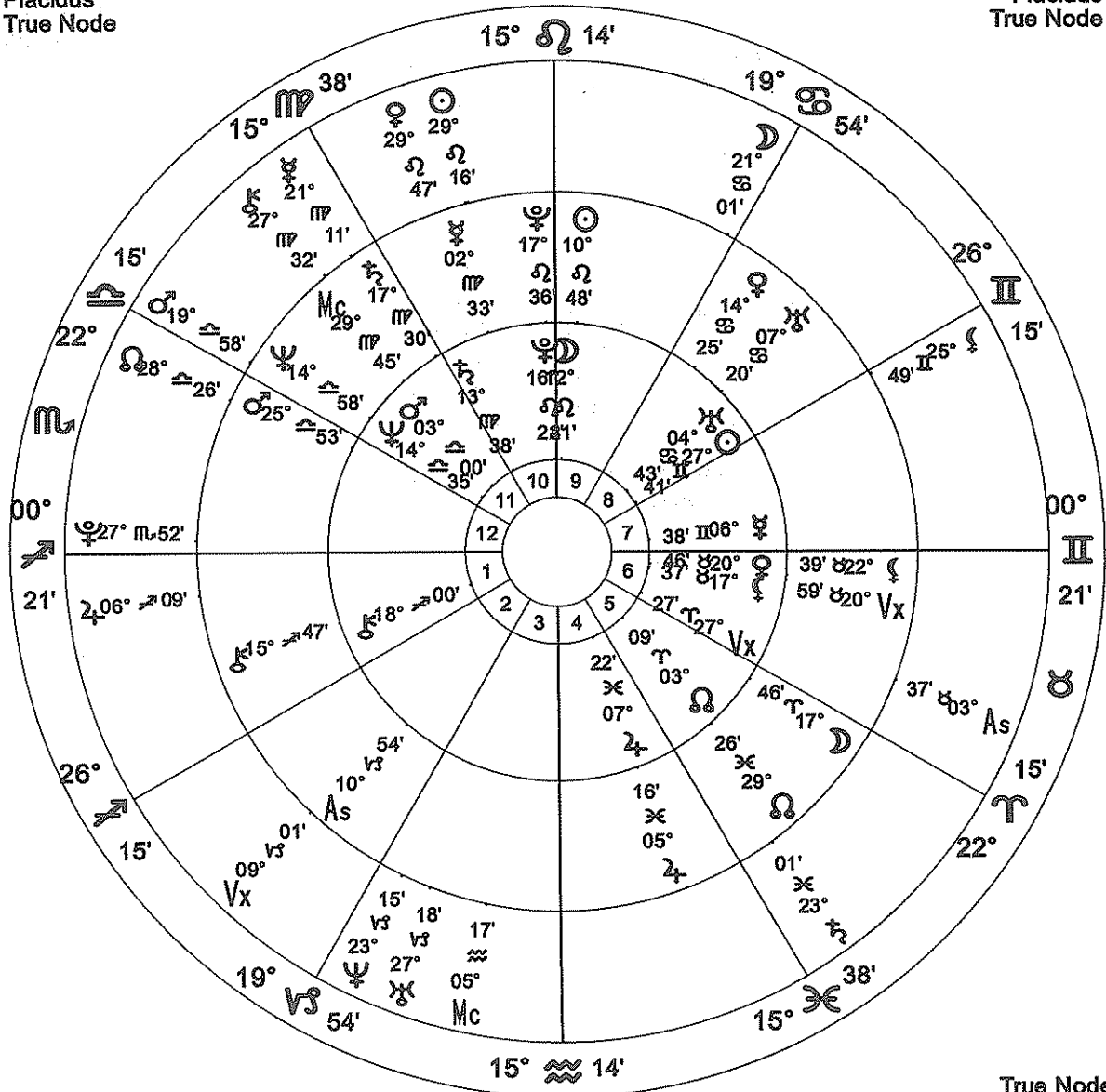
The subject was born on a Monday, the Moon's day, and the Moon, as birthday planet, would have a life-long influence on her. It was conjunction Pluto, planet of death. Pluto is very strong, being accidentally dignified by being in the tenth, conjunction the Midheaven and the highest planet in the chart. The planetary hour belonged to Jupiter, and Jupiter was in the fourth of the end of life, in which placement it was afflicted by a strong Saturn placed at a critical degree. Saturn in the tenth generally denotes a fall from which there is no recovery. Mercury, ruling the eighth, is square to both Jupiter and Saturn and at death, transiting Jupiter was opposition radical Mercury, making a grand square in the chart. At the same time, it is on the solstice point of the Vertex, the spiritual Ascendant. Mercury is in the seventh, which it also rules and links death to the spouse. What happened was, after a pleasant day at their country home, they were returning to their city home when the accident occurred. Her husband had loaded a generator onto the body of their small truck. On impact, the generator shot forward, entered the cab and struck his wife. Uranus rules machinery! He was not injured. Jupiter, if he gave a blessing at all, caused instantaneous death.

There are two Arabic Parts that confirm a premature death. Lilith is with Prima Hyadum which foretells injuries to the head, and Neptune, the secondary ruler of Pisces, is with Markab, which gives a violent death. Jupiter is in Pisces, Neptune is connected to Pisces, and Pisces rules the fifth house of children. The North Node is in the fifth, opposition Mars. At the time of the accident, her young son was driving. We can read it as her fate being in the hands of one of her children, confirmed at death by progressed North Node opposition progressed Midheaven at a critical degree and signalling the start of a new cycle.

Notice that, at death, the principal planets, progressed Moon, Saturn and Pluto are all at seventeen degrees, and that progressed Mercury is at the midpoint of Saturn/Pluto.

Inner Wheel
 Case 4
 Natal Chart
 Jun 19 1950
 3:30 pm EET -2:00
 Johannesburg, SAFR
 26° S15' 028° E00'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Middle Wheel
 Case 4
 Sec.Prog. Naibod in Long
 Aug 22 1995
 5:36 am EET -2:00
 Johannesburg, SAFR
 26° S15' 028° E00'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



True Node
 Placidus
 Tropical
 Geocentric
 25° S47' 029° E28'
 Middelburg, SAFR
 10:30 pm EET -2:00
 Aug 22 1995
 Event Chart
 Transits Aug 22 1995
 Outer Wheel

Psychological Astrology

By Stephanie Jean Clement, Ph.D.

Astrology and Neuro Linguistic Programming: How to Reframe the Birth Chart

Many astrologers arrive at a point where they are well educated with the facts of astrology. They understand the individual signs, planets, houses and aspects. They can go through a chart one item at a time and consistently delineate each component. One would think they're now able to consult with clients. Yet these astrologers are unable to make a meaningful connection with the chart, never mind the client. It is as if they have astrological dyslexia. The separate parts never seem to come together into an image or story.

What these intermediate to advanced students of astrology need is a way to frame the astrological alphabet differently. They need a way to integrate the pieces of the puzzle to create a meaningful pattern or story for the client. The observation process of Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) offers a way to accomplish the desired integration. NLP serves these purposes:

- NLP provides a way to observe the client more consciously.
- NLP helps match feelings

about the chart to client behavior.

- NLP provides a context for grouping observations that feel the same.
- NLP helps the astrologer describe astrological factors effectively.

Instead of trying to make complete sense of the chart by itself, NLP shows you how to take information directly from the client, whether by telephone or in person, and match that visual, auditory and kinesthetic information with factors in the birth chart, progressions and transits.

Some basic premises exist at the outset:

- The client is doing the very best he or she can do at the moment.
- The client desires to change his or her behavior in some way.
- The client has sought help from the astrologer.
- The astrologer has the tools to educate the client about himself or herself.
- The astrologer can frame the contents of the birth chart, progressions and transits as a set of choices that are available to the client.
- The astrologer can facilitate the development of decision-making skills, cre-

ative effort and awareness of personal desires within the client.

- The astrologer can applaud every effort the client makes in such a way as to reframe the clients' attitudes.

Some readers will say, "Well, yeah! I do that." This list is not filled with profound mysteries. Some people are either naturally skilled in communication or they learn the communication skills necessary to consultation work in childhood. They know how to talk with people, find out what they really want and then help them to get it.

Most of us need some training in communication. We know how to talk and we know how to read. We know something about listening (or we wouldn't know how to talk). However, we might know relatively little about meaningful communication. This is where the basics of NLP come into the picture.

NLP Basics

Neuro Linguistic Programming is a model of human communication and behavior developed by Richard Bandler, John Grinder, Leslie Cameron-Bandler and Judith DeLozier in the late 1970s. The model was de-

veloped through observation of the clinical work of Virginia Satir, Milton H. Erickson, Fritz Perls and other therapists. The NLP team wanted to create a model of highly successful psychotherapy so that individuals could be trained in precise methods that work with just about everyone. They felt that too many therapists were working intuitively, without knowing why their efforts were working well. Working intuitively is not a bad thing; however, being conscious of why your methods work will make you an even better communicator.

The team of observers watched and listened intensely while the team of therapists did its work. They sorted out the similarities among the therapists, refined a list of techniques and emerged with a model of human behavior that can be observed. More importantly, they developed a system of interventions that can dramatically influence client behavior.

This article focuses on the method called "reframing." Before you can put a new frame on any picture, you have to have the picture. In astrology you get the picture by looking at the birth chart, progressions and transits to see if the chart is a fair representation of the problem the client has presented. In NLP, you get the message by observing your client (watching and/or listening). NLP provides a systematic way of listening to clients and paying attention to their body language. Let's begin with listening to the client.

When the client first contacts you, there is a minimum of information that is exchanged: birth information, setting the time for the appointment, possibly discovering how the client heard about you. In addition, the client may tell you about the current situation. Words like relationship problems, children, finances, career and bored, sad, angry, bewildered, when used by your client, reveal potential astrological configurations. These words provide content for your analysis.

NLP helps you to pay attention to context words. These are words that tell you how your client is representing the problem to himself or herself. There are three essential representational systems: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. Your clients will use words that reveal which system is uppermost in their minds. Here are some examples of what a client might say:

- I imagine a lot of your clients come to you with this problem (visual, because imagination is largely based on pictures).
- I read your books (obviously visual).
- I heard from Suzy Smith that you are wonderful (auditory).
- I felt I had to do something (probably kinesthetic, but you might want to evaluate that conclusion).
- My spouse has been so cold toward me lately (definitely kinesthetic language).

For comparison's sake, here are some unspecified words—words that don't reflect the representational system in action: think, understand, be aware of, believe, sense, know. These are words about which you can ask questions to learn more information:

- "I think I can't make the grade." You might ask, "When you think about the problem, exactly what happens?" Your client might say, "Whenever I think about my annual job review, I just shut down." Then you ask another question, such as, "When you shut down, how do you experience that in your body?" The client may be able to tell you something concrete, like "I stiffen my arms and legs." (kinesthetic) By the way, the client may not have been aware of the stiffening until you asked, but she may go on to say that she has been exhausted, yet unable to sleep because of the pain in the lower legs.
- "I know I can't do a good job." How do you know that?" "Well, it's like there's a voice saying, 'You Dummy, you're going to blow it,' right when I try to figure out what to do." (auditory)
- "I'm not getting what I want in my relationship." "Tell me more about how that." "I have this picture of how married life should

be, and that's not what I have." (visual)

By now you probably get the point. People use words that reveal how they are thinking at the moment. If they use visual terminology, you know that they are in the visual mode. Simple as that. Same for auditory and kinesthetic. Of course, the burden is on you to identify the visual, auditory and kinesthetic words your client is using, or to ask pointed questions that encourage your client to use some specified words so you can identify the mode.

I have had 10- to 15-minute conversations with individuals in which I could not identify one representational word! I frankly don't know how they do it. Perhaps that is because I have studied these techniques and learned to sprinkle representational words into everything I do. Examine that last sentence. There is one representational word in it. The word is "sprinkle." I couldn't write that sentence without anchoring it in some way. Otherwise the sentence might have simply floated away. I anchored it with a kinesthetic word. Now you can hold on to the thought: It's important to use visual, auditory and kinesthetic words in your work with clients. It helps you to find out what and how they are thinking. When you know how they think, you can deliver your message in the right way: you can represent astrology in words your client already understands.

I have an opinion about how the visual, auditory and kinesthetic representational systems relate to the cardinal, fixed and mutable modes. Here it is:

Physical objects can be touched and felt and generally they have the quality of remaining the same. Kinesthetic people are more grounded in this kind of everyday reality, and therefore probably operate in the fixed mode.

Auditory types are more mutable. This is because we are deeply affected by what we hear, even when we are not listening. For example, a conversation in the next room when you are asleep can impact the content of your dreams. People report the content of conversations during surgery. It's very hard to shut sound out completely, and we often adapt to our surroundings based on what we hear. For example, the sound of an animal crashing through the underbrush would put you on alert instantly.

This leaves cardinal and visual to make the final pair. This pair also makes sense: When we want to take action, we make a picture of the path we will follow and the outcome we desire. If we can't make a picture, it's really hard to get there. You can test this on yourself: Imagine what my astrological chart looks like. What do you get? When I think of your chart, I get a picture of a lot of astrological glyphs that sort of move around the chart. They don't stay put because I don't know your Sun

sign, I don't know how old you are and I don't know your birth date. With all or part of this information, I would be able to develop a better picture.

For the visual types among you, you could look at me, see some gray hair and wrinkles, and know that I don't have Pluto in Sagittarius or Scorpio and probably not Libra. I'm pretty well preserved if you think Cancer is a possibility, so that pretty much leaves Virgo and Leo. How did you get this information? Visually. Without seeing me, it might have been harder. Do I sound young or old on the phone? What is your gut response to whatever I have said in this article?

You may want to practice the visual/kinesthetic/auditory representational systems on yourself or your friends to get comfortable with it. A few of you have already said, "Aha! I do that!" Some of you will have to practice a lot to overcome your personal preference for one mode or the other. I used to be a very visual type, or so I thought. Now I find that I can engage all three modes without too much trouble. By the way, I have a balance of planets: three cardinal, three fixed and four mutable. Go figure! At first I wrote, "Imagine that," but I realized I had favored the visual representational system, so I changed it to "Go figure." I know people can "figure" in any of the representational systems. Some people add out loud (auditory); some count on their fingers (kinesthetic), and some

write down the problem (visual with a dose of kinesthetic).

Here is how to look at the chart through the client's eyes:

1. Check the balance of modes.
2. Create basic delineations that begin with each mode.
3. Listen to identify which mode the client is using at any given time.
4. Offer explanations of the chart, based on your experience of the client's mode of thinking.

John Edwards

Caveats: What we hear John Edwards say is very probably scripted by someone else. Therefore it is tricky to evaluate his mental style based on the content words in his speeches. That said, we still have his chart. That he can't change. We can review his natal chart, calculate progressions or directions, include transits for a chosen date and get a very sound picture of his natural potential and his current possibilities.

To begin the delineation, I looked at only one factor—the closest square between planets in Senator Edwards' chart. The closest square indicates the way the chart works. It can show us the operating factor that most significantly reflects a person's life. If the native understands the energy of this aspect, then he or she flourishes. If misunderstood, the aspect can reflect many of the problems that come into the individual's life.

[Note: the word "reflect" at first seems to be visual; however, heat (kinesthetic) reflects off shiny surfaces, and sound (auditory) echoes off surfaces too.]

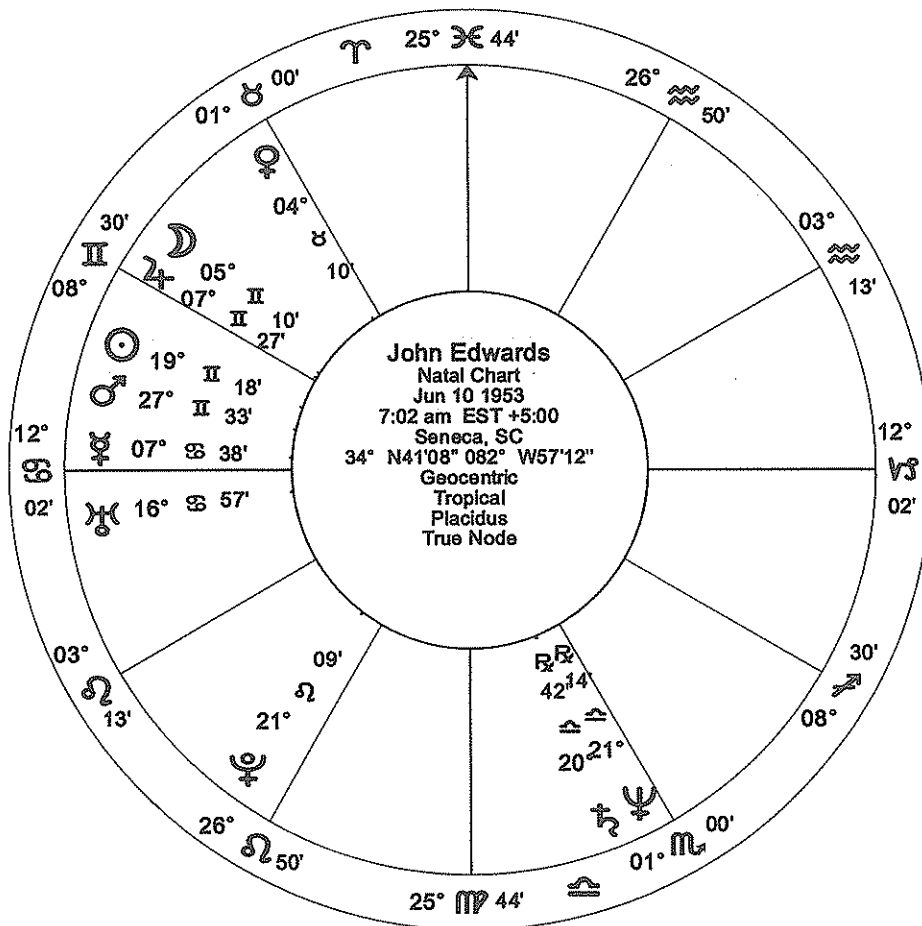
The closest square in John Edwards' chart is Saturn to Uranus. Most astrologers, if offered a choice, would not choose this combination. Saturn can indicate inhibition and seriousness in the personality; it describes structure in the body (teeth, hair, bones, skin). Saturn's placement in Libra suggests a person who is a loyal partner, conscientious in his work and reliable. He could be shy. Uranus indicates abrupt changes in one's life, a love of independence and enthusiasm for new ideas. It suggests intuition backed by sound judgment. Uranus in Cancer indicates strong intuition, a desire to see faraway places and a love of different ideas and people. The person with this placement could be rebellious.

Put structure together with a rebel, and you get pressure and provocation. This aspect can indicate broken bones and other injuries. Put conscientiousness in work habits together with intuition and you might find a good student. Senator Edwards was a very good student, graduating from college and law school with honors. Put loyalty together with rebellion and what do you get? This is not a trick question, yet there are several possibilities. You get George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette; you also might get Charles Manson, et al.

With Saturn square Uranus, you might find a person who rebels to achieve personal freedom, or a person who has felt confined or limited in some way. The Saturn-Uranus aspect is at the core of astrological patterns in most accidents (along with Mars). I don't know if Edwards has suffered any remarkable accidents in his life. However, his son died as the result of a car accident in April 1996. In addition, Edwards has championed many individuals who are injured or disabled, especially children.

To summarize what we know for sure about him, Senator Edwards has used the creative energy of the Saturn-Uranus square to earn his education, to work diligently for his clients and to establish a lasting marriage. He has suffered the aftermath of his son's fatal accident. He has also made a reputation as a senator who doesn't necessarily play by the "good old boy" rules all the time.

Even without a lot of personal information, we can assess Senator Edwards' thinking style. He has four cardinal, two fixed and four mutable planets. This arrangement suggests that he has a natural balance of visual and auditory processing. By solar arc, he has three cardinal, three fixed and four mutable—a better balance. By secondary progression, he has five cardinal (less balance). Saturn and Uranus, the planets forming the closest square in the natal chart, are in cardinal signs. Taking all these considerations



into account, we can surmise that Edwards' primary style at this time is cardinal. This means that the best path to communicating with him at this time is through the visual mode.

Election 2004—Solar Arcs and Transits

Still looking only at the natal Saturn square to Uranus, let's look at solar arcs and transits for the time of the election. Given Edwards' successes, we may not need to give as much weight to the destructive energy potential of the natal aspect. In addition, Senator Edwards is over 50 years old and has considerable experience

dealing with his own potential, for good or ill. However, the aspects to Saturn and Uranus by solar arc, progression and transit form a powerful array. Table 1 is a list of aspects, astrological delineations and NLP phrases chosen for their visual imagery. The delineations are quoted from *The Combination of Stellar Influences* by Reinhold Ebertin.

The NLP phrases may seem rather silly at first glance. Let them sink in a bit. If you are a visual thinker, they will immediately evoke suitable images. In a couple of places I included kinesthetic words (feel and slow down). In order to create balance and avoid accident or injury, it's usually best to get a

person to focus on the physical world (think kinesthetically).

If you are not a visual thinker, the NLP phrases may not work as well for you. You can substitute auditory or kinesthetic words. Here are some examples:

- Notice where you feel the tension in your body.
- What do you sound like when you are successful in your work?
- Remember a time when you heard yourself say exactly the right thing.
- Specifically, how does it feel in your body when ...
- Expect yourself to feel some stress. Even a few

Table 1. John Edwards—Solar Arcs and Transits for Election 2004

Aspects	Delineation	NLP Phrase
<i>Natal</i>		
Saturn □ Uranus*	Irritability and inhibition; the ability to cope with every situation	Remember the successful outcome of a major negotiation or trial. <i>Picture</i> what that was like.
<i>Solar Arc</i>		
Mars ∨ Uranus*	Quick determination, courage	See yourself acting courageously.
Uranus ∠ Saturn*	Unusual emotional tensions	<i>Visualize</i> a place where you <i>feel</i> safe, secure and relaxed.
Uranus ∠ Neptune	Lack of emotional balance	<i>Imagine</i> that everything around you is coming into balance.
Ascendant ∠ Uranus*	Tendency to cause disquiet to other people	Remember a time when you interacted successfully with the people around you. What does that <i>look</i> like?
<i>Secondary Progressed</i>		
Moon ♂ Saturn	Self-control, thoughtfulness	<i>Visualize</i> yourself in the place where you do your best problem solving.
<i>Transit</i>		
Pluto * Saturn*	Tenacity and toughness	<i>Picture</i> your favorite hero. Then <i>visualize</i> yourself. Alternate between these two <i>images</i> .
Uranus □ Uranus	Independent action; impulsive actions	You probably <i>feel</i> impulsive at this time. <i>Imagine</i> what it would be like to <i>slow down</i> a tiny bit.

Ebertin mentions accidents and violence for the starred (*) aspects.

minutes of quiet meditation in the taxi or plane will help you to relax the muscles around your eyes.

- Go to the place in your mind where ...
- Listen to relaxing music a few minutes each day.

All you have to do is lead off your recommendations with visual, auditory or kinesthetic words to suit your client's thinking style. Then you can say whatever positive information or advice you have to offer. The first part of what you say reframes the less positive side of an astrological consideration

into the more positive image, sound, or feeling you offer to your client. The frame—reframe—is in the choice of visual, auditory or kinesthetic words.

What is the very least you can do with NLP to demonstrate to your client that you understand? Based on the dominant mode in the chart and what you hear in the client's words, you can choose your response carefully:

- I see.
- I hear you.
- I think I know how that feels.

These three comments address the three representational systems directly. If you are not sure which one to use, you can say, "I get it."

Take at least a few minutes to try the following exercise. A huge chunk of information about reframing is embedded in it.

Exercise

Look at your own birth chart.

1. Find the planets and angles in the cardinal mode.
2. List these points, with one or two basic key words for each

point. Try to use as many visual words as you can.

3. Using the exact words you have written, write a paragraph or short story that takes all the chart factors into account.

4. Do the same for the fixed and mutable modes, using kinesthetic and auditory words whenever possible.

5. Compare the three stories.

6. Notice which story is most appealing to you.

7. Notice which story is least appealing to you.

You have now personally experienced some of the basic principles of reframing for yourself. You have identified which mode of thinking, deciding and acting is the most comfortable for you, and you have learned which is the least comfortable.

In addition, I sneaked in the lesson about reframing. As you wrote your three short stories, using the different representational systems, you reframed your sense of yourself. Notice I didn't say picture of yourself. That's because you reframed using all three representational systems.

As you implement this simple NLP technique in your client work or your daily life, you will discover more details about how people communicate with their voices and bodies. You will enrich your ability to "listen" to the words that are spoken, the tone of the voice and the physical actions and re-

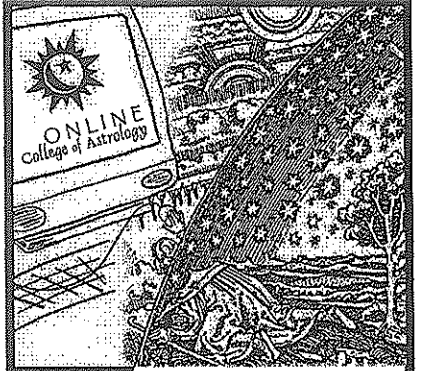
sponses of your client's body. Probably about 10 percent of the content of a communication is in the words. You will learn new ways to uncover and interpret a big chunk of the remaining 90 percent of communication through the use of Neuro Linguistic Programming.

Suggested Reading

Bandler, Richard and John Grinder. *frogs into PRINCES*. Moab, Utah: Real People Press, 1979.

Bandler, Richard and John Grinder. *ReFraming: Neuro-Linguistic Programming and the Transformation of Meaning*. Moab, Utah: Real People Press, 1982.

STEPHANIE JEAN CLEMENT has a Ph.D. in transpersonal psychology. She has written astrology books including *Power of the Midheaven* and *Charting Your Spiritual Path with Astrology*. Her most recent astrology title is *Mapping Your Family Relationships*, a fall 2004 release from Llewellyn Publications. Other books include *Dreams: Working Interactive* and *Meditation for Beginners*. Stephanie is available for full weekend workshops that provide participants with all the basic NLP skills. She can be contacted at stephanieclement@comcast.net or (719) 296-0209.



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Q. What techniques do astrologers use to make predictions about elections?

A. Every astrologer has his or her own favorite techniques, but here are a few that I've used or heard of, as well as some that are not as helpful as you might think:

The charts of the candidates: Most of the time, it's possible to get chart data for the candidates. The person can be asked directly or indirectly for local and regional contests, but with nation- and state-wide contests, the data is likely to have been collected already. You can often find it online, through an astrology e-list or at AstroDataBank.com, as an example. These charts provide the core of any investigation of who will win and should be compared with other relevant charts.

The chart for election day: This is not as good a chart to use as you might think. First, to cast a chart, you have to have a beginning point in time and space. Since the polls open at different times and locations throughout the country (first on the east coast), what chart do you use? What's more, if you were to look at the two (or however many viable) candidates' charts

for that day, their charts would both look strong, like winners. That's because they both are. They've both won the contest for their party's nomination, and they're in the spotlight. Election day transits can be used to help determine who the likely candidates are among a pack prior to a primary, however.

Libra ingress: The cardinal ingress (the time the Sun enters a cardinal sign—Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn) can be used to predict events that occur before the next ingress. A cardinal ingress occurs every three months. For an election held in November, the previous cardinal ingress is in Libra, occurring about September 22. The same difficulties exist with ingresses as with the election day chart in that this chart is likely to light up the chart of each candidate. However, at least here you have an actual beginning point, the time when the Sun enters the sign. It should be cast for the location where the winner will later exercise his/her new position. It can be used to see who the likely candidates are going to be during primary season, however, just as with the election day chart.

Eclipses: The charts of the previous eclipses (solar and lu-

nar) can be used in a way similar to the ingress chart. Eclipses always occur in pairs (one solar, one lunar in either order). The degree of each eclipse is the most important point to consider.

Inaugural chart: The chart for the inauguration (or time the winner officially takes office) can be one of the best charts to use. On Inauguration Day, if each candidate is new to the position (there is no incumbent), one will be in the public eye, while the other will be sitting home watching TV. If there is an incumbent, the incumbent usually will be present no matter what, so both candidates' charts should exhibit planetary contacts for being in front of the public if the non-incumbent is to win.

The charts of prospective First Ladies: For the November election, James Baker looked at the charts of the potential First Ladies to see who would be moving. Since Laura Bush is already living in the White House, her chart should show signs of stability in the home rather than change. If John Kerry is the winner, however, both her chart and that of Teresa Heinz Kerry would show signs of change, since both would

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Book Reviews

By Susan Hopper

What Evangeline Adams Knew: A Book of Astrological Charts and Techniques by Karen Christino. Stella Mira Books, P.O. Box 3095, Brooklyn Heights, NY 11202. 2004. Paper. 241 pp. \$19.95 US

If you are looking for a fascinating read that might just make you a better astrologer, you'll want to check out Karen Christino's latest offering. In *What Evangeline Knew*, the popular author of *Star Success* and *American Astrology's* "Choose Your Career" column almost seems to channel the late, great First Lady of Astrology with her insightful take on Adam's forecasting style. This is a smart and satisfying follow up to *Foreseeing the Future*, Christino's fascinating look into the life and times of Evangeline Adams, and you'll definitely want both in your personal library.

Separated into two distinct parts and several appendices, this is a cohesive, well organized effort. Part One gives you insight into Evangeline the woman by exploring who she knew—and her list of associates is just as interesting as the woman herself! Her astrological and spiritual education is documented here, including her curious connection with the mysterious and controversial Aleister Crowley. Clearly, Ms.

Adams enjoyed some unique life experiences. To follow, Part Two nicely segues into just how Evangeline came to her often stunningly accurate astrological conclusions, and is intended for practicing astrologers to use as a handbook for practicing these techniques. This is by no means a cookbook section and must be read with time to reflect and ponder... It's not that the ideas are terribly difficult to understand, but rather that they are simple enough to be overlooked as we go about our 21st Century lifestyles. This is a book you'll need to slow down to read, and would be excellent to take on vacation. *What Evangeline Knew* concludes with several appendices that serve to provide greater understanding into the mind of Evangeline Adams. These include her birth chart and excerpts from interviews and writings which allow readers to paint their own personal picture (and therefore understanding) of Evangeline.

Take your time reading *What Evangeline Knew*, because it is a book to be savored and enjoyed by practicing astrologers and serious students of astrology. This is a very interesting read and should have a place on a bookshelf in every astrologer's home. I predict that we will be

hearing a lot more from Karen Christino, who clearly puts her heart and soul into her work.

Tarot Decoded: Understanding and Using Dignities and Correspondences by Elizabeth Hazel. Red Wheel/Weiser, LLC, 368 Congress Street, Boston, MA 002210, 2004. Paper. 187 pp. \$18.95 USD.

If you are a tarot aficionado and are ready to take your craft to the next level, consider picking up a copy of Elizabeth Hazel's *Tarot Decoded*. This groundbreaking work is a must-have for the astrologer who dabbles in tarot or the tarotist who wants to explore astrology. Hazel shares more than 30 years of experience as both astrologer and tarotist with her readers, helping them to combine these divination tools to create deeper, richer readings. Weighing in at just under 200 pages, this book packs in a lot of relevant information. This is truly a new classic and will go a long way toward building a bridge between the tarot and astrological communities.

The essence of divination is all about relationships, and this original book can place you on the path to understanding them. Hazel explains that dignities are "the interactions be-

tween cards in a spread and within a range of correspondences." Which is to say, the cards interact much like the planets in houses do, creating different harmonies as they appear together in readings. Having practiced both arts myself for many years, I find her observations and instruction very accurate and useful. By going into great detail regarding the types of dignities, she creates a strong foundation for those who wish to explore more layers of meaning in their readings. Chapters on elements, modalities, numeric, planetary and zodiacal dignities allow the student to grasp the many connections between the ancient arts. Demonstrations on several different spreads are interesting and easy to follow, providing the reader with solid exercises to practice Hazel's techniques. The appendices are especially easy to understand and practical, making this both an excellent instructional resource and reference tool. Overall, this is one book you should have in your library if you want to be a more intelligently intuitive astrologer or tarotist!

Mythic Astrology Applied: Personal Healing Through the Planets by Ariel Guttman and Kenneth Johnson. Llewellyn Publications, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2004. Paper. 314 pp. \$24.95 US/\$33.95 CDN

If you are interested in exploring mythic astrology (and what astrologer isn't?), *Mythic Astrol-*

ogy Applied: Personal Healing Through the Planets is a must-have for your personal library. You may already be familiar with *Mythic Astrology: Archetypal Powers in the Horoscope*, a richly hued and in-depth look at the many ways in which myths touch our lives. If you are a Jung fan, or if Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth* resonates with you, consider making room on your bookshelf for both volumes by Ariel Guttman and Kenneth Johnson.

While the first volume lays the groundwork for understanding the ancient perceptions of myths and astrology, the second gives you a framework for spiritual and psychological healing. By exploring the healing energy of the planets as well as considering dreams, *Personal Healing Through the Planets* offers a sound strategy for better living.

Guttman and Johnson have organized the book into four parts, beginning with a solid foundation for understanding myths, astrology and dream work. By comparing the psyche to a sort of Mount Olympus, populated by various warring and romancing gods and goddesses, the authors help the reader to make sense of sometimes contradictory human emotions and desires. Dreams, which can be described as the language of the sleeping mind, often hold the key to these archetypal stories and schema in our lives.

This reading is a must for those who intend to counsel others, whether through astrology or as part of the secular psychological field.

Parts Two through Four delve into delightful detail regarding the inner planets, the asteroids, and the outer planets. Every section flows with fascinating and useful information about the individual gods and mythology, allowing the reader to better understand each player in the astrological/psychological drama. Each chapter is organized to include an explanation of the astrology and myth of each planet, ways to incorporate dream work and active imagination when working with the planetary energy, planetary remedies, and methods for invocation and increasing awareness. I especially enjoyed Part Three's focus on the asteroids, which are often overlooked influences in the lives of both women and men in modern times. I find this an indispensable feature, as there still remains a shortage of references on the subject. Appendix I continues this useful work by describing the mythology of the minor asteroids, which many find can be important considerations for individuals who have major aspects involving them. Appendix II is a form for those who are interested in participating in ongoing studies on how these archetypes can manifest in our lives. This book gets an A+ for being well-written, useful and endlessly interesting.

Lunar Returns by John Townley. Llewellyn Publications, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2003. Paper. 245pp. \$19.95 US/\$30.95 CDN

John Townley, author of several classic titles and the acknowledged "father" of the composite chart, is able to clearly express his ideas in an enlightening and educational way. He continues to contribute the benefit of his expertise to the astrological community with *Lunar Returns*, his latest offering. Published by Llewellyn Publications, *Lunar Returns* speaks with an intelligent, friendly voice that can be easily followed by beginning astrologers, yet be appreciated by more experienced practitioners.

The book begins with an entertaining and solid look at the Moon's science and lore, assuring that even the beginner can grasp the concepts offered. A famous case study is explored for instructional purposes, allowing the novice to follow along for practice. The rest of the book is written in "cookbook" style, which I think is a desirable feature as a reference guide. Every section is logically presented and organized, and each description has a balance of both positive and negative possibilities, with suggestions on how to harness the resulting energy.

When a new book on astrological technique finds its way to my desk, the first thing I do is test it using my own chart. The ease in which I can navigate a

text's instructions and explanations is often a large part of how I grade a book on technique. If I have to work too hard to get to the nuggets of wisdom, I'm likely to move on to a more accessible manual. With *Lunar Returns*, I was immediately able to pull up a lunar return chart of interest and follow Townley's techniques for interpretation. Simply put, Townley makes learning new astrological tricks seem easy rather than intimidating. For this reason alone, I highly recommend *Lunar Returns* to any astrologer who would like to study the Moon's cycles.

The Love Relationship Formula: Predicting Romantic Success With Astrology by Christine Rakela. Llewellyn Publications P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2004. Paper. 298pp., includes CD-ROM. \$19.95 US/\$30.95 CDN

Relationship compatibility issues are always popular, making Christine Rakela's new book a safe bet on the market. A well rounded astrologer who has produced and hosted her own television show on the Manhattan Neighborhood Network, Rakela has written a solid manual for those who would like to explore chart comparison and compatibility techniques. She takes a thorough look at all the angles, including the composite chart, marriage chart, first meeting chart and solar and lunar return charts. A CD-ROM program comes with

the book and is useful for those who do not already have access to astrological software.

Beginning with Part One, *The Love Relationship Formula* offers sound psychological advice regarding relationships, how they are formed, and what we want from them. Part Two then guides the reader in weighing and interpreting aspects of compatibility, which Rakela calls The Love Relationship Formula. It's a well researched recipe that is likely to satisfy every time, even if it doesn't really break any new ground. Her cookbook-style descriptions are comprehensive enough for beginning astrologers to use, but they are also interesting enough for more seasoned practitioners to enjoy comparing notes with.

Part Three gets into more detail regarding synastry techniques, while Part Four discusses example charts. I especially like that difficult relationships were included in her examples, but then again, with Saturn conjunction Mars in my natal seventh house, difficult relationships could be considered my specialty. Part Five continues the momentum with a closer look at the houses and the roles they play in compatibility, while Chapter Six is especially useful as it discusses timing, retrogrades and void-of-course Moon.

Overall, *The Love Relationship Formula* is a formula for success as an author for Christine Rakela. I'd like to see more from her in the future.

The Moon's Node's: A Churning Process of the Soul by Agneta K. Borstein. Crescentia Publications, Suite 118A 994 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06107, 2004. Paper. 256pp. \$15.95 US

If you are looking for a jewel of a book on the mysterious Nodes of the Moon, pick up a copy of this book. It is a wonderful choice for intermediate and advanced astrologers who want to have a better understanding of the lore and workings of the Moon's Nodes. Borstein wisely incorporates both the Western and Hindu perspectives, giving this book a well rounded, satisfying look at a subject that has been in the dark for too long.

Borstein's style is both intellectual and accessible, with a friendly flavor to her phrasing. She clearly knows her stuff but never talks down. Her European upbringing and open

world view make her book not only interesting but pleasant to read. She begins with the facts and mythology behind the Nodes. This is technical stuff you should pay close attention to, as I have heard many say that they don't use the Moon's Nodes because they don't find them useful. It may just be that not enough information has been available in the past to fully appreciate their contribution to the astrological process!

The bulk of the book is a description of the Nodes through the planets and houses, but it is far from being a cookbook. Each section, approximately 15 to 20 pages, gives examples of how the Nodes manifest through each sign and placement. A thorough case study is given for those who want to go through the steps of nodal interpretation. The book concludes with several useful ap-

pendices, including a glossary and an ephemeris of the Nodes and eclipses, 1900-2050. This book is a good value and should prove to be an excellent tool for astrologers who want to bring the Moon's Nodes to life in their work!

Born March 3, 1968 at 7:30 p.m. in Tampa, Florida, SUSAN HOPPER became interested in astrology while still in grade school. Driven by her fascination with the human mind and interpersonal relationships, she earned her B.A. in psychology with a minor in sociology from the University of South Florida. Her interests include off-road cycling, gourmet cooking, wildlife rehabilitation, gardening and creative writing. Always interested in discussing the language of the stars, she can be reached at shopper2@tampabay.rr.com and (813) 994-9407.

Q&A Continued from Page 96

would be moving. Since the move would occur in association with Inauguration Day, this date should be used.

The chart for the acceptance of a nomination: The time a candidate begins his/her candidacy also can be used as an indicator of outcome, because the chart should show the success or failure (outcome) of the candidacy. You can apply the same approach you would to a sports event. If there is an incumbent candidate, she or he

has an advantage much like that of the home team. Specifically, the "away team" must have chart contacts that are 60-70 percent better than the "home team." (See the work of Lee Lehman and Bernadette Brady.) If neither candidate is incumbent, it indicates a level playing field, such as when neither team is playing at home. One of the most important things is to keep it simple. The more techniques you use, the less you know. Research past elections to see if the tech-

niques you prefer actually work, and don't second guess yourself once you've found what works for you.

TERRY LAMB is an NCGR Level IV certified astrologer. She provides personal, political, and business services to her clients, and can be reached at terry@terrylamb.net. For her latest forecast, events and articles, visit her website at www.terrylamb.net.

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Contact: Ann Wood Schlesinger, Ph.D., 7485 Mountfort

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Contact: Jim Hays, PO Box 12085, Oklahoma City OK 73157, 405-946-9517, jimhays@jimhays.com. Meetings 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

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Contact: Doug Kellogg, PO Box 1032, Ashland OR 97520, 541-482-8988, dak@mind.net. Meetings 3rd Saturday, 11:00 a.m., Headwaters Environmental Center.

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DECL SIG (Declinations)

Contact: Nelda Tanner, PO Box 153, Chino Valley AZ 86323, rlg@northlink.com. Dues, \$15; includes quarterly newsletter.

Starwalks (Fixed Stars) SIG

Contact: Thea Marshall, HC 65, Box 110, Pie Town NM 87827, 505-877-9284, khutmau@thuntek.net.

The Uranian Society (Uranian/Cosmobiology)

Contact: Liane Thomas Wade, 531 Main St. #123, New York NY 10044, 212-355-0118, liane@panix.com. Dues: \$35, U.S.; \$35, others

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