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SUMMER 2013

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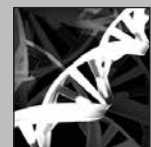
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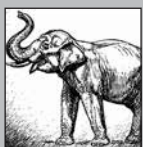
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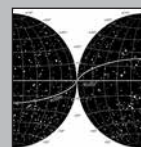
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NCGR Statement of Purpose

The purpose of NCGR shall be to provide an environment to foster and publish research of a geocosmic nature and to pursue educational programs in various interdisciplinary fields related to geocosmic studies. The term "geocosmic" is defined as "of or pertaining to the study of correspondences and cycles involving earthly phenomena and cosmic (celestial) events." This purpose is implemented by: disseminating information through NCGR publications, including journals, newsletters, books or monographs; providing financial and technical assistance, guidance, or professional help to individuals or groups for approved research projects, sponsoring interdisciplinary educational programs, chartering regional, semi-autonomous chapters of NCGR having the same goals and purposes; promoting and encouraging the highest professional standard and ethical behavior among astrologers.

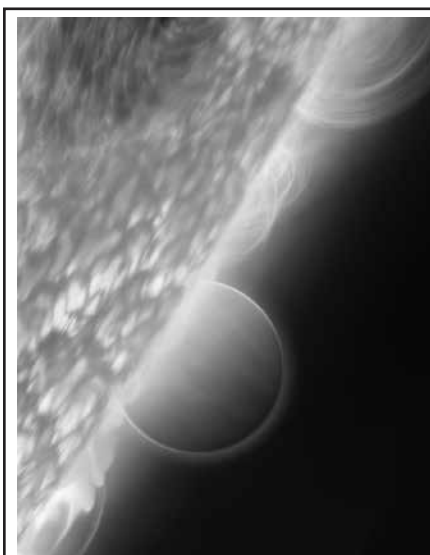
Acknowledgements

Thanks to Ronnie Gale Dreyer and John Marchesella, our guest editors for this issue of *Geocosmic Journal*. We'd also like to acknowledge all the authors who share their work with us in the NCGR *memberletter*, especially those whose articles are reprinted in this issue of *Geocosmic Journal*. Thanks to Loretta Lopez who uses her design skills to put the journals together. Thanks also, to all the members of the NCGR Board as well as Liane Thomas Wade, Ronnie Gale Dreyer, Ken Irving, and Arlene Nimark: their work on behalf of NCGR makes these publications possible.

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We hope you enjoy this edition of the NCGR *Geocosmic Journal*, and we welcome your feedback!

Trish Buckley
Publications Director



ON THE COVER

This is an artist's impression of the Jupiter-size extrasolar planet, HD 189733b, being eclipsed by its parent star. Astronomers using the Hubble Space Telescope have measured carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide in the planet's atmosphere. The planet is a "hot Jupiter," which is so close to its star that it completes an orbit in only 2.2 days.

Credit: ESA, NASA, M. Kornmesser (ESA/Hubble), and STScI. Public Domain Image.

Letter from the Editor



It is an honor to be guest editor, along with NCGR chair John Marchesella, for the Summer 2013 *Geocosmic Journal*. This publication combines new articles with some of the most noteworthy articles that have appeared in past issues of NCGR *memberletter* since I became its editor. I have always viewed *memberletter* as a venue for skilled writers to have the freedom to explore new ideas, as well as a place for aspiring writers to learn their craft. The articles in this issue reflect those two categories, and in fact several of these writers whose names are now quite familiar published their first astrology articles in *memberletter*. My only regret in gathering material for this issue was that I did not have more space, as this would have allowed me to include many more quality articles. To those writers I was not able to include, I thank you for adding your expertise to *memberletter* and I hope you will continue to do so.

The issue opens with a new article by Gene Shaw, “The Astrology of TV’s *Dark Shadows*,” which links the present Uranus-Pluto square with the resurgence of interest in that macabre soap opera, and another by Alex Walker, whose article “Astrology and The Book of Revelation—The Four Astrological Archetypes of The Apocalypse” presents a fascinating new perspective. The remainder of the articles covers a wide array of topics, and appears as originally published, with the exception of Donna Van Toen’s “Making the Most of the Asteroids,” which she has expanded in order to include a few more asteroids. In my own article, “Transiting Venus and Mars Retrograde,” I have substituted the dates of the upcoming Venus and Mars retrograde cycles (beginning in December 2013 and March 2014, respectively) for those used when it was first published in 2007.

Neil Grossman’s article “Lennon Meets McCartney,” which uses the chart calculated for the first time John Lennon met Paul McCartney, follows the journey of the Beatles pop group through transits to that chart, while John Marchesella’s article “Stonewall: The Birth of the Gay Community” follows the rise of the gay community by using the time and place of the Stonewall riots as its representative chart. This is followed with John’s “Stonewall Revisited,” which was written in 2011, in which he revisits the Stonewall chart, using events that occurred since the appearance of the original article in 2002. Claudia Bader gives us a lot of food for thought in “Astrology’s Symbolic Life,” a piece that explores the use of symbols in our astrological thinking, while Jackie Slevin elucidates

her own original theory for “Finding Success in the Horoscope.” In “DNA’s Golden Anniversary: The Controversy behind the Discovery,” which was written in 2003, Anne Ortelee thoroughly analyzes the charts of the founders of the double helix, especially focusing on Rosalind Franklin, who, as a woman in a man’s world, was excluded from her colleagues’ boys’ club. Her contributions have generally been overlooked, in large part because she died too young to be considered for the Nobel prize that Watson and Crick received.

Bruce Scofield provides an intriguing look at which astrological factors might contribute to the political party with whom you affiliate in “Right or Left?” while Liz Houle in her article “The Quiet Beatle: George Harrison’s Vedic Chart” thoroughly analyzes the chart of George Harrison using the techniques of Indian astrology. Arlene Marcia Nimark perfectly explains the importance of “Planetary Cycles and Uranian Aspects,” while Pat Geisler gives us an illuminating look at setting the date and time for a successful fitness club, in her article “Election Charts: Choosing the Best Date and Time.” To round off this amazing collection of articles, Leigh Westin provides the perfect introduction to one of astrology’s oft-ignored but most useful tools in “Declination: Astrology’s Hidden Hingepin.”

For those of you reading these articles for the first time, I think you will find that they have held up exceedingly well since their original publication, and for all intents and purposes could be written today. And for those of you who have been NCGR members for quite some time, and thus may remember some of these articles, I think you will find that they are still as informative as they were when you first read them. Most important, this issue of the *Journal* is a reflection of the support that all of our wonderful members have given NCGR’s publication program over the years.

With the combined energies of writers, editors, graphic artists, and all of those who have provided guidance through NCGR’s Board of Directors over the years, NCGR’s publication program has been and remains second to none. It truly does take a village for each and all of us to be the best we can be.

THE ASTROLOGY OF TV'S DARK SHADOWS

by Gene Shaw



On June 27, 1966, during the period of the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo [see chart 1], a pop culture phenomenon called *Dark Shadows* was born. In many ways, the Uranus-Pluto conjunction signaled trends and events in American life for the mid-1960s. Most obvious, conjoined themes of Uranus (e.g., explosiveness, rebellion, freedom, equality) and Pluto (e.g., transformation, death, resurrection, recycling) shook up the social order of the day when they merged in the sign of order—Virgo. As we shall see, the summer of 1966 witnessed four major themes clearly linked to Uranus-Pluto-Virgo energy: race riots in the streets, the Vietnam War, the Beatles, and the space program. In addition to *Dark Shadows*, among other pop culture events, the summer of 1966 saw the premieres of TV's *Star Trek*, *That Girl*, and *The Monkees*, which were for their day, equally as groundbreaking as *Dark Shadows* would become.

Not surprisingly, because *Dark Shadows* was born on the conjunction of Uranus and Pluto, during their opening square in 2012, the *Dark Shadows* world experienced two major events of a square-aspect nature. The first event, in April, was the death of Jonathan Frid, the actor who played the vampire Barnabas Collins on the show. Mr. Frid's presence and his character's entry into the story in 1967 heralded the glory years of the show's popularity with the American public. In many ways, after Barnabas's arrival, Jonathan Frid became the beloved be-fanged face of the show for its millions of fans. As such, his death on the opening square symbolized a major passing, a rite of passage in a way, for the *Dark Shadows* community. The second event, which occurred about a month after Mr. Frid's death, was the opening of the new *Dark Shadows* movie, directed by Tim Burton and starring Johnny Depp as Barnabas. Undoubtedly because of Uranus's involvement, Tim Burton's directorial take would not be a reverent retelling of the original daytime soap opera. Mr. Burton played it more as a satirical comedy. And by thus challenging the original, he evoked the wrath of many of the show's diehard fans while simultaneously taking the *Dark Shadows* legacy a step forward. Mr. Frid and three other original cast members, however, made cameo appearances in the new movie. As such, Mr. Burton was not above a fond looking back to the roots of his source material, the square's reminder of the conjunction.

As background for the Uninitiated, originally, *Dark Shadows* began as a rather typical daytime soap opera with no supernatural creatures or effects. Legend has it that the show's creator and executive producer, Dan Curtis, had a dream one night in which he saw a young woman riding on a train on her way to becoming a governess for a wealthy

family on the coast of Maine. Her employers, the Collins family as they became, lived in a large brooding mansion called Collinwood in the town of Collinsport, named for their ancestors. A Gothic, *Jane Eyre* atmosphere pervaded the show in the beginning, and much of the early plotlines centered on the Collins family's unsavory secrets. But ratings weren't good. Cancellation seemed imminent, at which point Dan Curtis made a courageous and highly innovative move: He went supernatural. A couple of ghosts appeared on the show, and ratings improved. Then a creature called the Phoenix arrived—a sinister Collins relative who cast spells with fire and who was destined to be consumed in flames and reborn every hundred years. Not long after her fiery departure, the family's darkest and best kept secret arose from the grave in the form of Cousin Barnabas, a nigh 200-year-old vampire released by accident from his coffin—and with him rose the ratings.



week. Notably, *Dark Shadows* was the first daytime soap opera with a major fan base among children and college students. It was also the first show of its kind to do merchandising. So in order to keep popular Cousin Barnabas in good standing with the public, the writers slowly morphed his character into *the reluctant vampire*, a vampire with a conscience. Then, in a brilliant stroke, in the first of the show's many time travel storylines, the plot shifted to the 18th Century when Barnabas had

originally lived to tell the story of how Barnabas became a vampire. It became the core storyline of the series, and part of its brilliance was its simplicity: It all boiled down to a woman scorned. He dallied with the wrong girl, who unbeknownst to him or anyone else was a witch who practiced black magic and voodoo. She became obsessed with Barnabas; he rejected her, and after weeks of haggling over their relationship, she finally zapped him with the curse of the vampire. It was at this juncture that the wonderful Lara Parker joined the cast as Angelique the witch, Barnabas's mostly-always nemesis. She became an important ingredient to the show's success—the vixen character. As a supernatural sister to Susan Lucci's Erica on *All My Children* or Eileen Fulton's Lisa on *As the World Turns*, Angelique advanced her own agenda through spells and curses on the unsuspecting at Collinwood. And we loved her for it!

In his original persona, Barnabas was very much in the Bela Lugosi Dracula mode of vampire—outwardly charming to deceive, but cruel and sadistic to his victims. Mr. Frid's Barnabas soon became the hit of the show, the matinee idol of the nation, receiving thousands of fan letters each

Uranus-Pluto Conjunction
 Natal Chart
 Jun 30 1966
 5:48 am EDT +4:00
 Washington
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

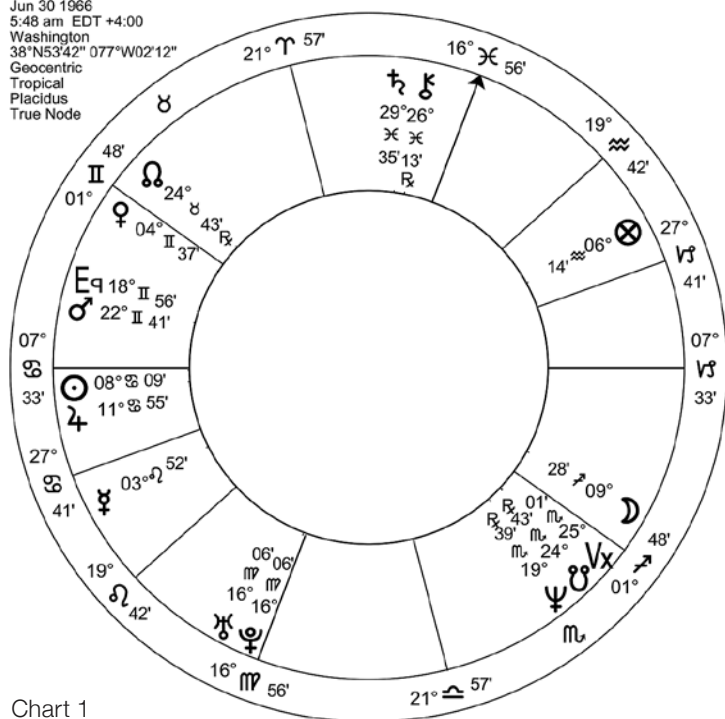


Chart 1

Over the years, *Dark Shadows* managed to recycle plots from many of the classic Gothic horror stories. Updated versions of Frankenstein's monster and his bride, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Dorian Gray, along with numerous ghosts, zombies, werewolves, and non-reluctant vampires all menaced Collinwood at various times. By early 1971, however, the plots were starting to lose their freshness, and audience interest began to wane. The original series left the air on April 2, 1971. But *Dark Shadows* has never stayed in the shadows for very long. Two theatrical films were made with the original actors, the first released in 1970, the second after the show went off the air in 1971. The series has been shown in reruns in various television markets over the decades. *Dark Shadows* is the only series of its kind to be released in its entirety on home video. There continue to be annual fan conventions. Kathryn Leigh Scott who played Maggie and Josette on the show formed her own publishing company, Pomegranate Press, Ltd., which has published books about the show. Lara Parker has written novels based upon the show's characters. In

The Lugosi DRACULA
 Natal Chart
 Feb 14 1931
 12:00 pm EST +5:00
 Washington
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 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

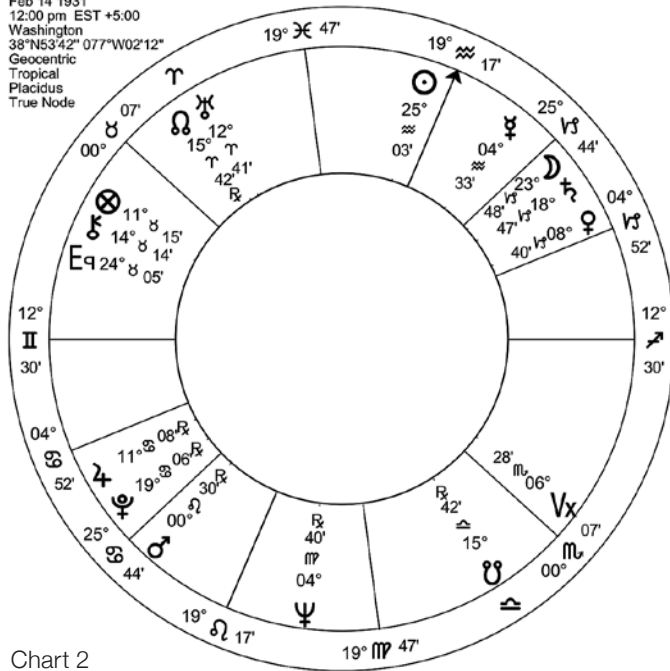


Chart 2

Cancer Ingress of The Sun
 Solar Return
 Jun 21 1966 (±1 secs)
 3:33:21 pm EST +5:00
 Washington
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

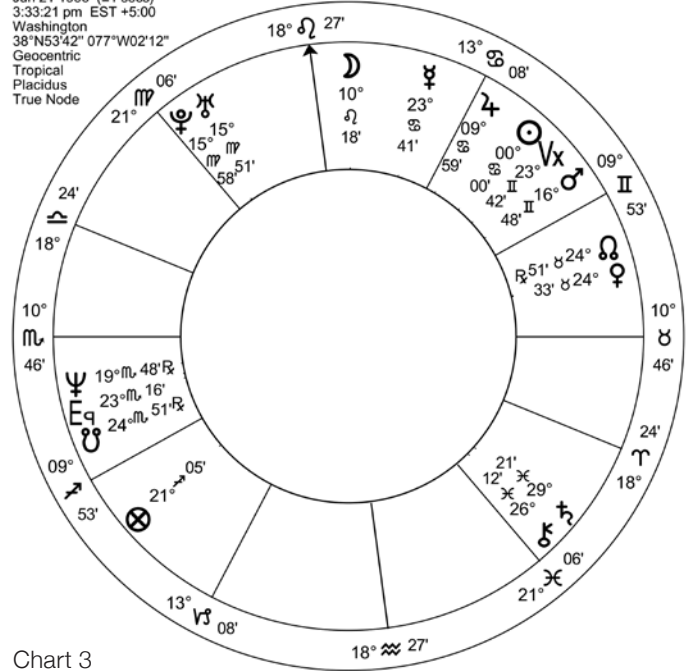


Chart 3

1991, NBC produced a 12-week nighttime revival series starring Ben Cross as Barnabas. In 2004, the WB Network produced a pilot for a potential new *Dark Shadows* series; and of course, 2012 saw the premiere of the Tim Burton movie. So just as Barnabas and the other vampires on the show keep rising from the grave, *Dark Shadows* has a destiny for reincarnating as well.

Before stepping back into the summer 1966 when *Dark Shadows* was born, let's take one brief step farther back in time to 1931, a year that many film historians view as one of the landmark years in the evolution of the American horror film. In 1931, Universal Studios released *Dracula* with Bela Lugosi and later *Frankenstein* with Boris Karloff. Many years after *Dark Shadows* went off the air, Dan Curtis gave an interview¹ in which he said that of all the horror movies he saw when he was a kid, the Lugosi *Dracula* was the most frightening and the one that left the most indelible impression upon him. Note that the Lugosi *Dracula* [see chart 2] opened during the closing square of Uranus to Pluto. Ergo, when the two planets started a new cycle on the 1966 conjunction in Virgo, Dan Curtis, who had been left an impression by this entity born during the closing square, would commence a project that would literally recycle (Pluto) the Dracula story (also Pluto) for a new generation and for a new medium, television (Uranus).

The summer of 1966, generally speaking, was a dangerous time for Americans both at home and abroad. In Omaha, the National Guard was mobilized to quell the chaos in the

streets after a third night of race riots. Similar disturbances followed throughout the summer in Chicago, Cleveland, Atlanta, Waukegan, and Lansing. In the Vietnam War, US planes bombed Hanoi and Haiphong for the first time, along with fuel storage facilities near North Vietnamese cities. At home, controversy swirled around the Beatles after the publication of John Lennon's statement that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. As an indicator of public reaction, they were pelted with rotten fruit during a Memphis concert. Among other infamous events, Richard Speck raped and killed eight student nurses in a Chicago dormitory, and Sniper Charles Whitman killed thirteen people and wounded 31 others from atop the University of Texas Austin Main Building tower after earlier killing his wife and mother.

Among more positive events, the US space program advanced with the launches of Explorer 33, Gemini X, and Pioneer VII. LBJ signed the Freedom of Information Act. The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded. And Jerry Lewis raised \$15,000 with his first muscular dystrophy telethon.

The Cancer ingress chart [see chart 3], which ruled the summer of 1966, clearly speaks to these events. The first house, ruling *the people of the nation*, is governed by Scorpio. As such, we showed a dark face to the world that summer through numerous acts of public violence, destruction, and murder. In looking at the planetary rulers of the ascendant, Mars, the traditional ruler, in Gemini in the 8th house of

THE MONKEES premiere
 Natal Chart
 Sep 12 1966
 7:30 pm EDT +4:00
 Washington
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

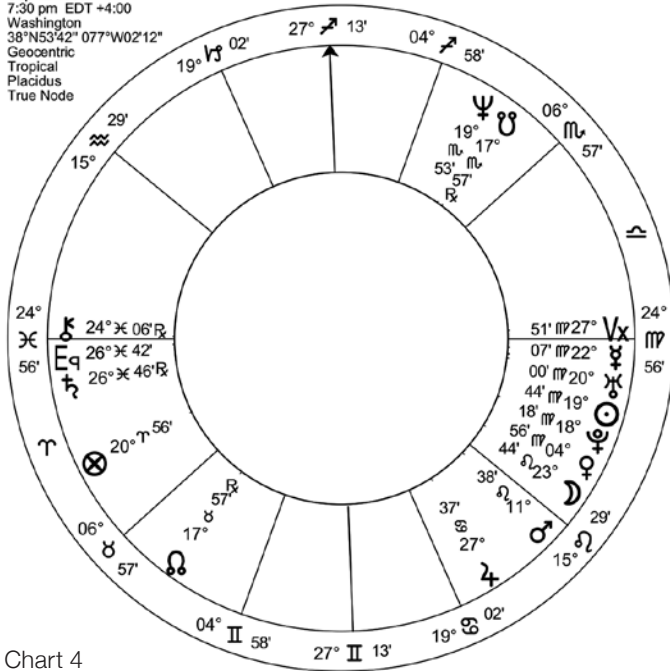


Chart 4

danger to the people squares the modern ruler, Pluto. Ergo, the planetary rulers of the people were in conflict with each other. Mars in Gemini adds an overlay of *brother against brother* in the streets. Watters gives the rulership of *race* to Pluto as one's genetic inheritance, here conjunct Uranus, ruler of explosiveness, rebelliousness, and an assertion for freedom. Mars squaring the conjunction further contributes to the violence of the protests in the streets over social change (Uranus) concerning racial matters (Pluto).

The 6th house rules *employees of the state*, including the Armed Forces and the National Guard. Again, with Mars, ruler of the Aries-governed 6th house, in the 8th house of danger to the people squared by Uranus-Pluto, we're reminded that the National Guard was called upon to combat rioting in the streets. Mars further rules *war* and *soldiers in combat*. Mercury as well rules employees of the state/Armed Forces. Here Mercury in Cancer (*domestic, patriotic*) finds himself toiling abroad in the 9th house of *foreign matters*, i.e., the Vietnam War. The Moon, planetary ruler of *the people*, also finds herself in the house of foreign matters, square the cusp of the first house, the people of the nation, further indication of conflict among US citizens and specifically with the controversy surrounding this country's participation in the Vietnam War. The Moon's square to Neptune (*disillusionment*) perhaps suggests the emotional attitude of the public. Jupiter, ruler of the 2nd house, *the nation's resources*, conjunct the cusp of the 9th house suggests the nation's expenditures abroad because of the war.

The Sun rules *the head of state* as does the 10th house. In this chart, the Sun also happens to be the planetary ruler of the Leo-governed MC, here falling in the 8th house of danger to the people. Thus the Sun in the summer of 1966 ruled LBJ. At a time in American history when public figures were being assassinated, was LBJ perhaps in more danger than we knew that summer? Or is this an indicator of LBJ's involvement with matters of danger to his people? As noted above, LBJ signed the Freedom of Information Act during this period, strongly suggested by the conjunction of Uranus (*disclosure*) and Pluto (*covert matters*).

Also note that Uranus, ruler of the *space program*, is high in the chart. The Moon as the ruler of *women* is high profile as well with the founding of the NOW. Saturn, ruler of *affliction*, in the fifth house of *the nation's children* suggests the basis for the first national muscular dystrophy telethon.

As mentioned above, among other pop culture events in the summer of '66, *The Monkees* premiere took place on the night of September 12, 1966 [see chart 4]. Note that the Sun in *The Monkees* natal chart is the midpoint of Uranus and Pluto, an indicator of a ground-breaking and transformative expression. Indeed, the style with which The Monkees presented their songs each week could arguably be called the first music videos. And just as the 2012 opening square of Uranus-Pluto signaled a rite of passage for the *Dark Shadows* entity through the death of Jonathan Frid, *The Monkees* entity turned a sad corner on the square with the death of Davy Jones.

Television programming of the 1960s gave us more clues into the nature of the changes that Uranus and Pluto were manifesting in American society. 1964, for example, had seen the premieres of TV's *Bewitched*, *The Addams Family*, and *The Munsters*. Pop culture commentators have observed that the characters on these shows, in part, related the problems of outsiders trying to assimilate into mainstream society. On a light-hearted level, *Bewitched* further addressed the topic of prejudice. And *Dark Shadows* was clearly a part of this revolutionary (Uranus) trend, shaking up afternoon TV programming with untraditional material about shape-shifting and reincarnating creatures (Pluto).

Dark Shadows was also linked to another pop culture phenomenon of the 1960s closely associated with Pluto's transit through Virgo and the horror film genre on television. But before discussing it, first we must turn to the Virgo maiden's mythological counterparts for guidance. Astraea, the Star Maiden, was a goddess who lived on Earth for a time, but who became disgusted by human beings' misuse

of the Earth's resources. In protest, she ascended to the heavens to become the constellation Virgo, and her departure signaled the end of the so-called Golden Age. Through Astraea's character, we recognize Virgo's association with orderliness and that there is a proper procedure for bringing about order. Her departure also indicates a manifestation of Virgo's frustration when orderliness cannot be attained.



Another character associated with the Virgo Maiden was Erigone, daughter of Icarus, the first mortal to have the knowledge of wine-making. Icarus offered wine to some passing shepherds who believed themselves bewitched by the intoxicating effect of the wine and turned in anger on Icarus and murdered him. When Erigone discovered her father's body, she went mad with grief, and hung herself from a pine tree. Later, the other girls in Athens were mysteriously following Erigone's example and hanging themselves from the pine trees. The Delphic Oracle proclaimed that this was Erigone's angry spirit seeking justice for her father. Elements of this story were eventually incorporated into the annual Vintage Festival, the harvesting of the grapes, which took place during the Virgo season each year. And with Erigone's story, we move a step closer to Virgo's connection with ritual and rites of passage. There is an orderliness in the manner that sacred rites are handed down. The sign of Virgo generally rules groups of women such as nuns and the Vestal Virgins. There's also a sacred quality with Virgo, such as the way that the Vestal Virgins kept the sacred flame alive as part of their duties to the state. Finally, Persephone is another character from the mythology associated with the Virgo Maiden, and by extension with her, we think of the Eleusinian Mysteries, which were perhaps the most famous rites in the ancient world. They were annual initiation rites into the cult of Demeter and Persephone. Elements of Persephone's story, her descent into Hades, her mother's search, her reemergence, were incorporated into these rites of passage. Thus further evidence of Virgo's association with the sacred and the ritualistic.

That said, among rites of passage for American children of the 1960s, there was none dearer than that of the local television station horror movie host. Specifically, the heyday of this beloved American tradition coincided roughly with Pluto's transit through Virgo from late-1956 to mid-1972. Vampira, the actress Maila Nurmi, had been an early precursor to the phenomenon before Pluto left Leo in 1954-55.

However, the horror movie host really got off the ground in late 1957 when Screen Gems, the television affiliate of Columbia Pictures, packaged and released 52 Columbia and Universal horror flicks of the 1930s and '40s. The package was called *Shock Theater* or simply *Shock! TV* was hungry for product in those years. Classics such as the original *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, *The Wolf Man*, *The Mummy*, and their

sequels had not been readily available to many local TV markets prior to the release of *Shock Theater*, which followed soon after Pluto reentered Virgo in August '57.

Screen Gems actively encouraged the local TV stations to engage their own horror host. As such, the local weatherman or sports announcer might have found himself dressing up on a Saturday night as a vampire or mad scientist to tell jokes and goof on the movie during the commercial breaks. Some of the more famous exponents of the genre included Cleveland's *Ghoulardi* (Ernie Anderson), Detroit's *Sir Graves Ghastly* (Lawson J. Deming), New Orleans's *Morgus the Magnificent* (Sid Noel), and in a class by himself, the great John Zacherle who gave *Roland* to Philadelphia and *Zacherley* to New York City. The heyday of the local horror movie host came to an end largely with the coming of cable TV programming. But the phenomenon is kept alive today through numerous books on the subject, web sites, and even documentary films devoted to these beloved characters.

The obvious link between Pluto's transit through Virgo in the 1960s and the horror host phenomenon involves ancient mysteries of the undead and occult matters represented by the horror movie genre (Pluto) being handed down to a new generation through the medium of television (Uranus) in a ritualistic way (Virgo). The horror host acted as a kind of shaman character who had knowledge of the other world. He was also Charon, the ferryman who transports the spirits of the newly dead into the land of Hades. The horror host acted as our sacred guide into Pluto's realm. *Dark Shadows* benefited and participated in this tradition as well. The beginning of every episode of *Dark Shadows* had a brief voiceover narration by one of the actors that helped the audience transition into that day's plot. As such, *Dark Shadows* became yet another facet of this sacred (Virgo) tradition, the handing down of ancient legends and folklore concerning the supernatural, but recycled (Pluto) and reinvented for television (Uranus) in the 1960s.

DARK SHADOWS premiere
 Natal Chart
 Jun 27 1966
 4:00 pm EDT +4:00
 Washington
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

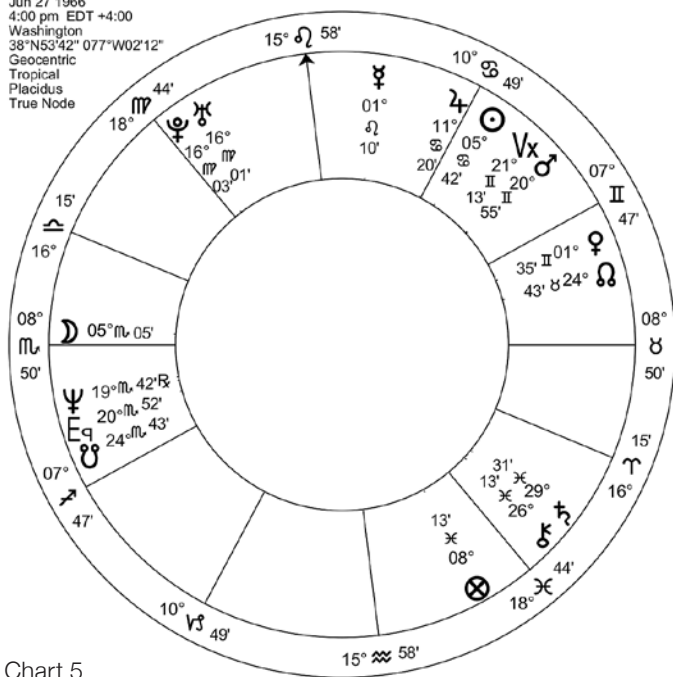


Chart 5

The natal chart [see chart 5], if you will, for *Dark Shadows* is set for June 27, 1966, at 4:00 p.m. EDT. While *Dark Shadows* was taped in New York City, viewed as a national event, the chart is cast for Washington, DC, the nation's capital. Note the similarity between the angles of the '66 Cancer Ingress chart and the *Dark Shadows* chart. It's as if *Dark Shadows* was destined to carry with it a kind of resonance of the summer of 1966—the danger and violence that took place in America during that time, here translated into an entertainment that frequently involved death and destruction. Note that *world axis* energy is prominent with 15 Leo on the MC and Saturn conjunct the Aries point at 29 Pisces. Leo on the MC perhaps further suggests that the show had a destiny for being popular with children, another groundbreaking first for *Dark Shadows*. Fixed signs on the angles have undoubtedly contributed to the show's ongoing durability with the public.

Not surprisingly, Scorpio, the sign most commonly associated with death and resurrection, is rising. The Moon in Scorpio, conjunct the Asc from the 12th house suggests the secrets of the Collins family, which were the basis for the show's early plotlines, and which took on supernatural dimensions with the Phoenix, Barnabas, and other characters capable of rising from their graves. The original governess on the show was also seeking family. She had been brought up in a foundling home, not knowing her birth parents. The implication, although never resolved, was that the Collins family matriarch, played by the great movie star Joan Bennett, was her mother. The Moon in Scorpio further suggests

the femme fatale embodied by Lara Parker's Angelique and other dark ladies on the show. Wikipedia gives October 27, 1937, as Ms. Parker's date of birth. As such, her natal Sun at 3 Scorpio is conjunct the *Dark Shadows* Moon, a fitting marriage of her creative expression as an artist to the show's most popular villainous. Jonathan Frid, born December 2, 1924, had natal Venus at 6 Scorpio and natal Saturn at 9 Scorpio, conjunct the *Dark Shadows* Moon and Asc. Ms. Parker's Sun conjunct Mr. Frid's Venus-Saturn conjunction speaks to the dark, difficult, but always reincarnating nature of their characters' romantic involvement. Ms. Parker's Angelique, too, was destined to rise as a vampire at one point in the series.

The natal Moon forms a grand trine with natal Asc at 8 Scorpio, natal Sun at 5 Cancer, natal Jupiter at 11 Cancer, and Part of Fortune at 8 Pisces. The Cancer expression of the show perhaps further suggests the Collins family but also the domestic nature of this entity, an afternoon soap opera that entered our homes every afternoon. Jupiter, the traditional planetary ruler of the 5th house, the creative expression of the entity, is especially healthy, *accidentally dignified* in the 9th house and in the sign of his exaltation.

Joan Bennett, the show's original star, was born February 27, 1910. As such, her natal Sun at 8 Pisces is conjunct the *Dark Shadows* Part of Fortune. Thus her presence lent an element of old Hollywood glamour to the show's success as it helped to engage the *Dark Shadows* grand trine in water. A beautiful woman throughout her life, Joan Bennett's natal Venus is fittingly on the world axis as well at 15 Aquarius, thus conjunct the *Dark Shadows* IC.

The Moon in Scorpio, of course, is in her *fall*. From an electional astrology perspective, perhaps this would not be a zodiacal first choice for the health of an entity. However, the Moon in Scorpio in this particular entity speaks so well to the subject matter of the show. Furthermore, she is healthy by aspect, applying to the natal Sun, Jupiter, and Asc as she contributes to the grand trine. She also applies to the Uranus-Pluto conjunction and natal Neptune. The last aspect she makes before leaving the sign is the trine to Saturn in Pisces—the last aspect always being an important consideration for the final destiny of the matter.

Neptune at 19 Scorpio in the first house, the face of the show, if you will, squares the MC/IC axis. As mentioned above, the show's creator, Dan Curtis, had a dream (Neptune), which was the genesis (IC) of the entity. Also note that Dan Curtis was born on August 12, 1927. As such, his natal Sun, more or less at 18 Leo, conjuncts the MC of the

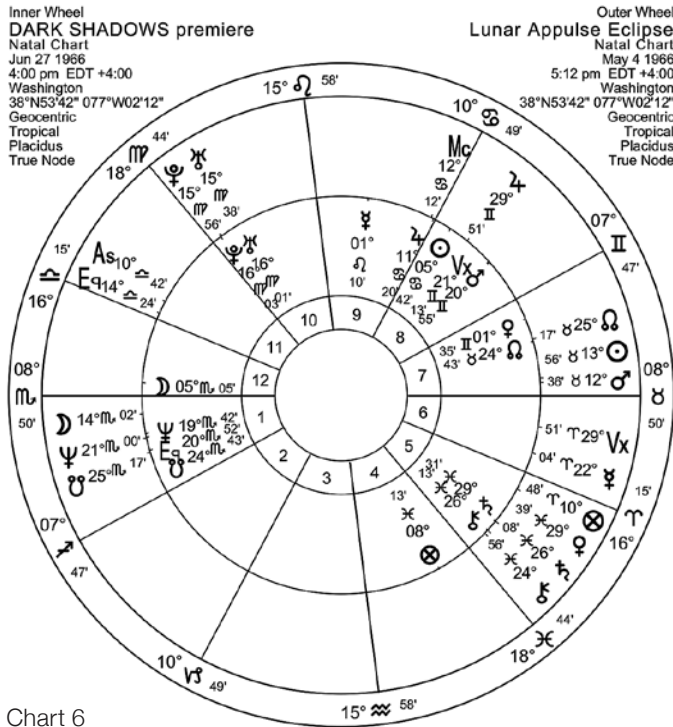


Chart 6

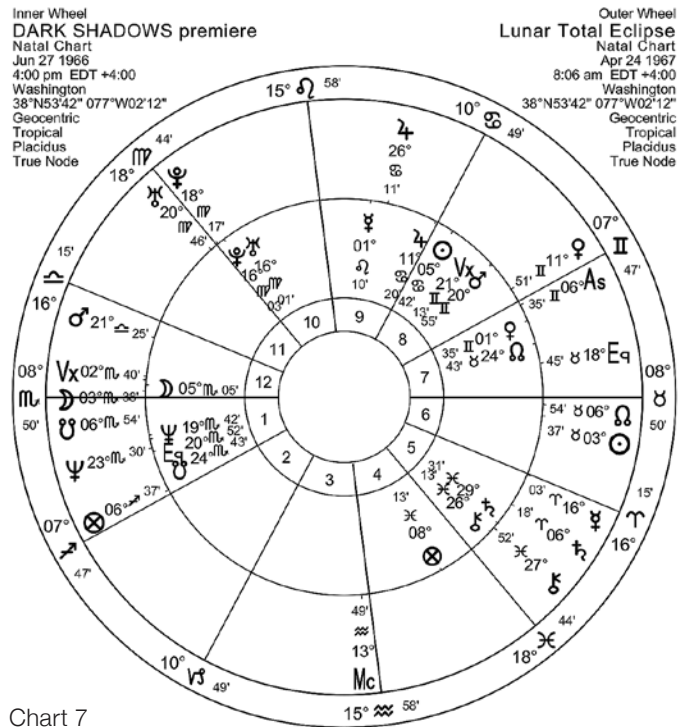


Chart 7

Dark Shadows chart, a fitting association for the *father* of the entity. Moreover, Dan Curtis himself was experiencing a Neptune transit to his natal Sun at the time that he conceived the show. Dreams would also become an important plot device as many characters would come to experience prophetic nightmares. Neptune in Scorpio in the 1st house further suggests mysteries (Neptune) of the undead (Scorpio), which became the basis for much of the plot material. Also, as the opening *Dark Shadows* title rolled every afternoon, the first thing the public saw was the ocean breaking across the rocks, i.e., Neptune's realm. Neptune rising perhaps also suggests the manner in which *Dark Shadows* mysteriously appears and disappears in the consciousness of the American public over the decades.

Saturn at 29 Pisces, a symbolic ending of the zodiac in the fifth house, suggests plotlines involving death, mortality. Saturn also rules *fear*. The children on the show (fifth house) were often difficult or contributed to problematic situations for the adults as well.

Mars in Gemini in the 8th house is the traditional ruler of the Scorpio Asc and the Aries-governed 6th house. As such, the actors (6th house employees of the entity) played characters that were frequently in danger (8th house). What's more, as a kind of repertory theatre company, the *Dark Shadows* actors were routinely called upon to play multiple parts (Gemini). For example, in their time-travel storylines, they'd play their own ancestors.

Venus in Gemini suggests a light and dark aspect to love matters for the show's characters. Angelique's obsessive love for Barnabas was one example.

Not surprisingly, eclipses, which are, of course, about casting shadows, would play an important role in an entity called *Dark Shadows*. Many times, in fact, over the years, during the show's initial TV run and after, eclipses in fixed signs would impact the natal *Dark Shadows* angles or the Moon, thus setting off the grand trine in water. The pre-natal lunar eclipse of May 4, 1966 [see chart 6], falls across the Asc/Dsc axis of the *Dark Shadows* chart and squares the MC/IC axis. Mr. Frid/Barnabas made his first appearance on camera on April 18, 1967. Coinciding closely with the arrival of this character and the dark family secret that he embodied was the total lunar eclipse of April 24, 1967 [see chart 7] conjunct the natal 12th house Moon.

Secondary progressions and transits to the natal chart manifest in fascinating ways throughout the show's initial run and in its subsequent incarnations as well. On September 30, 1966, for example, the first ghost appeared on camera. Progressed Moon at 8 Scorpio was poised to cross the natal Asc within just a few minutes of arc. She was the ghost a female Collins ancestor (Moon), and perhaps more important, with her appearance, the show's destiny as a supernatural soap opera was about to come out of the closet (12th house). For Jonathan Frid's first appearance on April 18, 1967, progressed Moon at 16 Scorpio has just

passed a square to natal MC/IC within just minutes of arc. Here again, another dark family secret (Moon/Scorpio/12th house), and perhaps the most important one for the destiny (MC) of this entity, has shown his face. On June 30, 1967, Grayson Hall first appeared as the character of Dr. Julia Hoffman. Progressed Moon at 18 Scorpio is one degree applying to natal Neptune and manifested in the form of a female (Moon) physician (Neptune).

In the spring of 1968, Barnabas had been temporarily cured of his vampire curse, and Angelique was not happy about that a bit. So on April 23, 1968, she appeared to him in a disturbing dream to announce that his vampire curse would return to him by means of a *dream curse*, a series of terrifying nightmares shared by numerous townsfolk, leading to his destruction. [see chart 8] Transiting Mars at 19 Taurus, coming from his natal 8th house position (danger, death) was in direct opposition to natal Neptune, a reminder of the importance of dreams and their planetary ruler's significance to the inception of the series and its ongoing plotlines.

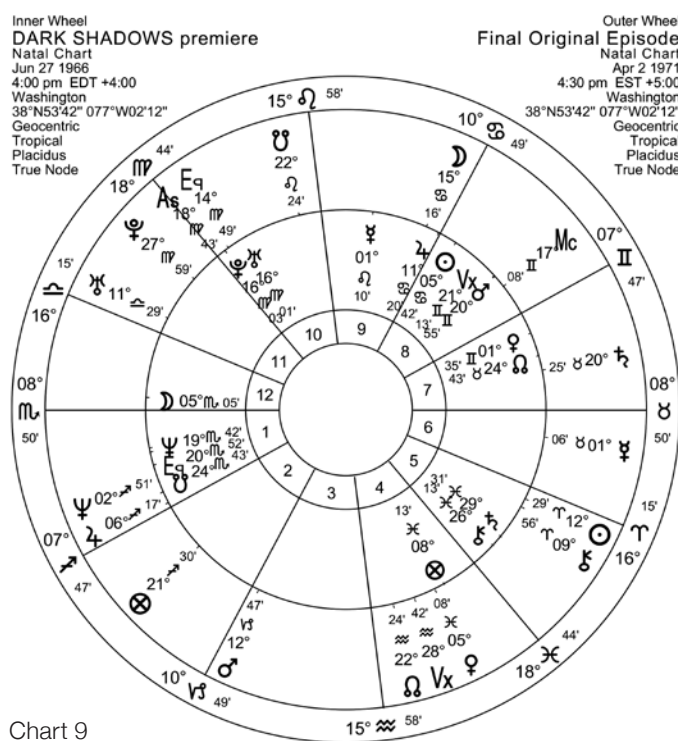
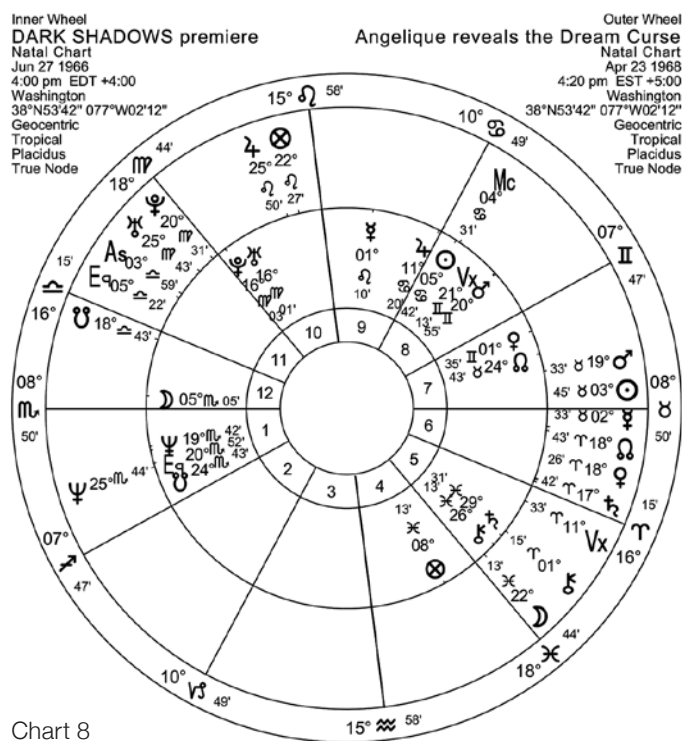
For the US premiere of the first theatrical release film, *House of Dark Shadows*, on September 9, 1970, progressed MC at 19 Leo squares natal Neptune, and transiting Jupiter, aiding in the *expansion* of the *Dark Shadows* audience at 3 Scorpio is closely applying to natal Moon, here again, engaging the natal grand trine in water.

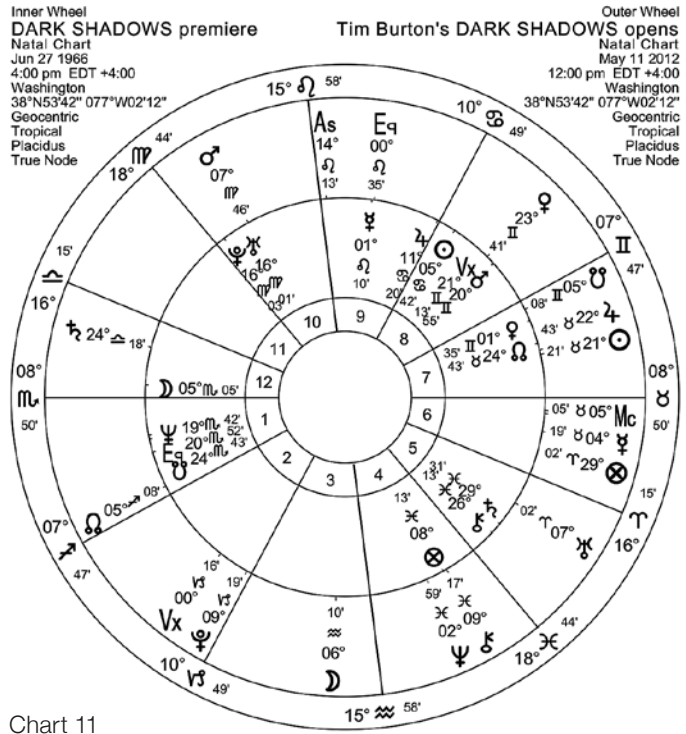
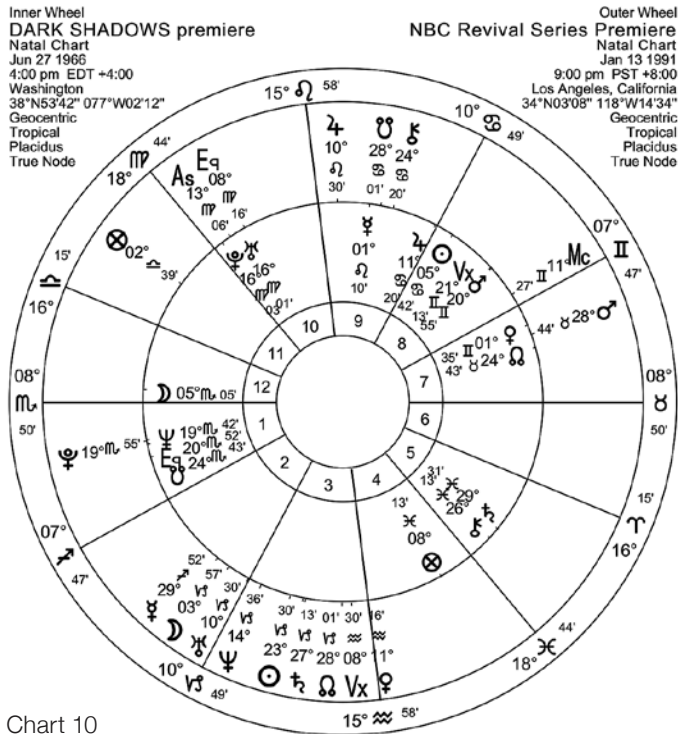
The final original episode aired on April 2, 1971 [chart-9].

Fittingly enough, transiting Pluto from 27 Virgo was opposing natal Saturn; as such, the structure of the entity (Saturn) was about to experience its first death (Pluto). Also, transiting Saturn at 20 Taurus, another indication of boundaries and limits, opposes that all-important natal Neptune and squares natal MC/IC as well.

By 1990, eclipses in Leo and Aquarius, as well as the transiting lunar nodes, began to stimulate the fixed sign angles of the original *Dark Shadows* natal chart, culminating with the premiere of NBC's 12-week revival series on January 13, 1991 [see chart 10, next page]. Transiting Jupiter is high in the chart at 10 Leo, conjunct the natal MC, square natal Asc, i.e., further expansion (Jupiter) of the *Dark Shadows* legacy. Most appropriate of all, however, transiting Pluto at 19 Scorpio, conjunct natal Neptune has resurrected Dan Curtis's original dream. Among my sources referenced in the bibliography section is a book called *Dark Shadows Resurrected* by author Jim Pierson. In it, Mr. Pierson penned a chapter called "The Dream That Would Not Die," a fitting encapsulation of Pluto's transit to the *Dark Shadows* Neptune.

Filming began for the 2004 WB Network pilot on April 2, 2004, with transiting Neptune at 14 Aquarius conjunct the natal IC. The show was not produced, however. Perhaps the ephemeral nature of Neptune was such that the dream reappeared momentarily but not strongly enough to manifest in a full production.





Dan Curtis died on March 22, 2006. Among the transits impacting the *Dark Shadows* chart on the day of his death, transiting Neptune at 18 Aquarius was conjunct the IC, transiting Jupiter at 18 Scorpio conjunct natal Neptune, and transiting Saturn at 4 Leo, square natal Moon, the latter suggesting the death of a beloved family member for the *Dark Shadows* community.

And finally, as we said, 2012 and the opening square of Uranus to Pluto saw the death of Jonathan Frid as well as the opening of the Tim Burton movie [see chart 11]. The Uranus-Pluto square forms a T-square with the *Dark Shadows* Sun-Jupiter in Cancer, again setting off that all important grand trine in water for the life and legacy of the *Dark Shadows* entity. What's more, as I'm writing this, transiting Saturn is retrograde at 10 Scorpio, conjunct the *Dark Shadows* Asc, once again engaging the grand trine, and thereby resurrecting the *Dark Shadows* legacy by means of this article.

In spite of health of the *Dark Shadows* natal chart—notably the Moon applying to a series of harmonious aspects before she left the sign of Scorpio—and the marvelous way in which the chart described the show's characters and plots, *Dark Shadows* was not an immediate hit. Perhaps initially it was too conventional, too Cancerian, too domestic. But as the show faced its first threat of death, cancellation, Dan Curtis unleashed the full scope of that powerful Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo—a TV soap opera with

monsters in the afternoon, thumbing its nose at the rest of daytime programming and thus creating a classic. By breaking the rules (Uranus), *Dark Shadows* rose and soared like the Phoenix (Pluto).

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- For more on *Dark Shadows*:
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- Dark Shadows Festival Official Fan Club: <http://www.darkshadowsfestival.com/>
- Dark Shadows on home video: <http://www.mpihomevideo.com/>

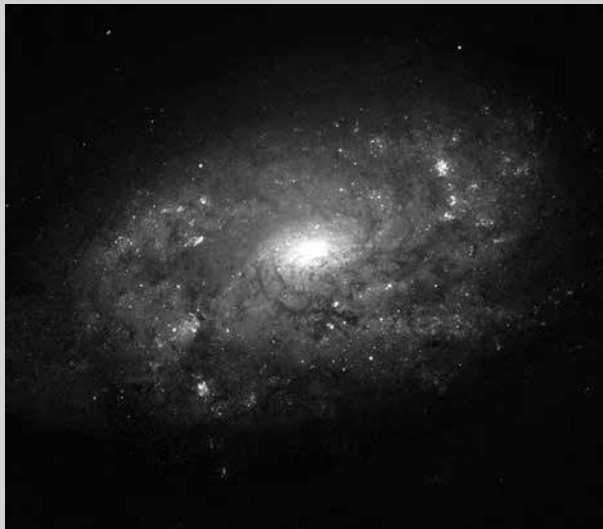
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1. It appears as a special feature on disc 4 of volume 8 of the Dark Shadows DVD box set produced by MPI Home Video.



Gene Shaw

has been an NCGR astrologer for over 20 years. He received his Level IV certification in 1998. Gene previously served as the Recording Secretary for the New York City chapter and now serves on the NCGR-PAA board of examiners. He will be presenting a pre-conference workshop on rectification techniques at the 2013 NCGR conference in Philadelphia. rgeneshaw@verizon.net



*"Limitless undying love
which shines around me like a million suns
it calls me on and on
across the universe."*

~ John Lennon

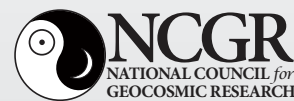
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Astrology and the Book of Revelation

The Four Astrological Archetypes of the Apocalypse

by Alex Walker

In the last book of the New Testament of the Christian Bible is “The Book of Revelation” by Saint John the Evangelist, who’d set down his vision in writing. It begins with the scroll held by God, sealed with seven seals. When Jesus Christ opened the first four seals, it summoned in order, four beings that rode out on white, red, black and pale (or green) horses. The most common interpretation for these horses was, “Conquest (or Pestilence), War, Famine and Death.” They are considered the harbingers of the “Last Judgment.”

These four horsemen as “harbingers” and their individual literal interpretations (with apologies to Biblical scholars) are not the focus of this article. What I want to bring to your attention

is another example of astrological symbolism with regard to Time, within historic literature—in this example, a “hidden code” in the Christian Bible.

The first example of astro-symbolism and Time I found is illustrated in my article in the Winter Solstice 2008 NCGR Journal, “The Mayan-Sumerian Hidden Code” where the Great Precession is referenced in the Mayan Popul Vuh creation story and their Long Count Calendar (assumedly written by Kukulcan). The timeline goes back to the origins of Aries and “First Father” who entered the “Underworld” followed by the “Hero Twins” of the two-bodied sign of Pisces who resurrected him. The mathematics of the connection between the Popul Vuh and the Long Count Calendar were hidden in Western astro-symbolism.

Fortunately, astro-symbolism overcomes the inevitable equivalent of the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (entropy—from order to disorder) of all language and contextual meaning in communications. This entropy is why there are so many religious schools of thought, and why “history changes” with the process of time. The only thing that can overcome that entropy is “astro-symbolism” that transcends culture, as that is the symbolism of the eternal sky. Astro-symbolism may be the one final link we have to even partially understanding written or sculpted archaeological discoveries we may uncover in the future—including those tens of thousands that now sit in museums and archival basements, waiting for an astrologer-historian to discover.

Back to the astro-symbolology of “The Four Horsemen.” The first horse carried a rider (regardless of name) *who carries a BOW*. The rider of the first horse is an *archer*. The true meaning of this rider is astrological—the first of four “time markers” using astro-symbolism. Regardless of what names are attached to this first rider and the three that follow, there is one constant and that is what they symbolize, and what they symbolize is astrological. Like the Popul Vuh, the astro-symbolism transcends the inevitable entropy—errors of language, translations and willful influences of personal agenda, and religious, political misdirection. That first rider who is carrying a BOW is *Sagittarius*.

At the time of the origins of the Book of Revelation, the Sidereal and Tropical zodiacs were close to being in synchrony. The **sidereal** address of this grand conjunction is at the Sagittarius/Scorpio cusp. Even with the divergence between Sidereal and Tropical zodiacs today, the Galactic Center is either at the Sagittarius/Scorpio cusp, or approximately 26° Sagittarius. This is where I’m sure there is an opening for all astrologers of all schools to have their opinion. Right now, I’m committed to exposing the astro-symbolism of the Four Horsemen. What they imply I will briefly speculate upon, and may follow up in more detail in another article.

So, what is special about Sagittarius as the first Horseman? It has to do with Time, not what the people of Earth will endure, regardless of religious beliefs. The Galactic Center is about to provide us with the “beginning” as the figurative breaking of the first seal on that scroll by Jesus Christ. It is the biggest beginning of them all, a colossal marker in the heavens by the grandest conjunction of them all, the Sun in alignment with the Galactic Center

from the perspective of the Earth. This “Grand Conjunction” took place on December 17, 2012 with the Sun at 26° Sagittarius, four days before the mathematical end of the Mayan Long Count Calendar, and modern day winter solstice on December 21, 2012.

I’ll make a brief digression here. I believe the reason for our present-day winter solstice as the end of the Long Count Calendar, was intended by the Mayans to give the people of our time symbolic meaning to this momentous grand conjunction. It is the winter solstice, the place where all is frozen—OR—if taken from a southern hemispheric perspective, it is the summer solstice, the peak of life, the figurative Noon, the Midheaven. I will address this later as the Uranian system and its implications may have a connection here.



This seemingly unlikely cross-Atlantic cultural coincidence of astro-symbolic literature between Popul Vuh and the Christian Bible could indicate the end of 2012 as the beginning of a far more ancient, far more widespread astrological measurement of Time.

This precessional factor is a process that in theory will take a very long time in human years to manifest and complete. Consider a rule of thumb of approximately 72 years per degree. To complete each sign in the process of galactic precession will take approximately 2,160 years, beginning with that “Grand Conjunction.” The “rider” Sagittarius is near the end of his ride, on the sidereal cusp of Scorpio. He exemplifies “conquest” in many ways, the

apex of present human civilization, the conquest of scientific knowledge and technology with the momentum of his ride “ending” on December 17, 2012. This does not imply a precipitous fall. It marks the astro-symbolic Noon and movement toward the Descendant.

So, what is the time frame? The time frame is the two entire signs of Scorpio & Libra, with Sagittarius and Virgo as the cusp boundaries.

The second Horseman is the “Red Horse” with the interpretation of “War.” Within the order of precession movement AND as presented in The Book of Revelations, the sign will be Scorpio—astro-symbolically, the sign ruled by Mars (red), undoubtedly the god/planet of War in anyone’s book.

The important thing I want to communicate here is I’m not implying there will be 2,160 years of war during this period. To give a full assessment of what each sign each rider symbolizes and what will transpire during each period of two millenniums would exceed the amount of space available for an article, let alone the research pending. I will stay with the main principle of what I want astrologers to consider, the hidden astro-symbolism present in all ancient writings, outside of the context of evolving paradigms, inevitable entropy and veiling of their intended message. Only their astro-symbolic meaning can survive millenniums of spiritual spin-doctors, allowing us the opportunity to unveil them, our own “revelation.”

I think it would be a noble cause to pursue, the equivalent of Robert Hand’s efforts in bringing to light early astrological manuscripts, but within the scope of screening non-astrological ancient documents and bring to light their intended astro-symbolic meanings.

The third Horseman is the “Black Horse” understood as “Famine,” however the important astro-symbolism is what the horseman is carrying—a pair of balances—*scales*—the symbol of the next sign in the direction of precession movement, which is Libra. Libra is very distinct in the zodiac as it’s the only sign represented by metal (sign ruled by Venus who rules copper) and not a living being. No ambiguity here.

The fourth and final Horseman is the “Pale” or “Green Horse” which is “Death.” This is the sign Virgo, and its cusp with Libra is the Descendant—below the horizon—a return to the Earth. “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Virgo needs her compost in order to *work*, to sow and grow her grains.

There is one important note I want to bring to your attention with regard to Virgo. In Uranian Astrology, Cancer is at the top of the 360° wheel. The summer equinox in the Northern hemisphere is where life is at its peak of expression, the sign ruled by the fertile Moon. Virgo in the Uranian system is considered to be the 12th house, the house of death, ruled by the Transneptunian planet, Hades. Hades is the astrological and metaphysical composer. It breaks all things down to create the mulch for new beginnings in the first house. If you take this Uranian definition the Four Horsemen, the astro-symbolism makes for a unique historic perspective and grist for speculative argument when you consider the undeniable astro-symbolism of the Four Horsemen. Virgo, the grain goddess today, cannot do her work without the earthly compost from death. Perhaps in ancient times, the wheel we use was “upside down” and “backward” as well from what Western astrologers use today? Perhaps, as many astrologers have surmised, the origins of astrology might well be in the Southern Hemisphere?

Summary:

1. We have all astrological elements in these signs in this precession process, represented by the Four Horsemen.” We have Sagittarius (White Horse—Conquest) as the fire sign. Scorpio (Mars—Red Horse—War) as the water sign. Libra (Black—rider carries Scales—Famine) as the air sign. Virgo is the Pale or Green Horse (perhaps both?) for Death, and is the earth sign. The Earth is where our physical bodies all return. The path of time appears to be the fire of life and inspiration, the water of dissolution, the dry air of desiccation (desertification by ice or sand) and the earth/soil of endings with the basis for fertility.
2. We have what amounts to a time period on a galactic scale, the astrological analog of “Noon through Sundown.” It is the movement of the Great Precession from the cusp of the Mid-heaven to the Decendant, representing the pinnacle of humanity through its fall.
3. There is an implied time frame from sidereal 0°SG01’ to 29°VI59’ or two entire signs, Scorpio and Libra (from mutable to fixed to cardinal, then back to mutable) in a “Great Precession” period. This would mean approximately 2,160 years X 2 = 4,320 years from December of 2012. The year would be approximately 6,332 AD (or CE if you prefer) to have Virgo hosting the Galactic Center as to the implied end of life by the hand of God.

Or is it?

Consider that on August 29, 2012—the Lunar Node was at 0°01’ Sagittarius, entering Scorpio—when the Sun is in the sign of Virgo. The Node will enter Libra on February 18, 2014 just as the Sun enters Pisces, the 12th house of undoing and endings in the Western system. The Lunar Node will enter Virgo on November 11, 2015—when the Sun is in Scorpio. Are these ingresses symbolically interrelated?

Is time indeed, shorter than we think? Should we be doing more than making minimum payments on those credit cards? Well, only if debt “forgiveness” comes with the end of Time...



Alex Walker

was 10 when he first traced sunspot projections and recorded nightly movements of Jupiter’s moons with his 4” reflector telescope, as the youngest attending member of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society at Griffith Observatory. At 17 he discovered an astrology book in the library mistakenly shelved in the astronomy section and constructed his first natal chart. At age 45 he saw evidence of planetary cycles in stock and commodity price charts, which became a quest to find the invisible forces driving behaviors and world events. Alex draws upon 33 years experience in loss analysis principles for detecting patterns and correlations and allows data to form hypothesis in his studies of the stock and commodity markets and world events. Alex, a California native and denizen for a nodal cycle in the Pacific Northwest, at age 60 lives with his three cats, semi-retired in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. Email: nyse.astrologer@att.net

LENNON MEETS McCARTNEY

*A Splendid Time is
Guaranteed for All*

by Neil Grossman



In March 1957 in Liverpool, England, 15-year old Ivan Vaughan and some friends formed the Quarry Men Skiffle Group (named after the Quarry Bank Grammar School), a band devoted to making “skiffle” music, a genre popular among British teenagers. The group performed at local dances, parties, church socials, and even auditioned for television shows.

In June of that year, the band was hired to perform at an annual church fundraiser. Instead of playing with the band that evening, Ivan invited his friend Paul, a guitar fanatic who devoted himself to the instrument with total abandon, to hear the group and meet the band members. (In actuality, Paul accepted the invitation with hopes of meeting some girls.) Paul played them an Eddie Cochran song called *Twenty Flight Rock*, impressing them with his musicianship and most especially, with his ability to tune his guitar.

These events hardly seem epoch-making. But epoch-making is precisely what they were. Ivan’s friend Paul was surnamed McCartney; Ivan’s bandleader was John Lennon.

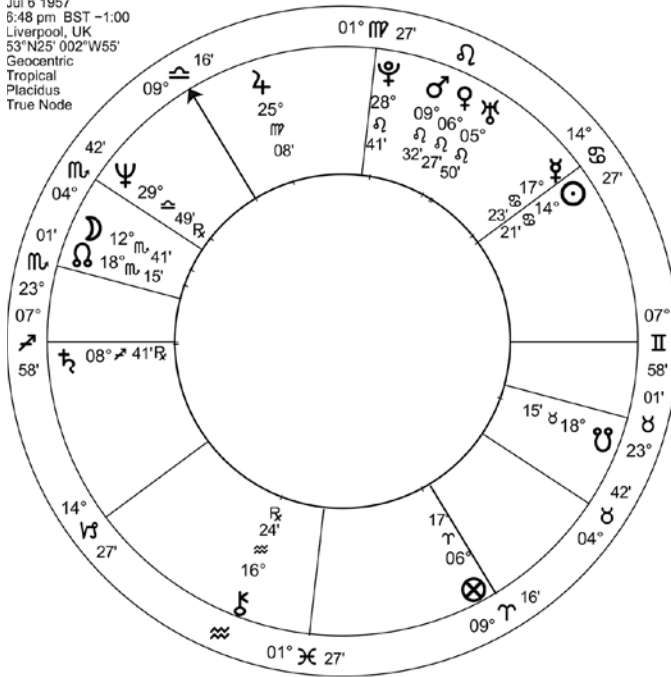
Beatles 50th Anniversary

June 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of that eventful meeting between John Lennon and Paul McCartney, and ostensibly the birth of the Beatles, which Lennon and McCartney would go on to found, with the addition of George Harrison and Ringo Starr. Lennon and McCartney also became the group’s, and the world’s, most prolific songwriting team.

In the next decade, the Beatles would, as Lennon unwisely observed, but probably not inaccurately, become “more popular than Jesus” with Lennon-McCartney music playing continually. The effect of the Beatles’ music on attitudes, and the sheer pleasure and excitement it has given and continues to give to billions, is immeasurable, even though they disbanded more than 35 years ago, and two of the original members, John Lennon and George Harrison, have died.

Though accounts of the initial meeting between Lennon and McCartney have differed, journalist Jim O’Donnell has pinned it down as closely as possible through reviewing

Lennon and McCartney Introduction
 Natal Chart
 Jul 6 1957
 6:48 pm BST -1:00
 Liverpool, UK
 53°N25°00'W55'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



documentation and interviewing those present when the two first met, including Ivan Vaughan. According to O'Donnell's book *The Day John Met Paul*, Lennon and McCartney were introduced to each other on July 6, 1957, at 6:48 PM British Summer Time, at St. Peter's Church in Liverpool (see above). We will call this chart the Introduction Chart, and use it as the Beatles' birth or natal chart.

The Introduction Chart

At the time the Beatles were "born," Saturn was rising, and the meeting between Lennon and McCartney was indeed Saturnian. The two barely exchanged a word or nod; but within minutes, McCartney began playing his guitar, in typical Saturnian fashion. Although "Saturnian" may not be the term one would associate with these two men, the subjects of most of the songs they produced, especially in their early years, are invariably set in Saturn's mundane land of the real here and now. They didn't romanticize or glamorize. They wrote of perfectly ordinary feelings and squabbles between perfectly ordinary girlfriends and boyfriends. What could be more unremarkable than *I Want to Hold Your Hand* (even though the singer probably wants to do more with the young lady than just hold her hand)? Even a dog will urge his paw upon you when he wants affection. Is this really a feeling worth singing about? Why all the fuss?

The fuss comes from the Saturn ascendant's exact trine to the astonishing Venus-Mars-Uranus conjunction in Leo.

A Venus-Mars conjunction indicates a romance; in Leo, it is dramatic and passionate. Conjunct Uranus, it is also spontaneous, liberating, unpredictable, electric. And in Leo, these impulses must act themselves out with great drama and flair. This combination contains as much passion and excitement as anyone could reasonably want or handle, and perfectly describes the phenomenon called "Beatlemania," which is described on your old copy of the record album *Meet the Beatles*:

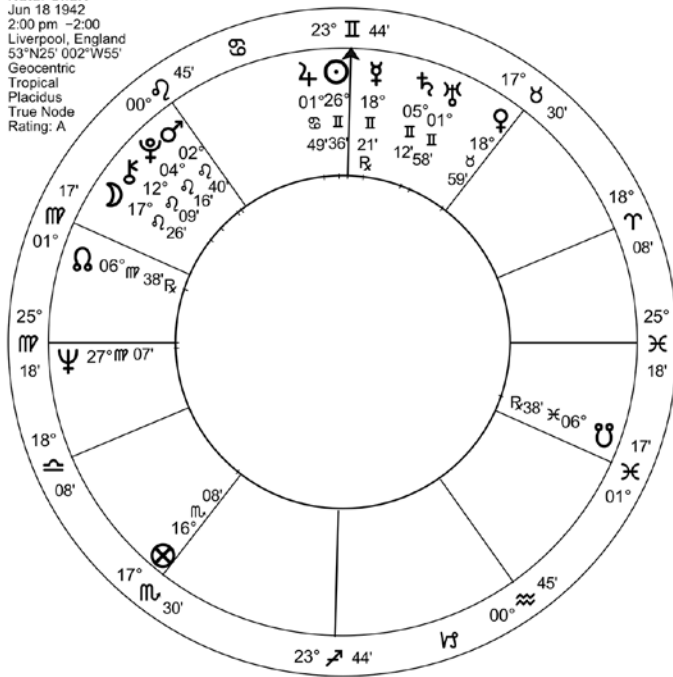
In Newcastle, England, 4000 fans stood all night in pouring rain to get tickets for a Beatles appearance... In Portsmouth, the queue started 90 hours before the box office opened... and two determined 16 year-old girls spent four nights outside to hold their place in the queue. In Carlisle, frantic schoolgirls battled police for four hours in a do-or-die effort to gain admission to a sold-out show.

Wherever these young men performed (Mars in Leo), there were adoring crowds (Venus) and frantic young girls (Venus conjunct Uranus), acting out their love (Leo) in bold, spontaneous fashion (Uranus), largely by screaming in an uncontrolled frenzy. The trine between this amazing Leo conjunction and the Saturn-Ascendant conjunction acts like a channel, permitting what feels like a liberating, passionate love affair to flow naturally into Saturn's down-to-earth, here-and-now reality. The configuration is emphasized by the Midheaven's position at the midpoint of the two conjunctions, exactly sextile each. Lennon-McCartney music creates electric passions; it brings them right to you, making those passions real and immediate.

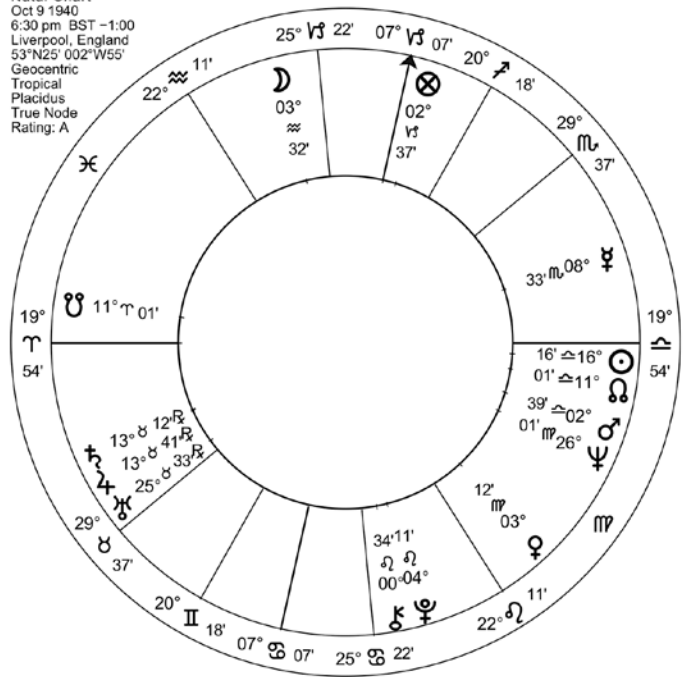
So in Lennon-McCartney's world, you don't find love and freedom by jetting off to romantic and exciting places. You can live out the workaday life in dirty, industrial Liverpool, and find romance and excitement instantly flowing towards you (the trine), if only you are open to those impulses. For example, there seems nothing special about the fellow who joyously discovers that he is *Happy Just to Dance with You*, or about the girl with whom he is dancing. They may well be doing their dancing in a local high school gym or a rundown neighborhood pub with the tiniest of dance floors. He may have bad teeth, no money, and no prospects, while she may be a simple waitress, and henpecked by her overbearing mother. But none of that matters. They can find extraordinary bliss in the humblest, most down-to-earth of surroundings, simply by being open to letting it happen. And if they can, why can't you? It's easy. *All you Need is Love*.

Similarly, the song *A Hard Day's Night* seems at first to be about a regular guy stuck in the traditional Western

Paul McCartney
 Natal Chart
 Jun 18 1942
 2:00 pm -2:00
 Liverpool, England
 53°N25°00'W55°
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node
 Rating: A



John Lennon
 Natal Chart
 Oct 9 1940
 6:30 pm BST -1:00
 Liverpool, England
 53°N25°00'W55°
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node
 Rating: A



capitalist rat race. He might be a laborer, a clerk, or even a government bureaucrat. He complains about how hard he must work, just to be able to support his wife or girlfriend. When he sings that he works all day “to get you money to buy you things,” you can almost hear Wal-Mart’s stock price rising in the background.

But the rewards for his efforts the singer celebrates are not the usual ones of material security and social respectability. The recompense of which he sings is emotional and erotic, sensual and immediate. Instead of finding his conformist lifestyle restrictive (Saturn-Ascendant), he is able to use it as a vehicle to experience his own wildness and freedom (Uranus), his love (Venus), and his passions (Mars). The Introduction Chart’s fiery trine between Uranus-Venus-Mars and Saturn-Ascendant effortlessly harmonizes the usual conflict between conventionality and the need to feel free, and finds no contradiction between them.

Uranian energy can be frightening, signifying sudden violence just as much as it signifies spontaneous excitement. And while Uranus-Venus shows love suddenly appearing out of nowhere, it also shows love suddenly vanishing, leaving wounds behind. Yet, Lennon-McCartney songs are extremely comfortable and non-threatening, providing excitement without making the listener uneasy. The Introduction Chart’s Saturn, to which the energy symbolized by the triple Leo conjunction is naturally directed via the trine, provides structure to keep that energy in order, restraining it sufficiently so that it never gets out of hand.

Moreover, the Introduction Chart contains a superb water trine between the lights: the Scorpio Moon, seeking emotional depth and intensity, perfectly trines the Cancer Sun, which seeks to create a container in which such feelings may safely be experienced. This dynamic tempers the potential violence of Uranus and the planets it aspects. A minority of Lennon-McCartney songs, for instance *Eleanor Rigby* or *In My Life*, indeed seem addressed primarily to the emotions. Normally, both fire and water were at work simultaneously, complementing one another. It is easy to imagine that the girl sorrowfully stealing away from her well-meaning, bewildered parents in the poignant *She’s Leaving Home* found both the courage and the need to claim her freedom, in part by listening to other, more fiery Lennon-McCartney songs.

Someone born with Saturn rising works on himself, rather than on the surrounding world. Lennon-McCartney songs accordingly urge self-development on the one hand, while accepting the world as it is on the other. “So when you find yourself in the thick of it, just help yourself to a bit of what is all around you.” (*Martha My Dear*). Don’t destroy the institution: “free your mind instead.” (*Revolution*). Even if you are a real *Nowhere Man*, with patience and the right attitude, the world may yet be at your command. *Hey, Jude* and *Fixing A Hole* are both entirely about improving a situation through a change in attitude, rather than through forcing change in external circumstances.

All the Introduction Chart’s planets are either conjoining, or above the horizon, showing the extraordinarily public

nature of this partnership. Likewise, the Moon is approaching conjunction with the North Node, signifying the emotional tie between Lennon-McCartney and large groups of people (in this case, just about everybody everywhere). The planets, running from Sun to Saturn, form an inverted bowl, a configuration suggesting an endless pouring out of the partnership's energies into the world. And they were lucky, too: almost exactly midway between Sun and Saturn sits Jupiter, the chart's ruler, elevated and unaspected—nothing will interfere with the good fortune of this musical team. Within 48 hours of their introduction, this same Jupiter transited across McCartney's Ascendant, while the other benefic, Venus, conjoined Lennon's Part of Fortune. An auspicious meeting indeed, and one that also creates amazing synastry between the Introduction Chart, and each of the founding Beatles. (See p. 19 and 21 for charts of the Beatles.)

Some might argue that the Introduction Chart should not be used to represent the group, since the Beatles consisted of George Harrison and Ringo Starr, plus there were other members before the four became the official group. However, Lennon-McCartney's meeting was the first event that in turn led to the group's formation, and their partnership as songwriters is so bound up with their history. Most important, transits to the Introduction Chart, which we will use as the Beatles birth chart, manifest as events in the Beatles' history with extraordinary precision.

Perfect Timing

The Uranus-Venus conjunction became exact when transiting Uranus conjoined Introduction Venus on July 16, 1957. Three days later, Paul McCartney accepted the invitation to join Lennon's band, the Quarry Men. Around January 31, 1958, the date that transiting Uranus retrograded over Introduction Mars, George Harrison began playing with the Quarry Men as their lead guitarist (exact date unknown). On November 13, 1959, transiting Jupiter, signifying travel and success, crossed the Ascendant. On November 15, 1959, the Quarry Men, horrendously renamed Johnny and the Moondogs, performed in a television talent competition in Manchester, their first performance outside Liverpool. They reached the semifinals, but missed the finals because they had to catch their train home.



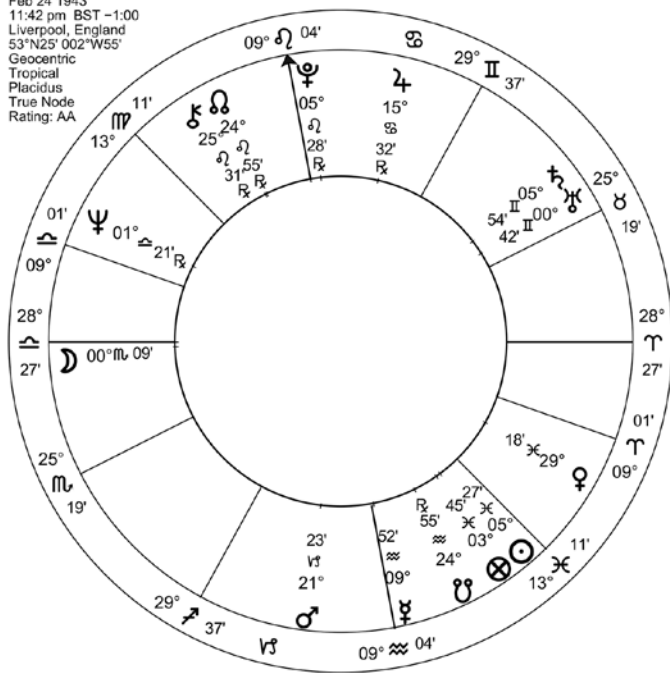
In late 1961, coincident with transiting Neptune's conjunction with the Introduction Moon, they met Brian Epstein, who would become their manager and change the course of their lives and history. Epstein was a thoroughly Neptunian character who effectively lived a double life, hiding his homosexuality from his family who supported him financially. Epstein had a penchant for sadomasochistic affairs with coarse young men, with Epstein playing the masochist role. Beatles' biographer Philip Norman opines that Epstein was interested in the Beatles not because of their music but because of his sexual attraction to John Lennon, who resembled the sort of rough young man Epstein was drawn to.

Epstein offered to become their manager in December 1961, and they accepted this offer that month or in January 1962. Transiting Neptune reached the Moon exactly on December 21, 1961. When transiting Neptune next conjoined the Moon on April 11, 1962, grief and emotion took over as the previous day, 21 year-old former Beatle Stuart Sutcliffe died of a brain hemorrhage. Sutcliffe, a talented painter, played with the Beatles for a time and actually came up with the name Beatles. His wife Astrid Kirchherr, gave the Beatles the distinctive haircuts they wore as a uniform in their early years. All the Beatles were utterly devastated by Sutcliffe's death and unable to stop crying when they learned of it—except for Lennon, who was said to control his grief.

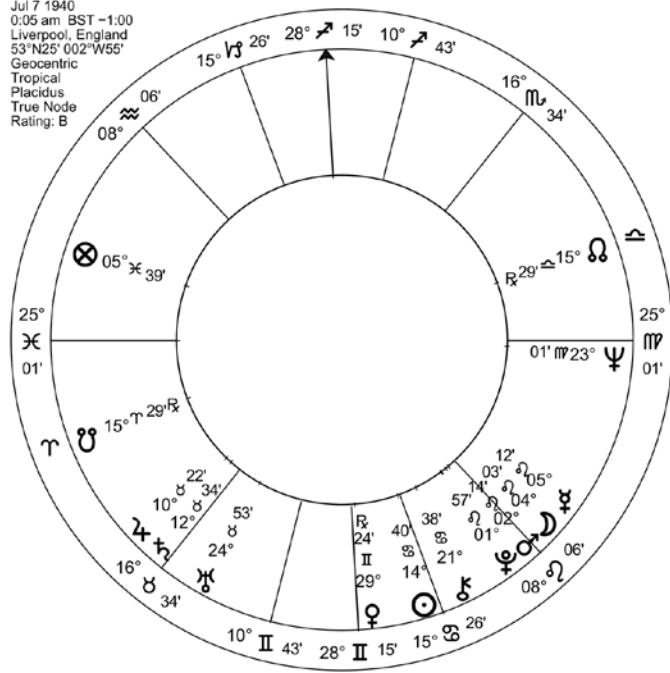
This transit also brought a happier event. Producer George Martin, listened to a Beatles demo record. Neptune turned direct and again reached the Moon on October 22, 1962. The Beatles released their first single *Love Me Do* produced by George Martin two weeks previously. Prior to that, Saturn's transit had a hand in changing the Beatles' landscape permanently. On August 18, 1962, Ringo Starr replaced Pete Best as the Beatles' drummer, and the group assumed its final form. Five days later, transiting Saturn, the bringer of finality, exactly opposed Venus, the centerpiece of the Leo triple conjunction.

Philip Norman writes that Pete Best was not as skilled a drummer as Ringo, but instead had many other assets for the group. He had tremendous sex appeal, and helped draw female fans to performances. His mother owned a club where the Beatles performed, and he possessed a fine drum set, no small asset during the Beatles' early

George Harrison
 Natal Chart
 Feb 24 1943
 11:42 pm BST -1:00
 Liverpool, England
 53°N25°00'W55°
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node
 Rating: AA



Ringo Starr
 Natal Chart
 Jul 7 1940
 0:05 am BST -1:00
 Liverpool, England
 53°N25°00'W55°
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node
 Rating: B



years, when money was scarce. Most important, Pete Best was their friend. All of these assets, most obviously Best's good looks, are largely Venusian in nature. George Martin, however, played the role of Saturn, and rejected Best because he was not a good enough drummer to record with the group. Enter Ringo.

With the success of *Please Please Me* and *She Loves You* in 1963, the Beatles became a worldwide phenomenon and force. On October 26, 1963, transiting Pluto reached the Sun-Moon midpoint at 13 Virgo 32. The following week, the *Daily Mirror* first coined the term Beatlemania in a headline to address the developing phenomenon. Pluto retrograded over that same midpoint on February 8, 1964, the day after the Beatles arrived in New York City to launch their first tour of North America, and the day before their first live performance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, which attracted 73 million viewers.

The following year, transiting Uranus conjoined the same Sun-Moon midpoint on August 11, 1965. Four days later, the Beatles performed at Shea Stadium before 55,600 people, the largest live performance up to that time. During the last week of September 1967, transiting Uranus conjoined the Introduction Jupiter, while transiting Saturn retrograded across the IC. The latter transit suggests termination (Saturn) of some sort of caregiving (4th house); while the former suggests a sudden liberation (Uranus) of the self (ruler of 1st house). The combined image is of someone suddenly forced to leave home but finding the experience

liberating, as the experience leads them to discover new aspects of themselves.

Brian Epstein died on August 27, 1967, and on September 30 of that year, the Beatles did not renew their contract (which had expired) with his management company. Instead, they decided to manage themselves, which resulted in the eventual formation of Apple Records and related companies. The Beatles were suddenly (Uranus) required (Saturn) to make a choice about who, if anyone, would manage and take care of them (4th house). With Uranus transiting confident Jupiter, the Ascendant ruler, they chose to liberate themselves from all management and act independently.

Transiting Pluto, bringer of destruction and transformation, approached and nearly reached the Introduction Jupiter in late 1968, stationing retrograde at 25 Virgo 06 on December 28, 1968. The prior August, Ringo Starr temporarily quit the Beatles, but then returned. George Harrison did the same thing in January 1969. When Pluto finally reached Jupiter on September 23, 1969, the group's end became real. Around that time, John Lennon advised his bandmates that he was leaving the group. Additionally, on September 26, 1969, the Beatles released *Abbey Road*, their final album together.

Certain ongoing contact negotiations made it advisable for the group not to reveal their dissolution publicly. That announcement had to await Pluto's return to Jupiter by retrograde motion on April 22, 1970. On April 10, 1970, Paul

McCartney released a solo album and publicly announced that he was quitting the Beatles.

Lennon and McCartney never worked together again. Years later, in January 1975, Pluto stationed at 9 Libra 15, within a minute of arc of the Midheaven, while transiting Saturn simultaneously opposed the sun. It was in this month that the legal entity comprising the Beatles was formally dissolved by the London High Court.

Individual Beatles

The contacts between the Introduction Chart and the charts of the individual Beatles are well worth noting, and amazingly precise. The Introduction Jupiter conjoins Paul McCartney's Ascendant, and its Venus conjoins John Lennon's Part of Fortune. This makes perfect sense since the Introduction Chart represents the transits for the moment that Lennon and McCartney met.

For George Harrison and Ringo Starr the chart indicates synastry, more than anything else. The Introduction Mars conjoins Harrison's Midheaven (which was exactly opposite his Mercury). Moreover, Harrison's Moon at 0 Scorpio tightly conjoins his Ascendant at 28 Libra, with the Introduction Neptune at 29 Libra the exact midpoint. Ringo Starr's Moon-Mercury conjunction at 5-6 Leo exactly conjoins the Introduction Uranus-Venus conjunction in those very same degrees. The chart of the meeting between Lennon and McCartney thus powerfully aspects the planets of the two Beatles who were not there.

And then there is the matter of the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction, which occurs every 20 years, and which hovered over John Lennon's chart. As well befits a generational prophet, Lennon was born under one of those great conjunctions, and died under another. He was born on October 9, 1940 with retrograde Jupiter applying towards conjunction with Saturn, about half a degree away. That conjunction became exact a couple of weeks later at 12 Taurus, opposite the Introduction Moon.

Lennon was killed on December 8, 1980, with Jupiter applying towards conjunction with Saturn, a little over a degree away. That conjunction became exact on December 31, 1980 at 9 Libra 30, the very same degree that culminated at the moment Lennon met his friend and partner Paul McCartney 23 years earlier.

This article originally appeared in the April-May 2007 issue of the NCGR memberletter.

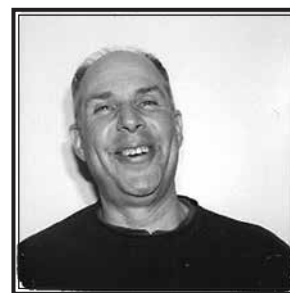
Birth Data

- **Introduction Chart (First Meeting of McCartney and Lennon).** July 6, 1957, 6:48 PM BST, Liverpool, UK, 53N25, 2W55. **Source:** *The Day John Met Paul* (see bibliography).
- **George Harrison.** February 24, 1943, 11:42 PM, Liverpool, England, 53N25, 2W55. **Source:** George Harrison's Memory.
- **John Lennon.** October 9, 1940, 6:30 PM GMT, Liverpool UK, 53N25, 2W55. **Source:** Lennon's stepmother quotes his aunt.
- **Paul McCartney.** June 18, 1942, 2:00 PM BST, Liverpool UK, 53N25, 2W55. **Source:** Linda McCartney to astrologer Nalini Kanta Das (Tom Hopke).
- **Ringo Starr.** July 7, 1940, 12:05 AM GMT, Liverpool UK, 53N25, 2W55. **Source:** Astrologer Lynne Palmer quotes him.

All of the above birth times are recorded on Lois Rodden's Astrodatabank.com.

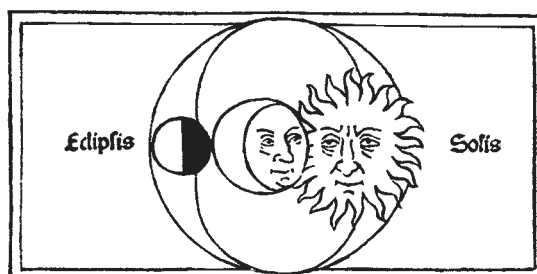
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STONEWALL

The Birth Of The Gay Community

An Astrological Interpretation

by John Marchesella

A recent viewing of the documentary, "American Experience: Stonewall Uprising," as well as the wellspring of excitement about the legalization of same-sex marriage in New York State on June 24, 2011, brought back thoughts of an article published in the June-July 2002 NCGR memberletter. Coincidentally, our editor, Ronnie Dreyer, saw the same PBS broadcast of the documentary and also recalled the article. So, we decided to reprint the original exactly as written with the exception of a few grammatical corrections and the addition of subtitles to the parts. And what follows it is a new article on the astrological indications of more recent developments in the Gay Movement.

John Marchesella, July 2011

Part I. The Chart of Stonewall as a Riot

June 28, 1969. Richard Nixon was recently sworn into office and the United States just passed the peak of its Cultural Revolution. Blacks had won their civil rights. Betty Friedan, Germaine Greer, and Gloria Steinem already were on the bestseller lists. Most Americans, by now, had realized the war in Viet Nam was not only a lost cause, but a wrong cause.

Earlier on that afternoon, Judy Garland died, and Uranus entered Libra for its long stay. And at 2 a.m., the Gay Liberation Movement officially began (*See chart, next page*).¹

"During the early hours of June 28, 1969, the New York City Police and Alcoholic Beverage Control Board entered a gay bar 'The Stonewall Inn' on Christopher Street in New York City. Allegedly, there to look for violations of the alcohol control laws, they made the usual homophobic comments and then, after checking identification, threw the patrons out of the bar, one by one. Instead of quietly slipping away into the night, as we had done for years, drag queens



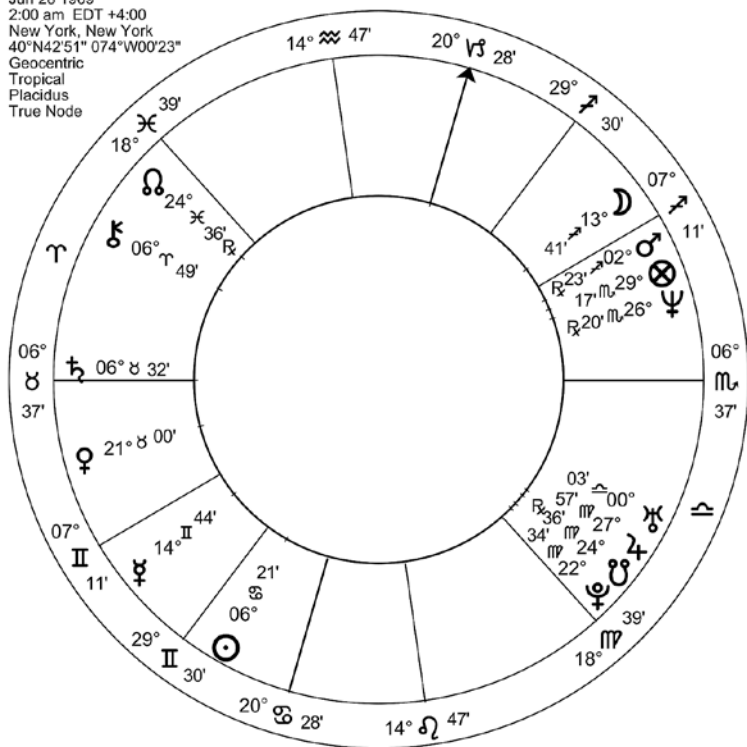
and kings, many African-American and Latino hustlers, students, gays and lesbians in the area held their ground and fought back. Someone uprooted a parking meter and used it to barricade the door. The agents and police were trapped inside. They wrecked the place and called in reinforcements. Their vehicles raced to the scene with lights glaring and sirens blaring. The crowd grew. Someone set a fire. More people came. People protested for three days. And for the first time, after innumerable years of oppression, the char, 'Gay Power,' rang out!"

*"Stonewall 25 Official Commemorative Guide
June 28, 1969-June 26, 1994"
List Magazine, June 1994.*

Some of the more striking astrological symbolism in the horoscope cast for this moment reveals the following:

1. Saturn conjunct the Ascendant. As the first house "initiators of the action," the police were looking to oppress or restrict. Ironically, perhaps by moving too slowly

Stonewall
 Natal Chart
 Jun 28 1969
 2:00 am EDT +4:00
 New York, New York
 40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



(Taurus), they became the oppressed, Saturn's dual meaning of the oppressed and oppressor.

2. Scorpio on the 7th house cusp with its traditional ruler, Mars in this house. As the Descendant "receivers of the attack," the Stonewall patrons are aptly and obviously described by the sign here, as well as the retrogradation of Mars, frequently, representing in mundane astrology, "unconventional men." This retrogradation position also signified the reverse of the usual action; in this case then, an unexpected and unconventional uprising. (Up to this time, such raids were considered the norm and simply accepted by everyone, including gays and lesbians, with no retaliation.)
3. Pluto as contemporary ruler of the 7th house. Its conjunction to Jupiter provides the beneficence over the gay patrons, and the grand trine with the MC (city administration) and Venus, ruler of the police, symbolize the ultimate peace-making, plus the victorious achievement for the gay community—at least to a degree—relatively speaking to the time, a great degree; but relative to a larger timeframe, just a drop in the bucket.
4. Neptune in the 7th house. Obviously, this was a face-to-face battle (opposition), and the police, though strong with reinforcements (Venus in Taurus) did not expect the force hidden in a group of half-drunken men, drag

queens and what was thought of as a bunch of sissies (all represented by Neptune). Additionally, with Neptune as the ruler of the 12th, posited in the 7th, we can use the expression, "hidden enemies come to light," a different kind of coming out of the closet, so to speak.

5. Mercury, in its own sign, as ruler of houses two and three, and the Sun posited in the 3rd house. Essentially, this even marked the beginning of a gay community and the value it took in itself, as well as in its claim and pride to its own literal community, i.e., Christopher Street in New York City, Castro Street in San Francisco, etc. (Indeed, this even triggered gay pride in all major cities across the country, leading to June as Gay Pride Month with the last Sunday in June as Gay Pride Day in New York).
6. Uranus on the World Axis at 0 Libra 04. Does this even need an explanation?!

Part II. The Same Chart as the Gay Movement

1. In an interesting twist, if this chart is used as the start of the Gay Movement (as this time is usually considered), instead of a riot instigated by the police, the interpretations become totally revised....and a foreshadowing of what would come.
2. With the Ascendant now representing the gay community, its ruler (Venus) is in a face-to-face battle with a very different enemy of hidden force and ramification (Neptune in the 7th house with Scorpio on the Descendant). Of course, here I'm talking about AIDS.
3. Pluto's placement. Now, with the 7th house being AIDS, Pluto conjunct Jupiter gives the disease extra strength to grow and multiply. Overall, there is a great emphasis on the 6th house, which, in the mundane school, represents the national health. Nevertheless, that grand trine with Pluto and Jupiter, the MC and Venus, all in earth signs, still bodes well, given the power of the enemy; that is, the ability to organize resources to combat and perhaps confine the spread of AIDS, at least to some degree, again relatively speaking.
4. Saturn's placement. Yes, even though Stonewall was a major leap forward in the Gay Movement, we remain oppressed and still without our full civil rights. However with Saturn also indicating "the leader,"

especially here, in rulership of the MC, governmental administration, it presents the gay community's leadership in the fight against AIDS and the effort to bring it to public attention.

5. Mercury, in its own sign, as ruler of houses two and three, with the Sun posited in the 3rd. I believe the interpretation remains the same—in essence, a value and pride taken in the identity as a community.
6. Themes of transformation. The imagery of death throughout the chart is clear—Pluto's overall influence; ruler of the 4th house, the Moon, is in the 8th; Saturn conjunct the Ascendant, etc. Of course, this applies to the “description beyond words” of so many tragic deaths from AIDS within the gay community and the damage to its survivors. However, it's not just death, but also rebirth, and therein lies the transformation; for the gay community has strengthened and prospered in the face of this adversity. This, in turn, is a transition of a different and exhilarating kind.

Not at all do I mean to imply that AIDS is the gay community's disease, or that it is the only affected by AIDS nor in combat with it. Although until the late 80's, it certainly felt and appeared that way. After all, our then-president did not even utter the name of the disease until his last year in office. And that brings me to the last part of this article.

Part III. Larry Kramer and Gay Men's Health Crisis

On January 12, 1982, a group of six gay men, led by author and activist, Larry Kramer, came together to officially name what had been only an informal discussion group among concerned friends. Then, the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) was born. They mapped out their goals and aims, and they strategized fund-raising tactics. In the years to follow, GMHC would become the leading and most powerful organization to fight AIDS and educate the general public about the devastation it would—and did—bring. The transits of this day to the Stonewall chart are amazing.

1. This meeting took place three days after a Lunar Eclipse at 10 Cancer 14, just over a degree from the IC of the Stonewall chart, indicating an awareness of the riot's outcome and its readiness to become a new entity.
2. This eclipse took place with Saturn at 21 Libra 57, representing the struggle to bring to light this awareness, in the form of a public health crisis (6th house).

3. Uranus, at 3 Sagittarius 13, had just made its conjunction to Stonewall's Mars. This has two interpretations. First, if Mars rules “the enemy,” AIDS, then this transit is its sudden activation. On the other hand, with Mars as the “unconventional men” of Stonewall they are suddenly and surprisingly called to action. Also noteworthy about transiting Uranus: a) It made an opening sextile to its natal position, indicating the restructuring of the original community, and b) Uranus would form a Yod with the Ascendant and Saturn in Taurus and the Sun in Cancer, representing a series of jolts and unexpected adjustments in the community identity.
4. Jupiter, at 7 Scorpio 40, barely passed over the Descendant of the Stonewall chart, symbolizing the rapid growth and spread of AIDS in the general public, but also a generosity and opportunity from the public.
5. Instead of a Mars retrograde, there was Venus retrograde (not an unusual coincidence of reversal between linked events). She retrograded through the 10th house, but on this particular day, she was positioned at approximately 5 Aquarius with the soon-to-follow Solar Eclipse, in the square to Stonewall's Ascendant and Saturn. This first fundraiser, which was also for the first public event of announcement, was planned as a dance party. It resulted in a social disaster and a financial loss. However, in a quirky twist of fate (or retrograde), this “failure” received so much widespread publicity that GMHC eventually got more attention than expected. Gain through loss, a variation on the overall transformational theme.

The other major transits since 1982 to the Stonewall chart and their corresponding events in the Gay Movement are equally astounding, i.e., the death of Matthew Shepherd and the recent outlawing of discrimination of gays in the British armed forces, but for now, I will leave those to my astrological peers.

This article originally appeared in the June-July 2002 issue of the NCGR memberletter and was reprinted in the July-August 2011 issue, where it appeared alongside the article “Stonewall Revisited” by John Marchesella.

References

1. The time of the Stonewall uprising, which occurred on June 28, 1969 in New York City, is recorded specifically as 2:00 AM EDT by Randy Shilts, *The Mayor of Castro Street*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1982, p. 41.



Stonewall Revisited

The Gay Community in Mid-Life

by John Marchesella

Since the sad, early days of the AIDS crisis and the tragedy of Matthew Shepherd, the Gay Movement has had numerous advances toward equal rights, i.e., marriage in six states, as well as a few setbacks, such as the passage of Proposition 8 in California, but ever since the recent entry of Saturn, Pluto and Uranus in to the cardinal signs, there have been a string of victorious events.

Just in the past year (*this article was written in 2011-Ed.*), the United Nations passed a resolution, which endorsed the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people (LGBT). President Obama signed into law the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” so that now gay people can serve openly in the military. And Rhode Island very recently legalized civil union between same-sex couples, albeit still not marriage.

Most notably for the Gay Movement, on June 24, 2011, at 11:55 p.m. EDT (see chart on p. 27), Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into effect the right for gays to marry in the state of New York, the place where it all began, making it a particularly sweet victory, and even more so because it came during Gay Pride Week, the anniversary of Stonewall. Although it is not the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, it is significant to the cause that New York is the state with the largest population to do so.

In the original article on Stonewall, mention is made of the coincidence of the riot with the day of Uranus’s ingress to Libra, the World Axis, and the explanatory comment read, “Does this even need an explanation?!”

In the past year, the aforementioned events coincided with Uranus’s ingress to Aries, again, the World Axis! So,

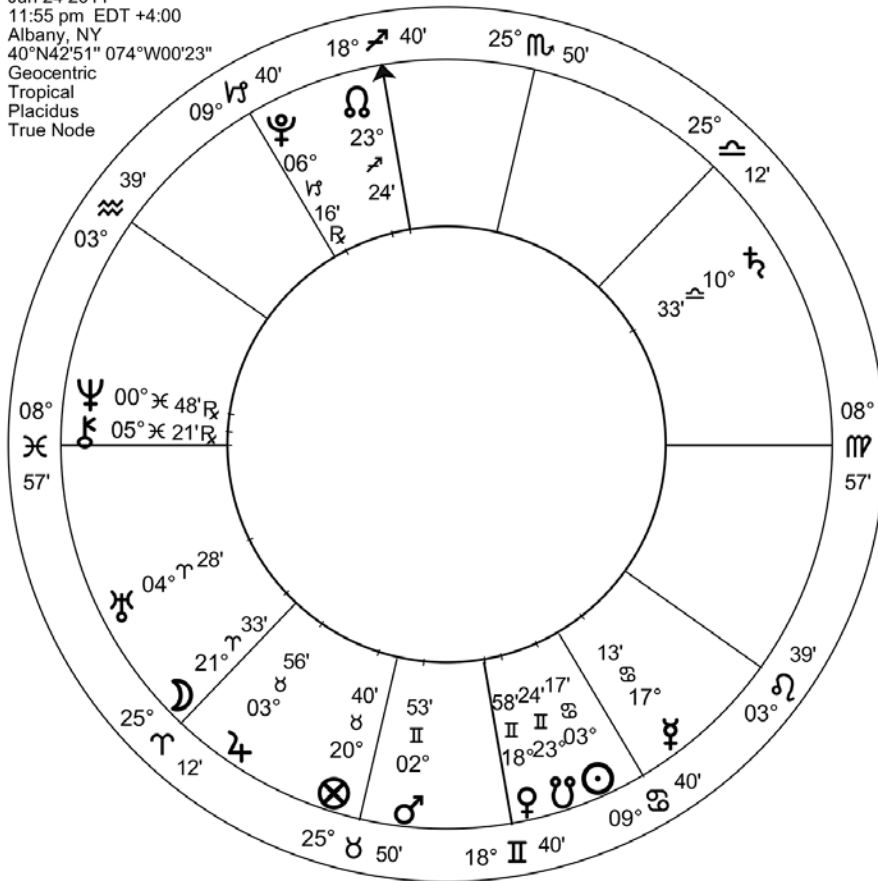
is any explanation needed this time? Maybe so.

We usually think of Uranus transits as rebellious, revolutionary, an overthrowing of the rigidity of the status quo, be it in the individual or in the collective, and certainly Stonewall was that, as are these recent events today, but of course, in a different way. Stonewall was the expression of unorthodoxy and these other current events are a request for inclusion to the orthodox world.

Bear in mind any interpretation of a transit must come from the potential of the natal horoscope. So, the importance of Stonewall’s natal Uranus, in the sign of Libra, not only signifies marriage, but also equality, fairness, justice, etc., and according to the rules of mundane astrology, the 6th house indicates the armed forces and the civil service!

New York Gay Marriage Legalization

Natal Chart
 Jun 24 2011
 11:55 pm EDT +4:00
 Albany, NY
 40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



The transit of Uranus opposite Uranus, often used as the kick-off of the mid-life crisis in one's early 40s, is more popularly thought of as the prototypical suit-and-tie suburbanite who leaves his wife and kids for a little red sports car and younger babe. However, at the other end of the spectrum is the artsy-fartsy Peter Pan, Puer Eternus, whose freedom has become his prison, and when Uranus opposes his Uranus, he wakes up one day with a pulled muscle in his back and realizes he does not have health insurance. Of course, in either case, ultimately, it's not about the quick awakening and switch. It's about the balance. And sometimes to find the balance, we have to go to other extreme.

We might say, at the ripe age of 42, that's where the Gay Movement is.

But isn't it really where the collective is too? Yes, gay people are ready for marriage and military, but society is also getting ready to have them join in the institutions of marriage and military. These current events are not just advancements for the gay community; they are an expansion in the collective mind.

In the recent documentary, "Public Speaking," essayist and social commentator, Fran Lebowitz said, "There was a time when the great thing about being gay was not having to get married and go in to the army!" Whether it's the irony of life, or the maturation process, Uranus-opposite-Uranus is a balancing, a shifting, a movement until some middle ground is found in the question, "How much freedom is enough freedom?"

The real irony in this instance is marriage and military are hardly experiences of freedom, but the freedom to choose to be in them is the point of Uranus-opposite-Uranus in the chart of Stonewall, the start of the Gay Movement.

I hope to be around in 2032, when Uranus enters Cancer, and I can write about another update on the development of the Gay Movement and civil rights. And if I'm not around to write yet another update on the return of Uranus to its natal position at 0 Libra 04 in the Stonewall chart, then maybe some young astrologer will be writing about even more advancement then. That's how planetary life cycles work.

In fact, if we turn back to the opening square of transiting Uranus to natal Uranus in the late 80s, we also see significant events that fit into the development of the Gay Movement, but more about that later in this article.

Returning to current happenings in the Stonewall chart, the other significant astrological indication of these recent events, most specifically, the legalization of gay marriage in New York State, is the combination of progressed Venus conjoined with the natal Sun at 6 Cancer 22 as well as the transiting opposition from Pluto in Capricorn in the 9th house to the natal Sun.

Now, we can ask if any interpretation is necessary!

Of course, the symbolism of Venus on the Sun is all about marriage as well as equality, fairness, justice, etc. Pluto's opposition is not only the transformation of these principles, but to boot, via the 9th house of legislature, gay marriage as well as gays serving openly in the military are the continuing manifestations of the tumbling down of outworn social institutions and the

reinventing of them. It's time for the Old Goat to change.

Helping the matter is transiting Pluto's close trine with natal Saturn and the Ascendant. The effect of soft aspects is not to be ignored too.

Chiron-users might also notice Stonewall's natal Sun is in close square aspect to Chiron at 6 Aries 49 in the 12th house. That symbolism might indicate the riotous nature of the centaurs, especially on a Saturday night, so to speak, as Stonewall riot was and in quite a 12th house atmosphere, i.e., a smoky gay bar.

Perhaps the further symbolism of Chiron and the transit of Pluto to him is the need to bring together opposing forces of human nature, namely, our animal instincts, which include sexuality, with our divine energy, which aspires for transcendence. And while Chiron is not usually an indication of marriage per se, it is an indication of unification through struggle and the fight for gay civil right is certainly that.

Again, the symbolism works both ways. It is as much of a struggle for the collective mind to expand and evolve to include gays in civil rights, as it is for gay people to fight patiently for civil rights. In fact, the battle cry of the Gay Movement recently has changed to, not a fight for same-sex marriage, but rather, a fight for the civil rights of all citizens.

The intention of this article, by the way, is not to win over any minds in favor of civil rights for gay people, but instead, to point out the astrological dynamics of a natal Uranus in Libra, being opposed by transiting Uranus, as well as the power of Pluto transiting through the 9th house of law.



Let's see what happens next when the transiting square between Pluto and Uranus hits the natal square between Sun and Chiron. The right to marry in California is heading for the Supreme Court.

Incidentally, those of us, who use Chiron in more limited ways, namely, having to do with alternative health measures, will see his symbolism more simply and directly in the role that AIDS played in the development of the Gay Movement.

Another noteworthy secondary progression is the change of the MC from Aquarius to Pisces. When a secondary position leaves a sign, there's a rallying of that sign. In 2010, when the progressed MC was at the end of Aquarius, there was certainly a battle cry from gays about Aquarius issues, i.e., civil rights. A more specific example is how the Gay Movement is rejecting the idea of state approved civil unions, in favor of actual marriage as a statement of full and equal civil rights. True, the ingress of the MC into Pisces delivered some

of the goods, but Pisces is hardly a sign of freedom. Perhaps as time goes by, the Piscean symbolism might actually be the obviousness of the lack of equality.

Finally, the eclipses have been at work in their inimitable way. The Lunar Eclipse of June 26, 2010, at 4 Capricorn 46, closely opposed Stonewall's natal Sun from the 9th house, perhaps setting the stage, as eclipses often do, for changes in the legislature, particularly on the national level with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

More powerfully, however, the infamous Lunar Eclipse of December 21, 2010, at 29 Gemini 21, on the World Axis, squared Stonewall's Uranus, activating the "revolution,"

which came in the form of President Obama's official activation of the repeal after an approving review of it from military heads.

Of course, the most recent Solar Eclipse on July 1, 2010, at 9 Cancer 12, is within orb of Stonewall's natal Sun. The King is dead! Long live the King! Well, at least in New York State.

Let us return to the cycle of Uranus to bring today's article full circle to the original one.

In 1982, Larry Kramer with six other men started the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), which became, for its time, the most effective organization for AIDS education, the promotion of AIDS research, and fighting for the rights of people with AIDS.

Kramer, born on June 25, 1935, with his natal Sun conjunct the Sun of Stonewall, is known to be a highly cantankerous and volatile personality, to say the least. By the mid-80s, he grew disgusted with what he felt was

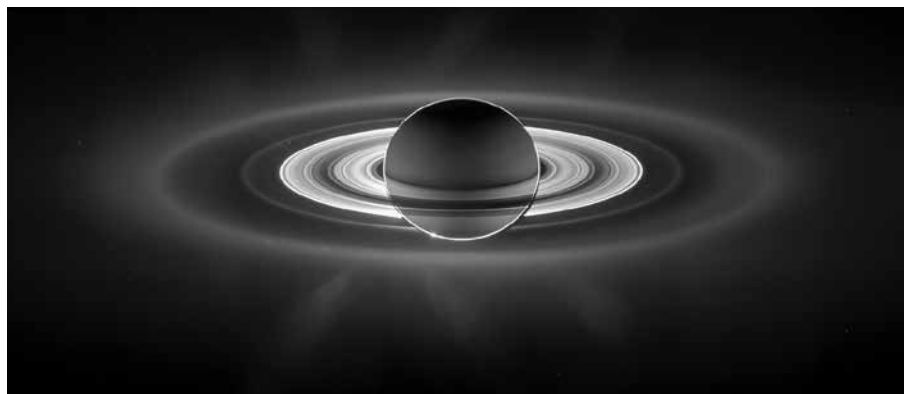
GMHC's lack of ability to get things changed. So, in March 1987, just when transiting Uranus was in late Sagittarius, he resigned from GMHC and began a new activist group, ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power). Its modus operandi was civil disobedience protests, sit-ins and demonstrations with lots of media coverage to call attention to the need for immediate response to the AIDS crisis. Structurally, it was designed to be leaderless, a little anarchistic and democratic to a fault.

As Uranus was entering Capricorn in 1988-89, ACT-UP was at its peak of very disruptive protests, sit-ins and demonstrations at the likes of New York Stock Exchange, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), the NIH (National Institutes of Health), and even during Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, front and center in the media, and its members, more often than not, were arrested for its social disruptions.

In that moment, ACT-UP was, indeed, a bolt of lightning in pursuing its cause and awakening these social institutions to the seriousness of the crisis, but ACT-UP's chaotic nature, as well as Kramer's lack of political savvy and protocol, burned out its effectiveness almost as quickly as it had begun.

That, of course, was the opening square of transiting Uranus to Stonewall's natal Uranus.

But leave it to Kramer, the true New York character that he is, to have the last word in the argument. His 1985 play, *The Normal Heart*, which is an autobiographical account of his time in the early days of the AIDS crisis with GMHC and his partner who had AIDS, is enjoying a very successful production on Broadway this year, under the transits of Uranus and Pluto to Stonewall's chart, and in fact, on



June 12, 2011, it won a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play.

To complete another circle, GMHC is experiencing its first Saturn Return this year.

Before we leave the topic, something should be said about Saturn. Of course, his passage through Libra is highlighting what does and doesn't work about marriage, as we see in the dual royal weddings of Kate and William and between bad boy Prince Albert II and Charlene Wittstock, as well as in the divorce of another royal couple of sorts, Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger, and in the inevitable memories of Charles and Diana.

In relation to the chart of Stonewall, however, transiting Saturn spent 2009-10 conjoining Uranus and in square to the natal Sun. Just as he lifted his pressure from these aspects, these advancements were made. Maybe there really is something to be said for harnessing energies in the effort to materialize natal potential.

If it is true that Saturn manifests potential through challenge, patience and perseverance, then perhaps what we're seeing is, not just the realization of growth of the Gay Movement, but the expansion of the collective's experience of balance and justice for all.

Postscript: During the week of March 25, 2013, when this article (which first appeared in the July-August 2011 issue of the NCGR memberletter) was re-submitted for publication in this "Geocosmic Journal," two arguments in defense of same-sex marriage went before the Supreme Court. That week saw a Full Moon at 6 Libra 52 (partnerships) opposite Uranus in Aries (unconventionality). Who says astrology doesn't work!



John Marchesella

is Chair of NCGR and a frequent contributor to astrological publications. He is a keynote speaker at its 2013 Conference in Philadelphia, where he will speak on the topic of Saturn around the horoscope. John also helped to form the first bereavement group for GMHC in 1982. He can be reached via his website, www.astrojohn.com.



Astrology's Symbolic Life

by Claudia Bader

Astrology brings the night sky down to earth, transforming technical information into symbolic statements. As practitioners of an interpretive art, we know that symbols are our lifeblood. Symbols are experienced as images.

The word symbol comes from the Greek noun *symbolon*, and refers to a token that was used as a verification of identity. It was an object, often a bone or a coin, which would be broken into halves. One half would then be given separately to two people (often of a sect or secret society) who could then produce the token and check that they fit together.

Another root of the word is the Greek verb *symbolleō* which means to unite, to connect, to bring separate parts together. Each person who possessed the separate halves knew theirs to be authentic. When put together, a whole new configuration was created.

Anthony Stevens, a Jungian psychologist, describes it this way:

... the strange must be 'thrown together' with the familiar to construct a bridge of meaning between the known and the unknown. ...something unconscious is connected with consciousness, resulting in the experience of new meaning.¹

When the parts are joined together, when the unconscious and conscious elements are bridged, there is a flash of meaning, of recognition. It is a creative moment. It is a “eureka, a flash.” And a connection is made. This is what happens when we arrive at a meaningful interpretation. Symbols enhance meaning, not reduce it, because of this unifying, bridging function. Their ability to condense meaning allows us to filter and order our worlds. Associations become richer and fuller. Meaning arises in the contemplation and understanding of them.

When we learn the elements of astrology—the signs, planets, aspects, houses—we study the entire range of

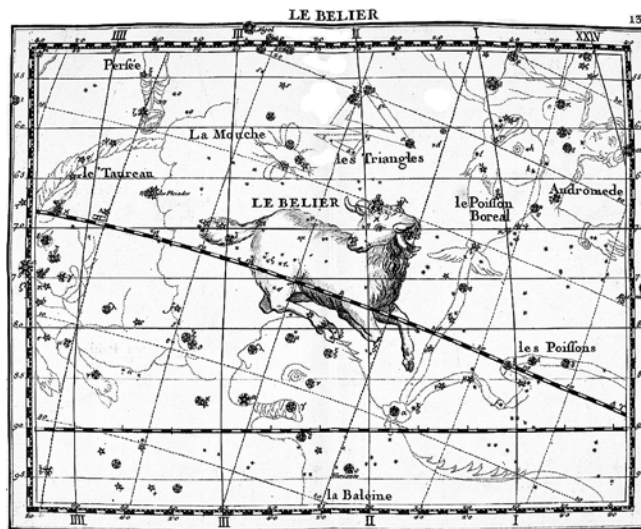
meanings. The archetypal images give us a whole constellation of meaning to go with the symbols we study. We study myths and legends related to them; we learn material, psychological, and spiritual interpretations. They all work. We study the symbolic ideas from which all these emanate. There are core symbolic themes in astrology; there are the planets and signs with the mythologies and astronomy connected to them; also crucial are the elements and the modalities, which get their interpretive power from nature.

Let's use Aries as an example of how we build up the meaning of a zodiacal sign based on underlying symbolic factors. Aries is the first sign, a cardinal sign, and a fire sign. Its animal is the ram, it is ruled by Mars. Its core meanings come from different symbolic permutations of these.

Being a cardinal sign, it begins the seasons, and as the very first sign, sign number one of all the signs, Aries partakes of all interpretations related to beginning and being first.

The first impulse is to be alive, and the definition of what it means to be alive is if something has independent movement. Thus we get a track of Aries associations such as independent, awakening, initiating, leading, inventive. The fact that it is sign number one leads to images such as uncomplicated, focused, to the point, direct, selfish.

It is a fire sign, so Aries has fiery qualities—passionate, “fired-up,” enthusiastic, rousing people to action. As cardinal fire, they radiate energy out, and do not absorb it, thus they can be insensitive and impatient. Aries is associated with people like warriors and heroes,



physical places like deserts; psychological energies such as impulsivity, anger, irritability, leadership, dominance, aggression, bravery, and spiritual images such as the divine spark of life, or the concept of the I AM, spiritual understanding that knows that there is oneness with the source.

Of course, I can go on and on about the different ways to interpret Aries based on combining the foundation symbolic meanings. In learning these different associations we build up a vocabulary of symbolic images inside us to go with the astrological elements. Which aspect of this extensive vocabulary we call on when interpreting a horoscope is dependent on how we synthesize the astrological elements. The more deeply we understand the archetypes symbolized in astrology, the richer our ability to interpret.

We combine the images, and a new gestalt is formed. Which symbolic level of astrological energy someone expresses is influenced most, in my opinion, by an individual's development and self-awareness, using the chart yet going beyond the chart itself. A chart is a vehicle...it can be the chart of a tree or a chair. It is the level of consciousness that makes all the difference.

The following parable illustrates this principle. A woman was in love with two men—an intellectual and a jock. If only she could put the intellectual's head on the body of the athlete, she would have the perfect man. A genie heard her wish, and granted it to her by switching the heads on the two bodies. Ahh...but there is an irony. The athlete's body, that now has the head of the intellectual, becomes

puny because he reads and studies all the time. The intellectual's body with the head of the athlete works out and works out and gets into great shape, leaving little time for mental pursuits.

Like the body, the chart has certain determining factors. There are certain conditions that that we incorporate into our lives, like being tall or short; or having a disability. We cannot change the fact that our Venus is conjunct Uranus. However, our attributes do not have to limit us. The level of awareness that we develop is flexible, and working with symbols means that various possibilities can emerge, which can expand our consciousness.

A female client, now deceased, illustrates how we interpret and think about astrological symbols. Imagine that your client has the Moon in the first house in Scorpio conjoining the ascendant, square Saturn in the fourth in Aquarius conjoining the IC. This is not an easy pattern to live with, and the angularity of these two planets more strongly emphasizes the negative emotions that soured her life.

We can begin by thinking about the meaning of the different energies analyzing the technical aspects of the chart, such as zodiacal state, the aspects the planets make, and the

condition of their dispositors. This will show a background context for the pattern, the support or lack of support, and its potentials. Think about it, analyze it, and use your intuition to feel the images. The deeper and fuller our understanding of the archetypal symbols involved, the larger our palette for interpretation, and the better we will be able to communicate the meaning of the chart's imagery.

She did have some support in that the Moon sextiled a Mars-Jupiter conjunction in the 10th house. When she was active and doing things (Mars), she felt better (Moon sextile Jupiter). She did focus on her career, and it was an important source of satisfaction for her. Once we as astrologers understand the basic meanings of the chart, the art of our art lies in the interpretation, how we communicate symbolic meaning.

Yes, her Moon-Saturn aspect is difficult. The inner symbolic template of the early relations points to the mother being experienced as alternately intrusive, envious, and overwhelming (Moon in Scorpio) and/or unavailable (Moon square Saturn). Mother (the Moon) may have had a postpartum depression, or was overwhelmed with work. The mother was thus felt to be stone (Saturn) because of her unavailability.

In the case of my client with this aspect, the mother did have a postpartum depression and her daughter, my client, experienced her cruelty and abuse. Her mother was envious (Scorpio) of her child and attempted to control her, even to the point of giving her enemies (Scorpio) despite the discomfort and constant objections. My client felt as if her mother wanted to kill her (Scorpio).



No feelings were acceptable around her mother (Moon square Saturn). This early experience led her to feeling her feelings were “too much.” When she expressed her emotions, they were shut down, either by criticism or being ignored (Saturn). Her general emotional state (Moon) was depressed and resentful. She was also on the paranoid side, both fearful and mistrustful. Who could blame her with that early experience? What do you do when it is in your chart, or in the chart of someone for whom you are interpreting?

First, recognizing and accepting the conditions of a person's life, whatever they are, can be liberating. It is immensely helpful for someone to have their experience validated by an astrologer who can see what their life has been like through the chart. An astrologer can make the connections by working with the horoscopic symbols. This instills compassion, which helps people relax and expand. In addition, it can aid in working through the feelings that are symbolized by the aspect pattern.

In the case of my client with Moon in Scorpio square Saturn, mourning (a Saturn/Scorpio theme) was crucial so that the potential to jam up feelings (Moon square Saturn) or attack herself (Saturn harshness with the vulnerability of the Moon) was released, and the emotion was experienced where it is appropriate; anger at her mother rather than herself. She also needed to recognize her own mean streak that was a result of this early conditioning. She often became entangled in abusive relationships and situations, and perceived that people were mean to her when they really were not. Her inner symbolic template became distorted; she projected this onto all her experiences.

Therapists understand this as the repetition compulsion, an attempt to master the internal template by constantly getting into similar situations. It is an unconscious process. Mourning her negative mothering experience finally led to her letting go (Scorpio) of the repetition in her life. One of the definitions of mental and emotional health is flexibility and balance. From my point of view, we want to expand people's consciousness and their range of experience internally and externally. We want to create more internal spaciousness—which leads to psychological flexibility and thus more choices in relation to the circumstances of life—both constitutionally and in terms of what life brings.

To help achieve this for my client, we played with other symbolic frames of reference: we talked about past lives where her sexual or magical power (Scorpio) was repressed (Saturn). She felt she had been a witch who was persecuted and crushed (Saturn) by stones. Recognizing that she had, and has, power, even if it was attacked, helped her. She related it to her rela-

relationship to her current life mother, and how my client's sexuality and intense feelings had frightened her mother. As the reality of what was became clearer to her on many levels, she could also access objectivity and compassion for her mother. As her negative feeling states began to be alleviated, we could think about what the Moon-Saturn square might teach her.

Framing the aspect in terms of soul evolution, it was about learning to transform extreme emotional reactivity (Moon in Scorpio) into positive actions. The emotional responsibility and discipline of the Saturn-Moon contact combined with the depth and interest in transformation of the Scor-

pio energy led her to writing mysteries with an occult edge.

As she healed, trusting other people became easier as well. Although Moon-Saturn is a very difficult aspect pattern, it had ways to work out constructively. The point is to realize that we work with symbols, and they condense many levels of meaning into one image. The more symbolic levels we bring to understanding the astrological patterns, the better we will be able to open up meaning, for ourselves and others.

This article originally appeared in the June-July 2007 issue of the NCGR memberletter.



"The Origin of the Milky Way," by Jacopo Tintoretto (1575-1580)

The probable source for the subject was a Byzantine botanical text-book, 'Geoponica', in which it is related how Jupiter, wishing to immortalise the infant Hercules (whose mother was the mortal Alcmena), held him to the breasts of the sleeping Juno. The milk which spurted upwards formed the Milky Way, while some fell downwards giving rise to lilies.

~ image description from the collection of the National Gallery, London
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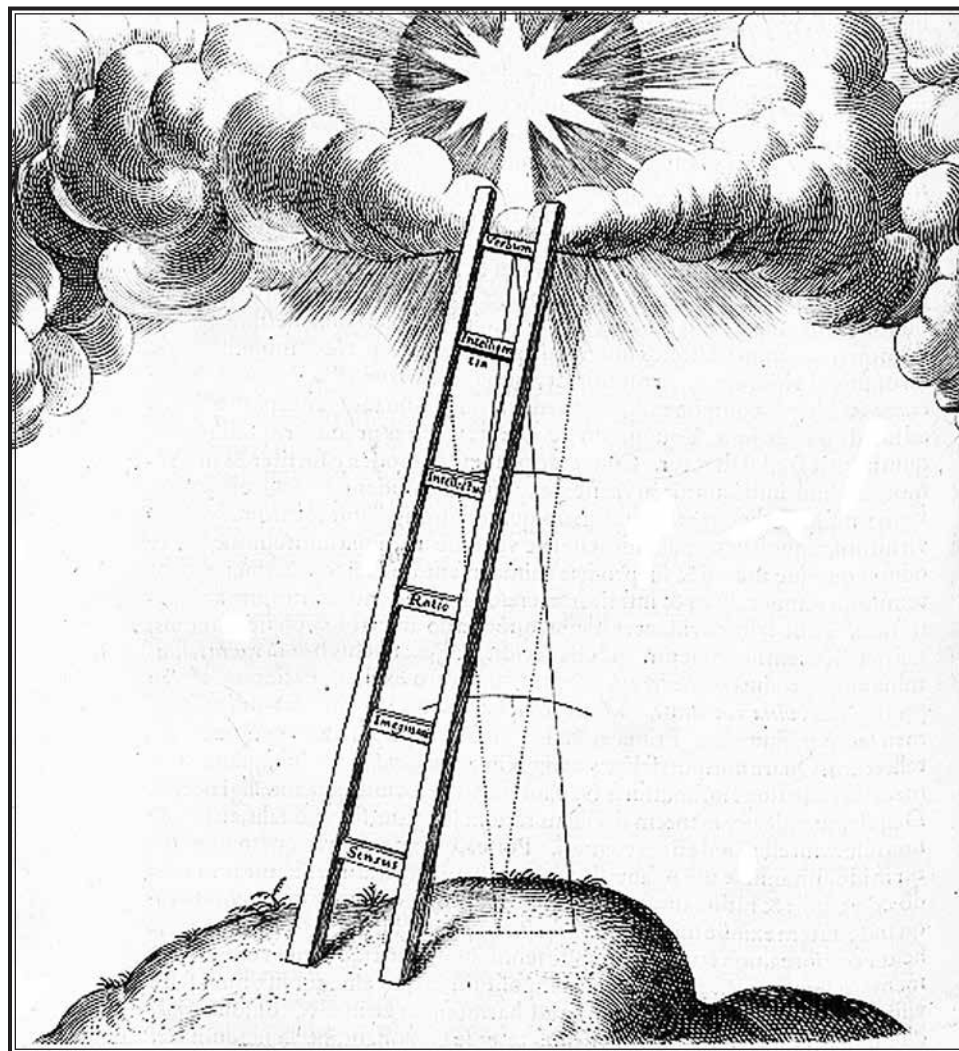


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Finding Success in the Horoscope

by Jackie Slevin



In the horoscope, we know that the part of the chart that describes one's career or position in life is the Midheaven, the highest point in the chart, where we reach our peak of achievement. It's everyone's personal point of highest visibility where we shine our brightest. It is our public presentation.

Basic astrology teaches that the sign on the Midheaven describes the type of career we seek, and the Midheaven ruler's respective sign and placement illustrate how and where these career energies will manifest. For example, if one has an Aries Midheaven, he or she will seek a career aggressively blazing new trails. If Mars, the Midheaven ruler, is in Pisces in the 9th house, the career might take on a philanthropic or artistic slant (Pisces) through law, academics, or in a country other than the place of birth (9th house).

An astrologer's knowledge of this very basic formula can help tremendously in defining one's career potential, but it doesn't tell the entire story. The missing links in this astro-

logical chain of command is the list of equipment needed to climb the mountain of our highest destination along with an itinerary of the journey. These required components of success are crucial in reaching goals, but are not readily defined or delineated in standard astrology. Thus the term "success" can be elusive in horoscope analysis.

One cannot find success in one's chart without knowing how to harness the fundamental concepts of success within him or herself. Success means the realization of goals, and once we reach that goal, the end-product of the goal needs to be placed outside into the world at large. In short, the skill and "goods" of the success need to be moved outside the sphere of the individual who created them and into the marketplace for public presentation, or from low visibility to high visibility. The key word here is "move." Products require transportation to reach the market just as a job applicant needs some form of transportation to reach their interview. *They have to move their goods.*

Society conditions us to devise a plan, rework and refine it, establish a goal, and put the result out in the public eye. Once you do, you'll have what is known as a career. Sounds easy, right? Maybe. But maybe not. Aside from the Saturnian qualities of ambition and discipline, which factors in a horoscope facilitate the moving of one's goods from low visibility to high visibility?

Principal Planet

While the Midheaven along with its ruler and placement describe the basic characteristics of a prospective career, it does not tell the whole story of professional success. A journey of career training worthy of its effort is required to reach the peak of our public presentation, namely, the Midheaven. And it is represented as follows:

Planets that aspect the Midheaven describe the equipment needed to climb the mountain to our highest destination. Aspects to the Midheaven describe the journey.¹

The planet that most closely aspects the Midheaven is the planet I refer to as the Principal Planet. The characteristics

of this planet represent the list of details required in one's arsenal of equipment to reach one's personal summit and, as a result, have a huge impact on the Midheaven. For example, an individual could have the sign Sagittarius on the Midheaven, indicating a tendency to seek a career in advertising, education, the travel industry, religion, or law.

If, however, the Principal Planet is Venus, the constant companions en route to the summit of achievement may include artists, performers, musical instruments, beauty consultants of all kinds, mediators, and diplomats. This Venusian influence will add another layer to their Sagittarian career influence, suggesting a blend of the two planetary and sign attributes, including a lawyer who represents artists, a music teacher, a beauty consultant to a foreign clientele, an international performer, or someone who studies art abroad.

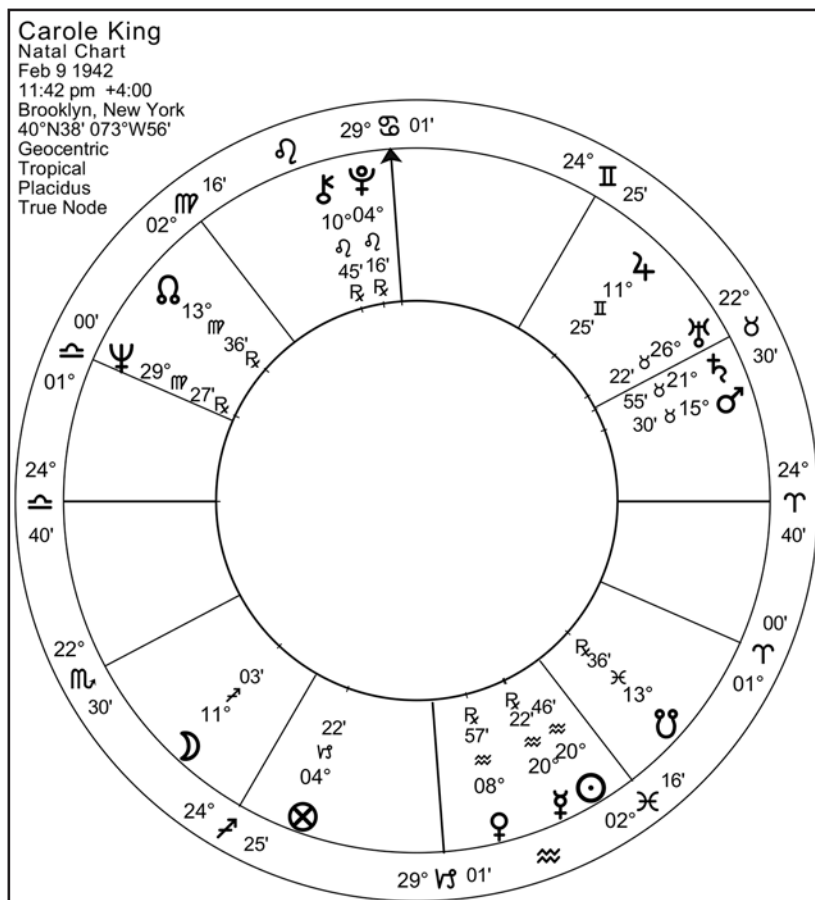
Someone with a Leo Midheaven seeks administrative authority, creativity and a venue for performing or display. If the Principal Planet is Mercury, talent in communication or writing buoys him or her up to the Leo summit. If the aspect between the Principal Planet and the Midheaven is a square, the route to the summit is an arduous, upward climb, but surmounting the obstacles builds character.

Trines illustrate a painless ascent, almost as if being airlifted to the top. Sextiles indicate sign posts and helping hands and are ever present along the route. Principal Planets conjunct the Midheaven provide an advantageous head start that facilitates less climbing, and Principal Planets in opposition to the Midheaven cause formidable delays and detours that breed frustration and conflict. Slowly and steadily, people who have these oppositions reach the summit with patience, skill, and fortitude.

As with any aspect, the impact to the Midheaven lies in proportion to the orb, so that the tighter the orb, the stronger the influence. Let's take a look at how Principal Planets work in practice.

Carole King

American singer and songwriter Carole King has been a fixture in popular culture for over 40 years. By age 19 she and her husband Gerry Goffin had penned three number one hit singles, *Will You Love Me Tomorrow*, *The Loco-Motion*, and *Take Good Care of My Baby*.



Her 1971 solo album *Tapestry* remained on the charts for six years, sold over 10 million copies worldwide, won four Grammy awards, and is listed as one of the greatest albums of all time. Crossing the genres of rock, jazz, and pop, her music is now part of the American Songbook and is heard in supermarkets, elevators, and television commercials.

Such an outstanding career would lead one to think that King's Midheaven, its ruler, and her 10th house would be focal points in her chart. Cancer, the sign of the public and natural rhythm, is the sign on King's Midheaven. The Moon, ruler of Cancer, is 11 Sagittarius 03 in her 2nd house exactly opposing Jupiter in Gemini with a tight 21 minute orb. Thus, King is predisposed to utilizing the sign Cancer and its characteristics to reach her personal summit of success. The Moon also sextiles Venus in the 4th house and trines Pluto in the 10th house. These are all very positive aspects for career success and for a happy family life, but do not necessarily imply superstar status.

A closer look reveals that Neptune, sextiling the Midheaven with a tight 26 minute orb, is King's Principal Planet, or what she uses to "move her goods" to reach her personal summit of success. With Neptune signifying idealism, utopia, and merging with the collective, it is no wonder King's

exquisite and soulful melodies are commonplace background music, pulling heartstrings around the globe. Principal Planet Neptune co-rules (along with Jupiter) King's 5th house of creative expression, performing and children, linking these qualities to career manifestation. Both of King's daughters are professional musicians and, with the South Node posited in the 5th house, it is obvious King brought her soaring Neptunian talents from her early childhood. She began playing the piano at age four, established the musical group, "The Co-Sines" in high school, and went pro at 18.

It is common to have two planets in a close, if not exact, tie to the Midheaven. These horoscopes have two Principal Planets, with each planet playing its role in moving the goods from low visibility to high visibility.

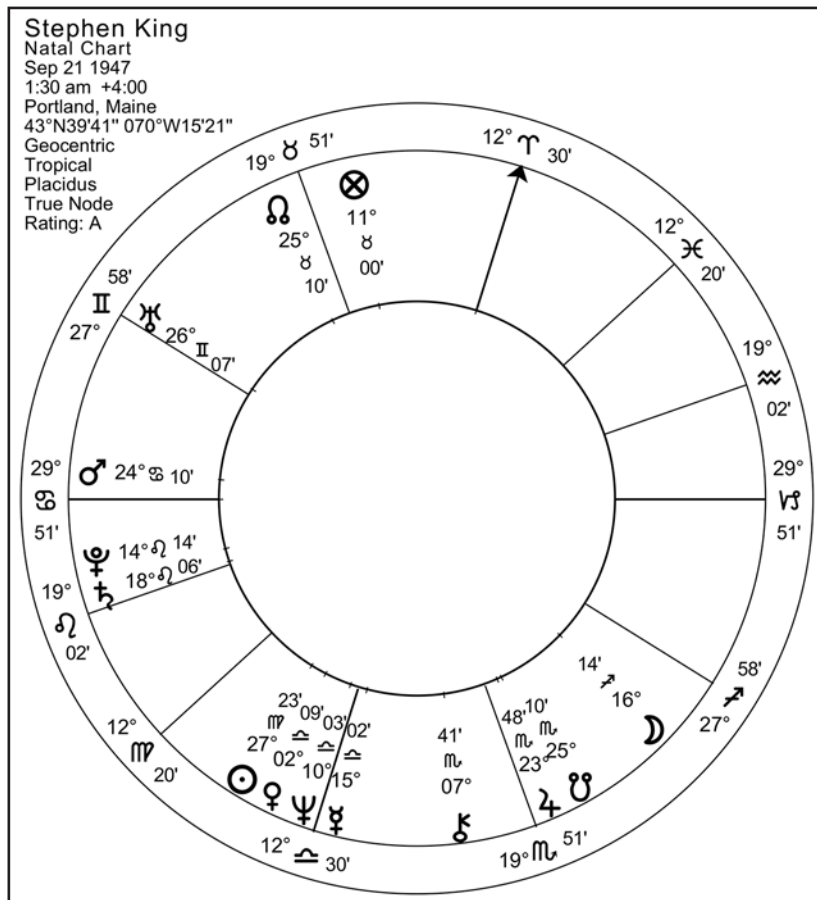
Stephen King

Stephen King is the world's bestselling novelist and the most financially successful fantasy and horror writer in history. One need only browse television channels or bookstores to see one of his novels on film or in print. Many planets aspect King's Midheaven but the one with the tightest orb is Pluto, trining the Midheaven within 1 degree 44

minutes, determining it as his Principal Planet. King's prolific literary output is replete with dark, Plutonian themes, with characters including, but not limited to, werewolves, vampires, psychopaths and a high school girl named Carrie who uses her telekinetic power to seek revenge.

In order of exactness, the conjunction of Neptune and Mercury follows Pluto with an opposition to the Midheaven. Neptune's orb is 2 degrees 27 minutes, and Mercury's orb is 2 degrees and 31 minutes, placing both planets, within a mere four minute orb, in an exact tie, to help "move King's goods" to his Midheaven, or peak of achievement. Neptune is the ruler of fantasy, and only Stephen King could invent the title character of Buick 8 that serves as a conduit to another dimension, or an eponymous character of a mysterious mist that stalks and consumes stranded shoppers.

The influence of Mercury's tight orb to King's Midheaven is incontrovertible; King is a one-time English teacher who wrote short stories for magazines and parlayed his obsession with



horror and fantasy into the career of a blockbuster author with a global following. Similar to the links of a chain, Pluto, Mercury, and Neptune join forces as they aspect each other and, strengthening their already potent angular placements, project their attributes to King's Midheaven. It is incredible to note that these three planets all aspect Saturn, giving King the iron discipline to keep to his schedule of writing 2000 words a day, turning out short stories, novels, columns, and screenplays at a continuous rate.

Powerfully placed Neptune, along with Jupiter, co-rules King's 9th house of publishing. Jupiter is in a mixed mutual reception with Mars, ruler of King's Midheaven. Mars in Cancer receives Jupiter in exaltation and Jupiter in Scorpio receives Mars in its own sign. (Mars is the traditional ruler of Scorpio.) Mars is in fall in Cancer and is behind the scenes in the 12th house of hidden enemies, self undoing, and secrets. Traditionally speaking, Mars is not prominently placed in King's chart, but a closer look at the aspects to his Midheaven tells a different story. The fact that the conjunction of Mercury and Neptune are in opposition to the Midheaven illustrates King's methodical and steady pace to reach the top. When asked how he writes he replied, "one word at a time."²

Conclusion

The sign on the Midheaven tells only the beginning of the story of our journey to reach our peak of achievement. Planets in aspect to the Midheaven tell the rest of it.

Using these Principal Planets, one can establish career goals, itemize the necessary equipment to reach the top, and determine whether the journey to the summit will be as easy as a chairlift or a Herculean effort. The secrets to success lie not in how planets aspect each other, but in how they aspect the Midheaven.

See it for yourself. Take out your charts, determine your Principal Planet or planets, and learn how to move your goods to reach your personal peak of achievement. And once you arrive at your summit, gaze at the celestial phenomena above you, and thank your lucky stars—and your Principal Planets.

This article originally appeared in the April-May 2008 issue of the NCGR memberletter.

Birth Data

- **Carole King**, February 9, 1942, 11:42 PM EWT, Brooklyn NY, 40N38, 73W56. **Source.** Birth Certificate. Rated "A" from Lois Rodden's Astrodatbank.
- **Stephen King**, September 21, 1947, 1:30 AM EDT, Portland ME, 43N39, 70W15. **Source.** Memory, Rated "A" from Lois Rodden's Astrodatbank.

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1. Jackie Slevin, *Finding Success in the Horoscope* (Lake Worth: Ibis Press, 2008) 7.
2. www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/s/stephen_king.html



Jackie Slevin

M.A., C.A. NCGR-PAA, is an internationally published full-time professional astrologer, and the author of the book *Finding Success in the Horoscope*, published by Ibis Press. She served as the Co-Director of NCGR Education from 2000-2003, and coordinated several NCGR conferences. A graduate of Classical Studies in Horary, Jackie was a Track Coordinator at UACs 1995, 2002, and 2012, and a member of the UAC 2002 Education Committee. She was a biography writer for Lois Rodden's Astrodatbank and is a member of the NCGR-PAA Board of Examiners. Jackie currently writes the Daily Guide column for *Horoscope Guide* Magazine and is Vice-President of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of NCGR. She speaks regularly for astrology groups and conferences including NCGR 2013 in Philadelphia. Jackie can be reached through www.geocosmicstudies.com.



"The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff."

~ Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*

DNA's Golden Anniversary

The Controversy behind the Discovery

By Anne Ortelee

April 25, 2003 marked the 50th anniversary of the announcement to the world that the structure of DNA, known as the Double Helix, was discovered. This article first appeared in the April-May 2003 memberletter to commemorate the occasion—Ed.

Cloning, genetically modified foods, tests for genetic diseases, and stem cell research all create ongoing emotional and ethical controversy. To find out why, look to the seeds of controversy sown by the discovery of DNA's double helix structure.

On April 25, 1953, *Nature* magazine published James Watson and Francis Crick's groundbreaking article on the structure of DNA entitled *A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid*. In the scientific community, the first person(s) to publish gets credit for the discovery. Often simultaneous paths of scientific research occur at different places a/k/a synchronicity. Sharing and competition are encouraged because new research stands on the shoulders of earlier research. This time, the allure of the Nobel Prize was too

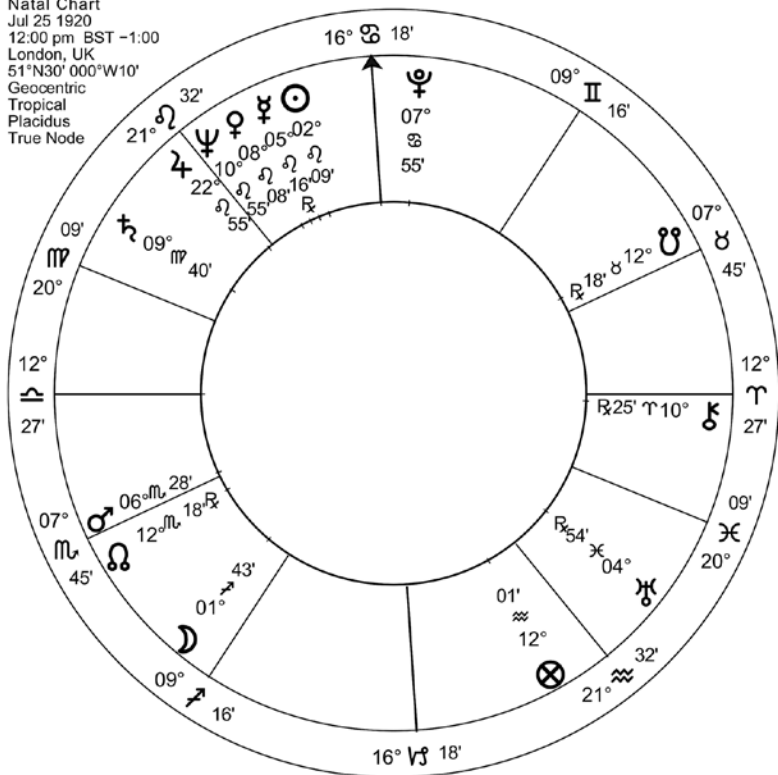
compelling—sharing and competition degenerated into allegations of stealing, manipulation, and skullduggery.

In Watson and Crick's hypothetical paper, which contained no authorities, experimental proofs, nor any historical record, they said that they were "stimulated by a knowledge of the general nature of the unpublished results and ideas of Dr. [Maurice] Wilkins, Dr. [Rosalind] Franklin and their co-workers at King's College, London."¹ Watson and Crick solved the riddle of DNA using a tinker toy model after Watson used Dr. Rosalind Franklin's co-worker Maurice Wilkins to gain access to her photographs of DNA, without having Franklin's or King's College's permission to do so. Watson and Crick had the vital information they needed to publish results before Franklin or Wilkins had a chance to publish theirs.

Rosalind Franklin

Rosalind Franklin (July 25, 1920, London, UK, Time Unknown. Chart on page 39 is drawn for noon.) was a brilliant scientist in post-war Great Britain when women

Rosalind Franklin
 Natal Chart
 Jul 25 1920
 12:00 pm BST -1:00
 London, UK
 51°N30' 000°W10'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



were not welcomed by the male-dominated scientific community. Her Mars (action)-North Node (destiny) conjunction in Scorpio indicates her scientific brilliance and drive to explore the darkest depths, resulting in her experiments with X-ray crystallography. Both the Sun and Mars are strengthened in the signs they rule (Leo and Scorpio), while Mars tightly squares her Sun-Mercury-Venus-Neptune stellium in Leo, and forms a quintile to her Jupiter in Leo, giving fiery pride, creativity, passion, inspiration, and brilliance.

The stellium's excess energy pours into the opposite sign of Aquarius creating fierce independence and quirkiness. Although her time of birth is unknown, it is safe to say that her five Leo planets made her very difficult to get along with if her pride and values were not respected and honored. She was, in fact, described as an extremely, deeply shy person appearing to almost reject people and, in many cases, antagonizing them.²

The Mars-Uranus-Pluto grand trine in water supports her driven nature and incredible instinct for research, and Mars' sextile to Saturn in Virgo gave her an ability to coax, revisit, refine, and analyze her data, adjusting based on success or failure. This means that Mars aspects every planet in her chart, notwithstanding the Moon, which could range from 25 Scorpio to 7 Sagittarius—depending on the time of day

that she was born. I am inclined towards a Sagittarius Moon based on her prolific publishing, love of adventure, hiking, foreign places, and outspoken manner. The Moon would then trine her Leo stellium, further contributing to her drive, charm, and ease of relationships with people. She argued passionately about science and worked with single-minded concentration. Mercury, ruler of the mind, is combust the Sun indicating an ability to focus on her destiny, but promising conflicts with, and lack of cooperation from, those whose points of view run counter to her beliefs.

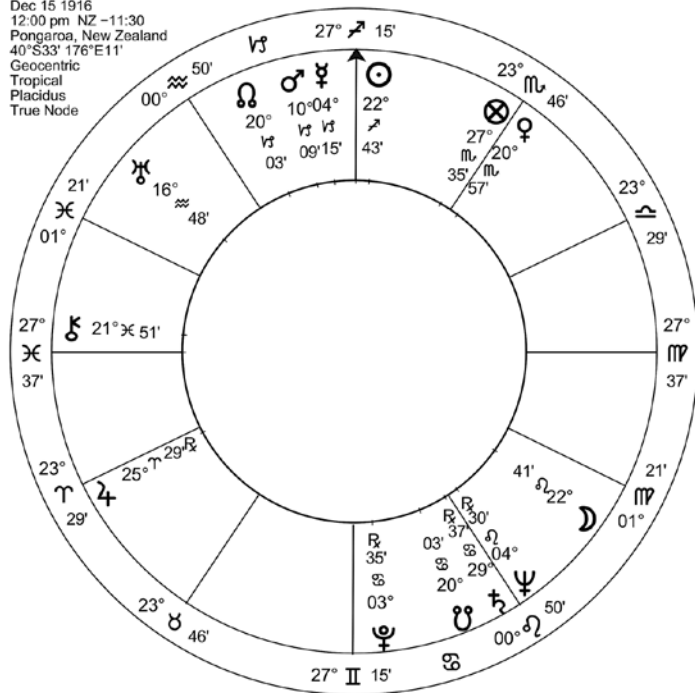
Franklin came from a wealthy, orthodox Jewish family, and her parents wanted their powerful, formidable, and able daughter to follow in their philanthropic footsteps by becoming a social worker rather than a scientist. When her aunt (Moon trine her Leo planets) offered to pay for her education, Franklin's father relented. She attended Cambridge University where she did her dissertation on gas phase chromatography. After World War II, she spent four happy, productive years in Paris where women scientists like Marie Curie were respected.

Her boss (Sun-Neptune), a Resistance war hero, was a brilliant scientist who appreciated smart, strong women.

In 1951, when Pluto moved into orb of her Jupiter, Franklin was hired at King's College in London to apply her skills in X-ray crystallography to the study of DNA. Maurice Wilkins (December 15, 1916, Pongaroa, NZ, Time Unknown. Chart on p. 40 is drawn for noon) was on vacation when Franklin was hired. When he returned, Wilkins was livid and insisted she was his assistant. Franklin, in turn, insisted she was independent. A queenly Leo, she'd run her own projects for the previous nine years, and had an especially forceful reaction when she discovered the Senior Common Room at Kings was off limits to all women, regardless of status. Franklin was a smart, feminist, Jewish woman dropped into a conservative, WASP, male culture.

Franklin was described by fans as charming, brilliant, opinionated, and competitive, and by foes as bossy, argumentative, and aggressive. She could probably be either, depending on your point of view. Her key planets are in masculine signs, making her energetically a man in a woman's body. Often the same words have very different meanings when applied to a man or a woman. It is always interesting to see how the phrase "complete and utter control" changes meaning based on the gender of the person being described.

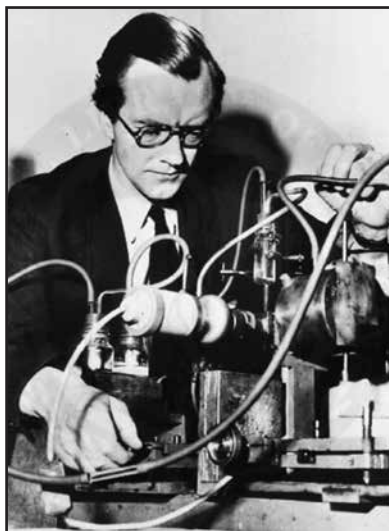
Maurice Wilkins
 Natal Chart
 Dec 15 1916
 12:00 pm NZ -11:30
 Pongaroa, New Zealand
 40°S33' 176°E11'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins

Franklin and Wilkins had a very difficult, non-collegial relationship. Wilkins’ Moon, which could range from 16-28 Leo, is opposed by Uranus in Aquarius, and ties into Franklin’s Leo stellium. It was personal. Neither would give up. Franklin probably represented his inability to control proud, fierce women who abandoned him, either physically or emotionally, starting with his mother. This is further exacerbated by his retrograde Cancer Saturn of karmic issues around control, security, or family, falling on her Sun.

It is obvious from all accounts that he needed to control her in order to feel secure, while her tight Uranus opposite Saturn is activated if someone tries to control her. His exalted Mars in Capricorn is inconjunct her Venus-Neptune conjunction, further emphasizing their inability to relate. His Mercury is inconjunct hers within minutes, while his Neptune conjoins her Mercury indicating stressful conversations, and an uncanny knack for misunderstanding each other every time they interacted. His own Mercury-Mars opposite Pluto already created an inability to communicate. Franklin was exceptionally willful and her flamboyant defense of her beliefs and passionate argumentative



style conflicted with his conservative, controlled Capricorn mindset.

Wilkins was Rosalind Franklin’s Pluto transit to her Jupiter as the South Node passed over her Leo Stellium. Franklin was Maurice Wilkins’ Pluto transit to his Leo Moon and Venus in Scorpio. Transiting Jupiter in Aries and Taurus (1951-1953) activated both their charts. The stage at Kings was set for Pluto to appear—enter James Watson as the third person in the triangle.

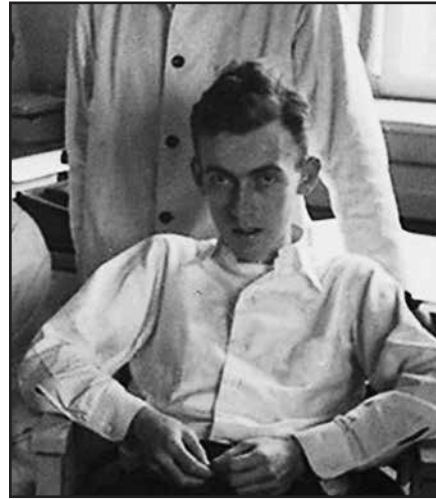
James Watson

James Watson’s birth chart (April 6, 1928, 1:23 AM CST, Chicago IL. See chart on p. 41.) has Mars in the anaeretic (last) degree of Aquarius, indicating extremes of Aquarian behavior—the ends justify the means. Mars is opposed by Neptune in Leo, making the boundaries of his actions (Mars) vague (Neptune), fueled by dreams of grandeur, kingship, and not always on the straight and narrow, leading to deception and insidious behavior. Mars rules his very tight Sun-Jupiter (grandiosity, god-complex) conjunction in Aries (competitive drive, me first) tightly squared by Pluto in Cancer (willful, ambitious, power-hungry, arrogant). Retrograde Saturn in Sagittarius gives him karmic issues around honor, moral codes, and righteousness. As the ruler of his chart, Saturn is placed in the 11th house of success from career (2nd from 10th house), trines his Sun-Jupiter, supplying enormous drive, ability to be successful, and tremendous luck in work, thus his nickname “Lucky Jim.”

With exalted Venus in Pisces closely conjoining his fallen Mercury, inconjunct Neptune, and square Saturn, Watson had an idealized vision of the “perfect woman,” yet conflicted, difficult, and often contemptuous relationships with real, smart women. In his book *The Double Helix*, which portrayed how he and Crick discovered DNA’s structure, Watson writes about Franklin in a very complex, often sarcastic, manner. He imagines what she would look like if she took off her glasses and did something novel with her hair.³ He refers to her as “Rosy,” a diminutive of Rosalind, and quite possibly a red flag marker of his own insecurity and attempted dominance.

Clearly, Rosy had to go or be put in her place. The former was obviously

preferable because, given her belligerent moods, it would be very difficult for Maurice [Wilkins] to maintain a dominant position that would allow him to think unhindered about DNA. The thought could not be avoided that the best home for a feminist was in another person's lab.⁴



Watson's need for a woman's support, yet his difficulty with, and need to be free of, them is reflected by his Libra Moon tightly trining his Mars, and Venus squaring his Saturn. A Libra Moon further indicates his desire for refined, "nice" women who focus on partnership. His Moon is opposite Chiron, implying primal wounding by the mother figure, and its placement as 9th house ruler in the 7th indicates success through partnerships via publishing and foreign places. His Scorpio Midheaven, co-ruled by Mars opposite Neptune, corroborates the paranoid plotting and striving for success he writes of in *The Double Helix*.

Pluto conjunct his descendant gives power struggles with open enemies as well as partners. Francis Crick was even rumored to have been considering a lawsuit about *The Double Helix*. Watson may be described as an exceptionally brilliant guy with breathtaking competitive drive, enor-

mous luck, and ruthlessness combined with a strong dislike but need-based dependence on women. Despite his Libra Moon, Watson appears via his book to have dubious social skills, and was caught up in the often-misogynist scientific world.

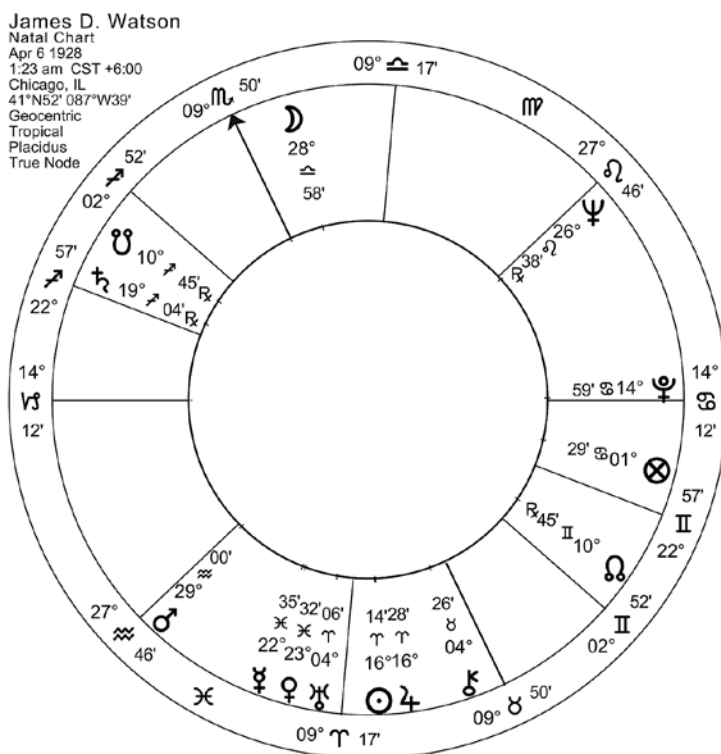
As a 24-year-old American with a Ph.D. in Biology, Watson believed discovering DNA's structure was THE cutting edge of research, and he repeatedly stated his desire to discover DNA's structure and win the Nobel Prize. In fact, he'd already written his acceptance speech. Watson details how he plotted and manipulated in order to succeed. He partnered with Crick so he could repeatedly re-direct Crick's incredible, wide-ranging mind towards the DNA puzzle, and befriended Wilkins so that he could pump him for details of his and Franklin's DNA research. He even befriended Linus Pauling's son Peter to get details about his father's work, since he thought Pauling could discover DNA's structure. In January 1953, Peter Pauling gave Watson a copy of his father's unpublished manuscript on DNA's structure.

Arriving at King's College on January 30, 1953, just before 4:00 PM, Watson wanted to show Maurice Wilkins the manuscript. Wilkins was preoccupied, so instead he dropped in, unannounced and uninvited, to Franklin's lab. She wasn't pleased. They argued about Pauling's results, which did not match hers. Watson wrote

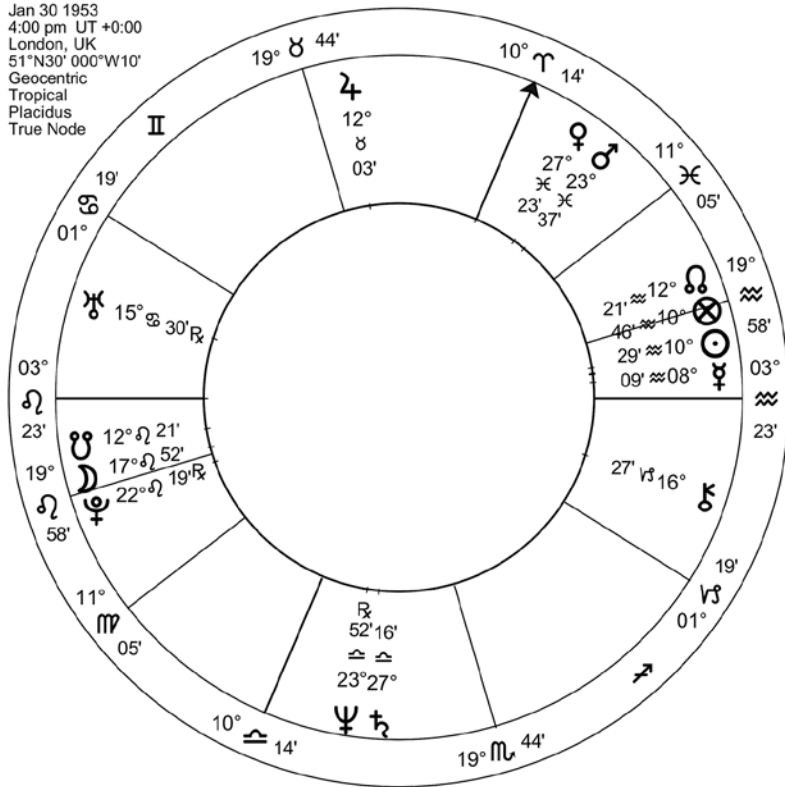
Her voice rose as she told me that the stupidity of my remarks would be obvious if I would stop blubbing and look at her X-ray evidence... I implied that she was incompetent in interpreting X-ray pictures. If only she would learn some theory, she would understand...⁵

Watson writes that he feared Franklin was going to strike him after his remark, so he hastily retreated to the open door as Wilkins arrived. He writes

My encounter with Rosy opened up Maurice to a degree that I had not seen before. Now that I need no longer merely imagine the emotional hell [Pluto conjunct his Moon and square his Venus] he had faced during the past two years, he could treat me almost as a fellow collaborator rather than a distant acquaintance with whom close confidences inevitably led to painful misunderstandings.⁶



X-Ray Discovery
 Natal Chart
 Jan 30 1953
 4:00 pm UT +0:00
 London, UK
 51°N30' 000°W10'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



Earlier, Watson used data from Kings' lab obtained from Wilkins. That betrayal cooled their relationship. It led to Watson and Crick being barred from working on DNA by their boss. Watson complained bitterly that the English still believed in fair play. Watson's Mars is exactly inconjunct Wilkins's Saturn and shows betrayal potential, while Wilkins' Mars on Watson's Ascendant pulls Watson in as a Pluto figure for Wilkins.

Wilkins proceeded to tell Watson that Franklin had X-ray evidence since the middle of summer about the structure of DNA. Watson writes

I asked what the pattern was like...The instant I saw the picture my mouth fell open and my pulse began to race. The pattern was unbelievably simpler than those obtained previously.⁷

Watson's description of the photo was a Uranus eureka breakthrough moment, and as one would expect, the chart drawn for the moment Watson saw Franklin's x-ray is quite extraordinary as both an event chart, and how it links all parties involved in this drama. The most obvious configuration is the fixed t-square across the 1st and 7th house axis with Sun-Mercury-Part of Fortune-North Node in Aquar-

ius opposing Moon-South Node in Leo and squaring Jupiter in Taurus. The t-square (area of conflict) in fixed signs attests to the fact that this controversy still exists to this day, and in all likelihood will never be resolved. (see chart)

Setting the stage for this dramatic planetary picture is the Saturn-Neptune conjunction in Libra, widely squared to Uranus in Cancer and Chiron in Capricorn, with a sextile to Pluto in Leo. Uranus and Chiron both square the MC-IC axis. Neptune stationed retrograde at 23 Libra on January 25, and Saturn stationed retrograde at 27 Libra on February 5, both conjoining Watson's Libra Moon, hiding his intentions from view.

The Saturn-Neptune conjunction, in effect from late 1951 until late 1953, emphasizes the Libra duality, which perfectly describes the double helix model, and that there were partners involved working on the hidden (Neptune) structure (Saturn) that had a double (Libra) sugar (Neptune and Libra) molecule as the backbone (Saturn in Libra). Uranus squaring that conjunction cracked the code.

There was deception (Neptune) around work (Saturn) and a sudden breakthrough (Uranus). The molecule had a simple double helix, step-like structure with two crystals (Saturn) repeating in rigid combinations. With the sextile from Pluto, there was a triangle and betrayal.

The event chart is also breathtaking in how it impacts each individual chart, and ties these three people together. First, transiting Uranus fell precisely on Watson's Pluto-Ascendant, perfectly describing his breakthrough moment, and forever changing the nature of his professional partnerships by igniting his Pluto, and instantly creating open enemies. It also set off the natal square of Pluto to his Sun-Jupiter conjunction. The exact inconjunct formed between transiting Mars-Venus and Saturn-Neptune precisely conjoins and inconjoins Watson's natal Mercury and Venus, pulling his Moon in Libra into the flow as well. (Transiting Mars at the exact same degree as natal Venus, especially indicates the strife and acrimony this would cause with the feminine.) All these planets connected by conjunctions and inconjuncts in both the event and natal chart create a stressful need to take action and move between what would be two incompatible choices.

Because of the contacts between Watson's and Franklin's charts, topped off by his Aries Uranus inconjunct her Scorpio Mars, the transits not only set his chart on fire, but hers as well. The event chart's Leo South Node-Ascendant tightly squaring Jupiter in Taurus precisely hits Franklin's Taurus South Node signifying loss (South Node) of her important and valuable (Taurus) photographic research (Neptune). Transiting Moon-Pluto conjoins her Jupiter (the Moon's dispositor), Wilkins' Moon square Venus, and Watson's Neptune showing the transfer of Franklin's data to Watson via Wilkins. The event chart's Chiron in Capricorn inconjunct Moon-Pluto in Leo shows the woman being wounded by the patriarchal, male establishment.



“Hey Rosy, Maurice, that guy you hate, just showed me your X-ray pictures without your permission. When I saw your work, I figured out the structure of DNA. Do you want to co-publish your results? We can share the Nobel Prize.”

Obviously not. Instead, Watson's Sun-Jupiter square Pluto kicked in. He would publish before she did and win the Nobel Prize. She didn't even know he'd seen her work. Watson's exalted Sun in Aries beats Franklin's Leo Sun in rulership every time.

At the time of the event, Wilkins did not fully realize the significance of what he'd given to Watson. His fire grand trine felt expansive with Watson's fire grand trine. Watson's Neptune conjoins Watson's Moon and squares his Venus, creating a nurturing, supportive, yet foggy relationship. In an interview Wilkins said

*They could not have gone on to their correct model, without the data developed here. They had that—I blame myself, I was naïve—and they moved ahead. We were scooped, I don't think quite fairly.*⁸

The inconjunct between his Saturn and Watson's Mars was betrayed by Neptune's lack of boundaries. Watson gleefully stated that he had Franklin's data without her knowledge. He knew how brilliant she was even though he dismissed her talents with demeaning comments, the nickname of Rosy, and picking fights with her. But Watson continued to seek out her opinions and feedback and always wanted to see her work. Inconjuncts create stress in the chart of someone who was wildly ambitious, and misogynistic at the same time.

Rosalind Franklin's photographs (that Wilkins showed without permission) gave Watson exactly what he needed to understand the structure of DNA, publish the results, and win the Nobel Prize. Given his chart, the fierce competition in the scientific male-dominated world, and the contacts with her chart, what else could he have done now that he had seen her work? He had just insulted her x-ray skills and almost came to blows in her laboratory. He couldn't say

The rest, as they say, is history. Watson talked to his boss and got permission to proceed based on his seeing Franklin's photos, and the desire to beat the Americans (even though ironically Watson was American). Next, Watson got his hands on Franklin's quantitative data. He and Crick developed their “tinker toy model” in under a month. They wrote a paper and submitted it on March 18, 1953, 11 days before Rosalind Franklin's paper arrived with her data and the photographs. She wrote her draft on March 17, 1953.

Watson and Crick won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1962, which they shared with Maurice Wilkins. With his honorable Sun in Sagittarius, Wilkins mentioned Franklin's work in his acceptance speech. Watson and Crick mentioned 96 other research items and left her out.

Rosalind Franklin died of ovarian cancer on April 16, 1958. The Nobel Prize is only awarded to living people. We will never know if Franklin would have also shared in the Nobel Prize had she lived.

The question remains: If Rosalind Franklin had the photographs since the previous summer, why hadn't she published her work? Did she know what she had? Crick said, “Oh, don't be silly. Of course, Rosalind would have solved it... With Rosalind, it was only a matter of time.”⁹

Remember her Saturn in Virgo sextile her Mars and North Node? Franklin's karmic issue was about gathering data, analyzing it, and being perfect. She was busy summer, fall, and early winter gathering the quantitative data to prove what the pictures told her. It is a reminder to the Virgo planets in every chart to just send the darn thing out into the world. It will never be perfect.

A friend of mine who met Dr. Watson says the Rosalind Franklin story has dogged him since he used her work without her knowledge or permission. Her Scorpio Mars-North Node is conjunct his Scorpio Midheaven at the midpoint, with her Juno joined to his Moon. They remain married in history as she haunts him from beyond the grave. It will be interesting to see what happens during this 50th anniversary of the discovery of DNA's structure. Chiron will return to its 1953 position as Jupiter transits across Franklin's glorious Leo stellium, and Pluto comes to trine her natal Jupiter, so besieged in 1953. Perhaps Rosalind Franklin will finally get the credit she deserves.

Birth Data

- **Rosalind Franklin.** July 25, 1920, Time Unknown, London UK, 51N30, 0W10. Chart drawn for 12 PM.
- **James Watson.** April 6, 1928, 1:23 AM CST, Chicago IL, 41N52, 87W39. **Source.** Birth Certificate.
- **Maurice Wilkins.** December 15, 1916, Time Unknown, Pongaroa, NZ, 40S33, 176E11. Chart drawn for 12 PM.

References

1. James Watson and Francis Crick, "A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid," *Nature* magazine, April 25, 1953, p. 738.
2. Anne Sayre, *Rosalind Franklin and DNA*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1975, p. 215.
3. James D. Watson, *The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1980, p. 45.

4. Ibid, p. 14-15.
5. Ibid. p. 96.
6. p. 98.
7. p. 98.
8. Anne Sayre, *Rosalind Franklin and DNA*, p. 210.
9. Ibid. p. 213.

In addition to the above references, an extensive list of books, articles, and websites were consulted for this article.



Anne Ortelee's

passion for astrology was ignited in 1994. Now she has a thriving consulting practice where she uses an array of eastern and western astrological approaches. Her work with clients is dedicated to helping people find practical ways to work with their own unique energies and charts. Anne is certified by three astrology organizations—ISAR-CAP, AFA-AMAF, and NCGR-PAA Level III. She writes articles for various astrology publications as well as a *Weekly Weather* column which is read in 81 countries around the world. Anne talks on four weekly internet radio shows. You can find links for everything at her website, www.AstroAnne.com.



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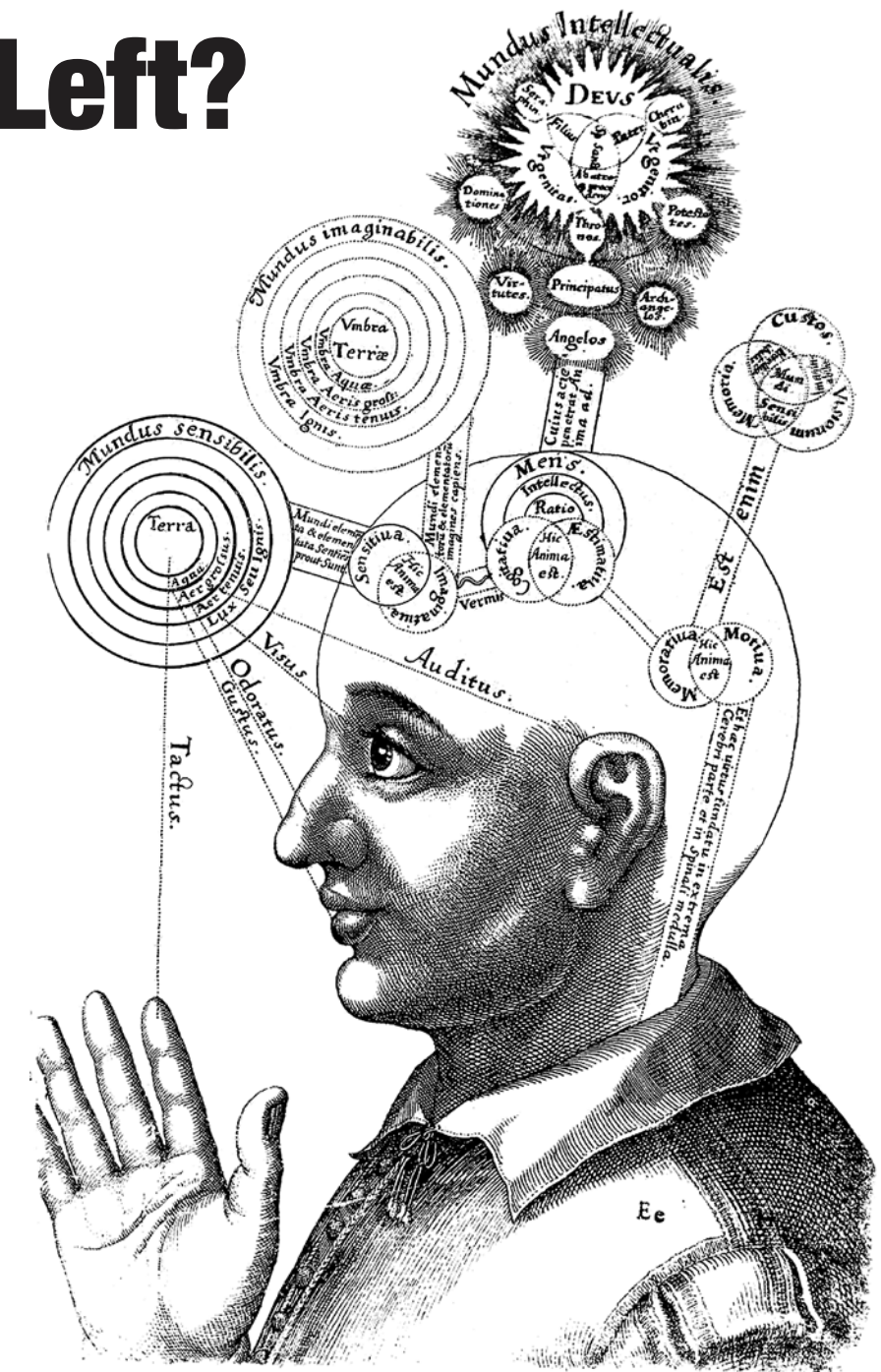
Right or Left?

by Bruce Scofield

While observing this latest presidential contest I asked myself just how does one become a Democrat or Republican? The division between parties is deep. Most people will only read or watch political news from their perspective. The Democrats watch MSNBC while the Republicans watch FOX. It appears to me that people on each political side will invariably see what they want to see, or hear what they want to hear, when watching their party's candidates speaking or debating. Why is this so, and does astrology have anything to offer in understanding such fundamental orientations?

My analysis of this situation has led me to a view that is consistent with psychology, brain science, and astrology. It assumes a few basics, most importantly that people become who they are in large part due to brain circuit imprinting at very specific, astronomically timed stages in their development. In a book and several articles, I've outlined this view in the form of a detailed model in which astronomical cycles of the Moon and planets act as triggers during childhood development.¹

The fundamental concept here is that people go through specific stages in childhood and that what happens during those stages lays the foundations for their personality—and consequently, destiny. We actually become our imprints and these imprints get



embedded in neural networks established in specific layers of the brain—reptilian, limbic, and neocortex. In line with the findings of developmental psychology, people respond to the same timetable, but not all people have the same experiences at the same stage of development—and this accounts for differences. It is the cycles of the planets themselves, however, that actually time development and it appears to me

that the first two stages, those ruled by the Moon and then Mars, determine our political orientation.

It appears that the Moon influences the first two years of our lives. Corresponding to Freud's oral stage and the Leary/Wilson biosurvival stage, it is symbolic of mother, family, and security.² It is probably the most powerful astrological force in life for the first two

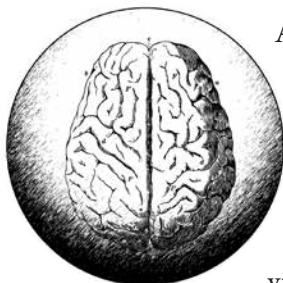
Robert Fludd, *Microcosm diagram of the mind: Utriusque cosmi maioris scilicet et minoris [...] historia*, toms II (1619), [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

years, then abruptly wanes in influence until about age four when it turns off. During those first two years we learn how to feel at home with ourselves and others and we establish unconscious standards that we use for the rest of our lives in evaluating whether or not a situation is safe and protective. It is the way of evolution for us to have an automatic evaluative response to our environment and it is in our first two years that the templates for security and belonging are established. It may be that the primary location in the brain for this lunar imprint is in the limbic or paleomammalian layer of the brain, a part of the brain that also has a connection to tribal instincts.

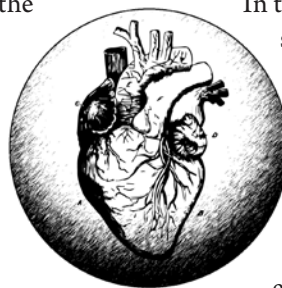
At about age two, roughly coincident with the second solar return, Mars completes its first cycle since birth. Upon the Mars return the next stage of development, corresponding to Freud's anal stage and the Leary/Wilson emotional-territorial stage, commences. It runs for the next two years taking imprints and then diminishes in potential to record experiences. The Mars stage of development is concerned with autonomy, territory, and power. By age two we are walking and talking and beginning to explore our world. Around age two we learn to control our muscles in toilet training, stand on our own two feet, and defiantly say *no* to others—these are the *Terrible Twos*. At this stage, evolution establishes a repertoire of responses to challenges, ones that often involve fighting. In stage two we learn how to take care of ourselves and stand up for ourselves without any outside assistance and we learn where we stand in relation to others. This stage is essentially all about establishing rank in the pecking order. It is possible that the brain stem, what is sometimes

called the *reptilian brain*, is the physical location for the Mars imprint. This part of the brain is extremely ancient and we share it with most other animals as it allows for survival in a competitive world.

People who take deep and stressful imprints on one or the other of these first two stages (see my book for information on the other stages) will have their personalities shaped accordingly. A deep imprint in the first, Moon-ruled, stage might occur due to the experience of a family divorce in the first year or two. At this age we are not very conscious of what is going on, but we instinctively measure the security of our social environment and these learned feelings then become the template for future evaluations of any social environment we may enter.



Another similar deep imprint may occur as a response to the absence of the mother or the experience of a family move during the first two years, which changes the visual, audial, and olfactory environment of the initial nesting experience. All of the above can establish a feeling of abandonment and an acute sensitivity to anything having to do with security, home, family and mother. This heightened sensitivity, and the responses that accompany it, become hard-wired in a neural network, probably in the limbic paleomammalian brain, which then functions as a security evaluating template throughout the lifetime. During our first two years the foundations of our future sense of belonging and security become deeply embedded—they become a part of us. This is the lunar circuit.



In the second Mars-ruled stage of development, deep imprints likewise shape future personality, but in a completely different way. Experiences with autonomy are crucial during this stage and if efforts to be independent fail in some way, the feelings that accompany this crisis are imprinted. An example might be a two-year old who is particularly defiant but gets punished regularly by a parent who can't tolerate the constant rebellion. Another example would be a child whose parent expects too much of them in ways that have to do with physical performance, whether this be toilet training or simply walking or standing properly. If a child is not particularly athletically-inclined, a parent who is an athlete may consciously or unconsciously establish an imprint in the child of weakness and competitive failure. With failure comes an intensified feeling of where we stand relative to others, a sense of how we are ranked, and also an acute sensitivity to fear and the need to suppress it. This is the Mars circuit which fights to defend itself from the fear of defeat.

Not all species develop and imprint according to the schedule above, though probably many socially-oriented mammals such as wolves, whales, and other primates do. These first two developmental imprint circuits are so strong that we could say they dominate the basic behaviors typical of humans and other social mammals. The lunar imprint accounts for the sense of belonging to a group, family, or tribe. Tribalism lies behind all sorts of behaviors including affiliation with a group. Being a fan of a baseball team or a rock group, or belonging to a church, are expressions of this basic urge to belong. Lizards don't have it nor do eagles, but cows, Canada geese,

and primates do. While we all have this drive, some of us have it in spades, and this is probably because we took a deep imprint during the lunar circuit.

The other fundamental drive in humans, and most other animal species, has to do with ranking, territory and power—and this clearly comes out of the Mars-ruled second imprint circuit. The prime directive for life is to survive. Immortality is only for bacteria, which divide to reproduce, but since the advent of sexual reproduction organisms have had to find ways to insure that a part of them would survive into the next generation. The control and direction of DNA is crucial in this process and this requires an organism to out-compete others in the sperm and egg race and in this way, the stronger or more fit get their genes passed to the next generation. We see this primary drive working within and without us all the time. Television ads sell products that enhance our ability to attract a mate. Boys compete amongst themselves in sports and only some will get the girl. Women accessorize themselves so as to attract a mate that will provide them with the security that they need to produce offspring. Men compete amongst themselves in business to see who can own the most stuff and thereby supply a woman of great appeal the security she demands. Corporations establish pecking orders from CEO down to door opener, a reflection of worth and rank that sends out a signal of success to the world.

While human males may not butt heads (football?), lock horns (jousting?), puff themselves up with a red throat (a red necktie?) or simply impregnate as many females as is possible (some basketball players?), they

do strive to improve their status in ways that insure reproductive success. Human females do the same thing by choosing males of socio-



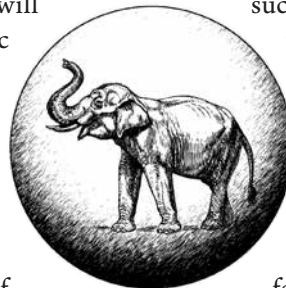
economic rank and striving to look young and presumably more fertile, which they know males go for. Most of this ranking activity is unconscious and buried in culture, but it is there for anyone to see. It is this Mars stage that

most programs of enlightenment and consciousness development strive to overcome, and some people are able to do this to some degree.

Democrat or Republican?

Now what makes a Democrat a Democrat and a Republican a Republican? I'm suggesting that it comes down to the depth of imprinting in either of the first two stages of development, lunar and Martian, which occur in the limbic and reptilian brains, respectively. Those who had a rough or disturbing series of experiences during their first two years become sensitive to the issues of belonging, nurturing, protection and security. Those who had problems during the second Mars cycle, from ages two to four, become sensitive to issues of competition, power, ranking and self-reliance. The first will lean toward the Democratic party, the second to the Republican party.

Democratic candidates are philosophically fixated around themes of belonging and protection of the tribe. For example, the democratic platform is very broad-based and includes a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. It tolerates gays, artists, and even people who protest the government. From its point of view,



we're all in this together as one big family no matter how rich or poor you are, and further, the more unfortunate members of the national family need protection. This calls for government programs like food stamps, education credits, Medicare etc. One weakness in this position is its idealism—that in tolerating everyone, the chances of tribal conflicts are much higher than would be in a narrower set of the population. To a large extent, you could say socialism is lunar.

In contrast, Republican candidates are philosophically fixated around themes of self-interest and self-reliance. For example, the Republican platform is always against taxes, which they say discourages capitalism. Capitalism is the social program that sees competition as a benign force, an invisible hand that guides productivity among individuals and businesses. Competition is driven by self-interest—a winner wins because they want to be first. Competition also requires strength and the ability of one to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, i.e. self-reliance. The weakness of this view is in its harshness and failure to address the competitive failures in society and other issues of fairness. The Republican solution to most problems is lower taxes to stimulate self-interest and challenge those who haven't competed successfully in the market

to solve problems themselves without government handouts. People strongly imprinted during this Mars circuit will tend to adopt belief systems that are based on fear, including those of fundamentalist religions. They will also feel strongly about defending their territory and those of the country and they tend to glorify the military.

I'm not saying one party is better than

another, just that they sure seem to be reflecting these planetary signatures. We know we all need both the Moon and Mars to function, but when one or the other of these astronomical bodies is heavily aspected, and usually afflicted, it becomes a driver of social orientation due to unconscious imprinting—and thus becomes a shaper of party affiliation. There's a lot to be said for family influences, of course, and many of us tend to follow the party of our parents, but one could say that in a very, very general sense people with stressed Moon placements in their natal charts lean democratic and people with stressed Mars placements lean Republican.



Some current examples shed more light on the situation. Consider Barack Obama. He clearly had a challenging childhood, or at least one without a father. He obviously came out of it fine, but he apparently felt strongly enough about it to write a book *Dreams From My Father* about finding his father. Presumably, Obama did better in his Mars stage and learned easily how to be independent and self-reliant. I believe Bill Clinton also had mother issues during his early childhood. Contrast this with George W. Bush who had a more protected childhood. He probably experienced competition with his brothers or father during his Mars stage, however, and consequently became more fixated on Mars issues. John McCain comes from a military family, where no doubt expectations on his performance during the Mars imprint period were high. He ended his nomination acceptance speech with a chant of *fight, fight, fight*. Mitt Romney is a pure capitalist, with apparently little awareness or concern for those who lose when he wins.

In my astrological model of human developmental stages I argue that each

of the four primary stages has a higher octave signified by an outer planet. For the Moon this is Neptune and for Mars this is Pluto. In the case of the democratic mentality, Neptune signifies the tendency to fixate on the future. It is the Democrats who believe in the future. Obama's second book *The Audacity of Hope* could be Exhibit No. 1 for this suggestion. Alternative visions of the future are absolutely vital at some points in history, but at others they are simply unrealistic, a point that Republicans often attack.

The Republican mentality can be pragmatically Plutonian and concerned primarily with control of territory and rank. This mind does not see the future except in terms of the present or the past—it is not able to conceive of anything that will allow for a loss of power, and it likes concealed power. State power is important to the Republican mentality while cooperation with other nations is important to the democratic mentality. Reagan, a Republican who was once a Democrat, scared the Russians with threats of space weapons, but ultimately made peace with them. Democrat Jimmy Carter is still concerned with global cooperation while Republican George W. Bush was a failure in this regard.

It is only in the context of history that left or right leaning political actions can be interpreted as having a positive or negative impact on all of us. Sometimes we need to fight, sometimes we need cooperation. And let us not forget that the most recently evolved brain layer, the neocortex, appears to be Mercurial and as such offers a rational way through the maze of these underlying, emotionally driven circuits.

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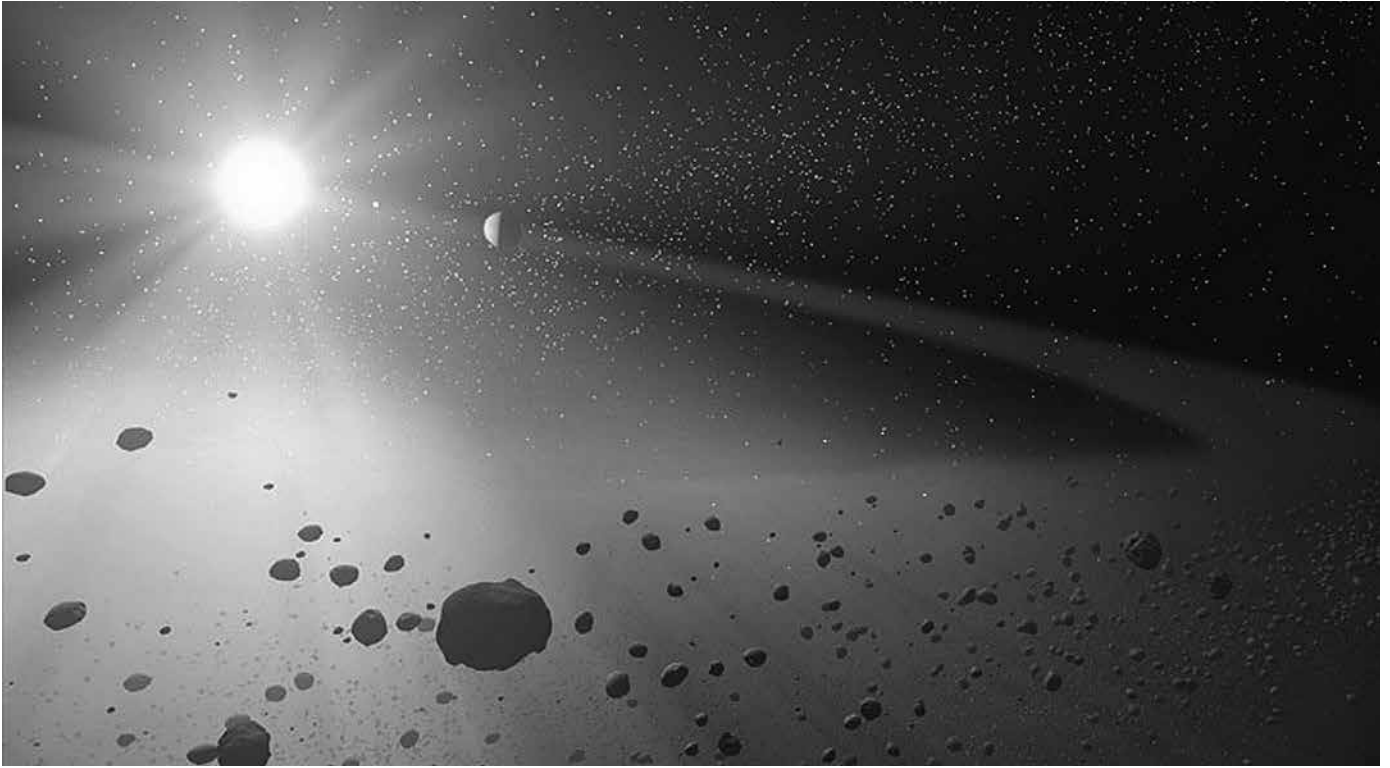
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Making the Most of the Asteroids

by Donna Van Toen

Pity the poor asteroids. They are dismissed, denigrated, and shunned by a very large number of astrologers. “Transiting gravel,” they scoff. “Put all 38,000 in somebody’s chart, and *of course* you can make anything mean anything. They’re not planets anyway. Who needs them? *Real* astrologers do just fine without them.”

OK, let’s get a few things straight here. Yes, asteroids aren’t planets. According to the astronomers, neither is Pluto any more—just like Ceres, the former asteroid, which was for a time thought to be a planet. Chiron never made it into the planetary annals either—though many people use it and find it yields significant information. We know, of course, that not all astronomers were in agreement about Pluto’s demotion. We also have heard some rumblings from astronomical quarters that there could be more upgrades to dwarf planets and other reclassifications to come.

So what am I saying here? First of all, I’m saying that the astronomers don’t have all the answers any more than we do. Secondly, I’m saying that if we are going to use Pluto, it makes sense in terms of consistency to look at Ceres as well. Secondly, if we are going to use Chiron, it likewise makes

sense for the sake of consistency to look at other asteroids.

Right...All 38,000 of them? Of course not! Unlike planets or even dwarf planets, asteroids don’t symbolize universal drives or themes—or at least that’s how it seems to me. I consider them as sub-themes or variations on basic drives and themes. You might even call them fragments of the psyche. Not all of these fragments are embedded in every single psyche—and, in fact, as with the psyche itself there are many fragments that have yet to be explored and understood.

Some of these at the moment are only defined by their number. Others are named after their discoverer or after relatives of their discoverer and again, in many cases their meanings haven’t been explored very thoroughly. When you’re starting out, pretty much all of these can be safely ignored unless perchance their name or number has some sort of intrinsic significance to you. If you find such a case, note it—just in case you later want to see where it fits in your chart.

Some asteroid names carry with them a great deal of mythological and archetypal symbolism. Others are named for lit-

erary figures or famous people who have become symbols in and of themselves (e.g. Hidalgo, Disney, Beethoven). Still others are named after places or things. I don't use the last two categories very much, though they can be fun to play with.

For example, I have a Hungarian friend who has the asteroid Hungaria smack-dab on his IC. He constantly talks about his homeland, culture, and roots with nostalgia and reverence. Meanwhile, I was amused to note that the prime barfly at the pub where I play trivia has the asteroid Beer prominently displayed on his Ascendant—and yes, he is a beer drinker. While this sort of information is fun, it's not the sort of information my clients are generally looking for, so I use these categories very sparingly. It's the first category—and to a lesser extent the second—that are of primary interest to me and are of the most value and use in my client work.

So let's say you're willing to give asteroids a try. Where do you begin? And how do you begin?

Using Asteroids

I'm a firm believer that the best way to learn a new technique is to work with your own chart. Most software programs will let you download a listing of about 30-50 commonly-used asteroids with their placements on your birth date. Some offer additional listings. These are nice, but right now they're unnecessary. Simply take that short list and see which of these asteroids make aspects to planets and points in your chart. And for heaven's sakes, at this stage keep it simple.

Look primarily at the "big five" aspects—conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition. Later on, if you like, you can add in the quincunx (inconjunct), semi-sextile, semi-square, and sesquiquadrate, but for sanity's sake, you're best to leave the undecagons and quindeciles, and triseptiles and the like out of the picture. You're already dealing with subtle nuances when you're dealing with asteroids; piling on yet more subtle nuances will only add ambiguity and obscure the message. There *is* such a thing as too much information—it won't clarify things; it will only confuse you.

Also note that we're talking very tight orbs here. Look for aspects of one degree or less. These will yield the most striking information. While a wider orb will sometimes work (as



will nearly exact minor aspects), I rarely use anything beyond one degree and almost never look at the minor aspects unless I am answering questions in class.

You will see right away that a number of the asteroids on your list make no aspects using these very tight criteria. That means they're probably not rel-

evant to you. Throw them out—or at least put them to one side. If they don't make an aspect to anything in your chart, you're probably not plugged into this myth or message and it will have very little meaning in your life by sign or by house—though again if you're big on consistency you *might* want to look at Ceres by sign and house.

Isn't this great? You've now narrowed that list of 38,000 down to manageable proportions. That means you're now ready for another little simplification tip. Many of the asteroids named for Greek and Roman gods and goddesses have nearly identical stories. Granted, some details may be different, but the overall theme is generally the same, so if you understand one, you also understand the other. You'll occasionally also find gods and goddesses from other traditions who have very similar myths, though many of those probably won't turn up on your short list until later.

Among the Greek-Roman pairs are Demeter and Ceres, Pallas and Minerva, Hestia and Vesta, Hera and Juno, Persephone and Proserpina, Artemis and Diana, Dionysus and Bacchus, and others. You can have one but not the other prominent in your chart, or can have none, or you can have both. Obviously, if both are active, you're on to a major theme. If only one is activated, you're still on to something, but it's not as strong. And again, if it's not activated at all, forget about it.

Meanwhile, as is the case with planets, there are also asteroids that share similar themes even though they are not quite identical. For example, Hidalgo and Cassandra (Cassandra in Greek mythology) both were not believed despite their integrity, while Sisyphus and Astraea were both noted for hanging in there long after most would have given up.

Moreover, there are asteroids that share traits or skills with certain planets; as an example of this, Nemesis and Atlantis both have to do with blame and a sense of karma that sound very much like Neptune. Links to these asteroids may give you clues as to why certain planets seem to be stronger than you would think.

We'll make friends with some of these asteroids, starting with three very powerful ladies—Pallas, Minerva, and Isis—and see what they have to tell you about yourself.

Pallas, Minerva, and Isis

Pallas and Minerva are Greek and Roman counterparts and are very similar in their mythology and interpretation. I use them interchangeably, though there are some subtle nuances of difference I'll touch on briefly.

Isis is an Egyptian archetype. She is not identical to the first two, but she is similar enough to be considered alongside them, and we will touch on the differences as we go along. Isis was also a part of Greek and Roman lore in some circles, but was primarily the focus of one of the mystery religions and associated with death and resurrection for reasons you will soon see. In general, I classify these as solar asteroids. They are dramatic (perhaps Minerva a bit less than the other two), good strategists, and good at putting things together. They are extremely perceptive, and they are approval-seeking. They especially seek the approval of men.

Pallas and Minerva are interesting, as they sprang from Zeus-Jupiter's head, all grown up and ready to roll. So these goddesses were very much identified with Daddy. The story is that Zeus-Jupiter tricked Momma into shrinking while she was pregnant and then swallowed her, hoping to partake of and absorb her wisdom. Sometime later he developed an excruciating headache, and lo and behold Pallas-Minerva was born. So Pallas and Minerva were Daddy's girls.

There was no acknowledgement of mother in this picture; everything was about pleasing Daddy. Daddy is the role model when these archetypes are activated, and even if Daddy is aloof or absent, there is a desire to please Daddy. Sometimes when Pallas or Minerva is on the ascendant, there is also a strong desire to prove that "I can do anything



Dad can do" (or, in a woman's case, "anything a man can do"). So first and foremost, if you see Pallas or Minerva activated in a chart by aspects to planets, angles, or the Moon's Nodes, expect the father-daughter relationship to be important for better or worse. For example, if one of these aspects Jupiter, there may be a desire to an authority or have a claim to fame just like Dad or better than Dad and a motivation to follow in his footsteps.

Unlike Pallas and Minerva, Isis is not very connected with the father-daughter relationship. Although lineage was an important theme in the Isis myth, her issue was with a jealous brother who wanted to kill off her consort Osiris and ascend to the throne. One day the jealous brother devised an interesting party game. He made a casket and said that whoever it fit would win a prize. Of course it only fit Osiris, and when he climbed in, Set, the jealous brother, clamped the lid down and had the casket thrown in the Nile. Isis began a search, found the body, brought Osiris back to life, and went into hiding with him. But Set found him again, killed him again, and this time, just to be on the safe side, chopped his body into 14 pieces, which he scattered in various parts of the Nile. Isis refused to give up. She managed to find all of his body parts but one—his penis—and once again brought him back to life.

So when Isis is activated in your chart, expect a theme of making things whole, restoring, or reconstructing things. Also expect Isis to give you important information about siblings. It may additionally give you information about those who are like siblings to you and whether your sense of belonging and being a part of the clan is fulfilled or thwarted through these relationships.

Pallas, Minerva, and Isis are all wisdom goddesses and excellent strategists. They knew how to fight a winning battle. They kept their heads. They were generally not emotional.



They did not need a man to fight their battles for them or do their thinking for them. Likewise, people with any one of these activated are likely to be keen strategists who play to win. They generally do not come across as vulnerable—at least not for very long. They have their own priorities and their own motivations for things. They don't defer to authorities, though they try to please them. However, the bottom line is that they think for themselves. So if you see these asteroids activated, this is what you should expect from the person you're dealing with.

Pallas and Minerva are virgin goddesses, something that was fairly rare in the ancient pantheons. Isis was married and faithful, though we would suspect from the myth that there was some celibacy in her life as well. All three were women who enjoyed the company of men and to a large extent hung out with the guys. They were not interested in just looking pretty and getting pedicures, they were interested in matters of consequence. When you find these activated in a woman's chart, it CAN mean that they are celibate or marry late or whatever, but this isn't always the case and generally *isn't* the case with Isis activated. Remember that these three are very good strategists, so if the chart indicates that this is a woman who would probably want to marry and have children, these asteroids would indicate that she will assess her options and develop a strategy to meet and marry the sort of man she is looking for.

And generally this is not someone just like Daddy but because there is only one Daddy for better or worse. Often this is someone very different from Daddy. In a man's chart, this might indicate that he is looking for a woman with the qualities of an Isis or a Pallas or a Minerva, not just another pretty face—though these goddesses are indeed depicted as beautiful. However, the woman depicted by one of these goddesses would no doubt be out in the working world accomplishing things rather than staying at home contemplating her next pedicure.

Women with one of these asteroids activated often tend to gravitate towards business administration, politics, economics, or other male bastions. Men with one of these aster-



oids activated do too. And they also tend to seek out women moving to the top as advisors or even mentors.

Last but not least, all three of these goddesses were accomplished craftswomen. They made things that were both beautiful and useful. They taught and were accomplished in many practical crafts such as weaving. In ancient times, these things were not just ladies' busy work, they were survival skills. Isis in particular excelled in domestic management and taught these skills to others.

In general, Pallas and Minerva, when activated, will give you very valuable information about

where and how you seek approval—not only from your father and from males in general (regardless of your own sex), but from your environment as a whole. If there are conjunctions to one of these—and remember that right now we're looking at orbs of one degree or less for everything—there's often an instinctive knack for knowing what to do to gain approval and using the involved planet as a tool for gaining approval. Sextiles and trines are more of a case of seeking approval by following protocol, and these generally indicate you're quite comfortable doing this. With semi-sextiles and quincunxes, there's a bit less skill and sometimes your efforts don't bring quite what you desired in terms of results.

Squares and oppositions can be quite another story. Oppositions in particular can indicate a strong tendency to thumb your nose at the rules and do it your way, sometimes with success and sometimes not. I have actually seen both squares and oppositions indicate ways in which you go out of your way *not* to please others, especially if the planet doing the squaring or opposing is retrograde or in detriment. Meanwhile, Pallas or Minerva retrograde, if aspected, can indicate some sort of exceptional power or skill that may or may not be entirely conscious, may or may not be used wisely, and may or may not get you approval, but most assuredly will get you noticed—whether you want to be or not!

Any stress aspect to either of these would indicate both some kind of exceptional skill and a defensiveness about this

skill. For example, I have met very bright women and very creative men who were defensive about their talents. In one woman's case this was because it was deemed *weird* to have an aptitude for math and pursue a degree in engineering. In one man's case it was because he enjoyed knitting, was very good at it, and created his own designs and patterns. Again, he gave it up because he was tired of going around to shops and having people ask if he could get his mother to come in so they could meet her, and then getting weird looks when he said they were his handiwork!

Before leaving Pallas and Minerva, I'd like to make one small differentiation between them. I have said that they're both interested in pleasing others—particularly Daddy, males, and authority figures—and yet, they have a strong drive to maintain their own priorities as they go about this business of pleasing others, which sometimes comes with a price. That price can be a loss of self-sufficiency or a sense of having to be less than yourself.

This is often a dilemma for anyone with Pallas or Minerva active. Minerva seems to be more aware of this price from the outset and more pragmatic about having to pay it. Pallas can be more taken aback at the price and more resistant to paying. Pallas will *try* to please, but if those efforts don't meet with success, the person with Pallas activated can just as easily go out of his or her way *not* to please. There is a limit to the price Pallas will pay in terms of self-sufficiency and individuality, and if they exceed it they will be hell bent on you paying for their dissatisfaction with the deal.

If Pallas and Minerva are both activated in a chart, you can expect the themes of power, creativity, and strategy to be particularly strong. In this case the person will probably be more selective than otherwise about who they choose to please and how they choose to please them. I have also noted that people with both of these activated may use withholding as a strategy. They will withhold praise or information or whatever is symbolized by the planet if they feel the other person isn't paying enough positive attention to their efforts. They will try very hard to please up to a point, but if they don't get a response they will withdraw their support and skills and look elsewhere for someone



The Rape of Proserpina, oil on canvas, by Hans von Aachen 1587 [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

more appreciative of what they have to offer.

While Isis is also connected with power, strategy, and creativity, it is also strongly connected to the ability to put things together and the ability to recover what you have lost. If Isis makes a tight aspect in your chart to a planet, angle, or node, you will often find that its house position will indicate a place where you have a sense of things being scattered a lot of the time, or something being missing that you can't find no matter how hard you look.

Take for example, the case of my client with Isis in the third house within one degree of her IC. From the time she was small, she was convinced she had siblings. When she brought this up with her parents, they insisted she had none. However, she indeed had half-siblings from her father's previous marriage, which she had also never known about. She has since been reunited with her half-sister. Her half-brother has yet to be found.

Ceres, Demeter, Persephone, and Proserpina

Ceres is the Roman goddess of grain; Demeter is her Greek counterpart. Proserpina and Persephone are their respective daughters. Ceres/Demeter is a symbol of the mother or nurturer and as such has much in common with the Moon. Proserpina and Persephone are symbols of the maiden or daughter but it should also be noted that they also reigned as queens of the underworld, though not necessarily by choice, and definitely not of their own free will. So these two asteroids not only speak of the daughter side of the mother-daughter relationship, but also indicate willingness and ability to accept nurturing as well as compliance with the wishes of others. The myth is as follows:

One day Proserpina/Persephone was out in a field gathering flowers when suddenly the earth opened and out of the abyss sprung Pluto/Hades in his golden chariot. He abducted our fair goddess-maiden and though she struggled and called out for help, it was to no avail. She found herself in the underworld, about to become the bride of Pluto/Hades. Ceres/Demeter had heard her cries, but could

not reach her daughter in time. She was beside herself with grief, but was pretty much told that this was a “sanctioned” abduction, done with the blessing of Jupiter/Zeus, and she may as well live with it because there could be worse sons-in-law out there. At least Pluto/Hades was rich.

But this was small consolation for Ceres/Demeter. After a fruitless search for her daughter, she finally had a temple built for herself and retired to be alone with her grief. Nothing grew. The humans had nothing to eat; nor did they have anything to offer their gods. And it was this last point that finally caused Jupiter/Zeus to relent. But there was a catch. If Proserpina/Persephone had eaten anything at all during her sojourn in the underworld, she would be required to return to the underworld for a portion of every year. And indeed, she had partaken of some pomegranate seeds. So the die was cast and ostensibly this is where the seasons come from. Fertility and abundance were restored to the earth, but only at the expense of a barren, dormant, or “dead” cycle.

...Which is a lovely little story, but how do these asteroids relate to you? First of all, Ceres and Demeter are maternal archetypes. They talk about both your need to nurture and your need to be nurtured. They also talk about your maternal instincts and your desire to have children. They can also be of some help in looking at fertility issues. I have noted, in several charts of women who cannot get pregnant as well as in the charts of some women who have trouble carrying a baby to term, that there are natal Ceres/Saturn or Demeter/Saturn conjunctions, squares, or oppositions. I have often noted that at the time of a pregnancy there will be an aspect between transiting Ceres or Demeter and natal Jupiter, or transiting Jupiter and natal Ceres or Demeter.

And interestingly enough, it was good old Jupiter/Zeus, the father of Proserpina/Persephone, though he was pretty much an absent father and this was pretty much a one night stand. (Note that if Demeter is not aspecting anything natally, I tend to disregard it including transits to it; with Ceres, I have started noting transits regardless ever since she got promoted to dwarf.)

While Ceres and Demeter can very definitely be connected with fertility and birth, they also tend to be prominent at the time of death and at the time of other traumatic and life-changing events. There are numerous examples of this less positive side of Ceres/Demeter transits—the death of Princess Grace and its impact on her daughter Princess Stephanie, many of the tragedies in the life of Jackie Kennedy Onassis, and the traumatic injury of Christopher Reeve would be good examples. And there are plenty of others.

Ceres and Demeter are also very much connected with food—preparing food, providing food, and yes, consuming food too. One game I play with my students in asteroid class is “find the food preferences.” Simply look at the aspects between Ceres/Demeter and your natal planets and you’ll start to see themes: Aspecting Venus, you have a sweet tooth. Aspecting the Moon, you like comfort food. Aspecting Neptune, there tends to be a fondness for soups, seafood, and sometimes liquid lunches. Aspecting Pluto, you like things that other people find disgusting. You may like liver, blood sausage, even tripe. And you’ll try pretty much anything once. So if you’re having a new friend over for dinner, look at their chart first if you want to know what to feed them. On another level, Ceres and Demeter can show up when there are food issues—compulsive eating, anorexia, stress eating, and the like.

Third, Ceres and Demeter are often prominent in scenarios where taking care of people, plants, or animals are issues.

Ceres can be a persistent and patient advocate for those who need nurturing or who have special needs. When one or both is found as a vocational signifier, it’s often an indication of a person who gravitates towards teaching (especially unique educational programs like adult literacy, children with learning disabilities, etc.). It also shows up in the charts of nurses of all types. Additionally, I see involvement with animal rescue, gardening, food co-ops, and the like. Ceres/Demeter is not hugely competitive, so the corporate rat race may not be too appealing. And many—including a fair number of men—are quite happy to stay home with the kids and work



out of a small home office rather than spend their time away from home or commuting back and forth.

And yes, obviously Ceres and Demeter are important when the issue under consideration is the mother-child relationship, as these can tell you whether the nurturing they perceived was adequate and comfortable, or lacking, stifling, or otherwise difficult. Sign and house position as well as aspects will give you plenty of information about the nurturing you received as a child, and how you nurture your own children. And while Ceres/Demeter is strong, generous, loving, and nurturing, there can be a tragic flaw. She needs to be needed. For that reason, her nurturing can intentionally or inadvertently set up a codependent dynamic that is not particularly helpful to her or to her child. You've no doubt heard of—and maybe seen—empty nest syndrome. This is one of the less positive manifestations of Ceres/Demeter energy for both the mother and the child.

That brings us to the Proserpina/Persephone part of the equation. But before going into interpretation, a clarification is in order. This is not the Persephone sometimes referred to as Transpluto. That Persephone is still hypothetical, though there have been books and articles written about it and there is even an ephemeris. You should also know that Proserpina/Persephone is sometimes referred to as Kore or Cora. And there is, in fact, an asteroid Cora that works along the same lines as Persephone and Proserpina, though it's not as well-known. You can find it on www.astrodienst.com or in some of the asteroid software currently available.

There are really two archetypes for these asteroids, and while they are interrelated, usually one or the other predominates, though I have seen cases where they both seem to be active. First of all, there is the Cora or maiden component. There is a very receptive, instinctive, malleable, and child-like quality to the part of the archetype. There can even be a cluelessness to it, which means that there can be a vulnerability connected with the aspected planet. The maiden component doesn't know what it wants, doesn't know what



it's got, and doesn't know who it is—and it tends to undervalue what is aspected by the asteroid if it pays any attention to it at all. Persephone can be anything someone wants it to be without really giving much thought to whether or not that corresponds to what they want or who they are.

Often, as in the myth, Cora/Proserpina/Persephone is very attached to mother. This can be lovingly or otherwise; the bottom line is that somehow the relationship with mother prevents independence and obscures your sense of self. You tend to use what these asteroids touch to adapt to other people's wishes. Or perhaps these placements indicate spots where mother has

projected her own expectations and needs onto you. For example, one of these aspecting Jupiter may indicate that mother expects you to get the education she didn't get, or go to her alma mater, while aspects to the MC may indicate that she expects you to pursue a career of her choosing. And normally mother does not encourage awareness of your attractiveness or your sexuality because that would lead to you leaving home. And Ceres/Demeter and Cora/Proserpina/Persephone are codependent. Ceres/Demeter needs a child, so she makes sure that Cora/Proserpina/Persephone needs a mother.

But there's a whole other side to Proserpina/Persephone. Remember, she was abducted, but she still wound up as queen of the underworld, and while there, one of her duties was to serve as a guide to those entering, since she entered before them and knew the proper protocol and how to get around. So on another level, Proserpina and Persephone can indicate "what sends you to hell and back."

Cora, being the maiden component, really isn't too helpful on this front; she is more taken up with projections and latent potentials. But Proserpina/Persephone came back from the underworld a changed maiden. Upon her return, she, along with Ceres, instituted the Eleusinian mysteries, a ritual celebration of the cycle of life, death, and rebirth. She had matured and discovered parts of herself with which she had been out of touch. The aspect patterns will give you

some clues as to whether these asteroids are operating at the maiden level or at the queen of the underworld level.

When the maiden component is strong, you are often dealing with someone who is, to a large extent, taken care of and nurtured by someone else. She may be a lady who lunches. She (or he, because Proserpina/Persephone works in men's charts too) may be a perpetual student. Or he/she may have a job that they more or less "fell into." It doesn't require a lot of initiative, it pays enough to provide them with "lunch money," and there is plenty of time for play.

When the queen of the underworld dynamic is strong, you instead get someone who can serve as a guide to the underworld. Psychotherapists often have Proserpina or Persephone active and in a vocational sector. So do psychics and mediums. So do writers, poets, and artists. What they have in common is a depth, a vision, and an awareness of what it is to go through the dark night of the soul. I have yet to meet a client who was literally abducted and forced to marry her abductor, but generally I have encountered plenty of clients who have gone through hell and back on one level or another.

And these asteroids, when activated, along with Ceres and Demeter, tend to contribute to depression-proneness. In the case of Ceres and Demeter, the depression is often triggered by grief over a loss. With Persephone, Proserpina, and Cora, the depression is more often the result of swallowing anger and other negative feelings, and allowing yourself to be dominated or manipulated into a role you don't want to play. Emerging from the depression is often a rebirth, and having emerged, these people can be wonderful guides and role models for those who are still stuck. The same holds true for those who emerge from addictions or abusive relationships. Emerging from them and breaking the pattern makes you stronger. It can also make you well-qualified to serve as a guide to those who haven't as yet emerged. In addition, Persephone, Proserpina, and Cora will give you information about why you left home, how you felt about leaving home, and the feelings surrounding that leave-taking.

Again, I have yet to encounter a client who was abducted, but I have quite a number of clients who left home because the object of their affections was deemed "unworthy" by mother due to inappropriate religion, ethnic origin, age, job, or social standing. I even have one client whose mother broke up a relationship because the man in question had a diabetic father "and their children would probably all grow up to be diabetics." Um, yeah, right...Some of these people ultimately ran off to live with or marry their love; a few got

pregnant or got someone pregnant and were either forced to marry or sent away to have the baby. In any case, falling in love is often grounds for leaving home when you see Proserpina or Persephone configured with Venus, Mars, Descendant, or a planet in the fifth or seventh house. Some of these relationships worked; others didn't. Either way, the person was changed by them.

Last but not least, it's not uncommon to see transiting Proserpina or Persephone prominent at times of important rites of passage—marriage, first job, going away to school, renting or buying your first home, etc. These rites of passage are an important part of the cycle of life and therefore an important part of the mysteries. Note that again, I have not seen Cora quite so active on that front but that may simply be because I have worked with it less.

I hope this brief look at a few of the asteroids inspires to you look at them in your own chart and see how they operate in your life. I also hope it inspires you to look at others. There's a wealth of information out there waiting for you. So give them a chance. And happy exploring!

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The Quiet Beatle

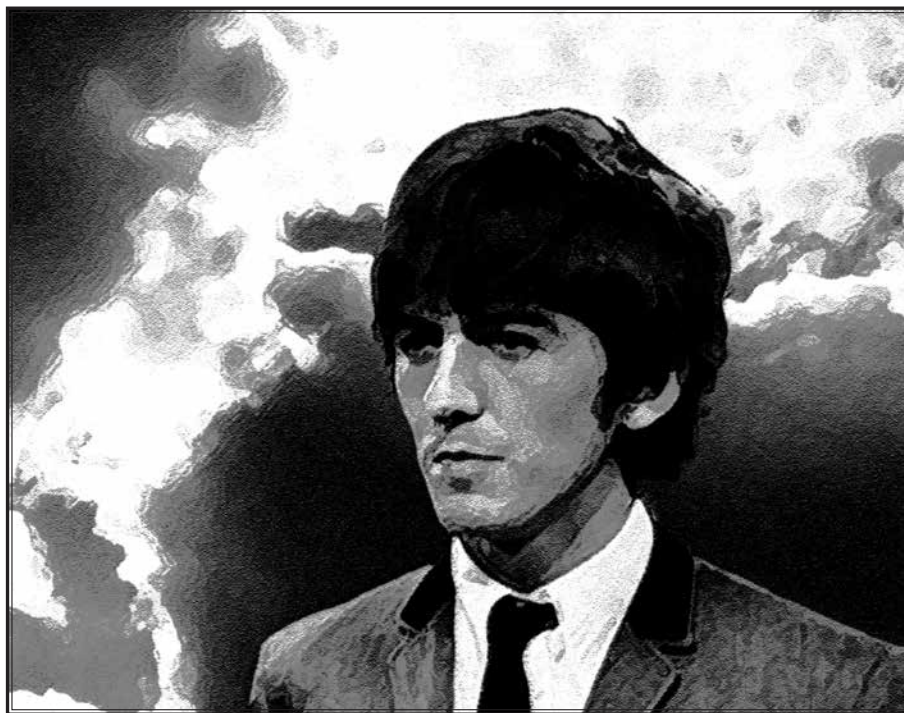
George Harrison's Vedic Chart

by Liz Houle

Well he never shut up. George had a lot to say. Boy, did he have a lot to say. That's hysterical to me, you know, that he was known as the quiet one. I assume he got that name because the other ones were so much louder. I mean, they were very loud people [laughs]. One time he told me, 'Me and Olivia had Paul and Linda over the other night, and you would have thought there were a hundred people in the house, it was so loud.'
Tom Petty¹

In the 1960s George Harrison soared to super stardom by being a member of the Beatles—the most famous and richest rock group in the world. He was labeled the “Quiet One” by the press, and wrote many hit songs including *Here Comes The Sun*, *My Sweet Lord*, and *Something*, and besides being a great musician he was also known for his spirituality.

George Harrison was born on February 24, 1943, 11:42 PM in Liverpool, England (see North and South Indian charts on p. 59). Looking at his chart from the perspective of Indian astrology, there are two planets in the *kendra*, or angular, houses (1, 4, 7, and 10). The *kendra* houses show how an individual asserts himself or herself in the world. He has the Moon (emotions, public, mother) in Libra in the 1st house, and Mercury (poetry, speech, words) in Capricorn in the 4th house describing what he is best known for— writing songs that touched on people's emotions.



Planets in *kendra* houses are strengthened, as are the houses they rule. Harrison's Moon in the 1st house, extremely close to the Ascendant, rules the 10th house of career, thereby strengthening that area of his life, and the fact that it is in Libra makes his connection with the public both endearing and likeable. It also literally means that his career (10th house) was his destiny (1st house). The Moon is bright (waxing) and therefore auspicious, and also receives a beneficial 5th house aspect (trine) from Jupiter. Its dispositor, Venus (ruler of Libra), is well-placed in its exaltation sign of Pisces. The Moon is also considered well-placed in Libra since it is exalted in the other Venus-ruled sign of Taurus. His Moon is in the *nakshatra* (lunar mansion) of *Svati*, which spans 6 Libra 40-20 Libra. According to Komilla Sutton:

Under Svati, the impulse is material gain. Venus rules the earthly needs in an individual, combining it with Rahu (the ruler of Svati) adds further to the desire for success, wealth and finance. Many millionaires are born with their Moon in Svati.²

This powerful Moon conjunct the *lagna* (ascendant) in Libra, and exalted Venus in Pisces, blessed him with extraordinary musical talent, fortune, and fame.

Besides fame, the benefic Moon in the 1st house provides a close and significant relationship with the mother. Not only did Harrison's mother teach him to play the guitar, staying up with him night after night until he learned to pick the notes of his favorite songs, but Harrison was accepted into the Beatles, early in their career, because his mother would tolerate their loud band practicing in her house. His mother was a huge influence on his future success as a musician.

But as famous as he became, he did not captivate as much attention as the other Beatles, in part due to the *Kemadruma Yoga*, a planetary combination formed when there are no planets in the 1st, 2nd, or 12th house from the Moon, and it means that the person may feel isolated, lonely, and out of touch with their emotions. This yoga made his demeanor more subdued

as compared to the other Beatles and earned him the label of “The Quiet One.”

In addition to the Libra Ascendant and exalted Venus in Pisces, another indication that Harrison would have a musical career is the placement of Mars, ruler of his 2nd house of income, placed in the 3rd house of the fine arts, indicating that this was the medium through which he would earn his money. The fact that he would earn huge sums of money is indicated by the 7th house aspect Mars receives from its friend, abundant Jupiter, and the fact that Mars is *Vargottama*, which gives Mars exalted status. (*Vargottama* refers to a planet that is in the same sign in both the *Rashi* (natal) and the *Navamsa* (9th harmonic chart.) In this case, Mars is in Jupiter-ruled Sagittarius, and the Jupiter aspect on Mars is even stronger since it aspects the sign it rules.

Besides the arts, the 3rd house represents courage, excitement, constant activity, and adventure,³ and Harrison’s life was certainly one of constant activity. In an interview with *Rolling Stone Magazine*, Tom Petty said

I’ll tell you, nobody I’ve encountered ever lived his life more every day than George did. He crammed in a lot of living and didn’t waste his time.⁴

As driven and successful as he was as a Beatle, Harrison’s contributions were stifled due to the prolific writings of his band mates, which dominated the Beatles albums, and this contributed to the arguments that led to their break-up in 1970. Difficulty with colleagues can be attributed to Harrison’s 1st house ruler, Venus, which is placed in his 6th house of open enemies. According to Ronnie Gale Dreyer, the 6th house

describes ‘open enemies,’ which may encompass disagreements (usually on a professional level) with competitors, opposing parties in a lawsuit, and even a spouse or friend with whom one does not see eye to eye.⁵

Having the ruler of the 1st in the 6th house meant his destiny would be affected by the concerns of the 6th house which, in addition to the above, signifies obstacles, health issues, and work situations. It also means that his personality would be more hidden, since the 6th, 8th, and 12th are considered the *dusthana* houses, which are hidden and obstacle-ridden. Harrison suffered from the issues of this house including arguments with fellow Beatles, being sued for copyright infringement for his song *My Sweet Lord* (resulting from his business manager’s betrayal), and losing his first wife, Patti Boyd, who left him and married his friend Eric Clapton. His Venus is exalted and is aspected by Mars in the 3rd house, which resulted in a mixture of very positive and very negative experiences pertaining to 6th house issues.

While the end of his marriage to Patti Boyd was troublesome, Harrison viewed it positively, and in an interview recalled that the marriage was already over. He was actually gratified that she was able to find someone else who could give her the same lifestyle that she was used to. According to James Braha

If benefics occupy the 6th house, the person rarely encounters enemies and is rather unaware that competitors exist, even as he or she effortlessly overcomes them.⁶

George Harrison was unaffected by his competitor Eric Clapton and due to the exalted Venus (love) in his 6th house (open enemies), he was still Clapton’s friend, colleague, and collaborator.

Jupiter’s Blessings

What allowed Harrison to keep his sense of humor through the adversity was probably his deep commitment to his spiritual beliefs. While still a Beatle, Harrison discovered a yogi from India named Maharishi Mahesh and organized a trip to India to study transcendental meditation with him. While the other Beatles ended up rejecting his teachings, Harrison continued on with his Eastern spirituality, studying under different spiritual teachers until the end of his life.

With Jupiter placed in the 9th house, which along with the 1st and 5th constitute auspicious *trikona* houses, he was famous, rich, and spiritually inclined. The 9th house is the most auspicious of all, and rules general good fortune, opportunity, teachers, and gurus. Obviously Harrison had exceptional luck in acquiring beneficial spiritual mentors. His extraordinary good fortune was most evident in the Jupiter *dasha*, or major period (1960-1976), which accentuated Jupiter’s position in the natal chart, bringing him fame, fortune, marriage, and spirituality. In 1971 he organized the first superstar charity concert for Bangladesh, and he became known as a humanitarian and organizer of charitable events.

Jupiter dasha will often be a period of excess. If it is well-placed, one will attract people and generally fortuitous circumstances. There will be luck and harmony marriage, the births of children, and success in one’s chosen profession... If well aspected, there will be unlimited success and prosperity in this period.⁷

He indulged in drugs since Jupiter rules excess, but did not have children during those years. He has two malefics—the Sun and Ketu (South Node) in his 5th house of children, which could cause problems with children or having children.

His first marriage ended as Jupiter *dasha* ended, and the divorce was finalized as his Saturn *dasha* (1976-1995) began. Harrison's Saturn is in the 8th house of death and sorrow, and after John Lennon's murder in December 1980, Harrison lived a more reclusive lifestyle where he meditated, played music, and gardened.

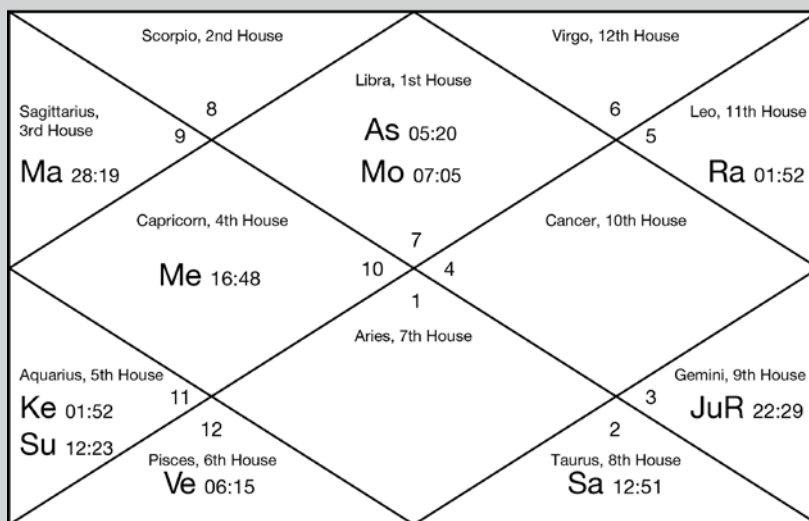
Fortunately he did not remain in seclusion. Since Saturn, as the ruler of the 4th *kendra* house and 5th *trikona* house, is the most auspicious planet (*yogakaraka*) for Libra rising, Saturn gave very good results, bringing him a 2nd marriage and a child. Saturn rules his 5th house of children and Mars rules the 7th house of marriage, and

in the Saturn-Saturn-Mars period, his first and only child (his son Dhani) was born on August 1, 1978, and he married his second wife Olivia Arias on September 2, 1978. Harrison gained responsibilities during his Saturn *dasha* and it required him to work harder, but the achievements of this time period would be significant. In

What is Jyotishastra?

Jyotishastra (Sanskrit for "science of the stars"), also known as Vedic, Indian, or Hindu Astrology, is based on the sidereal zodiac. The difference between the sidereal and tropical zodiac lies in the *ayanamsha* (the difference in degrees and minutes between 0 Aries and the point at which the equinox actually occurs). To calculate sidereal placements (which are precession-corrected), subtract the appropriate *ayanamsha* for the birth date in question from the tropical positions. There are several different *ayanamshas* used in India but the one employed here is the Lahiri *ayanamsha*, which at present is 24 degrees 3 minutes. (This also varies from the Fagan-Bradley *ayanamsha* used by most Western Siderealists.) Vedic Astrology employs a whole sign house system, whereby each house is comprised of an entire sign beginning with the ascendant. In George Harrison's natal chart, sidereal Libra is the Ascendant, which means the 1st house consists of the entire sign of Libra (and any planets in that sign), the 2nd house consists of Scorpio, the 3rd sign consists of Sagittarius, etc.

To read the North Indian-style chart (top chart), follow the signs-houses of the chart by starting with the Libra Ascendant (top central box) and proceeding counterclockwise. The houses are always in the same positions, but the signs contained therein vary depending on the rising sign. To read the South Indian-style chart (bottom chart), in which the signs are always in the same places, proceed clockwise from Aries, which is the 2nd sign-house from the upper left box. The Ascendant is marked by placing a diagonal through it.



George Harrison. North Indian Chart.

Pisces, 6th House Ve 06:15	Aries, 7th House	Taurus, 8th House Sa 12:51	Gemini, 9th House JuR 22:29
Aquarius, 5th House Su 12:23 Ke 01:52	George Harrison February 24, 1943 11:42 PM BWT Liverpool UK 53N25, 2W55		Cancer, 10th House
Capricorn, 4th House Me 16:48	Geocentric Lahiri Ayanamsa Whole Sign Houses True Nodes		Leo, 11th House Ra 01:52
Sagittarius, 3rd House Ma 28:19	Scorpio, 2nd House	Libra, 1st House As 05:20 Mo 07:05	Virgo, 12th House

George Harrison. South Indian Chart.

Traditional rulerships are used in Indian Astrology so that Mars rules Scorpio, Jupiter rules Pisces, and Saturn rules Aquarius; Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are not used. Rahu is the North Node, and Ketu is the South Node. Aspects are different than in Western Astrology, and Yogas, special planetary combinations, are an important feature. In a sidereal chart, exact timing of transits may differ slightly from a tropical chart.- Ed.

1987 Harrison produced a number one record *Got My Mind Set on You*, and in 1988 he became a part of a super group called Traveling Wilburys, which won a Grammy for Best Rock Vocal, Duo or Group with Vocal in 1989.

After his Saturn *dasha* ended, he entered a Mercury *dasha* in 1995 which proved to be his most difficult time period. Mercury in the 4th house is surrounded by two malefics, Mars in the 3rd house and Ketu in the 5th house, weakening both Mercury and the 4th house it occupies. The 4th house signifies end of life, and the 12th house, which Mercury rules, also covers end of life, hospitals, sorrows, and secret enemies.

On December 30, 1999, while being treated for cancer (he was diagnosed in 1997), an intruder broke into his home near London and stabbed him 10 times. Harrison was in Mercury-Venus-Rahu (North Node) *dasha* at the time of the attack, and amazingly survived. Mercury is placed in the 4th house of the home, Venus in the 6th house of overcoming obstacles rules the 8th house of chronic illness, and Rahu, ruler of sudden violence, is in the 8th house from Mercury. This indicates that he would deal with illness and violence in his home. He survived the attack because Venus rules his 1st house of physical well-being, and it is exalted in the 6th of overcoming obstacles, but his cancer battle continued.

As he received treatment for the cancer it became apparent that his *vargottama* Mars gave him the extra strength to face his own mortality with dignity and humor. Dr. Gil Lederman, Director. of the Radiation Oncology program at Staten Island University Hospital, treated Harrison. According to Lederman

*He faced the end with great humor and courage. He believed that death is part of life and had no fear of death. Sometimes it made those around him uncomfortable. But he was totally fearless about it.*⁸

He lost his battle with cancer during his Mercury-Sun-Moon period. Again, Mercury is hemmed in by malefics, and rules the 4th house of end of life. The Sun is weakened by conjoining *Kethu*, and the Moon in the 1st house means his physical well being was affected. Surrounded by loved ones, he died peacefully on November 29, 2001 at 1:30 PM in Los Angeles CA. His ashes were flown to India and dispersed over the Ganges River.

Information for this article was derived from many websites and articles.

This article originally appeared in the April-May 2002 issue of the NCGR memberletter.

Birth Data

George Harrison. February 24, 1943, 11:42 PM, Liverpool, England, 53N25, 2W55. **Source.** George Harrison's Memory. From Lois Rodden's Astrodatbank.

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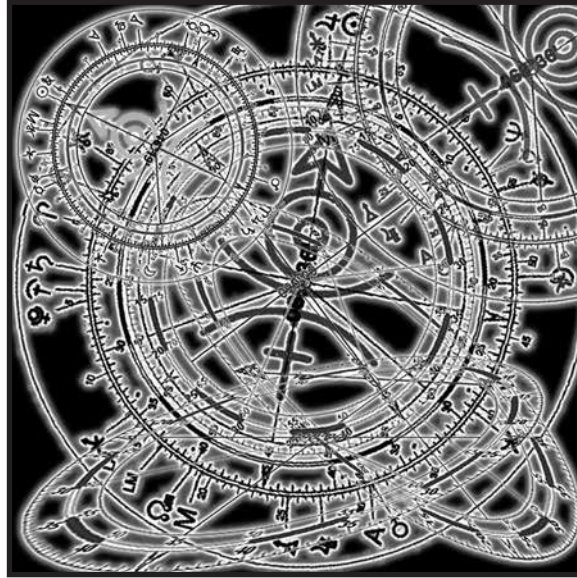
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Planetary Cycles and Uranian Aspects

By Arlene Marcia Nimark

Before computers (BC), when dinosaurs roamed the earth and I began my study of astrology, we calculated charts by hand, first using logarithm tables, and later using hand-held scientific calculators. As the chart unfolded house cusp by house cusp, planet by planet, we became aware of motions, cycles, and aspects. This article will review some major cycles and explore the world of aspects used in Uranian astrology.

As a Uranian astrologer, most of my work is forecasting, and involves helping clients select a time when their actions will give them the best possibility for success, whether in relationships, business matters, buying and selling, or relocating. Uranian astrology involves the use of both 360° and 90° degree dials. I use the 90° dial mostly for forecasting work, after exploring all my client's capabilities and potentials using the 360° dial.

Planetary Cycles

One of my most treasured books has always been Alexander Rupert's *Cycles of Becoming*. I am sure everyone reading this is aware of the saying "as above, so below." As I worked with charts, I became even more convinced of the concept that the past lays the groundwork for the future. This is where cycles come into play, regardless of the type

of astrology you use, since they are based upon the aspects each planet makes to their natal position, including when they return to that position.

The first cycle of our lives is the lunar cycle, coinciding with our first visit to the doctor's office as a baby. Our growth is evaluated and we are weighed and measured by the pediatrician. This pattern is repeated monthly for the first year, as different foods are introduced to our diets and tastes are developed. Moon, food; sound familiar?

The end of the first year is a major pivotal time in a child's life, completing a year of introduction to the world and its effect on all the senses. The baby has experienced 12 lunar cycles as Sun, Mercury, and Venus make their first return, and Mars its first opposition. At three months, the child has the first Sun square Sun; at six months, Sun opposite Sun, just as Mars makes its first square to Mars. At nine months, the Sun makes its last square to the Sun prior to the first solar return. In that period, teething occurs, plus crawling, walking by trial and plop (many plops). In that first year the child also experiences three Mercury retrogrades. The Mercury experience has to do with watching, copying, and then thinking a process out for oneself. Venus teaches the child that smiles, sweetness, and charming (even conniving) behavior will win out. The individual begins (and I

stress begins) to learn about what makes he or she feel comfortable and what doesn't. If the child passes the scrutiny of mommy, daddy, and everyone else, rewards follow for accomplishments well done.

At about age 2-2 1/2 years old, the child experiences the first Mars return (terrible two's), experiencing frustration when attempting to do something beyond his or her capabilities. (As two-year olds test abilities, they do a great job of testing everyone else's nerves!)

After the child has achieved the important missions unnoticed like crayoning the first masterpiece on the living room wall, climbing to the top of the bookcase, or maneuvering doors to escape the room or the house unnoticed, perhaps to be found two blocks away (age three), there is evidence of the first phase of Jupiter, i.e, the first Jupiter square Jupiter, with the expansion of horizons due to nursery school, PBS, and the Learning Channel. Mommy and Daddy may think they have the next Pablo Picasso, Frank Lloyd Wright, or Albert Einstein (or maybe Three Fingered Louie). In spite of all, optimism prevails, and at this time, plans for college are being hatched.

At age six, the child has had six solar, Mercury, and Venus returns, three Mars returns, and the first Jupiter opposite Jupiter. The child is in first grade with the pride of being in a learning class, at home. Another year goes by, and the child is seven years, in second grade, and experiencing the first Saturn square Saturn. Responsibilities both in school and at home intensify, as rules, regulations, and punishments get stiffer.

Let's jump to age 12 with the first Jupiter return and the onset of puberty. (Hair grows where hair has never grown before!) For the moment, the native feels that anything is possible. This is followed by age 14 and the first Saturn opposition, with high school and stiffer rules and regulations. At age 18, high school is a thing of the past and off to college we go, and a larger playground looms ahead as Jupiter opposes Jupiter for the second time.

Next we jump ahead to age 21 and the last Saturn square before the first Saturn return, with Uranus making its first square to its natal position. The individual, having graduated college, embarks on the next exciting adventure in life. He or she is free to do anything the heart desires; the world

is his or her oyster. If an astrologer were being consulted, the big question would be "what does the year hold for me?"

Since a solar return roughly coincides with the Mercury and Venus return (as seen from Earth, Mercury and Venus stay close to the Sun), the question usually involves love and money, and the astrologer (Uranian, of course) is happy to oblige with details. So the newly launched young person sails off to explore the world of money, adventure, and conquest, but—oops! Look out! While the individual somehow wasn't looking, a marriage knot is tied, followed all too soon by a baby or babies.

Then one day the native is 29 or 30, and encounters the first Saturn return, and Jupiter opposite Jupiter; he or she wakes up, looks in the mirror while dressing for an appointment with the divorce attorney, and wonders "how did all this

happen?" Here, where the Jupiter and Saturn cycles overlap, the individual has gone from jingling in the pockets to holes in the pockets.

The next major cycle comes at age 42, as Uranus opposes Uranus, and Neptune squares Neptune, known as the "midlife crisis." The individual may quit a high paying job, abandon the big home with three cars, motorcycle, boat, and plane (for instance) to live in New Mexico and study the rituals and art of native Americans, or some other

interest that he or she has been longing to pursue. Since Pluto's orbit is elliptical, those of us who were born with Pluto in Leo experienced Pluto square Pluto at age 44, whereas those born with Pluto in Virgo and Libra experienced Pluto square Pluto in their mid-30s. During this period, one discovers you can't go home; true loss is experienced, and the individual becomes aware of his or her mortality. (It was at this time in Bill Clinton's life that he decided to roll the dice and go for it.)

Uranian Aspects

In addition to these cycles, there are aspects used in Uranian astrology. For example, I was born with a volatile Mars in Aries. When I was asked to be trade show coordinator for the March 2007 NCGR *Geocosmic Alchemy* Conference in Baltimore, transiting Mars squared my natal Mars. As both coordinator and lecturer, the Mars aspects pertained to the energy I would be putting into my work. As I prepared to



leave for the conference I noticed that Mars was again applying to my natal Mars, this time via a $22\ 1/2^\circ$ aspect.

Knowing that this aspect would be exact during the conference, I was prepared for any glitches that might have occurred in the trade show area, and since I knew that Mars aspects often result in eruptions of anger, I kept my temper over the inevitable glitches. Instead of blowing my lid when I was given a handicapped-accessible room, with the clothes closet in the same room as the bath shower, I stayed calm, asked for another room, and used the Mars energy to dance up a storm at the banquet!

A client whose Mars is around 24° mutable (in Uranian Astrology signs are thought of in terms of cardinal, fixed, or mutable, since any one modality forms an aspect with the other) experienced a huge turnaround at work when Mars was 2° mutable, making a $22\ 1/2^\circ$ aspect to her natal Mars. Two of her co-workers (in a department of three) were fired, leaving her to do the work by herself. She was so angry at the way it happened that she stepped up her search for another job. (I have used Mars as an example because when transiting Mars hits a natal planet (especially natal Mars) by hard aspect, it causes things to happen that you feel: it is an action planet.



Forget everything you have heard about minor aspects not being important. There is nothing minor about an $11\ 1/4^\circ$, $22\ 1/2^\circ$, 45° , and 135° aspects. (These are octiles, and semi-octiles: they divide the circle by eight, 16 and 32, carrying forward the opposition and square that divides the circle by two and four.) For those of you reading this who do not use the 90° dial, I'd like you to try the following: create a list all of your planets, then add $11\ 1/4^\circ$, $22\ 1/2^\circ$, 45° , and 135° to each of them.

For example, if one's Sun is 1 Taurus 20, by adding multiples of $11\ 1/4^\circ$, $22\ 1/2^\circ$, 45° , and 135° to it, you will discover that anything hitting 23 Fixed 50, 16 Mutable 20, 8 Cardinal 50, and 1 Fixed 20 are hard aspects to that Sun. On Sunday June 7, 2007, the Sun was positioned at 16 Gemini 22 in a 45° aspect to the 1 Taurus 20 Sun, and transiting Mercury was 8 Cancer 53, in a $67\ 1/2^\circ$ ($3 \times 22\ 1/2^\circ$) aspect to the Sun. This would mean that on this day the example Taurus should be physically and mentally active, mobile, and communicative.

Let's say our example Taurus's progressed Sun during the second week of July is 16 Gemini 20, and on July 14, transiting Saturn will be 23 Leo 50, hitting both the natal and progressed Sun on the 45° and $67\ 1/2^\circ$ ($3 \times 22\ 1/2^\circ$) aspects. I can definitely state that for a few days before and a few days after July 14, our Taurus will have some problems. It could be a toothache, trouble involving a brother, husband, significant male, or co-worker, or possibly dealing with a father's illness.

A few years ago a former student called me for advice about changing her dental surgery appointment, due in one week, because she saw a harsh aspect coming and she feared something could go very wrong. Her natal Sun is 5 Cancer 02 and her Uranus is 20 Fixed 28; they are semisquare with a 28 minute orb. The aspect she saw was Uranus coming to square her natal Uranus, and Mars in Scorpio approaching both Uranus positions, and applying to a semi-square to her Sun. These are indeed indications of possible danger; as it turned out, she never made it to the dentist: On January 28, 2001, as she walked down a flight of stairs, the toe of her shoe got caught in a raised metal strip two steps from the bottom; she fell in such a way that she dislocated her hip.

The midpoint of transiting Mars and Uranus (written tMa/tUr) equaled her natal Uranus, which could mean accident or surgery. At the same time, transiting Saturn was applying to her Ma/Sa (Ma/Sa means Mars-Saturn midpoint) by $22\ 1/2^\circ$ aspect. On the 90° dial her natal Sun at 5 Cancer 02 + natal Mars at 3 Fixed 34 = her progressed Sun at 3 Mutable 58. So her Sun, Mars, Uranus, and Saturn were set off by her progressed Sun, transiting Mars, transiting Uranus, and transiting Saturn, in a different way than most reading this article are used to noting. This demonstrates the extensive detail and wealth of information available using Uranian astrology. As a postscript, the accident was followed by surgery.

Bill Clinton (August 19, 1946, 8:51 AM CST, Hope AR), following his midlife crisis decision to reach for the gold ring, became President of the United States, when his progressed Sun was 45° from his natal Sun. He served two terms, but his opponents were out to bring him down from day one. The public, on the other hand, never stopped loving him because his natal Sun at 26 Leo 0 is semisquare his Venus at 11 Libra 7, and his progressed Sun was at 11 Libra 12 on the day of his first inauguration, January 20, 1993.



The day after the Inauguration, January 21, 1993, transiting Venus was $22\ 1/2^\circ$ to his Sun-Venus midpoint (Su/Ve).

It is interesting to note that on January 20, 1993, transiting Venus was 17 Pisces 43, and on January 20, 2001, the day of George W. Bush's inauguration, transiting Venus was 17 Pisces 46. On January 20, 2009 transiting Venus will be 17 Pisces 47. Of course this is all due to the eight-year cycle of Venus, which returns to its position every eight years. So whether or not Hillary Clinton becomes our next President, her husband will still be connected to the Washington power base.

Why would the Venus return of the 2001 inauguration be connected to the Venus of his 1993 inauguration? (Usually ex-presidents, especially if they are members of the opposing party, are not invited to stately functions.) Well, Bill Clinton is married to a senator who began her term in 2001; this has kept him tied to Washington's inner circle. Of course, if I look at Bill Clinton's natal Sun-Venus and the cycle of transiting Venus at the various inaugurations, I must look at Hillary Clinton's chart as well. (There is a debate as to whether she was born at 8:00 AM or 8:00 PM, since there are acceptable sources for each time. I for one, think that it is the later hour that describes her, not the earlier, so I will use that one.)

In the 8:00 PM chart the Moon is 29 Pisces 12, sesquiquadrate (135°) to Mars at 14 Leo 16; both are on the cardinal (world) axis with a $45'$ orb, and her Pluto is at 14 Leo 51, also on the cardinal (world) axis. What then is interpretation of this planetary combination? An aggressively powerful woman who is a public figure—no ifs, ands, or buts about it.

When Hillary Clinton became First Lady of Arkansas on January 9, 1979 at 12:00 PM, transiting Mars was 21 Capricorn 28. When she became First Lady of the United States on January 20, 1993, transiting Mars was in Cancer, applying to an opposition with the Mars of 1979. In January 2009, Mars will be 18 Capricorn 29. When she

became a power in her own right as New York Senator in 2001, transiting Jupiter was 1 Gemini 13 (natal Jupiter is 0 Sagittarius 37), and on January 20, 2009, transiting Ju/natal Ju=transiting Pl. (I am only watching repeating cycles, and not forecasting the next presidential election.) Both Clintons' planetary cycles show that no matter who wins the next presidential election, they will still be a couple connected to the power base in the United States.

My purpose in writing this article is to bring to your attention that there is much more to a chart than the Ptolemaic aspects, and to encourage you to explore the world of cycles, dials, and Uranian Astrology. Try it. You'll like it.

This article originally appeared in the August-September 2007 issue of the NCGR memberletter.

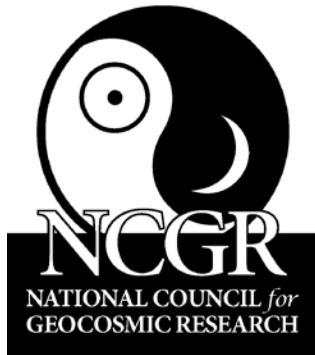
Birth Data

- **Bill Clinton.** August 19, 1946, 8:51 AM CST, Hope, AR, 33N40, 93W35. **Source.** Bill Clinton's mother to astrologer Shelley Ackerman, as noted in Lois Rodden's Astrodatabank.com.
- **Hillary Clinton.** October 26, 1947, 8:00 PM CST, Chicago, IL, 41N51, 87W39. **Source.** Hillary Clinton to astrologer Celeste Longacre during the 1992 New Hampshire primary, and Kt Boehrer confirms, as noted in Lois Rodden's Astrodatabank.com. Conflicting times are listed.



Arlene Marcia Nimark,

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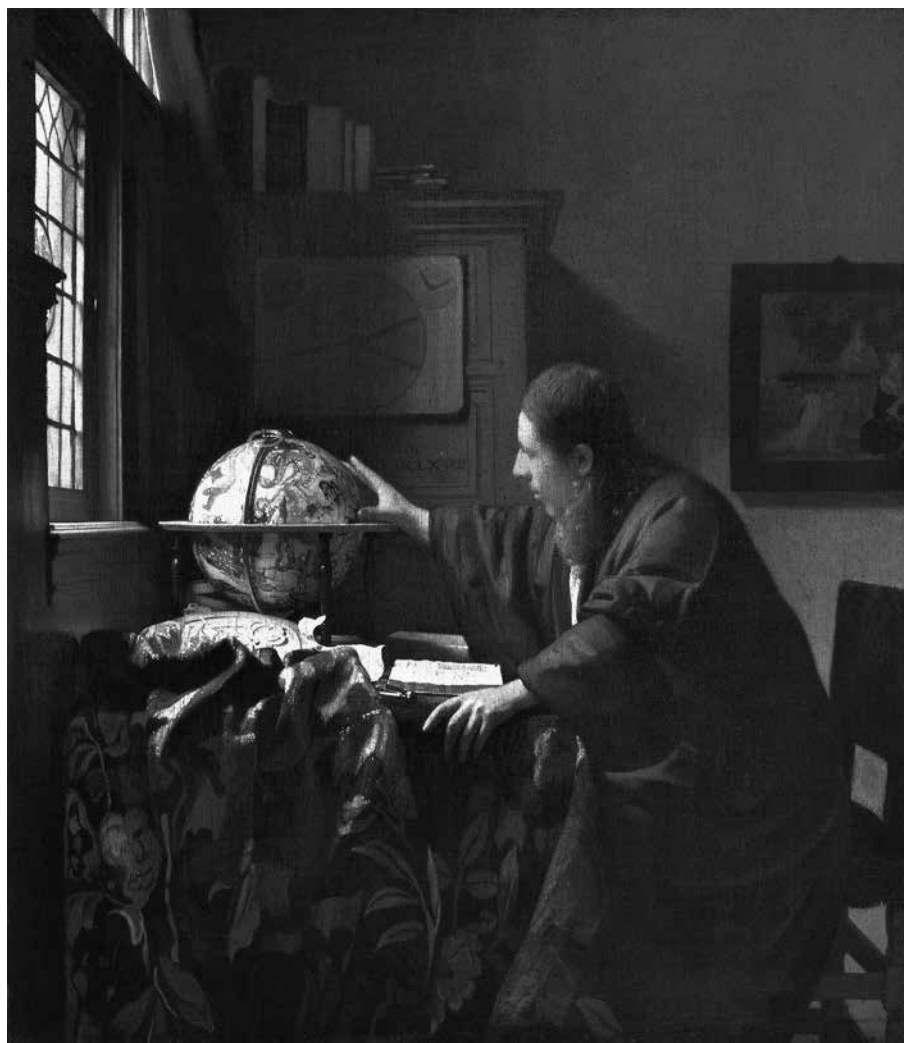
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Election Charts

Choosing the Best Date and Time

by Pat Geisler



The Election chart is the test of an astrologer's skill. It enables an experienced professional to give the kind of advice about *when* to do something that helps a client make the most out of their choices. It isn't easy and even some pros have difficulty doing it well.

If you want to get a dandy election chart, the first thing to remember is that the Moon is your friend. Your best friend, in fact. Its phase and its position and its aspects decide all the future action, and that's a lot of influence. Without its help, no election does very well.

So make the Moon your friend. Choose the right lunar phase for what

you want to do. That rule is fairly simple but it is often overlooked.

The waxing phase is for things that grow and expand. The waning phase is for things that shrink and endure. You want the Moon in a good sign, a strong house if possible, and making good aspects. The Moon is good above the horizon at night, and below by day.

Let's use a few gardening examples since those are some of the simplest elections we can do. We plant vegetables with the parts we eat that grow above the ground—beans, tomatoes, corn, etc—in the waxing phase. Things we eat that grow beneath the ground—potatoes, beets, carrots, onions—get the waning phase. Annual flowers,

which don't depend on good roots, should be planted during the waxing phase. You want all the bloom you can get this year since there won't be a next year for those particular plants.

Perennials, shrubs, or trees, where we want deep strong roots so the plants can endure and come up again next season, get the waning phase.

Marriages and business, which we hope will bloom and improve, should have a waxing Moon in their charts. Digging the foundation for a new house, where you want endurance and tight seals, should get a waning phase. You don't want to start a diet with the waxing phase. You are swimming upstream on that one. You don't want

to launch a hot air balloon during the waning phase. (Shrink? Oh, no...one hopes not.)

The Moon's speed is also a concern. For the best results in a waxing phase, it helps to use a day when the Moon is moving quickly. The reverse is true for the waning phase.

Rulerships

The next rule is that the planet that naturally rules the matter in question should be in good shape in the chart. Retrograde is a no-no. Venus, for instance, deals with marriage, beauty, and money. Mars deals with surgery, sex, and sports. If you want to open a bank account, make an investment, form a partnership (marriage or any other kind), you want Venus on your side. That means in its own sign, or house, and getting good aspects. And whether you choose to get a wart removed or sign a deal to play pro football, it is important to have a good Mars in the pattern. Same thing—good sign, good house, good aspects.

Real estate comes under Saturn. Cars are the concern of Mercury, and Jupiter deals with travel. When in doubt as to what rules the matter at hand, use a traditional planet. The outer planets are seldom good unless the matter almost certainly is in their department. If you are not sure what the ruler of the event should be, check with a good rulership book. Rex Bills' *Rulership Book* is often helpful here.

Establishing a recycling center would be specifically Plutonian. Digging an oil well would involve Neptune. And getting new electrical wiring in your house? Uranus, obviously. But when in doubt, use an old ruler and you won't go wrong.



It does not do any good to come up with no otherwise apparently great travel chart if Jupiter is retrograde, in Virgo, and in the sixth house squaring Uranus and opposing Mars. You may say, "But I have a great Venus in the chart." That won't get you where you want to go. It's like having a sweet travel agent for your trip on the Titanic. For travel, the planet you want to fortify (an expression meaning to get in good shape) is Jupiter.

Now, having said all that, there are exceptions that appear to violate the rules. Some people want to do things, for instance, that are Mercury or Jupiter-ruled under retrograde Mercury or Jupiter. When the astrologer looks at the natal, those people often turn out to have such an aspect in their natal patterns. For them, there are good times.

Another thing that is critical is the way the planets that rule the occasion are aspected in the natal chart. The client may have Uranus trine Venus, for instance. The only suitable time for their event has a square between those two

planets. Such a time can often be used because the transiting aspect pressures the natal chart, and it responds by making the aspect work favorably.

There are some other rules you need to use. One is the traditional dignity and debility system of the planets. It does not include the outers.

- Mars is in its own sign in Aries or Scorpio, and exalted in Capricorn.
- Venus rules Taurus and Libra, and is exalted in Pisces.
- Mercury rules Virgo and Gemini, and is exalted in Virgo.
- Jupiter rules Sagittarius and Pisces, and is exalted in Cancer.
- Saturn rules Capricorn and Aquarius, and is exalted in Libra.
- The Sun rules Leo, and is exalted in Aries.
- The Moon rules Cancer, and is exalted in Taurus.

Their debilities and falls are the signs opposite the ones they rule and where they are exalted. The Moon, exalted in Taurus, is in its fall in Scorpio, for instance. It is debilitated in Capricorn. You want to avoid such positions, and certainly not use one of them as signifier of the event. Never enhance such an influence unless there is a very good reason for it. Such a *good* reason might be that the debility matches a well-aspected natal planet that rules the house in question. An example might be the Moon in Capricorn in the 10th house for someone in the housewares business.

Angularity is powerful. The houses one, ten, seven, and four are the most potent, and in that order. Next

strongest are the succedent—eleven, eight, five, and two. Weakest houses are the cadent—twelve, nine, six and three.

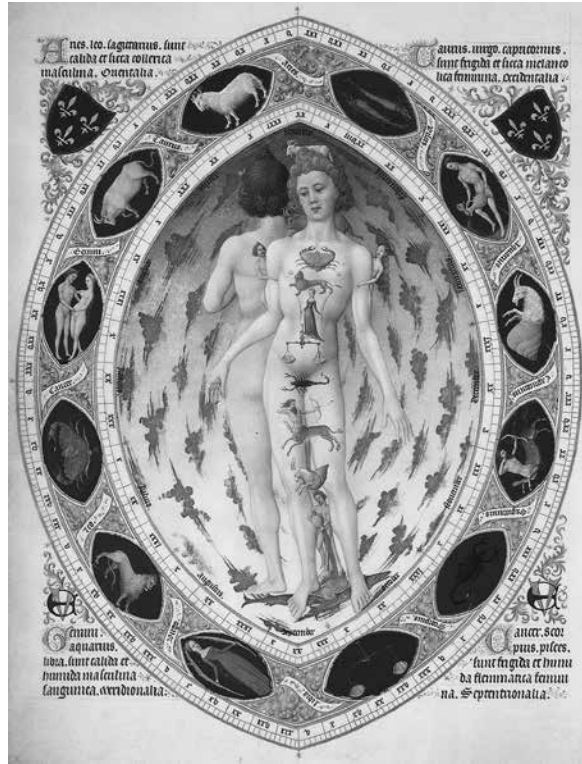
Aspects matter. Squares, oppositions, and inconjuncts are bad, sextiles and trines are good. Let's not get all psychological here. This is not natal analysis. When we are trying to set up an event that gives us a good time line, we want to avoid snags and situations that put us in the soup.

Jupiter and Venus are the traditional benefics. Aspects by the ruler of the event or the Moon improve the chart. Mars and Saturn are malefics, and their prominence causes trouble unless one of them is the natural ruler of the event in question. Keep them out of the angles otherwise.

There is no such thing as a perfect election chart but you want to get the best you can. If you cannot get a good aspect, choose a time when there are no aspects at all. If you can only get one aspect, give it power over the situation. If all else fails you, a good aspect between the Sun and Moon will save your bacon. That aspect improves any election.

Surgery is a classic example. Sometimes we have no options and take what we get. Other times we can work with a doctor and select the best hour. I had no choice on a time for some serious kidney surgery one year. I wanted a day and time that were unavailable. So I was stuck with the date. The Moon made only one aspect that day and it was a trine to Mercury in Libra.

Since the procedure began when Mercury was in the 10th (the surgeon), I ended up with a top man in his field and he did an excellent job. I was truly



relieved that the universe managed such a nice chart for me.

Time matters. The surgery was a single event that concluded in a few hours. Had I been planning something that extended a second or third day, then other aspects might have been in play. As it was, the operation was over by the time any difficult aspects could form. Obviously the natal chart of the individual who seeks the election becomes significant. People with natal retrograde Mercury do quite well with an election chart for buying a car during a retrograde Mercury period. The rest of us would not. Most definitely, not.

Whenever possible, a personal election should plug into the chart of the individual—the rising sign, rulers, and angular planets all become important. A great party? Put Venus on your Midheaven with good aspects on that day. If the chart is for a business, it can become even more significant, since the person's natal determines the times for success. But if a group of people wants to start a social club, what mat-

ters is the chart for the club, and its tie to specific individuals becomes less significant. A strong tie by one or more people to the selected chart, however, often brings them into positions of importance in the club. Or they may keep their membership for years.

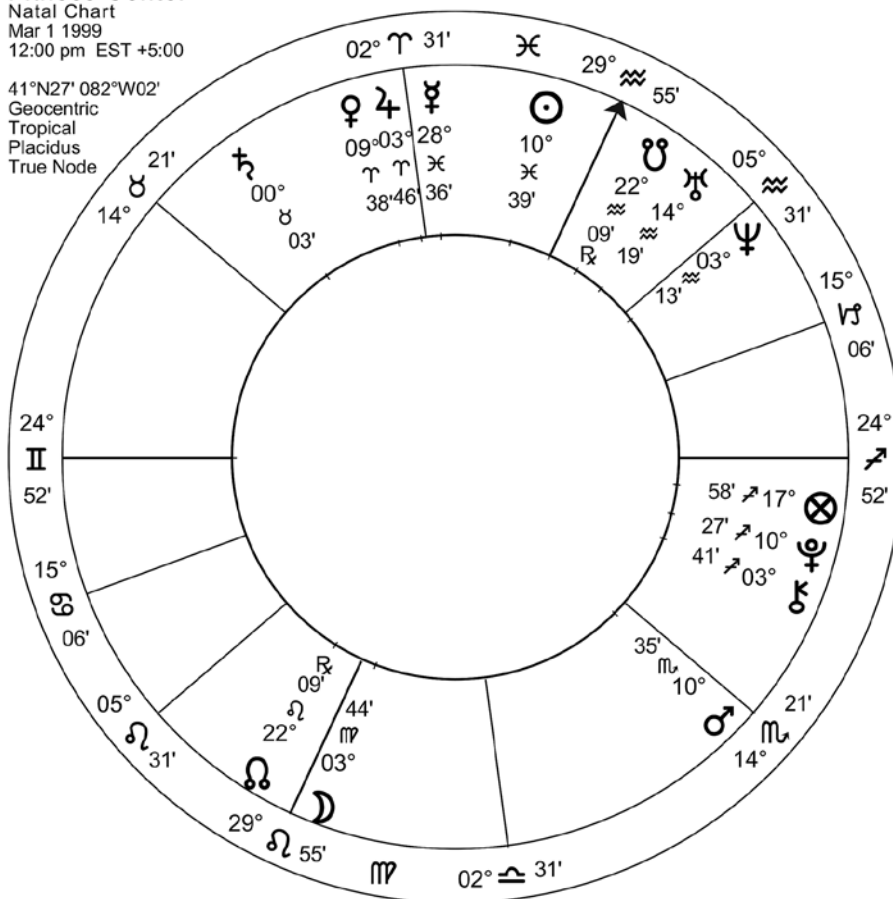
Here's where the quadruplicities, or modes, become important. Cardinal starts and ends quickly. Mutable is chronic or comes and goes. Fixed endures. If the ruler of the event or the Moon is in a fixed sign, it adds stability. But sometimes you don't want stability, you want speed.

Want to sell a house? You probably want fast action. Use a cardinal moon. Waxing phase. Cancer is an ideal sign for this. Waxing phases benefit the seller. Waning phases are good for the buyer because the price rises to the Full Moon and declines afterwards. So...if you hold a garage sale, do it just as the Full Moon is forming. And get a good aspect from the Moon to the ruler of the 2nd house.

The Full Moon attracts people. It's an ideal time to hold an event where you want as many as possible to attend. An election for the Full Moon day is ideal for conferences and meetings. An event in the last few days before the New Moon is often a dud as far as attendance goes. The dark of the Moon is no time to get people in the door. It amazes me that any astrologer will try such a bad aspect for a conference, but I have seen some with that lunar aspect. There are seldom very many people in the halls. On the other hand, it is a perfect time to get a good deal on something you want to buy. And confidential matters stay confidential then. There are times you want privacy.

Fitness Center
 Natal Chart
 Mar 1 1999
 12:00 pm EST +5:00

41°N27° 082°W02'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



Elections in Action

Let's look at the chart for a fitness center owned by a hospital that does a lot of rehabilitation as well as providing a wide range of exercise options for the fittest of people. It opened on the day of the Full Moon and is a classic case of an ideal chart for that particular business. I could not have selected a better one. It is an accurate time from their records.

Gemini rises, and the ruler, Mercury, is late in Pisces in out-of-sign conjunction to both benefics, Jupiter and Venus. The Sun is in Pisces in the 10th, and the Moon in Virgo, coming to the Full, from the 4th house. Normally a Pisces Mercury would not be recommended, but this is directly linked to the hospital that owns it, and Pisces rules hospitals. Jupiter, natural hospital ruler, and Venus, 12th house

ruler in this chart, are both widely conjoining it, though out of sign in the 11th, providing a good solution to the hopes of the parent organization.

Mars in Scorpio is trine the Sun from the 5th house of recreation, and of course a great many members swim or work out as part of their recreation or sport training. It is part of a fixed t-square with Saturn and Neptune, and the t-square is in fixed houses. It is not a perfect chart but it is a very, very good one. Like all charts, there are areas of stress. But the ruler of the 2nd house of income is the Moon, and the Moon is coming to its full. And that is the most powerful Moon of all. This place obviously makes money hand over fist, and people pour through the doors. Parking in the lot is always at a premium. Retirees, youthful parents with young children (they have an excellent child care set up), and work-

ing folks of all ages come in and use the facilities. It is a hugely successful operation with every imaginable one of the bells and whistles.

As one businessman told me, lots of sales take care of all kinds of problems. Making a lot of money is always a good solution. The Moon in this chart is also trine Saturn, ruler of the other money house, the 8th.

Electing a Chart

How should one begin an election planning? Start with the Moon and the planet that naturally rules the event. Sit down with an ephemeris and start hunting. When you find a possible day, you will find that a rectification tool in your astrology program can be a wonderful thing. It allows you to put the planets in many different areas and see where they fall at different times of the day.

The first few times you try to do an election chart you may spend many days hunting for a good time. Like all techniques in astrology, it helps to have experience. The more you do, the better you get at it.

Weddings have specific rules that involve two houses, one and seven. The 1st house, its ruler or any planet in it, Mars, and the Sun rule the man. The 7th house, its ruler or planet in it, the Moon and Venus rule the woman. (*This article was written before same-sex marriage was legalized in a number of states-Ed.*) Getting the rulers of one and seven in good aspect to each other or to the benefics, and keeping the malefics out of the angles takes effort. Some times are simply not good because the planets are not in helpful alignment. You don't want a marriage with Scorpio rising during a time period when Mars and Saturn are

conjunct. It's too much to overcome. But if Mercury and Jupiter are in good aspect to each other, you can use that pair as the 1st and 7th rulers.

In a wedding chart, the 10th rules the relationship between the two people, and the 4th, how the marriage ends. Venus is always Number One choice for the 10th house position since it says that there will be love. Mars rules sex but you don't spend your life in bed so there are never any circumstances where you want a 10th house Mars. The rest of the time you'd fight. Not good.

One thing that may ease your mind if you are launching off into the world of elections, is that the natal chart always has primacy. If the period for an event looks favored in the natal chart, a good time will be selected for it. It will be easy to do, in fact. If the natal chart looks awful (for starting a business, say) the greatest election in the world won't work, and you may have a hard time finding a day that is suitable.

This article originally appeared in the June-July 2007 issue of the NCGR member letter.

Chart Data

- **Fitness Center.** March 1, 1999, 12:00 PM EST, 41N27, 82W02. **Source.** Company Records.

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PAT GEISLER

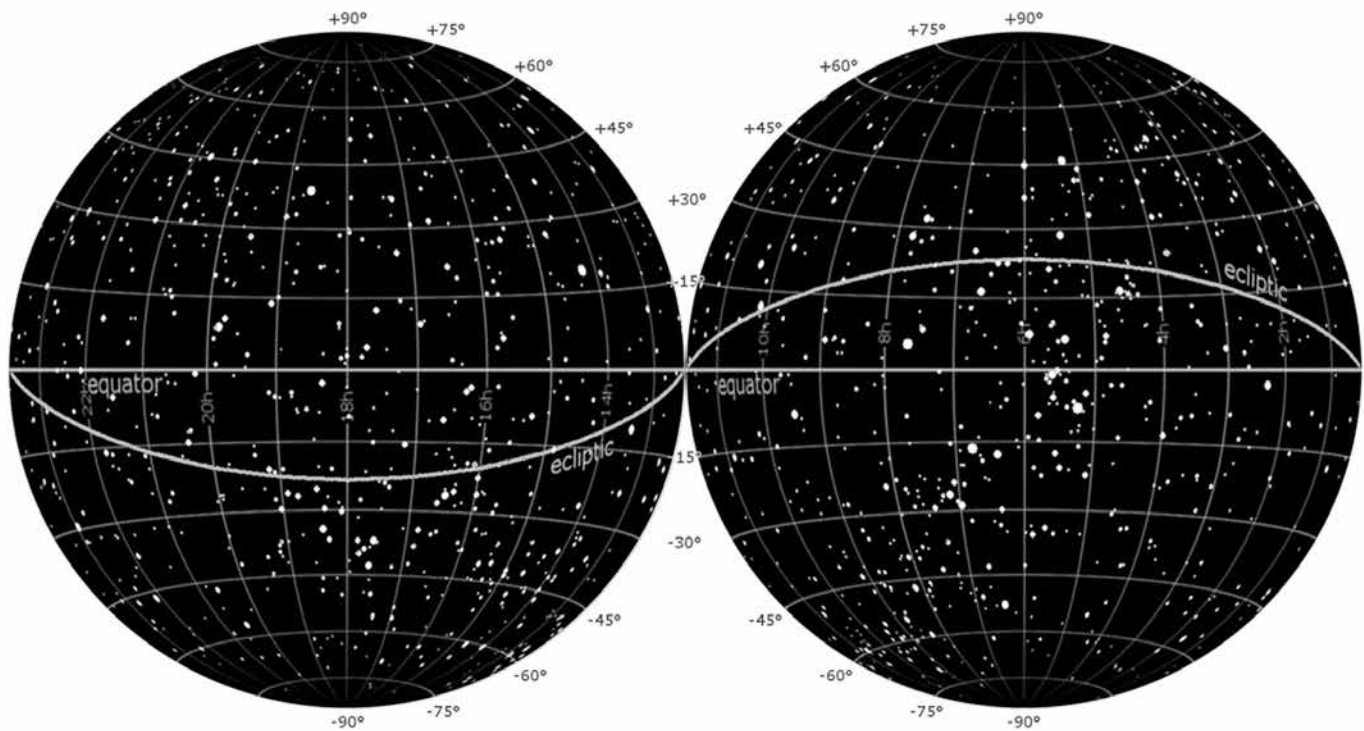
of Grafton, OH began work as a professional astrologer in 1969 and taught and lectured extensively in the years since then. She had an active consulting career before retiring in 2011. Pat is a member of AFAN, NCGR, and ISAR and served on the AFAN Steering Committee. Many of her articles have appeared online as well as in the public media and astrological publications. Pat's book *The Plain Vanilla Astrologer* was recently published, and her second book will be published later this year. She is also a retired journalist with both state and national awards for writing, editing and photography. Pat is a widow with four children and five superior grandchildren. She can be reached at spin9r@aol.com.



“Marriage is Honourable in all”

by Ebenezer Sibly, an engraving from “Astrology” (1806)

This engraving accompanies the astrological chart for Benjamin Brownsell, married November 29th, 1784. A man and a woman face one another clasping hands, as they stand between two pillars. Two naked cherubs (boy and girl) are about to place laurel wreaths on them, symbols of victory for the bride and groom. The children are the zodiacal symbol for Gemini, the twins; they have stepped out of the ring of the zodiac, and other signs are visible to each side. Between and in front of the couple, a third cherub lifts another garland for the woman. Musical instruments, including a harp, a trumpet and a violin decorate the foreground; along with baskets of roses and urns of incense. Above the pillars a domed roof decorated with garlands of flowers, culminates in a fruit basket, as two doves embrace in front. The temple bears symbols of hearts pierced by arrows. The caption, “Marriage is Honourable in all” is from the New Testament, Hebrews: Chapter 13; Verse 4.



Declination

Astrology's Hidden Hinge

by Leigh Westin

Many people emphasize that they would like to learn to use declination, but they don't know how or where to begin. Actually the best place to begin is with one's own chart, because as the late astrologer Kt Boehrer often said, answers to heretofore confounding questions about oneself frequently pop out for the very first time (paraphrased), and in so doing immediately shows the benefit of adding declination to one's astrological tool box.¹

Suppose you had a crusading spirit for truth and were something of a craft artist, with little indicative of such within longitude findings, only to discover after applying declination that the asteroid Pallas Athena, three signs away and not even a minor longitude aspect in sight, was parallel your Ascendant. This very dynamic happened to an associate, and although her astrological friends were anything but surprised, she certainly was. But at last she had in hand an answer to her personality that was unavailable until she used declination.

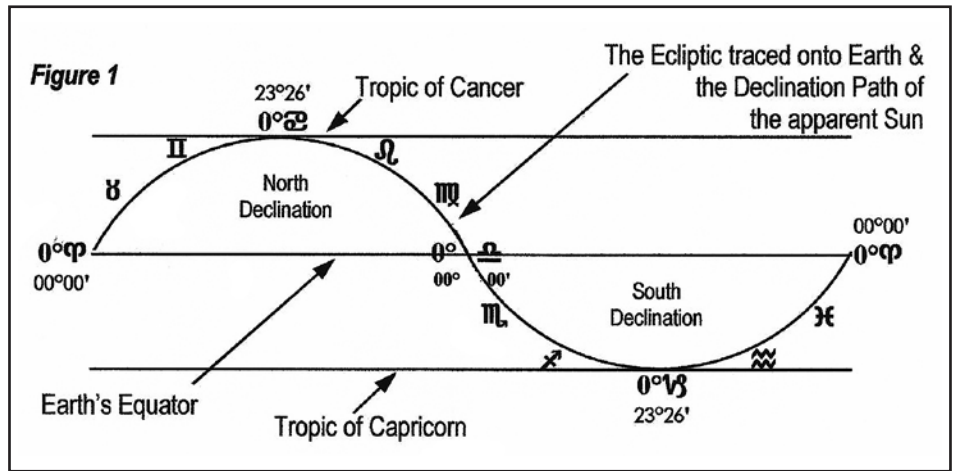
Although these types of stories abound when one begins using declination, there is also value in understanding, as in the above case, why declination is as important to use as longitude.

Declination—the Master Hinge

Most everyone is familiar with declination as one celestial measurement in the equatorial system, right ascension being the other. In this context, declination is the north-south measurement above and below the equator plane, and right ascension is the east-west measurement around the equator plane.

With celestial longitude as the most applied astronomical measurement, it may be somewhat startling to learn that declination is the hinge on which celestial longitude and its counterpart, celestial latitude, are based. Simply stated, the measurements of the ecliptic system are actually dependent on declination.

How so? Declination as a measurement of the equatorial system is only one of its definitions. Declination is greatly related to Earth's tilt on its equatorial axis, which in turn, causes Earth's equator to sit in an angle on its path (the ecliptic) around the Sun (Fig 1). In astronomical measurements, Earth's decline on its axis is shown as the declination of the Sun. In fact the term *declination* appears to be derived from the word *decline*, as can be seen in the apparent moving Sun's incline and decline of height in the sky over the course of an Earth year (Fig 2).



Yet we know and the astronomers know that it is not the stationary Sun that is moving, but rather the orbiting Earth. One might wonder why *decline* was chosen for nomenclature instead of *incline*. Although I've never located the actual source for this, it seems apparent to me that the logical answer is because the physical causation of the Sun's apparent decline and incline is actually Earth's tilt or *decline* on its axis.²

Obliquity of the Ecliptic

Earth's tilt is also known as that ubiquitous phrase, the *Obliquity of the Ecliptic*. This phrase means that Earth's equator is tilted to the plane of the ecliptic which in turn is Earth's path around the Sun. Yet the crux is: without Earth's polar axial tilt, Earth would not set at a 23+ degree angle to its path around the Sun, thereby creating the ecliptic plane separate from the equatorial plane. Instead, the plane of Earth's orbital path would be the same as its equator and there would be no need for as many measurements. In fact

there would be no measurement of the Sun's declination either, just like there is no measurement of celestial latitude of the Sun now.

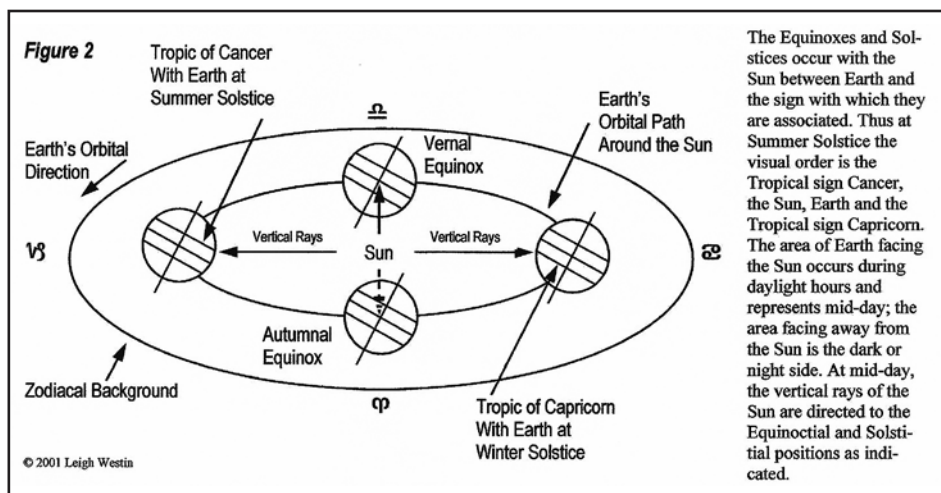
Without Earth's axial tilt on its equatorial poles, in other words, without Earth's decline of 23+° to its path around the Sun—the only measurement necessary for the Sun would be something akin to what is now termed right ascension, although some type of north and south measurement would still be required for the Moon and planets. Further, in the absence of Earth's decline, other familiar factors would also vanish.

Cardinal Points

The cardinal points would be non-existent—or a figment of imagination. Without Earth's fixed axial tilt (Fig 1), the Sun would always appear directly over the equator. As a result, there would be one eternal equinox all year long, instead of two days of the year singled out as having equal day and night and known as the Vernal Equinox (first point of tropical Aries) and the Autumnal Equinox (first

point of tropical Libra). Because the Sun would not appear as it does now to incline to and from the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, neither would the Solstices occur with their extreme lengths of unequal light and darkness.

The cardinal points (*cardinal* meaning of primary importance) were so named for the significance they hold in pointing out the four days showing the greatest difference from the others. Without declination, these special days of the year would all be



The Equinoxes and Solstices occur with the Sun between Earth and the sign with which they are associated. Thus at Summer Solstice the visual order is the Tropical sign Cancer, the Sun, Earth and the Tropical sign Capricorn. The area of Earth facing the Sun occurs during daylight hours and represents mid-day; the area facing away from the Sun is the dark or night side. At mid-day, the vertical rays of the Sun are directed to the Equinoctial and Solstitial positions as indicated.

the same length every day with more or less light or darkness, depending where on Earth one might be located. To state succinctly, without Earth's decline, there would be no different days to single out showing a primary importance.

The Four Seasons and the Tropical Year

Without Earth tilted on its polar axis and thus with the Sun always overhead at the equator, the four seasons describing the Tropical Year would not exist, leaving one to wonder if the symbolism of life would exist as it does now. Earthly life reflects the seasons, defining the cycle of change. Every materialized form, be it stone, vegetable, creature or human, partakes of a cycle of life with gestation, birth, expansion of growth and contraction of growth culminating in some form of end. Without declination, would the cycle of life as we know it, also cease to exist? One wonders.

The Heavenly View

Astronomy—hence its measurements—were designed to describe the celestial sphere as seen from Earth. Yet Earth has two motions that occur concurrently and are part and parcel of the same body. One motion is Earth's orbit around the Sun, yielding the *year*, while simultaneously during the year, Earth rotates on its axis 365.25 times yielding the periods of light and darkness of the *days*.

To describe both motions on paper, two systems were devised. The ecliptic system, based on Earth's path (the ecliptic) around the Sun, using celestial longitude to measure around the ecliptic and celestial latitude measuring above and below, described the heavenly view from where Earth is on any one day in its solar orbit. The equatorial system, based on Earth's equator with right ascension measuring around the equatorial plane and declination above and below the equatorial plane, described the celestial view from Earth's body in its daily rotation on its axis. Because these four measurements describe views of simultaneous motions of the same body, they are relative to each other.

To demonstrate this, I'd like to share an opportune moment in 2002 during which I taught my

granddaughter how these two systems worked together. An exquisitely vivid configuration was taking place between the two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter. The ephemeris gave June 3 as their conjunction day at our location. On consecutive nights we watched Venus and Jupiter coming closer and closer together, but contrary to what one might expect for a conjunction, the two never met. Even on June 3, during the longitude conjunction at 17 Cancer 10, they were still two fingers apart! Why? By declination Jupiter was at 22N35 while Venus was at 24N12, thus Venus was higher in the sky when the longitude conjunction at 17 Cancer 10 occurred. For two bodies to come together as one might expect a conjunction to appear, the bodies must not only be conjunct by longitude, but also parallel by declination.

Many great astrologers of the past—A.J. Pearce, W.J. Simonite, C.E. O Carter, Charles Jayne, Kt Boehrer, etc.—all have stated that declination aspects, particularly the parallel, is the most powerful aspect. When two bodies are both conjunct and parallel, this is considered to be the most powerful aspect of all.

It follows then that the June 3 conjunction was not as strong a conjunction as it would have been had Venus and Jupiter also been parallel. The actual parallels of these two occurred first on May 5 at 23N08 with Venus at 11 Gemini 45 and Jupiter at 11 Cancer 38, a full sign apart in longitude, then again on June 13 at 22N19, but by then Venus was at 28 Cancer 54 and Jupiter at 19 Cancer 14, almost 10° apart in longitude.

Therefore the more powerful aspects took place on May 5 and June 13, rather than June 3 at the longitude conjunction. Unless declination had been taken into consideration these dates would have been totally missed—and may be the very reason why such wide orbs are sometimes necessary in longitude.

As a personal example, when my progressed Moon by declination crossed my natal Ascendant in 2002, an event occurred that set about the sale and purchase of property. Both transactions occurred quickly, but when the progressed Moon by longitude crossed my Ascendant, I had been totally settled in the new location for over three months.



In Aspect

Declination aspects can be formed among all the positions in which aspects are found in celestial longitude—the Sun, Moon, planets, asteroids, angles, house cusps, etc. This is why it can be said that if declination is not being applied, then over half of the aspects possible are not being addressed. Aspects are also formed with more freedom than aspects in longitude because declination is not limited to even or odd degrees or to specific angles—30°, 90°, 150°, etc. Furthermore, all declination aspects are hard aspects as opposed to a mix of hard and soft, hence equal to the strength of the conjunction and/or opposition.

Easy to Apply

Even though declination is a hinge pin and offers the most powerful aspect energy, declination is remarkably easy to apply—nationally, progressed, or by transit. Precious little math is involved in figuring aspects, no multiple angles require memorization and only four aspect types exist—parallel in north declination (in orb of same degree north), parallel in south declination (in orb of same degree south), contra-parallel (in orb of same degree north and south) and out-of-bounds positions (beyond 23°26'+north or south). These are the orbs I've researched to be generally the most effective:³

0°-9°	=	2° orb;
9°-18°	=	1.5° orb;
18°-21°30'	=	1° orb;
21°30'-23°	=	30' orb;
23°+	=	15-20' orb

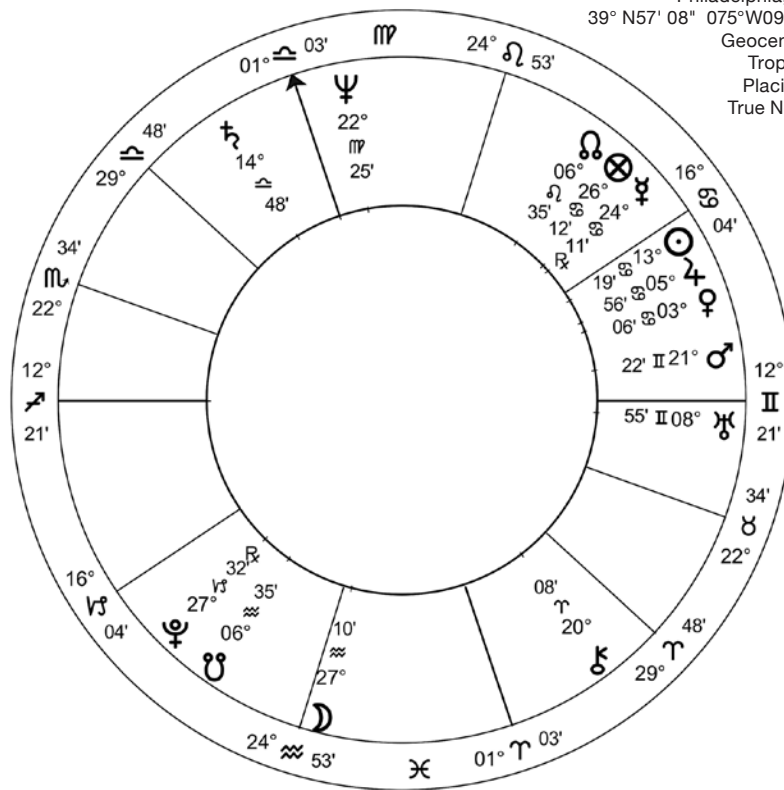
Begin to Use Declination

The best place to start is with your own chart. The simplest way is to look at the declination of the various positions and the angles. To get you started, we'll use as an example the U.S. Sibly chart. It would be worthwhile to follow through on this chart to practice finding the same aspects as listed, then locate the declination aspects in your own chart.

You can locate declination positions in an ephemeris and interpolate like you do for longitude, or you can use a soft-

US Sibly Chart - Natal Chart

July 4, 1776 NS
5:10 pm LMT +5:00:39
Philadelphia, PA
39° N57' 08" 075° W09' 51"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



ware program. In almost all software programs, declination positions are listed somewhere. However you locate the positions, make a list of the chart positions such as shown in the accompanying table. Then using the orbs given, figure the parallels and contra-parallel. Read the parallels like a conjunction, the contra-parallel as negotiations or decisions with or about others, and out-of-bounds positions as “beyond normal conditions or expectations.”⁷⁴

Interpretive synthesis is done just like in longitude, using house positions and rulerships. Jupiter in the 7th rules the Ascendant and IC, but the surprise is that it is also contra-parallel Mars and Pluto. Mercury rules the MC and Descendant and parallels-contra-parallel the Nodes. Then look at Uranus—too far by longitude to be opposite, but very much parallel the Ascendant, which in turn is parallel the Sun. We might call this a translation of light to conclude that revolutionary spirit. Then there is the contra-parallel between Saturn and Neptune. Much more could be said, but I'll leave the fun of discovering that for yourself.

This article originally appeared in the December 2007-January 2008 issue of the NCGR memberletter.

Point	Longitude	Decl.
Moon	27°Aq10'16"	-14°12'
Sun	13°Cn19'21"	+22°48'
Mercury	24°Cn11'50" R	+17°29'
Venus	03°Cn06'17"	+23°31'
Mars	21°Ge22'32"	+23°34'
Jupiter	05°Cn56'00"	+23°15'
Saturn	14°Li48'20"	-03°31'
Uranus	08°Ge55'17"	+21°44'
Neptune	22°Vi25'10"	+04°09'
Pluto	27°Cp32'57" R	-23°43'
N. Node	06°Le35'48"	+18°38'
S. Node	06°Aq35'48"	-18°38'
Asc	12°Sg21'13"	-22°18'
MC	01°Li03'28"	-00°25'

Aspects

- Jupiter 23N15 parallel Venus 23N31
- Jupiter 23N15 parallel Mars 23N34
- Jupiter 23N15 widely parallel Sun 22N48 (33')
- Venus 23N31 parallel Mars 23N34 (Out-of-bounds parallel)
- Mercury 17N29 parallel, contra-parallel Nodes 18N/S38
- Saturn 03S31 contra-parallel Neptune 04N09
- Uranus 21N44 contra-parallel Ascendant 22S18
- Ascendant 22S18 contra-parallel Sun 22N48
- Venus 23N31 contra-parallel Pluto 23S43 (Out-of-bounds contra-parallel)
- Mars 23N34 contra-parallel Pluto 23S43 (Out-of-bounds contra-parallel)
- Jupiter 23N15 contra-parallel Pluto 23S43
- (Venus 23N31 parallel Mars 23N34 contra-parallel Pluto 23S43 (all three Out-of-bounds, a very unusual aspect).

Chart Data

- **U.S. "Sibly" Chart**, July 4 1776; 5:10 PM LMT, Philadelphia, PA, 39N57, 75W09. **Source.** Originally published in 1787 by freemason Ebenezer Sibly. Cited in *The Book of World Horoscopes*, by Nicholas Campion, (Bournemouth: The Wessex Astrologer Ltd., 2004) 363. First published in 1988 by Aquarian Press.

References

1. Kt Boehrer, *Declination the Other Dimension*, 1st Ed., El Paso: Fortunata Press, 1994, p. 38.
2. Leigh Westin, *Beyond the Solstice by Declination*, 2nd Ed., Brookhaven: Gheminee, 2001.
3. Leigh Westin, "Great Objectives, Part II," *The Other Dimension*, Vol. 8, No.1., p. 15. (A graduated declination orb was first suggested by Charles Jayne in *Parallels: Their Hidden Meaning*, Monroe: Astrological Bureau, 1978.)
4. Kt Boehrer, *Declination the Other Dimension*, p.13.



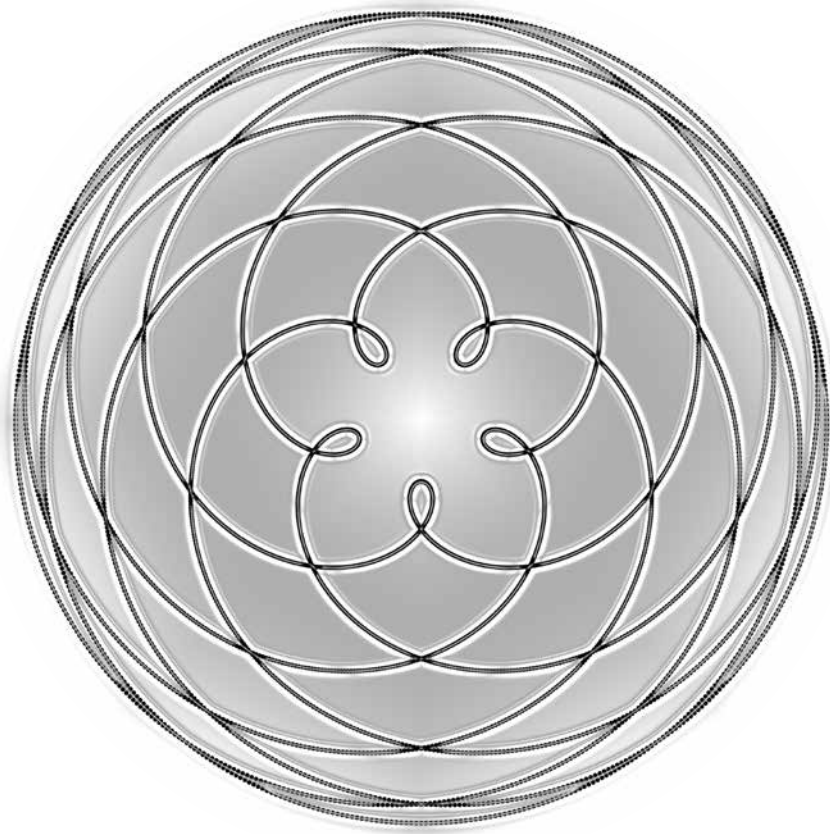
Leigh Westin

(MS, MA, DFAstroS, C.A. NCGR-PAA) is a researcher, author, protégé of Kt Boehrer, editor of *The Other Dimension* (Declination SIG newsletter) and former editor of NCGR's *Geocosmic Journal*. She discovered Venus and Mars out-of-bounds in fixed signs and originated a declination premise from Earth's dynamics, the basis of true antiscia, and the theory of progressed LunarSeasons™. Leigh's book *Beyond the Solstice*, was cited by the *Mountain Astrologer* magazine for "its wealth of information...by a highly creative astrological thinker." She can be reached at lwestin75@sbcglobal.net.



"The love that moves the sun and the other stars"

—Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*



Retrograde Cycle of Venus and Mars

Stations, Conjunctions, and Oppositions

by Ronnie Gale Dreyer

To understand the nature and power of a planet's retrograde cycle, which occurs as a planet moves closer to the Earth, it is important to recognize its key components—the retrograde station, the conjunction or opposition with the Sun, and the direct station.

When a planet stations, it first slows, then stops or stations retrograde, then appears to move backwards for a period of days, weeks, or months, causing it to linger longer than usual in a portion of the zodiac. At some point in the cycle, the planet slows once more, stations direct, and then moves forward again. Of course this is all from the standpoint of the observer on Earth. According to Jeff Mayo in *The Astrologer's Astronomical Handbook*:

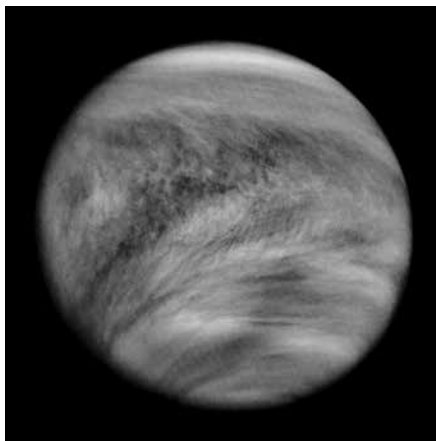
All planets revolve around the Sun from west to east, which is termed their direct motion. Due, however, to

the Earth's own orbital motion in the same direction, the other planets at certain times appear to the observer on the Earth to gradually slow down until they "stop" or "stand still," before moving in the reverse (clockwise) direction to normal. When a planet moves in this reverse direction along the ecliptic it is said to be retrograde.

(Jeff Mayo, *The Astrologer's Astronomical Handbook*, Essex, UK: L.N. Fowler & Co., Ltd., 1965, p. 113).

The degrees that fall in between the planet's retrograde and direct stations get hit three times—during its initial direct motion before it stations, when it retrogrades, and then when it goes direct again. This period, which begins the first time a planet hits the degree of the eventual direct station, and ends the last time it leaves the degree of the retrograde station, is known as the retrograde arc, or shadow.

Due to their upcoming retrograde periods, I will focus on Venus and Mars throughout this article. The following are key dates for their 2013-2014 retrograde cycles, according to the tropical and sidereal zodiac, using the Krishnamurti ayanamsha. (The phenomenon of the retrograde cycle applies to planetary motion and, therefore, all zodiacs. If you utilize sidereal positions, then simply subtract whichever ayanamsha you use to arrive at the exact sidereal position.)



Venus retrogrades approximately every 584 days for a period of 41-42 days. Venus will enter its shadow (degree of the direct station) on November 20, 2013 at 13 Capricorn 48 (sidereal 19 Sagittarius 37). It stations retrograde on December 21, 2013 at 28 Capricorn 50 (sidereal 4 Capricorn 52), conjoins the Sun on January 11, 2014 at 21 Capricorn 12 (sidereal 27 Sagittarius 14), stations direct on January 31, 2014 at 13 Capricorn 48 (sidereal 19 Sagittarius 37), and leaves its shadow (degree of the retrograde station) on March 4, 2014 at 28 Capricorn 50 (sidereal 4 Capricorn 52).

Mars retrogrades approximately every 775 days for a period of 70 days. Mars enters its retrograde arc (degree of the direct station) on December 26, 2013 at 9 Libra 5 (sidereal 15 Virgo 3), stations retrograde on March 1, 2014 at 27 Libra 31 (sidereal 3 Libra 34), forms an opposition with the Sun on April 8, 2014 at 18 Libra-Aries (sidereal 24 Virgo-Pisces 59), stations direct on May 20, 2014 at 9 Libra 5 (sidereal 15 Virgo 3'), and leaves its retrograde arc (degree of the retrograde station) on July 21, 2014 at 27 Libra 31 (sidereal 3 Libra 34).

This means that a normal 1-2 day transit of Venus will be extended to 3 1/2 months, and the transit of Mars, which would normally last for 3-4 days, will now extend its influence for 6 1/2 months. Take note if you have a personal planet or point on or aspecting the span of degrees in between, and including, the planetary stations, since they will be vulnerable to the lingering transits of Venus and Mars.

While each degree within the retrograde arc is sensitive as it is crossed three times, it is the powerful stationary points, which frame a planet's retrograde cycle, that accurately indicate and force life trends and events by activating planets, points, or angles in the natal chart. With the transiting planet slow in motion around its stationary point, its effects are always more potent than a transit (whether direct or

retrograde) that moves more quickly. After all, how can you compare the effect of a fleeting gaze to that of a fixed stare?

Indian astrologers have always considered retrogrades to be highly significant and pronounced due to their proximity to the Earth, and the way in which they linger. A retrograde benefic may be too excessive or too slow to produce its maximum rewards, while a retrograde malefic may cause

more harm than good. At any rate, the natural tendency of the planet will be emphasized, and then modified by any other transiting planets that aspect or conjoin the planet at the time it is retrograde. For example, when Mars retrograded July 29-September 27, 2003, it was closest to the Earth than it had been in a few thousand years. Throughout that summer, there was a deadly European heat wave, and on August 14, there was an electrical blackout throughout Eastern North America. Retrograde Mars, which produced excessive heat and havoc, was also conjunct Uranus (sudden electrical disturbance), coloring the nature of the retrograde transit.

Venus Retrograde Periods

During Venus retrograde periods, the ability to love, value, and earn may be curtailed or delayed. Money markets will probably not rebound as quickly, and people may be stuck in relationship limbo. If single, you may not meet people as quickly, or a new relationship may simply take longer to blossom. Of course this all depends on how the retrograde affects you personally, and if it affects points or planets in your chart.

During Venus retrograde periods, we may look forward to even more saving and conserving, rather than borrowing and spending. Even if you wanted to indulge in a second home or new car, you may not have much of a choice, since lending institutions will continue to be cautious, and extra funds might not be readily available as in the past.

Try not to act impulsively when it comes to matters of the heart or bank account. If it can be avoided, try not to get married, plan a honeymoon, or ask for a raise or promotion. Wait until Venus goes direct to do the legwork if you are involved in mediation, lawsuits, or job negotiations, and wait another week or two until Venus regains its speed, to pursue them fully. What makes Venus retrograde periods

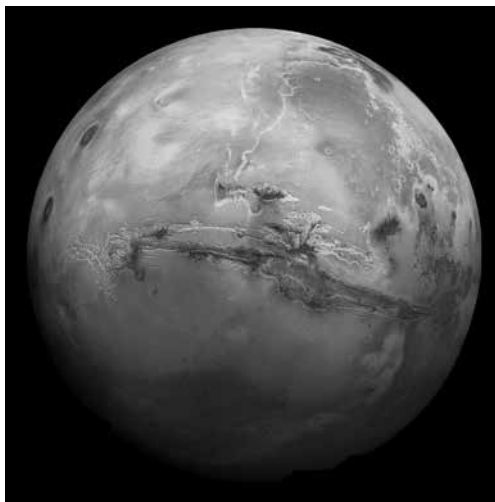
productive are the time and space they offer for planning strategies. Take time to reflect and review areas pertaining to Venus, or the areas of your chart that Venus occupies and rules.

Mars Retrograde Periods

During Mars retrograde, the ability to act compassionately and diplomatically will be thoroughly tested. If you have any personal planets or points within the degrees of the Mars stations, your patience may be tested more than usual. You may be confronted with situations where your mouth moves faster than your mind or heart, and you will have to work hard to develop patience, listening skills, and control what you say. Under normal circumstances, if we have words with someone, it usually blows over the next day. With Mars, planet of action and aggression, lingering close to the Earth, it is not as easy for arguments to blow over, or for anger to subside.

A perfect example of unsuccessfully trying to avert the wrath of Mars occurred during its 2005 retrograde cycle. Mars stationed retrograde on October 1, 2005 at 23° Taurus 22', and stationed direct on December 10, 2005 at 8° Taurus 14'. A colleague (whom we will call Leah) knew that Mars was approaching her 23° Taurus Midheaven, and would station and linger there from September 24-October 8, 2005. Additionally, the New Moon on May 13, 2005 occurred at 22° Taurus 23', while the Full Moon on November 16, 2005, occurred at 23° Taurus 46'. To make that degree even more pronounced, Leah began a lucrative job in May, 2000, when the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction at 22° Taurus 43' crossed her Midheaven. Since she was still employed there at the time of the Mars station, we assumed, and rightly so, that this transit would relate to that particular job, rather than career in general. (An astrologer's forecasting tool kit should always consist of a record of sensitive points, which include lunations, eclipses, stations, and aspect combinations.)

Around the New Moon in May, 2005, Leah knew that she had to downsize her workload. She was completely stressed, overworked, and her employer, with whom she had a great relationship, had suddenly become a strict taskmaster. It made perfect sense that as the Mars station and subsequent retrograde approached, the nature of her employment and relationship with her boss was bound to change. Sensing the potential for anger and hostility, Leah decided to be tactful,



swallow criticisms, and slowly but surely look for another job.

Even with 20-20 foresight, the innate nature of a planet often takes over, no matter how much you try to bypass or avoid it. One day in late September with the Mars station approaching, Leah's boss caught her off guard and critiqued her work in a harsh way. Without thinking, Leah stormed back at her. The moment she did, she knew that given the climate of the retrograde station—Mars was close to the Earth, and in

a grand cross by sign with Saturn in Leo, Jupiter in Scorpio, and Neptune in Aquarius—this would be the beginning of the end of their relationship.

This is a perfect example of a situation where even awareness of what lies ahead cannot always change the situation at hand, unless you are in a state of total preparedness all the time. While most of us aspire to that state of mind, it is a daunting process not to be caught off guard, no matter how hard we try. The nature of Mars, and the fact that Leah reacted in typical Mars fashion, reiterates the power of the retrograde stations. While her knowledge of astrology allowed her to be somewhat prepared, Leah still succumbed to that one moment, and could not prevent the ending of a once productive relationship.

In the end, everything happens for a reason, and losing her job made Leah realize that she was indeed ready for a change. Of course, she would have preferred to do it on her own terms and according to her own timetable. But that is the nature of Mars—sharp, quick, and right to the point.

Conjunctions and Oppositions

Though each planet retrogrades for different lengths of time, two common astronomical factors are: 1) the planet slows in motion during its retrograde cycle, and 2) midway through the retrograde cycle, the planet lies closest to the Earth in its orbit around the Sun, forming either an inferior conjunction with the Sun in the case of the inferior planets, or an opposition with the Sun, in the case of the superior planets. These conjunctions and oppositions also produce powerful, sensitive degrees, which are activated when transited by other planets, or activate positions in your chart. What is especially revealing is the chart that is

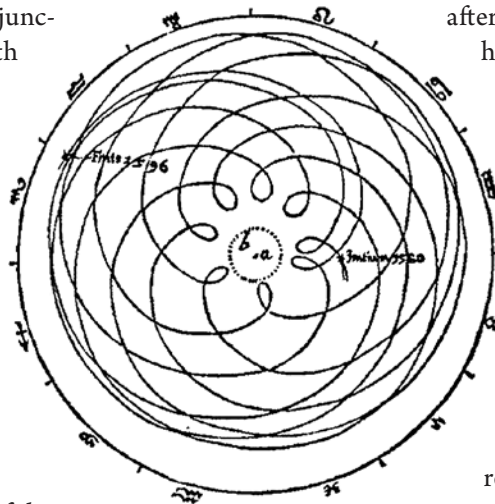
drawn for the exact moment of the conjunction or opposition, much like we do with an eclipse or station.

The inferior planets, Mercury and Venus, whose orbits lie between the Sun and the Earth, will always form an inferior conjunction with the Sun (i.e., between the Sun and the Earth) when it is exactly in the middle of its retrograde cycle, and closest to the Earth. This conjunction alternates with its superior conjunction with the Sun, which occurs when the planet is direct and on the far side of the Sun.

The duration of time between conjunctions of the same type (inferior to inferior, or superior to superior) is called its synodic period. Venus goes from inferior to superior conjunction every 287 days or so, but its synodic period, which goes from inferior to inferior conjunction, or from superior to superior conjunction, occurs every 584 days. The inferior conjunction, always occurs on the 21st day of the 41-42 retrograde cycle. During this upcoming Venus retrograde period, Venus conjoins the Sun midway through the cycle on January 11, 2014 at 21° Capricorn 12', with the heliacal rising occurring a few days later.

The superior planets (Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto), whose orbits lie beyond that of Earth, are the only planets that form an opposition to the Sun (with the Earth between the Sun and the planet, heliocentrically), and also do so at the moment they are closest to the Earth, and exactly in the middle of its retrograde cycle. During next year's Mars retrograde period, Mars will be at 18 Libra when it forms its opposition to the Sun at 18 Aries on April 8, 2014, midway between the retrograde station on March 1, 2014 and the direct station on May 20, 2014. We will have to wait and see what these will bring.

As inferior planets, Mercury and Venus are the only two planets that appear as both a morning and evening star. The inferior conjunction, in which Mercury and Venus are overpowered and camouflaged by the Sun's rays, marks the changeover from their position as an evening star, when it rises and sets after the Sun, to its position as a morning star, when it rises and sets before the Sun. In the same way, the superior conjunction marks the changeover from morning star to evening star. The first and last time Venus is seen rising and setting as a Morning or Evening Star before and



after conjunction with the Sun is called its heliacal rising or heliacal setting.

Whereas Mercury's orbit is erratic, quick, and not easily visible due to its small size and fast motion, Venus's cycle from Morning Star to Evening Star and back again has been observed and admired for centuries. In the first place, it is the brightest planet in the night sky next to the Sun and the Moon.

Secondly, Venus's cycle is perfectly reliable in the way it returns to approximately the same degree every eight years, thus forming the same relationship with the Sun.

This eight year period is the time it takes Venus to complete five synodic cycles, or conjunctions of the same type (inferior or superior). If you plot this cycle of five like conjunctions across the sky, Venus will have formed a beautiful five pointed star with five powerful zodiacal degrees.

As Venus moves closer to Earth on its way toward inferior conjunction, it shines throughout the night as a brilliant, white evening star. Its placid beauty led the Sumerians to deem this aspect of Venus a peaceful and loving Goddess who lulled everyone to sleep. When Venus heliacally rises as a morning star, 3-5 days after its inferior conjunction with the Sun, its bright white light darts across the early morning sky, disappearing and reappearing a few times before it finally reemerges. This lightning-like vision led ancient cultures to paint a more ominous picture of this phase of Venus. The Sumerians deemed the morning star a warrior goddess who encouraged soldiers to go to war, and other cultures feared the heliacal rising and stayed indoors. Since ancient astrologers arrived at conclusions by pure observation, it is no wonder that the Evening Star Venus was deemed peaceful, and the Morning Star Venus was thought to wreak havoc. You can see this for yourself by viewing the night sky in the two months preceding the retrograde station, and the pre-dawn sky a few days after the inferior conjunction during its heliacal rising.

In the months preceding their retrograde stations, Venus and Mars become more and more visible in the night sky as they descend closer towards Earth in their orbits around the Sun. Just as Venus is at its brightest before its retrograde station, Mars will display its brilliant red hue more clearly as it approaches its retrograde station. But unlike Venus, which disappears from view as it nears conjunction with the Sun (midpoint of the Venus retrograde cycle), the red planet will

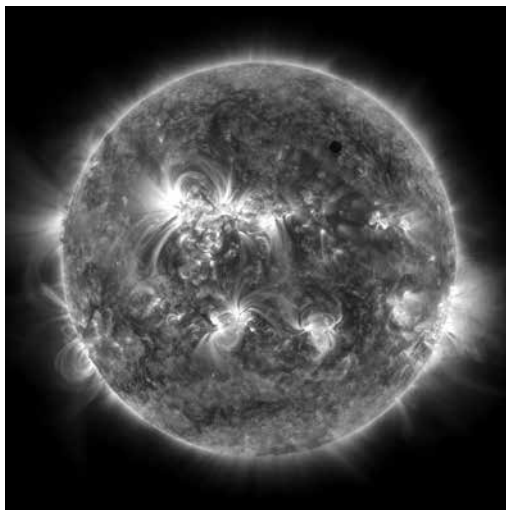
be most visible and easy to watch the nearer it gets to opposition with the Sun (midpoint of the Mars retrograde cycle).

Sun-Venus Conjunction

It is no wonder that powerful occurrences often occur around the time of the Sun-Mars opposition and the Sun-Venus inferior conjunction, when they are close to the Earth. In the case of Venus, events often come to light around the heliacal rising, which occurs three to five days after conjunction and marks the transition from Venus the evening star, which rises after the Sun, to the morning star, which rises before the Sun. The ancients characterized this phenomenon in the sky with the death and rebirth of the fertility Goddess as she descends into, and reemerges from, the Underworld. It is no wonder that this transition to the morning star phase of Venus is thought to bring pandemonium, hostilities, and violence.

The following list includes dates and degrees of some Sun-Venus conjunctions accompanied by the coinciding dramatic events. Note that the culmination of the event often occurs a few days later, around the heliacal rising.

- **November 2, 1994, 10 Scorpio 18.** Susan Smith made headlines on October 25 when she reported that her two children were abducted by a dark-skinned man, setting off a nationwide search. After she finally confessed to pushing her car into a lake with the children inside, authorities recovered their bodies (literally from the underworld on November 3, which was also the date of the solar eclipse. The United States elections on November 8 marked the Republican victory in the House of Representatives, giving Republicans control of Congress.
- **January 16, 1998, 26 Capricorn 7.** On January 21, 1998, Linda Tripp's tapes of conversations with Monica Lewinsky revealed that Lewinsky and President Clinton were having an affair. (We all know what happened next!)
- **March 30, 2001, 9 Aries 32.** On April 1, 2001, a U.S. Navy reconnaissance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet, causing the death of the Chinese pilot. The U.S. plane made an emergency landing, and the Chi-



nese detained the plane and its crew. After President George W. Bush sent a condolence note with no apology (as the Chinese asked), the crew was released on April 11. The plane was returned in July after it was thoroughly stripped and searched.

- **October 31, 2002, 7 Scorpio 53.** Chechen militants took around 850 hostages in a Moscow theater on October 23. Three days later, Russian forces stormed the building resulting in the deaths of the terrorists and over 120 hostages. Many of

the hostages suffered lasting effects from the poisoned gas Russian troops pumped into the ventilation system to free the hostages. (Due to the eight year cycle, this inferior conjunction occurred around the same degree as the inferior conjunction in 1994 as shown above.)

- **June 8, 2004, 17 Gemini 53.** Ronald Reagan died on June 5, 2004. The state funeral was held in Washington D.C. on June 11, followed by interment in California later that day.

While some events are more dramatic than others, the inferior conjunction is a good time to get your house in order, as things can happen without warning that shake up your life, especially if the degree of the conjunction hits a point or planet in your chart.

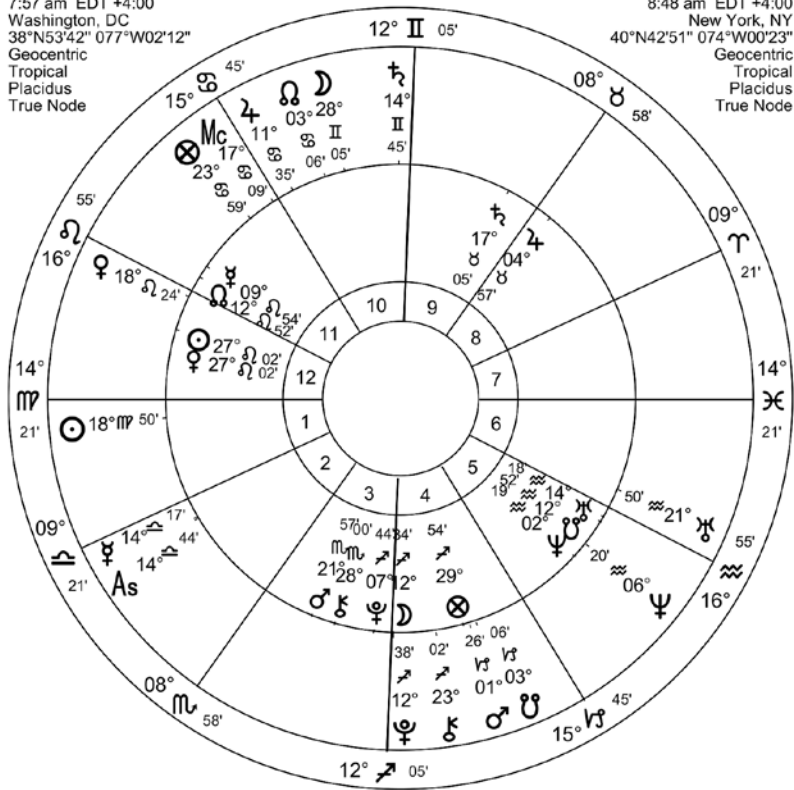
Significance of Degrees

In addition to looking at the events that occur around the inferior conjunction, the chart of the conjunction itself—the midpoint of the retrograde cycle—is especially sensitive and revealing. While most astrologers draw charts for ingresses, eclipses, stations, and other phenomena, it is not often that astrologers draw a chart for the moment of the inferior conjunction or opposition with the Sun. In addition to events occurring when planets transit that degree, the angles of the chart drawn for that moment are sensitized as well.

An example of this is the chart of the Sun-Venus inferior conjunction that took place August 20, 1999, just 11 days after the August 11 total solar eclipse (see chart on p. 81), powerful due to the fixed grand cross formed by the eclipse. This eclipse linked to the charts of the World Trade Center

Inner Wheel
 Fig 1. Sun-Venus Conjunction
 Natal Chart
 Aug 20 1999
 7:57 am EDT +4:00
 Washington, DC
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

Outer Wheel
 World Trade Center Attack
 Natal Chart
 Sep 11 2001
 8:48 am EDT +4:00
 New York, NY
 40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



and Pentagon attacks, with Morning Star Venus at 18° Leo transiting the 1999 eclipse point on September 11, 2001. More profound, however, is the connection between the Saturn-Pluto opposition on September 11, and the chart of the August 20, 1999 Sun-Venus inferior conjunction set for Washington D.C.

In this chart (see Fig 1), the Moon at 12° Sagittarius 35' is conjunct the IC at 12° Sagittarius 5'. On September 11, transiting Pluto at 12° Sagittarius 38' exactly conjoined that degree. Additionally, transiting Saturn at 14° Gemini 45', conjoined the chart's Midheaven at 12° Gemini 5', but exactly squared the Ascendant-Descendant at 14° Virgo-Pisces 21'. If the conjunction chart is calculated for New York City, and not Washington D.C., the Midheaven would then be 14° Gemini 55', even closer to transiting Saturn, but a bit farther from transiting Pluto. Ultimately, whichever city the chart is set for conjoins the Saturn-Pluto opposition. Furthermore, the Sun-Venus conjunction itself is squared by Mars, indicating the chart's Martian flavor. While the MC-IC axis conjoins the Ascendant-Descendant of the Sibly United States chart, the conjunction chart is even more powerful, since the Sibly chart is still anyone's guess as to whether it is accurate.

While we do not always want to use 9/11 as the only example of a catastrophic event, its magnitude makes it a good gauge for showing the efficacy of a transit. The chart of the August 20 Sun-Venus conjunction shows how this retrograde cycle midpoint, which is close to the earth, is as sensitive a degree as an eclipse, ingress, or planetary station.

Sun-Mars Opposition

Looking at the Sun-Mars opposition as a chart of great impact is obviously not a stretch, given the planet's abrupt, physical, and aggressive nature. During the summer and autumn of 2005, prior to the Mars retrograde station on October 1, we saw a series of powerful physical events that rocked the earth, namely Hurricane Katrina (August 23-August 31), the Kashmir earthquake (October 8), and Hurricane Wilma (October 15-25). These dramatic events were heightened due to the fact that Mars in Taurus formed a wide t-square by sign with Saturn in Leo and Neptune in Aquarius from August-October, and then by degree from November through mid-January. (Sidereally, Mars was in Aries, Saturn in Cancer, and Neptune in Capricorn.)

While the Kashmir earthquake and Hurricane Wilma occurred during Mars retrograde, Hurricane Katrina occurred prior to the October 1 retrograde station, but still within the retrograde arc (the degree of the direct station), which Mars entered on August 12 at 8° Taurus. What made Hurricane Katrina (landfall as Category 3 Hurricane occurred on August 29, 2005 at 6:10 AM, CDT, Buras LA) so powerful astrologically stems, in my opinion, from the fact that between August 23-August 31, transiting Mars (heat) at 13-16° Taurus squared Neptune (water) at 15° Aquarius. This square hit and, in turn, activated the November 7 Sun-Mars opposition, which occurred at 15° Scorpio 1'-15° Taurus 1' (see Fig 2 and 3 on p. 82).

In addition to the fact that Mars was so close to the earth, what gave this opposition its punch was the fixed grand cross it formed with Saturn and Neptune. This configuration defined the nature of the Sun-Mars opposition and, as a result, the nature of the event (Hurricane Katrina) that occurred when Mars reached the opposition degree, even though it occurred prior to the opposition itself. Between the time that Mars entered its shadow on August 12, until it stationed retrograde on October 1 at 23° Taurus, the only

Fig. 2. Hurricane Katrina
 Natal Chart
 Aug 29 2005
 6:10 am CDT +5:00
 Buras, LA
 29°N21'06" 089°W31'27"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node

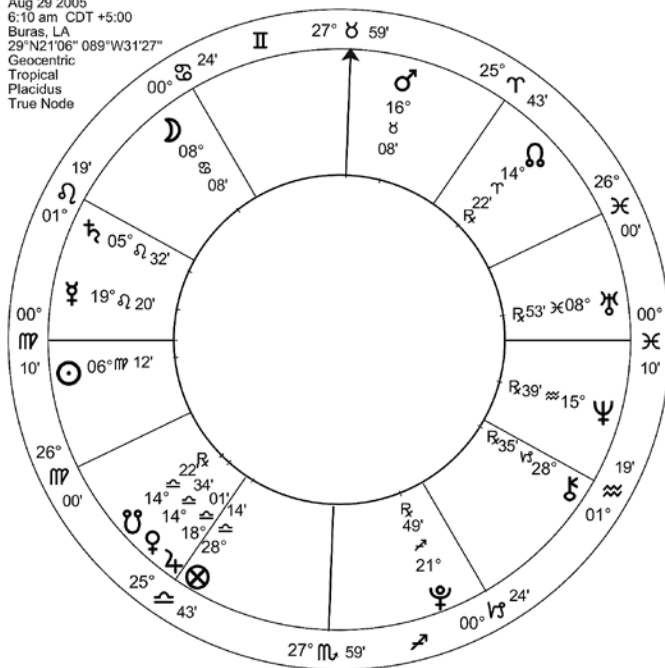
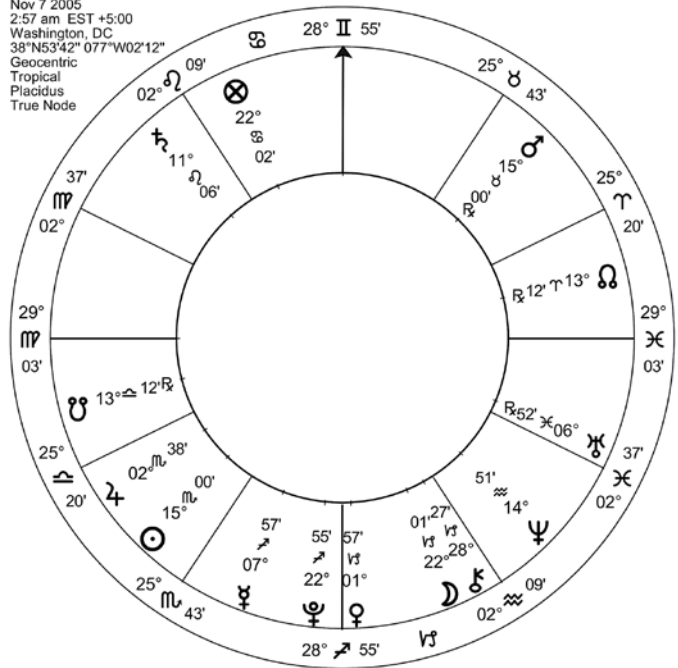


Fig. 3 Sun-Mars Opposition
 Natal Chart
 Nov 7 2005
 2:57 am EST +5:00
 Washington, DC
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



time Mars conjoined the opposition point was during the Hurricane. When you deal with vital degrees like eclipses, stations, conjunctions, and oppositions, any time a planet crosses that point, an event is likely to occur. (In 2005, the eclipses occurred on October 3 and October 17, which also made this Mars retrograde more powerful.)

Upcoming Mars Retrograde

The upcoming Mars retrograde promises to be quite intense, because it will be squaring Pluto, Jupiter, and opposing Uranus at various times between the time it first enters its retrograde arc on December 26, 2013 at 9 Libra 5, and the time it leaves on July 21, 2014 at 27 Libra 31. The most intense time, however, will occur from April 23-26, 2014, when Mars will be part of an exact grand cross with Mars at 13 Libra, Pluto at 13 Capricorn, Uranus at 13 Aries, and Jupiter at 13 Cancer. By the time this particular grand cross manifests (cardinal in the tropical zodiac, and mutable in the sidereal zodiac), however, there will be warnings of what will take place prior to that time. Since Mars is retrograde, which means slow and close to the earth, there is no doubt that this will be a period to watch when it comes to global events like market fluctuations, climactic irregularities, natural disasters, and of course, wars and uprisings. Time will tell, but if we have learned anything from astrological history, we know that the red planet will make its presence felt, one way or another.

This article originally appeared in two parts in the August-September 2007 and October-November 2007 issues of the NCGR memberletter. The dates of the Venus and Mars retrograde periods have been updated to reflect the upcoming cycles.



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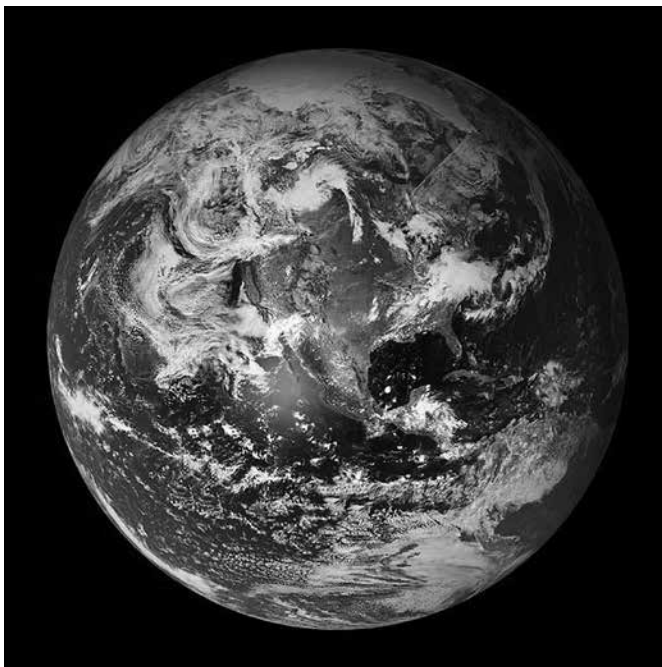
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