Happy Astrology Day, Happy New Astrology Year!

The OPA board met mid January to discuss the next steps for the organization. We are both excited and vigilant about navigating the next phase through the Saturn/Pluto landscape, finding the best ways to enhance OPA’s programs and the development of Astrology.

We take the time this edition to celebrate Astrology Day to honor our craft, our passion, and express gratitude for everything that astrology gives us and humanity. Astrology Day is also an opportunity to keep our enthusiasm strong as we confront misunderstanding, prejudice, and ignorance, keeping our flame strong.

We were delighted to have an insightful and productive OPA LIVE session on March 17, demonstrating how radically different systems approach the analysis of the same chart. A Vedic, an Evolutionary, a Sacred Astronomy, and a Traditional Astrologer came to very pertinent and accurate conclusions through very different routes. Their approach is outlined in this issue.

We will also explore the practices of Esoteric and Karmic Astrology, all around showcasing the Rainbow Nation of Astrology!

Planetary Nodes—As Pluto and Saturn transits are trotting over their own South Node, between 19-22 Capricorn, we take this opportunity to further explore the meanings of Planetary Nodes. They may not be as popular as the Moon’s Nodes (yet), but many astrologers have found them to be of prime relevance in chart analysis. Look for Maurice Fernandez’s and Anne Ortelee’s articles on the topic.

Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA
May 18 – OPA EastBay California Event. Kay Taylor, Linea Van Horn, and Bear Ryver present three talks for the local community.

July – ONLINE Fundamentals in Astrology Sessions, 12 sessions covering the stepping stones to read and better navigate chart analysis.

July 25-29 – CONSULTING SKILLS IN SEDONA, with Kay Taylor and Alexandra Karacostas. An amazing residential retreat in the beautiful red rocks. Maximum 12 participants. This program is part of OPA Certification process

August 27-30 – PEER GROUP in Baltimore, ahead of the NCGR Astrology Conference. 3 Peer Groups are available. 12 participants max. Special hotel room rates. This program is part of OPA Certification process

Sept 3-5 – Athens Greece, PEER GROUP following the Astrology Conference symposium. This program is part of OPA Certification process

Sept 10-12 – Edmonton, Canada, Integrative Consulting Skills with Kay Taylor and Donna Young. FOLLOWED BY

Sept 16-18 – Edmonton, Canada, Peer Group with Donna Young. These programs are part of OPA Certification process

April 2020 – OPA RETREAT

We are ecstatic to have confirmed the location for the NEXT OPA RETREAT: 2020

Part 1 – April 16-19: including 12 track retreat.
Part 2 – April 20-22: Peer Group + OPA Consulting Skills + Astronomy for Astrologers

More details will follow!
Mark your calendar for the event of the year!
A Glimpse of Karmic Astrology as Practiced in Europe

by Anne Sundell

In the 11th century the Muslims came to Europe, and with them a book that would become very important for astrology. When translated into Spanish, this book is called “El libro coplido en los judizzlies de las estrellas” and was written by one of King Alfonso’s men. This was the complete book of the mysteries of the stars, and it is probably one element to the old Spanish tradition of astrology that is still practiced today. There are endless stories that could be written about the interesting history of astrology in Europe, but this article will concentrate on highlighting some different methods used in karmic astrology today. For further reading on the history behind this, please check references below.

The Nodes Chart

One of the important sources was the late Bruno Huber (1930-1999), a Swiss astrologer and founder of the Huber School of astrology, which serves as an important Psychological branch of astrology in Europe. He developed a method where several charts were used as reflectors or mirrors of the actual birth chart, aiming to get a deeper understanding of the personality. The Huber system aims to get to the root cause of a problem and the unconscious behaviours involved. Today there is still an active Huber School in Barcelona, and several of Huber’s books recently re-published.

One of the charts especially refers to the karmic past. This is calculated based on the Moon’s Nodes, and is called the Nodal or the karmic chart. In this chart, a person’s behaviour that might stem from earlier incarnations is present and compared with the birth chart. The Nodal chart shows ties in the area of the subconscious and gives information about the depths of the soul’s journey.

By comparing it to the natal chart, we get a picture of which lessons and experiences from the past might still affect us in this lifetime. The chart is calculated using the Koch house system, and as seen in the example below, the signs of the charts are moving in the opposite direction compared to the Radix chart. (Chart example below.)

The Node chart contains the same aspect figures as the birth chart but its ascendant is set by the North Node in the birth chart. The Nodal chart provides a mirror of the birth chart. The planets positions show the areas of life where the soul has experiences from previous lifetimes. The houses they occupy also tell about the qualities the soul brings.
At the change of chart cycles a person is usually experiencing a state of turmoil or an overlapping period that might be experienced as a turning point in life.

they developed a method where the prenatal New Moon and the following New Moons create a system of the individual karmic journey throughout life. This system consists of four phases that are individually calculated, highlighting different developmental phases and important turning points. These phases are referred to as the New Moon cycles and each one is 29 years of length. (Chart example below.)

Based on the birth time, the prenatal Moon is determined and this chart is called the Karmic New Moon chart. The chart is said to give information about the energies the soul brings into this life from before birth. The timeline this chart is operating in the person's life provides information about how long the karmic issues will remain strongly influential. The next chart is called Family New Moon and describes the time a person is predisposed to the duties either in the childhood family or in their own family surroundings. This is a time when family centred life is still influencing the individual strongly. Usually, but not always, this chart dominates until middle age, when the next turning point begins.

At the change of chart cycles a person is usually experiencing a state of turmoil or an overlapping period that might be experienced as a turning point in life. Often people remember these times very clearly and can tell about what happened during the shift period. I have noticed that clients express an especially stark feeling of change at the end period of the Family New Moon cycle. Because these are significant periods, a change will be taking place over a series of months or years. It’s therefore not possible to determine an exact date for the cycle break, even if you might get an exact calculated date for the cycle break.

The last two charts of the Weiss and Bachmann system are associated with the person’s own development. During the Individual New Moon cycle, it is finally possible for the soul to live it’s own desires and goals, despite other people’s opinions. Responsibility for the family is decreased and the time is available for fulfilment. This period then continues until the last shift to the final chart called the Transcendental New Moon. This chart tells about the last closing phase, and is set without an end date as it continues to the end of life. I have seen that this chart might have similarities with the Karmic New Moon, acting as a closing phase for the cycle.

Special Karmas

In France, Astrologer Irene Andrieu has studied and developed the Karmic astrological views in an interesting manner. During a lifetime of work, she has come up with the subject of Special Karmic aspects referred to as a person having a specific karmic mission. According to Andrieu, a special karma means that the soul has made an agreement to complete certain areas or lessons, maybe highlighting some karmic issues during this lifetime. Her views are based on the free will of the soul to choose or to neglect certain karmic issues. These karmas include challenges that will highlight certain themes in the birth chart.

There are several different methods for determining these special karmas, which are rarely found in a chart. The special karmas need to be calculated by hand. Andrieu also stresses the importance of acknowledging the Moon's Nodes and their rulers, together with the elements they are placed in. She views the house of the Nodes as more important than the sign placement because of its individuality in the Placidus house system. The house is seen as the area of life where the native should express the karmic energy passed towards the North Node. The elements are interpreted as a form of wholeness, leading to a synthesis of the Nodes. Andrieu further connects these Nodal placements to the Hinduism caste systems and their spiritual meanings.
Voids and Karma

The missing parts in the chart have also been a subject for karmic astrology studies, and an astrologer who has contributed to this field is English astrologer Janis Huntley. Huntley’s view on unaspected planets is interesting as she thinks they are karmic gifts, lessons already learned in one or previous lives. According to her, it is possible to fall back into the traps of the planet, misusing its power or losing control in the areas concerned. If a person manages to use the energies wisely, a planet without aspects might be a blessing and a strength, representing an old wise soul that has something to share with the surrounding world. These unintegrated planets are also quite rare. In a study by Huntley of 400 birth charts only 13 had an unaspected Sun, and 7 an unaspected Moon. To determine if a planet is unaspected, it cannot make more than one aspect within an orb of 3 degrees.

It is commonly said to be the case that when elements are missing, they might be overcompensated for in the chart. Huntley doesn’t fully buy this theory. She thinks that people might be unaware of the missing element and that would make it very hard or even impossible for them to express that quality in any way. If this is due to a karmic issue, examining the sign of the north Node might give further information. If it’s placed in the same missing element, there may be a deeper karmic issue.

It’s maybe not a surprise that Hitler had a lack of water in his chart or Bill Gates a lack of earth. Hitler didn’t cope well with the feeling nature, whereas Gates certainly did with the wealth of earth. This might speak for some people being able to handle a void when others cannot.

Karma and Relationships

There are many forms of karma and reasons for incarnating presented. We often idealize soul relationships as something unproblematic and divine, and might forget that when karmas are concerned there is likely also some work to be done.

English Astrologer Judy Hall has studied the different forms of karmic relationships and suggests that in relationship karmas there might be quite a few issues around dependence, duty, love and hate, guilt, specific tasks, attitudes or revenge. Hall describes the different karmic connections in detail in her book Karmic Connections. She places interest in understanding why a specific soul chooses a specific chart, as she believes every chart is fitted for every soul.

This might also be something to look out for when we fall head over heels for someone. A karmic relationship is defined as a fast and immediate attraction that might not fit the social standards. Or an instant attraction that can’t be ignored. A certain lesson to be learned?

Starting in Spain and working through different European countries, karmic astrology is seen to have been developed into some specialized systems and niches in different schools. Rather than working against each other they might complement each other.

In my own work using several systems, I’ve noticed that clients seeking advice from karmic astrology many times have some karmic issues or special karmas found in their charts, as if they already knew that karmic astrology could somehow provide a deeper answer to their questions. And maybe that is possible. It’s still quite rare to see special karmas in charts, and every time it’s thrilling to examine a new case!

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Anne Sundell holds a Masters Degree in Developmental Psychology and a Diploma from the Mercury Internet School of Psychological Astrology (MISPA). She is also a published author and lecturer, and currently serves as the Finnish Satellite for OPA. Her fields of interest are Psychological and Karmic Astrology

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KAY TAYLOR: Sex Love Crazy—The Practical Edition
Chart themes show us why we seek certain types of people: Unavailable? Cut and run? Unfaithful? Or why one person waits for “the one” and others prefer freedom, polyamory or simply to be alone. We need to know personal relationship wiring first—then we can look at simple chart compatibility techniques. To know our true nature, to understand our beloveds, and then to evolve to express our strengths is the gift of relationship astrology.

LINEA VAN HORN: Those Pesky Outer Planets—Putting Them in Perspective
The discovery of Uranus in 1750 turned astrology on its head. Neptune’s emergence coincided with the first use of anesthesia. We found Pluto at the same time nuclear energy was harnessed. Clearly these planets are “transpersonal” (beyond the personal), yet have somehow overtaken the field of personal astrology, resulting in the loss of long-held principles. Can invisible planets “rule” signs? Are they “higher” vibrations of “lower” planets? How do you know when they are important in a person’s chart? Learn all this and more about those pesky outer planets!

BEAR RYVER: Making the Moon Work for You
Learn how to use the transits of the Moon for planning personal and professional projects and activist campaigns. Make the Moon work for you in a grounded way by aligning your goals with your personal monthly and annual timing cycles. In this lively and practical lecture, you’ll learn how to plan and carry out all of your projects when they’re best supported by the astro-weather -- like using a good tailwind to fly faster.

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Vibrational Astrology
Revealing the Hidden Dimensions of Life
by Linda Berry and Clarissa Dolphin

Vibrational Astrology (VA) is an astrological system of harmonic interpretation developed by David Cochrane that reveals hidden dimensions of a birth chart. The meanings of harmonic vibrations were developed through the use of controlled research studies and interviews on tens of thousands of people conducted over several decades.

The core assumptions of VA include the following: Each planet is connected to every other planet through a vibration indicated by the distance between the two planets. These vibrations form families, for example, the Five family is the vibrations that are multiples of five. You see this in the 5th harmonic chart.

All the planetary vibration connections are in the natal chart; but we can’t separate them out and see this vibrational family relationship in the natal chart. The harmonic vibration charts show this relationship clearly and provide insights into key patterns in a person’s life, including direct insights into behavior, environmental factors and literal occurrences.

The planets (Sun through Pluto), signs and vibrations (aspects) are all energy functions that exist on a higher dimension than our world. VA focuses on these energy functions that underlie the archetypes often used to interpret the chart. Everything in the world, including us, translates these energy vibrations based on what type of being they are. Although the energies of these planets impact the way a person thinks, they do not have inherent human psychological attributes, generating power above and outside of human conscious awareness. In other words, they operate in higher dimensions and, in a way, each harmonic is a specific focus of resonating energies used by the planets to express themselves. We translate these energies into feelings, behaviors and life experiences.

Let’s look at Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (August 4, 1981 @ 4:40am, Canoga Park, CA), to see what VA can tell us about how she translates her planetary energies into real life experience. Prior to marrying British Prince Harry in 2018 she was a high profile figure as a successful actress with a huge public presence. However, by tapping into her 7th harmonic vibrations, we see a very private and important side of Meghan that is also a huge part of who she is.

In VA the 7th harmonic is all about mastery and depth attained through profound stillness. Operating in undisturbed silence, the 7 energy is deep and tends to look inward for answers. The 7th harmonic is not always spiritual, but when it is, as is suggested in Meghan’s chart, it tends to be mystical and oriented toward more ancient practices.

Meghan’s Moon-Saturn-Uranus conjunction opposite Neptune in her 7th harmonic vibration indicates she seeks a sustained discipline that she practices alone to elevate her mood. Moon-Neptune as an energy in VA is a heightened, inspired mood, it is a high-feeling vibration that wants to tap into enchantment somehow. Moon-Saturn wants to be alone to reflect in solitude and Saturn-Uranus is constantly striving for reinvention. Her Moon-Uranus-Pluto aspect pattern seeks ultimate transformation through a deep, cathartic release, translated via the stillness of the 7th harmonic vibration.

How could all this possibly relate to Meghan? She practices yoga and Vedic meditation! That’s right folks, these ancient disciplines are a huge part of her life and she has spoken extensively about how important these practices are to her.

“Yoga is my thing. My mom (Doria Ragland) is a yoga instructor, and I started doing mommy-and-me yoga with her when I was seven,” she told Best Health in May, 2016.
In a 2015 blog post on her now defunct online blog The Tig, Meghan describes meeting her Vedic meditation coach named Light. She sensed something illuminating his energy and discovered that he was just vibrating different, more spiritual plane. She took his class and has incorporated this practice into her daily life.

"Last week marked the one year anniversary of my relationship with meditation—something I found endlessly daunting at first (the thoughts, the distractions, the boredom of it), but soon became the quietude that rocked my world," she wrote. "I can't put my finger on the why or the how, but I will tell you this much, for me...I am just happier.

And meditation has much to do with that. There we go, this is the magic of VA! Using this system of harmonic vibration interpretation, we are able to see hidden, important things about a person we would never be able to eyeball in natal charts."

Steven Forrest is a starry-eyed celestial astrologer and author with a gift for making complex concepts accessible to a wide audience. His book celebrates the Fire family – Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, the 1st, 5th, and 9th houses, and Mars, Sun, and Jupiter, the rulers of the fire signs. He calls them the Life-givers because they keep us vital, engaged, and alive.

The book begins on a high note with an anecdote about Ram Dass. There is a teaching – and there is the example of Ram Dass as a fiery being. He has a Sun-Uranus – North Node conjunction in Aries, Moon in Sagittarius in the 5th house, and Mars in Leo in the 1st. Steven says about Ram Dass “his mission in the community was to bring us all a dose of pure, wild damn-the-torpedoes Fire.”

This sets the tone for an amazing and instructive book.

He writes comprehensive chapters on the Aries clan, the Leo Clan, and the Sagittarius clan. At the end of this section you will have new meanings and concepts about these three signs. Then he gives us a “handout” as if we were attending one of his many apprentice workshops, where much of the material in the book originated. The handout is a summary of what has been taught so far and includes keywords, the shadow sides of the signs, and quotes for each sign. It is a great aid to memory.

Steven goes on to the synthesis necessary to put the planets with the signs, planets in the houses, signs in the houses. He then puts it all in motion by describing how these planets behave when seen in transit, progression, or solar arc.

The explanations for each technique are clear, simple, and instructive and turn this book into a very complete book on the basics of astrology.

Steven teaches Evolutionary astrology. There is nothing static nor predictive in his descriptions. Steven’s instruction is full of images. He shows us how to picture the thoughts so that they imbibe themselves into our minds in a long lasting way. He also gives us teachings along the way: you do not have the power to evade these archetypes – but you do have the power to shape your response to them.

And: consciousness mirrors reality, while reality mirrors consciousness. That profound reliable synchronistic principle is the blood in the veins of our craft.

He specifies that he is writing for two audiences - those who use astrology for reasons of personal growth, and the serious students of astrology who are actively working with clients. Both groups will benefit from reading this book. It feels like Steven is distilling the wisdom he has learned through many years of reading charts and is showing us how he does it, which techniques he prefers to use, what is most important to him when he looks at a chart. He writes in a way that changes the way you think. He gives more than just information, he gives a way to absorb his words and a process to change one’s thinking. He states that his goal is to try to teach his students how to “think astrologically” rather than to parrot memorized paragraphs from some book.

As always, he succeeds in his task. There are three more books to come – Earth, Water, and Air. They can’t come soon enough. Buy this first volume of the series and you will have one of the best astrology books written. It is an excellent book – 5 plus stars *****.
The Essence of Esoteric Astrology

by Lori A. Smith

Esoteric Astrology – also known as “The Astrology of the Soul,” is based upon the teachings of the Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul, as given to Alice Bailey in the book Esoteric Astrology - one of five volumes on A Treatise on the Seven Rays and one of 24 books on the Esoteric Philosophy, comprising the 2nd installment of the Ageless Wisdom Philosophy. The 1st installment of the Ageless Wisdom Philosophy was The Secret Doctrine, by H. P. Blavatsky, and a 3rd installment of the teachings is expected to arrive in the year 2025.

Essential to the understanding of Esoteric Astrology, is that it views the heavens as the living presence of God. Whatever name one identifies with God, i.e., Parabrahm, The Absolute, The Spirit of the Universe, etc., matters not. God immanent and God transcendent are ever-present realities that permeate all that exists. As such, Esoteric Astrology is primarily concerned with the study of the world of causes, of being, of significance, and finally, the world of meaning...the world of the soul.

Esoteric Astrology is a study of the conditioning energies and forces found within all cycles that proceed from individualization, to the fully developed self-conscious personality, then through the path of initiation to full soul-consciousness, and finally to identification with the whole, and the One Life.

All the energies - zodiacal, systemic, and planetary - have a definite effect upon all lives, in all forms, in all kingdoms of nature. Nothing can escape these radiant and magnetic influences. The goal of evolution for humanity is to become consciously and liv ingly aware of the nature of these energies and begin to know them and to use them. Esoteric Astrology elucidates and explores these concepts, and works from the universal to the particular, the great energies and their source, then to manifestation. The occult aphorism that “matter is spirit at its lowest point of manifestation and spirit is matter at its highest,” will always hold true, just as the macrocosm ever holds the key to the microcosm.

Esoteric Astrology promotes a greater awareness and recognition of the various subtle and higher energies which condition all of life. We could say it is due to "prakritik immersion," that much of humanity is simply not conscious of, nor can they respond to these energies.

The Tibetan tells us that Ancient astrology was obviously incomplete, but until man became patently responsive to the influences which come to him from Uranus and Pluto, for instance, which affect the soul life far more than they do the personality life, they remained undiscovered except by trained esotericists. Today, humanity is rapidly responding to the higher spiritual influences and, therefore, we can look for the discovery of increasingly subtle forces. Even still...small allowance has been made for the
energies which play upon our planet all the time from other constellations or from the many “hidden” planets. Of these, the Ageless Wisdom claims that there are around seventy in our solar system.

While there isn’t sufficient space in this article to examine all of the inter-relationships of Esoteric Astrology, we will examine the fundamentals of the three and the seven which underlie this beautiful science.

Far beyond and coming through the zodiac and into our solar system are seven streams of divine energy, the Seven Rays, which emanate on cosmic levels from the Most High, who are otherwise known by another name in the Christian Bible…The Seven Spirits before the Throne of God or in Eastern philosophy, the Seven Rishis.

When we speak of a Ray energy, we are in reality considering the quality and the will/purpose aspect of a certain great Life. A great Life that has a divine intention, will, purpose, and a determined projection which creates a radiation or stream of energy which, according to type and quality, plays upon all forms of manifested life.

These seven great beings express themselves in our Solar System as the custodians or the exponents of the will aspect of deity.

The seven stars of the Great Bear (Ursa Major) are the originating sources of the seven Rays of our Solar System. The seven Rishis of the Great Bear express themselves through the medium of the seven planetary Logoi, who are their representatives, within it all of the purest divine qualities we have garnered throughout all of our incarnations. As one’s soul begins to demonstrate control over one’s personality, the orthodox planetary rulers weaken, and the esoteric rulers and the constellationals and Ray energies are increasingly felt – one becomes ever more sensitive and receptive to the subtler and higher energies of the Solar System and beyond.

Esoteric Astrology is quite different from other systems of astrology, and one of its primary differences is that it includes the influence of the Seven Rays as a “substratum” in terms of chart delineation.

Other essential aspects of Esoteric Astrology include the following:

- The study of the building of the Antahkarana - The (Rainbow) Bridge of light between the higher and the lower minds, between the spiritual triad and the three-fold personality.

- The influence of the seven sacred planets – The seven sacred planets are Vulcan, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. and the five non-sacred planets are Mars, Earth, Pluto, Moon (veiling a hidden planet), and Sun (veiling a planet).

The seven sacred planets are Vulcan, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus.
The initiate stands alone in isolated unity, but is aware of a mysterious oneness with all that is. It is said in Esoteric Astrology... it should always be remembered that great shifts in consciousness, or great expansions of awareness, are followed inevitably by upheaval in the outer forms. This is true in the life of the solar deity, of a planetary Logos, of humanity as a whole, and of an individual. A major event such as a change in the axis of the Earth is related to an initiation of the planetary Logos.

There isn’t sufficient space in this article to discuss this in-depth, but suffice it to say – different Rays and planets are active at each initiation, which correspond to the individual’s force centers (chakras) in one’s etheric body and the impacts made and changes there undergone. Sacred planets influence the centers above the diaphragm, and non-sacred planets, below the diaphragm.

- The reversal of the Wheel – This occurs when one begins to emerge out of illusion and is no longer subject to the glamour and to the effect of the world maya; the motion of the great Wheel of Life is reversed, and one then begins (slowly and laboriously) to work in the opposite direction. The motion is one from clockwise to counterclockwise. One begins patiently and consciously to function as a soul struggling towards the light until finally one emerges at the end of the path in higher astral plane with that of the soul. The home of the soul (the casual body or egoic lotus) is located on the higher mental plane; the soul’s intrinsic nature is love, but intelligent love – it is inclusive, and group conscious, and is not focused on fulfilling the desires of the lower personal self. The soul (or casual body) has stored within it every pure and pristine quality, extracted from all of its previous incarnations in the lower three worlds. The soul wants to uplift, make its contribution, and give its gift to humanity. Being group conscious, the soul recognizes others within its own soul group, and knows where collectively, which group and environment its contribution to humanity can best be made.

The personality (and its Ray) changes from lifetime to lifetime, but the soul is sustained and preserved through all of our incarnations. Below is a reference from the Tibetan which gives some perspective:

1. The succession of the greater rounds of the zodiac, or a period of cycles of approximately 250,000 years, has a correspondence to the life cycle of the Monad.
2. The progress of the Sun as it passes through the signs in the zodiac during one of these 25,000 year cycles finds its analogy in the life cycle of the soul.
3. The lesser zodiac covered – from the angle of extreme illusion – in the course of one year, corresponds to the life of the personality.

The Monadic point in the chart (representing the sign which the Monad is
expressing through) is found in the sign opposite one’s Sun sign - the Earth point. The energies of the Monad are not consciously known or registered until a very advanced stage on the path…that of the 3rd initiation.

In Esoteric Astrology, essentially...the Sun is the present, the Moon is the past, and the Rising Sign points the way to the future.

The Sun is the only planet that rules on all three levels – exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical. Exoterically, it governs the personality, but veils the energies of Neptune and Uranus at the esoteric and hierarchical, or soul and spirit (Monadic) levels. The energies of Neptune and Uranus remain veiled until the atoms in one’s etheric body have been transmuted and transformed, and have finally reached the stage where the direct energies of these planets can be safely absorbed.

- **Neptune relates to the power of the heart of the Sun**, the love aspect of our solar Logos.
- **Uranus relates to the central spiritual Sun**, and the will aspect of our solar Logos. These also relate to the quality of the three fires – Fire by Friction, Solar Fire and Electric Fire, which the Tibetan explores in-depth in the Alice Bailey book, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*.

The Moon governs the instincts, the emotions, the unconscious, the past, and other associations (as most systems of astrology ascribe), but in Esoteric Astrology, it also relates to psychological patterns that can imprison the soul and hold one back. Exoterically, the Moon governs the physical body, as it is “The Mother of the Form,” and veils the energies of Vulcan, Neptune, or Uranus.

- **Vulcan**, a planet of the 1st Ray, helps “forge,” and reflects the will aspect of God in shaping and building the physical energetic body.
- **Neptune** assists in nourishing the physical body with astral sensitivity (6th Ray) and emotional refinement.
- **Uranus**, a planet of the 7th Ray, relates to the perfecting of the form, bringing forth into mother/matter the higher archetype via the mental body.

Although there are many influencing factors in the chart which relate to the soul...in Esoteric Astrology, it is the *rising sign* which indicates the energies that the soul is seeking to manifest through the current incarnation, or for a period of seven lives. As in other systems of astrology, any aspects from other planets to the Ascendant have to be considered, and in Esoteric Astrology, most importantly – the esoteric (soul) rulers sign, house placement and aspects to other planets and angles in the chart. It’s important to compare the esoteric ruler of the chart, i.e. ruler of the Ascendant, with the exoteric (personality) ruler of the Sun sign in helping to understand what potential challenges are involved in soul/personality integration. We never get rid of the personality per se, but rather the goal is to make the personality a more perfect instrument or vehicle for the soul to manifest through. When one initially awakens to the energies of the soul - when soul contact is first established (consciously), the personality recognizes the duality and much conflict and inner turmoil is experienced, as the personality is reluctant to relinquish its power to the higher self. This can continue throughout one life or many lives. Eventually, the light of the personality and the light of the soul blend, and the conflicting dualities between the soul and personality are reconciled. Symbolically, it is in Capricorn, where the initiate learns to realize the meaning of the growing light which greets his progress as he climbs upward to the mountain top?...where ultimately, the spark in the personality and the light of the soul are transfigured into the flame of the **Spirit**.

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9. Ibid. p.410
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11. Ibid. p.503
12. Ibid. p.21
13. Ibid. p.410-411
14. Ibid. p.410
15. Initiation Human and Solar by Alice A. Bailey, p.15
16. The Initiatory Process by Frances Adam Moore p.3, Meditation Mount Ojai, CA
17. Esoteric Astrology by Alice A. Bailey p. 181
18. The first differentiation within the **ONE (the Absolute) into the Three** resulted in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost…or Spirit, Consciousness, and Matter. When Spirit and Matter united, Soul or Consciousness was born. These represent the three great Rays of Aspect. The **Three in ONE** differentiate into the Seven Rays, or Seven Streams of energy each expressing its own Radiant Quality.

**Lori Smith** is a professional esoteric astrologer, and a ‘perennial’ student of the Ageless Wisdom Philosophy. She has a Master’s Degree in Metaphysical Science, and a background in Hermetic studies and Alternative Healing Therapies. Since 1980, Lori’s astrology studies have progressed from Traditional to Transpersonal, and finally to Esoteric…which has been the focus of her work for the past 12 years. She currently lives in AZ, and can be contacted at: loriprofessionalsinastrology.com
QUESTION

If Astrology were to become mainstream, what do you anticipate would be the outcomes:

- Would it affect humanity in any significant way? If so, how possibly so?
- Can you describe areas that would be affected by the use of astrology?
- What would be the potential pitfalls or shadow expression of such a reality.

KAY TAYLOR
kaytaylor.com

Astrology has the potential to raise consciousness, deepen awareness of psychological patterns, and help people develop acceptance for the differences of others. It could help in the planning of events, or be used as a personality typing tool in psychology, education and business hiring practices.

As astrologers we often use astrology daily with simple tasks like sending off an important letter, deciding when to hold a workshop, or mail taxes — this could help people in all areas of life be more streamlined and successful in their endeavors (and would also mean nothing would be held on certain days and we’d all stay home!) This may be a pitfall, but the more ominous shadow would be how astrology could be used in the wrong hands or by people who weren’t truly experts or were relatively unconscious.

Astrology could be used to discriminate against large groups of people. Companies could refuse to hire Pisces, or people with no air in their chart — simplistic negative delineations and bias. I already see this when people come in for sessions with a strong opinion about never again dating a Gemini, or a Scorpio, or whatever Sun sign they had a difficult experience with. Astrology needs to go hand in hand with developed awareness.

ROY GILLET
crucialastrotools.co.uk

Astrology would give people a better understanding of themselves and how events in their past and present are connected, so they would make better plans for the future and be better able to handle what happens, without misplacing blame. Hence less resentment, less conflict, better advance planning. Also, because we could understand why other people are as they are and certain events and institutions affect us as they do, we would be more ready to accept and act appropriately to put things right.

In politics, more suitable people would be elected and decisions made (for examples, Mr Trump and Brexit would be much less likely if people knew the astrological background). Certainly, knowing the astrology of the time and the person would make campaigning more mature. In finance and economic planning, the dangers of short-term excess would be tempered ahead-of-time. In the world of work and business, more effective teams could be built and the timing of decisions better made.

Misuse of the knowledge for personal gain never in the end succeeds, but in the short term, it could lead to anomalies (such as simplistic responses to obvious astro-events like planetary stations and lunar cycles). People may be labeled simplistically, and so have simplistic expectations. Clearly, education as to how to use the energy and ESPECIALLY motivation for the general benefit would need to be taught.

KAYPACHA
newparadigmastrology.com

I believe it would have a tremendous effect on the current socio-cultural, religious, political and economic makeup of the world and seriously impact the way people view themselves, their lives, and the future of humanity.

I take “mainstream” to include business, government, education, medicine, and religion. There may be more than that, but I would see all these fields as using astrology. Business: stock market and other investors to predict markets, decide when to start businesses, do mergers, and when to launch products. Advertising would use it to target their audience. Many governments have and do use astrology/astrologers to assist making important decisions for not only the personal interest of the politician, but the welfare of the state. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if they taught astrology in the schools! Hopefully, they would teach parents to help improve their awareness of their children’s needs, their relationship with the child’s other parent, and the karma associated with those relationships. Medical astrology has a long history, and if made mainstream would completely change the way we look at the physical, emotional, and mental bodies. Lastly, astrology would change the face of “religion” by supporting some belief systems and falsifying others as it reflects the natural laws governing all evolution.

As with any form of power, it can be used for good or ill. With business, politics, advertising, and social media, it could be
used to exploit and manipulate large populations. It could be used unscrupulously for personal gain, greed, hoarding, and/or deceiving others. In relation to all realms, undoubtedly there would be disagreement on the interpretation of celestial events creating confusion, false predictions that would negatively influence people on many levels from emotional and psychological well being, to relationship and financial decision-making, and finally as a means of mind control.

If astrology were mainstream (beyond horoscope columns), it would create its opposites immediately. Whatever is expressed too much or fully lived, always creates “anti” forces which try to find the lack of the system. There could be claims that astrology needs to be elitist, not everyone should know astrology, or debates raised about what is “real” Astrology etc.

This is because the universe is based on the law of duality, and this law needs a balance on the earth. Whatever becomes mainstream will sooner or later become a “target of destruction”. The opposition force gains popularity. These are the dynamics of human evolution in its course to discovering why we are here, how everything works; we are becoming one thing one day and another day we are getting over it by rejecting it.

I believe that mainstream astrology could help humanity think through archetypes, but I don’t believe more than that - there are different capacities for each human being to understand the soul perspective of the archetypes. This is a sacred knowledge, and there is a need for a connection with the divine to understand and use it properly. Besides, mainstream Astrology would not necessarily be fully understood by everyone. In other words, it doesn’t matter whether it’s mainstream or not, there will be challenges in peoples’ understanding and practice of astrology. I don’t believe it would make a revolution.

One way it could help is by creating more avenues and opportunities for professional astrologers to earn a living. Many industries become open to it when it is mainstream. But again, this increases the number of astrologers, so at the end of the day this can create a situation where astrologers are like office workers, accountants, etc. The free spirit of astrology can be lost with standardization and new working areas.

We can get a glimpse of what impact Astrology would have on humanity or society if it were to become mainstream by simply looking at the historical record. Certainly, before the Enlightenment Era in the West, traditional or reliable forms of astrology were mainstream or had a widespread effect on society and culture. I would argue that given essential human nature, proclivities and aims of life have remained largely unchanged over the millennia. An understanding of the impact of mainstream astrology from the past can show us likely manifestations of mainstream astrology in the future. History demonstrates that human beings are creatures of habit, and therefore history tends to repeat under the shifting bell curve of time. I see the first “industries” or sectors of society using astrology in a more mainstream fashion are those supporting the Angles of the chart: 1st house (self-development, mental health, psychology), 4th house (family psychology, finding and optimizing land and resources, fertility), 7th house (relationships and business), and 10th house (career advice, financial implications thereof, work/home balance). The other house significations will indicate supporting industries. For example, the Retreat/Rehab 12th house significations is supporting the 1st house industry of self-awareness and development.

My perspective is that Astrology has always been mainstream in places like India, China, and other Eastern countries and, at least in India, it is still very much a beating heart of the cultural landscape to this day. Therefore, if we were to look ahead and ponder what mainstream astrology (in the West) would look like, we could get an idea from what is happening in India to give us some clues, even if one admits that all may not be applicable to a western model given cultural and other differences.

Considering these perspectives, we can understand that mainstream astrology would be subject to the full vagaries of human nature – both light and dark extremes. Historically, and in present-day India, this tends toward the more controlling and prescriptive. It is my hope that the meeting of East and West, of Old and New, will create healthy debates and discussions so that future mainstream astrology is spared the fate of its historical counterpart, and it emerges as a well-balanced model serving humanity’s evolution – a balance between cultural and naturalist forms, a balance between descriptive and predictive forms, and a balance between fate and free-will.

I believe one of the great contributions to a widespread acceptance of astrology is providing a general understanding that the universe is an intelligent design, and that life does not occur on a random basis. Having the reference of planetary cycles reflecting events in our lives or in the world gives us a sense that there is meaning, particularly when confronted with difficulties. Astrology provides both a spiritual and a scientific reference.

This is why in cultures where astrology is better established, such as India, spirituality is part of daily life.

Other benefits would indeed include better timing for life events, and saving ourselves many headaches and wasted time on dating sites with quick glances at chart compatibilities.

A prominent shadow side is increased prejudice. We already judge people by cultural or gender stereotypes, so imag-
I think it would affect humanity in some massive ways: If it were to stay mainstream for the long term, I imagine there would be a much greater spiritual evolution. The majority of us would be re-challenged to question our existence—why we’re here, where we came from and which greater forces (for example, our cosmos) may potentially bear influential relationships with us. However, this introspection would be brought about by our own individual curiosities, rather than being fed controlled dogmatic perspectives and interpretations via indoctrination. I think there would probably also be greater empathy on a mass scale as astrology guides us all to search for answers deeper within ourselves and each other, finding more complex, subconscious urges that are innate yet unique for us all.

I imagine that potentially all areas would be affected by the everyday use of astrology, especially science and politics. There would likely be more questions among scientists as they search for answers as to how astrology works and having chart references to add more biases and discredit people before even giving them a chance. This can escalate to serious consequences. For example, in Japan in 1966 the rate of abortions spiked and the number of births plummeted because that was the Year of the Fire Horse, and apparently, it had prospective parents worried.

Girls born in [1966] became known as ‘Fire Horse Women’ and are reputed to be dangerous, headstrong and generally bad luck for any husband. In 1966, a baby’s sex couldn’t be reliably detected before birth; hence there was a large increase of induced abortions and a sharp decrease in the birth rate in 1966.

Along those lines, I could also imagine the world coming to a standstill during Mercury retrograde seasons, companies having to slash prices because no one would make significant purchases 9 weeks per year!

It would take extra care and tremendous diligence to avoid these superficial and dangerous superstitions. I believe the work begins now as we keep establishing healthy standards of practice and proper courses of study to prevent the potential damage and abuse that astrology might cause.

Any system that becomes mainstream gets diluted. This is the nature of things - we saw it happen with once sacred Yoga practice now commonly turned into a workout session. But we have to ask ourselves if, despite the price, the gain is still worth it. We would ideally find a balance between making astrology accessible without selling its soul.

That being said, I doubt Astrology will be completely accepted anytime in the near future, since it is a system that operates on very different parameters from the current consensus paradigm. Unless serious breakthroughs occur very soon in physics and science to explain its mechanism, the controversy around astrology would increase along with its popularity.

I think that the sophisticated use of astrology would definitely fall into the wrong hands, as most things can do. We all know there are people who are capable of carrying out hateful acts on other individuals or groups of people, and I imagine they might use Electional astrology, not only for auspicious times, but for choosing the most difficult times for others to inflict pain on them, as disastrous as this sounds. Socially, there might be a lot of zodiac sign based prejudice and discrimination, possibly more so among younger crowds, and we could all hence be presented with the huge responsibilities to help guide ourselves and each other away from this type of mindset.

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ALEXANDRA KARACOSTAS
alexandrakaracostas@yahoo.com
My Hellenistic Astrology Approach to Chart Analysis

by Michael Ofek

I practice Hellenistic astrology, which is the oldest strata in 'horoscopic' (ascendent based) astrology and the fountain head of our western tradition.

Under the umbrella of 'Traditional Astrology' which is the astrology practiced roughly from around 200 BCE to 1700 CE, there are three almost distinct branches, one stemming from the other - Hellenistic, Medieval and Renaissance.

My approach is based on my study and understanding of Hellenistic foundational texts, in the light of the cosmological models and philosophical schools of that time. These schools also include the more esoteric and ‘ecstatic’ traditions of Astral Magic and Theurgy, which encourage conscious work and active participation with astrological influences. This is the underlying basis of my approach, to which I add elements from Medieval and Renaissance sources. In my practice, I strive to integrate and interpret these elements, through a contemporary psychological-humanistic perspective, which I deem is of no less importance.

About the House System
I use a hybrid system, combining Whole Sign houses with a quadrant house system, mainly Placidus but sometimes Equal Houses or Porphyry for different uses.

It seems that this kind of combination was the practice, at least for some of the ancient authorities (like Valens for example), mostly for when they would delineate the M.C/I.C axis, when it fell in different Whole Sign houses then the 10th/4th signs from the Asc.

On this point, Robert Schmidt makes the argument that the quadrant cusps measure strength and activity but only the signs signify life topic. Therefore, a cusp may show an area of maximum strength of a given topic held by the whole sign.

I take the whole sign houses to be the symmetrical 'Ideal' of the distribution of life topics, and the quadrant houses as showing the circumstances themselves, which can differ from the ideal. One is the "software" (whole sign) the other the "hardware" (quadrant houses), the more the circumstances are dictated to us (in early age, for instance), the stronger the quadrant houses will be expressed. But the more we gain power over circumstances (as we mature) the more real-ized the Whole Sign houses will be. Either way, a planet is always in both houses (when they are not aligned) and by mixing their signification, we get many more nuances of how the planet functions.

Fusion of Influences
I combine all that I have picked up along the way that has proven valid and useful, whether traditional or modern. First of all, I combine various techniques and perspectives from different periods of the tradition.

I take the whole sign houses to be the symmetrical 'Ideal' of the distribution of life topics, and the quadrant houses as showing the circumstances themselves, which can differ from the ideal.
Not all additions were developments, of course, many of them grew from a misunderstanding of the root sources. But there are many powerful additions and insightful systematisations brought by some of the Arab and Persian astrologers, and also post-Renaissance astrologers such as Jean-Baptiste Morin, who added many methodical principles that I use.

I also combine many modern methods and perspectives. For instance, I add the outer planets (I know some traditional astrologers who don’t) and Chiron, and points like Black Moon Lilith (only to know the apogee and perigee of the Moon). I also look at mid-Moon Lilith (only to know the apogee and perigee of the Moon). I also look at mid-points, and occasionally consider the statistics of the elements and the Quadruplicities, hemispheric emphasis and the like, and in general read the chart from a more modern perspective, even when using very arcane and complex traditional techniques.

**Prediction Techniques**

The prediction techniques I mostly use in my practice are Primary Directions, Releasing from Fortune and Spirit, Profections, Solar Arc, Solar and Lunar Returns, Planetary Periods and Ascensional Times, the Moon in Secondary Progression and of course Transits.

**Reading Length**

A one time reading is 90 minutes long, reading for couples is a 2 hours meeting and a horary question is 30 minutes long. As we all know, a one time session is never enough to really do an in-depth reading of the whole chart, therefore I devised different packages of 3, 5 or 8 meetings for those who are interested in a deeper study of their charts.

**The Inspiration to Read Charts**

My approach strives to connect the spiritual and the abstract with the practical and the specific, establishing the relationship of inner psychological dynamics with the outer ‘down to earth’ circumstances and important practical issues.

My purpose is to help one understand and connect with the innermost needs of their soul, addressing metaphysical, psychological and even existential issues, and also to ground them in concrete examples and solutions. I try to bring clarity and a higher understanding of their situation or their life as a whole, in order to help them navigate it wisely to its best outcome.

Generally speaking, I seek to empower the person by reconnecting them with their natal resources, aligning them with their inherent powers and helping them rise to their noblest expression of themselves. This brings about a sense of authenticity, coherence and purpose; supporting a shift of awareness that transforms behaviour and circumstances, helps heal inherent difficulties, break negative patterns, alleviate internal and external struggles, and deal with unprocessed trauma.

Finally, as a translator of the heavens, probably my highest purpose is to connect one to the cosmos through their own cosmic reflection. Bringing awareness to the intimate tie of heaven and earth promotes a sense of meaning and significance, and helps bring the personal in sync with the universal.

**Analysis Approach**

I begin my analysis by looking at the chart as a whole, considering the Sect of the chart (day or night birth), and feeling the “atmosphere” of the birth moment. I also consider the visibility and invisibility of planets and stars.

Ursa was born at a very dark time at night, with both luminaries below the horizon. The night is the kingdom of the Moon and the nocturnal planets (Venus and Mars) both of which are near angles and dispositors of major “life giving” elements (Asc, Moon), although they are in masculine/diurnal signs which has less familiarity to the sect (feminine signs). The nocturnal planets are elected officials in the government of the Moon, and are said to work better under its rule. Being such prominent dispositors, gives them a lot of power and responsibility for fulfilling the life story, and colouring it with their characteristic style.

Being born at night is a general testimony for a ‘nocturnal’ tendency in the chart, the night is moist and cooling, there is less outward activity, and a more inner contemplative mood. The night sect gives the Moon great authority in guiding and expressing the life. The Moon is also the Almuten of the rising sign (exaltation, triplicity) and is also the sign ruler of the Sun (Cancer), while both are in water signs. Considering also that all planets except Jupiter and Saturn are below the horizon, there is an accumulation of testimony for the emphasis on the lunar, nightly, watery qualities in Ursa’s chart, which tends to indicate a more immersive, reflective, sensitive, abstract, emotional, protective, withdrawn, nurturing, internal, private, instinctive, intuitive and security seeking individual. All things being equal, these people tend to put more weight on home and hearth, family and children, and on the satisfaction of basic physical and emotional needs. This is of course, very general and only sets the background music for more specific delineations.

The prominent lunar qualities and water element is also prone to be shifty and stormy, bringing strong waves of emotions, anxiety, highs of happiness and low pains of sorrow.

On the other hand, we can also see the powerful visibility of Jupiter and Saturn pulling her up into the world (10th, 11th houses), both in their own signs, both retrograde and out of sect (diurnal planet in a night chart). They are surely competing with the nocturnal agenda of the chart, although Jupiter also gives more emphasis to the water element. We also have the two nocturnal planets in active masculine signs. All these factors shift some of the weight of the above testimony.

**The Main Focus of the Chart**

Principally, the most important items in traditional astrology are the five ‘life giving’ points - Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Lot of fortune (and Spirit) and the prenatal luna­tion—their sign and house placement, and dispositors. These hold the essence of one’s life and each has a profound doctrine of its own in traditional astrology.

Of the five points mentioned, as most astrologers, I place the biggest emphasis on the rising sign and the signs and houses of the luminaries, taking note of any planet (or star) in close contact with them. I place great emphasis on the ‘dialog’ between the luminaries, as is reflected by the lunar phase and the signs they occupy. Another important emphasis would be the application and separation of the Moon to/from planetary contacts. I look at all rulers (sign, triplicity, exaltation, term, face, 12th part) of the rising sign and luminaries and also their individual
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‘Almutens’, (and the compound Almuten of all five points), their sign and house placement, their ‘cosmic state’ and aspects. I also look at the Lot of fortune and Spirit in this way, while also using them as Ascendents (deriving houses from them).

As an example I will give a brief analysis of the first point - The Rising Sign:

Ursa was born with Taurus rising, which describes what’s rising in Ursa’s Life, what’s coming to the foreground and becomes visible in her being and outside world. It is the Helm of Ursa’s ship by which she navigates to fulfil her life’s agenda. It describes her orientation to the world, her characteristic attitude and basic motivation, and contributes to her physical constitution. As a fixed earth sign it gives a stabilising gravity to her makeup. It shows a need for stability, comfort, pleasure, “earthly things”, emphasising the body and the world of senses. The earth signs show a practical approach and a need to ground things in the concrete. By virtue of being ruled by Venus, it also gives a love of beauty and may also tend to the artistic (Venus on 5th Placidus cusp).

If the rising sign is the Helm, then the ruler is the Helmsman, steering the life to its destination.

The placement of Venus, the ruler of the rising sign, In the 4th Whole Sign (5th quadrant cusp) participates in the above testimony of seeking the inner and private, needing to establish physical stability and security (Taurus) in one’s home and family. The ability to hold the steering wheel is also reinforced by the fact that Venus is in a position to see (aspect) the rising sign, in this case Venus is 2° from exact square to the Asc degree (although it may show some tension, it’s more favourable than no aspect).

Venus is in an angular sign and in sect, this gives her much power to fulfil her role. Venus in Leo brings in the fire element and shows a more powerful, expressive and flamboyant quality to Ursa’s behaviour and life story. She needs to kindle the hearth of the home, and feel as a queen in her castle. Together with the very close conjunction with Uranus on the 29th degree of Leo, this combination shows a much more feral, eccentric and unstable expression in her attitude, and her experience of the home or dominant parent. It could reflect an unconventional home/parents, and may also show the separation of the parents or an unstable ‘inflammatory’ experience, which may also testify to her own relationships and home life later on.

Venus on the 5th cusp of the Placidus houses may testify to the motivation of having children and the importance of this topic in her experience. It’s the house of ‘Joy’ for Venus. In Leo, it shows a playful and exciting temperament and engaging expression of love for children and romantic affairs (although the dissociative energy of Uranus may modify this expression).

Being a night chart, the Moon gains more rulership over Taurus (its Almuten, by exaltation and triplicity) which may give it more lunar tones and raise the need for emotional security, also through physical resources and bodily comfort. She may try to fulfil this through relationships (Moon in the 7th by Whole Sign houses) and by maintaining a steady job/routine/health (6th quadrant house). But while the Moon is in the sign of its fall, these might not be easily supported, and may show struggles and challenges (also attested by the Moon’s application to a square with Saturn).

The Ascendant degree (25°54’) - is in the terms and face of Saturn highlighting the more practical side of Taurus, expressing itself through a constructive and methodological application, giving a sense of authority, self-control and discipline (or at least that may be how she would like to appear). Saturn is culminating on the M.C in its own sign (Aquarius) showing that these are inherent skills, giving a very sober and objective colouring to her chart, pulling her to be manifested in her career (could be in some Saturnian institution). Saturn influence may also cause some deprivation, hardships and inhibitions, being contrary to the sect, retrograde, and conjunct the South Node (that can also testify for decreasing its maleficence by some traditional authors). Saturn is also the ruler of the lot of fortune, and in conjunction with it, which increases the testimony that its actions are connected to her livelihood.

In the first house (2nd house by Whole Sign) we have a very intellectually stimulated and changeable Mars in Gemini about to rise as a morning planet. This shows a powerful need for movement, versatility and stimulation, although it’s conditioned somewhat to the Taurian earth-stabilising need accentuated by the rising sign. This Mars may sometimes act below the surface of what “rises” in front of you when meeting Ursa.

It is also very hard to disregard the exact conjunction of the Ascendant degree to the ecliptic projection of the Fixed Star Algod, the Infamous blinking (binary) “demon” star, and the proximity of Venus to the royal Fixed Star Regulus. More about this is elaborated upon during the OPA Live event (March 17).

After assessing the five points of life in that manner, I calculate the three rulers of life: the Predominator (Epikratetor, ‘life giver’ or Hyleg), the Domicille Master (Oikedespotes, or Alcocoden) and the Lord of the Nativity (Kurios). These factors show me the general hierarchy (Noetic, Soul, Body) and type of one’s life, its general quality and agenda, and the ability to execute its plans.

Only then do I look at other planetary placements, configurations, and specific life topics (health, money, career, marriage etc…), utilising many traditional auxiliary methods to each of them.

Finally, I look at different prediction methods, from general to specific, to understand the processes the person is going through and the potentials that are being activated. These will orient the reading to the important issues at hand, answer pressing questions, and help guide the person on their path forward.

Michael Ofek is a professional astrologer, writer and teacher from Israel. He has been practising and researching the traditional lineage of astrology with an emphasis on Hellenistic astrology and its connection with Greco-Egyptian Cosmology, Philosophy and Magic. His passion lies in unveiling and reconstructing the conceptual roots of the tradition and the reintegration of these ancient arts. Co-founder of the Israeli professional astrology magazine “Urania”, which also produces yearly conferences and workshops.
My Vedic Astrology Approach to Chart Analysis

by Theodore Naicker

I'm going to briefly describe the methods I use to establish proper context following principles of Vedic Astrology.

There are three chart styles used in Vedic astrology. The style I use is prevalent in the East-Indian oral traditions and is called the Surya Chakra (wheel of the Sun) – it has the appearance of the Sun with rays. Since the sidereal zodiac is fixed with reference to a star, the chart style is also fixed i.e. the signs occupy the same spaces in the chakra irrespective of the chart, and the houses are read relative to the place of the Ascendant.

Varga (divisional charts) are mathematically calculated as portions of the zodiac signs of the birth chart, and the method of partitioning philosophically underpins the nature of the varga. D1 is the Rashi chart also known as the birth chart. D9 is the Navamsa Chart, a ninth-divisional used for results of the D1 and for important “fated” relationships such as marriage. The D10 tenth-divisional is the Dosamsa used to see the details about career. Below are these three charts for the native, with the time range for which each is valid.

Using Ursa Worlds’ chart, the given birth time of 02:01 am is close to the border for some of these charts validity range. In this exercise, it was not possible to request the native to provide information on important dates such as marriage, first job, divorce, etc., as is standard practice in order to validate these charts. I have therefore leaned largely on the birth chart (D1) for interpretative value.

Using the Surya chakra diagram (below) to help visualize the chart, one can see that in the Vedic System, the native has the Moon in Libra, Venus in Leo, Jupiter in Aquarius, the Sun and Mercury in Gemini, Mars in Taurus on the Ascendant, Rahu the North Node in Cancer, and Saturn with Ketu the South Node in Capricorn. Traditional Vedic Astrology doesn’t use any other planets, although the use of alternate ascendants (viśesha lagna) and derivative planets (upagraha) are also used (not described here).

When getting into a chart, one of the first things I like to do prior to delineation, and certainly prior to prediction, is to establish Proper Context. The first context to establish is the Philosophical Context of Vedic Astrology, which is that souls have descended through stellar gateways to the earthly plane. With the sidereal zodiac fixed with reference to a star, the chart style is also fixed i.e. the signs occupy the same spaces in the chakra irrespective of the chart, and the houses are read relative to the place of the Ascendant.

When getting into a chart, one of the first things I like to do prior to delineation, and certainly prior to prediction, is to establish Proper Context. The first context to establish is the Philosophical Context of Vedic Astrology, which is that souls have descended through stellar gateways to the earthly plane. With the sidereal zodiac located light years into space, the visible planets of our solar system are conceived of as blocking that starlight and trapping sunlight, thereby signalling various karmic effects as the soul loses cosmic consciousness (starlight paradigm) while at the same time its individual consciousness (sunlight paradigm) becomes split seven-fold in the localized cage of the solar system. The descent of the soul from the cosmic stellar gateways into the solar system is likened to the singular white light being split sevenfold by the operation of a prism.

While the native usually provides Consultation Context – the reasons why they consult - oftentimes there are other contributing factors which the native is not aware of, and hence, techniques which detail what this is become additional factors to consider. I first seek to establish Proper Context with respect to: Decision, Comfort, Time, and Soul. While there are methods in (Traditional) western astrology which address these matters, I will illustrate these from a Vedic Astrology perspective.

Decision Context indicates those themes which act as terms and conditions when we make life decisions. It is understood by delineation of the Lagna (Ascendant) and its ruler. The native has the natural second house of the zodiac Taurus as her lagna, indicating that her role as a Provider or Custodian for the people closest to her (which can be family) are considered when she makes life decisions. This is a significant theme because the natural 2nd house of the zodiac is rising, the Sun is in...
Naicker

the 2nd house, and the ruler of the 2nd house from the Moon (Mars) is also in the ascendant. A distinction is made in Vedic Astrology between the family we are born into (2nd house) and the family we create (4th house).

Taurus contains Mars, the ruler of the 7th and 12th houses, indicating that circumstances arising through marriage may challenge her role as a provider. Marriage is seen from the 12th house in Vedic Astrology. Ideally, marriage is with someone with whom you share your most intimate and vulnerable self, and for most people this is largely a decision formed by deep karmic bonds in the unconscious.

The ruler of her lagna is Venus placed in the 4th house, showing her primary context is home, stability within herself, and family. Venus is also the ruler of the 6th house, service or administration, as well as wanting knowledge to see the future (Sun rules prophecy). Venus in the 4th house has directional strength, which gives physical comforts at home (all other factors being equal). Venus from the 4th house has full graha dyāṣṭi (connection through desire/will) to the 10th house of career, showing that Venus may be involved in her career choice, a “relationships vs work” dynamic is set up. The Moon in the 6th house ruled by this Venus confirms her skills in administration and service. So the themes upon which any decision is based for her will revolve around: learning/study and its application to work, her finances with relationships and work, being a provider for the people closest to her, home comforts, and a relationship versus career dynamic. We can expect her to consult based upon decisions of this nature.

Comfort Context is established by looking at the Moon. This is more of a “feel good” context, and is important because for most things in life, if the Moon is supportive, we are more motivated and can naturally be successful or grow in those areas. The Moon represents the mind-body connection in Vedic Astrology - the mind as a receptacle for intention, the mind which receives stimuli and formulates a response, and the mind which governs the flow of time which has its reactions through the body. The mind and the body, just like the Moon, align to the Feminine archetype of receptivity and responsiveness. Since the Moon is in Libra, it shows that the native may feel comfortable with life if it were shared with someone, and in the back of their mind, this theme may always reside. Placed in the 6th house, however, shows a struggle or challenge to manifest this or sustain it, but any people skills would be welcome in their work. The Moon as the ruler of the 3rd house and placed in the 6th house of service shows a mind which wants freedom to move about and connect with all types of people as part of work, with the entrepreneurial possibilities of the 3rd house manifesting in a holistic/nurturing role (Moon) as what she may eventually want to do as her contribution to the world. This shows that no matter what she may be doing or decisions she may be faced with (Decision Context), the more it also meets her Comfort Context, the happier and content with life she can be.

Time Context is established by understanding the flow of time operating on the mind of the native because this impacts how life is viewed, or rather how the native sees themselves in the flow of time – past, present, and future. This is important context for what questions they have and sometimes can be a clear indicator of a block to their decision-making and otherwise free-will abilities. The mind projects onto the world its own reality, and hence the flow of time as seen by the mind is indicated by a subset of dasa called Udu Dasa. These are timing systems which are calculated from relative placements of stars from the position of the Moon in the nativity, and since the Moon represents the receptive mind, these star relative placements map to the relativity of the mind, in how it views life and how it views itself. It is from this “time relativity principle” in the chart that the perception of time flows for the native and becomes the basis for understanding the dynamic nature of the mind with respect to the experience of time as life, and hence predictive astrology. Each dasa has a controlling graha and based upon the interactions of these various controlling graha in the chart, one can see when the nature of the mind and experience of the flow of life is changing for the native, and this is indeed what happens to some people in the course of their lives.

Other methods to establish Time Context include looking at predictive methods, but by and large the conceptualization of time in the mind of the native is the most important consideration. This provides the astrologer with valuable context for how the flow of time is for the person, and determines such things as when transits may trigger or not, what changing life priorities may be as life goes on, etc. A method of timing dasa derived from the 4th star from the Moon in this chart shows that the native entered a Mars period in September 2018, after which relationships can become a focus of her experience of life since Mars rules her 7th and 12th houses. However, the strongest timing dasa system applicable for her shows that from May 2019 onward she is having a major career focus due to an activation of Mercury. The mind accommodates and projects multiple intentions, and this is shown by these various dasa systems.
Further work will need to be done to assess which path the mind could flow toward, and what that outcome is likely to be and advise the native accordingly.

We also look at the Soul Context in the chart, to understand what the soul's perspective on everything is. This is usually the final deciding factor on sustainability as the view of Vedic Astrology is that whatever is the will at the soul level will sustain, and whatever is not, will move away from us. Even if a chart indicates the personality of a capable businesswoman, if it is not in harmony with the Soul Context, one day the person may renounce all their wealth and become a nomad or baker, if that is what the soul wants for the highest chance of evolution. The Soul Context is best discussed privately with the native within the sacred bounds of the consultation.

In this way, I delve into the various Contexts in a chart as the first step in understanding the life of the native holistically – the will, the mind-body, the flow of time, and the soul perspectives. This is done in the birth chart, as well as any relevant varga or divisional chart in a full consultation.

My Evolutionary Astrology Approach to Chart Analysis
by Maurice Fernandez

My approach is essentially Evolutionary Astrology, a system with a widening umbrella that offers a profound spiritual focus on chart analysis. A more accurate term I personally use is Astrology of the Evolution of Consciousness, for this is what the system is about: practitioners of this system will use the chart to identify the soul journey – essentially, the chart reveals where the soul is in its evolution across multiple lifetimes, and what the next steps are.

Once we understand the spiritual purposes of our lives, we can answer a wide range of questions, from the most existential to the very practical. Questions can range from “what is the purpose of my life,” to “why am I stuck in relationships,” or “when should I sign the next contract.”

This system of Evolutionary Astrology was inspired by the work of Dane Rudhyar, while the term itself was coined by Ray Merriman in his 1977 book of the same name. It was prominently established and developed by Jeffrey Wolf Green and Steven Forrest in the early eighties.

No Good or Bad Chart, or Chart Position
As a growth-oriented system, Evolutionary Astrology takes free will as an important factor in chart analysis, and therefore considers that no chart, or chart placement, is inherently good or bad but the way we use the chart is what leads to “good or bad” outcomes. While some configurations may pose a strong challenge to our security needs, everything in nature and life is there for a reason. The premise is that once we understand the evolutionary reasons for any aspect or planet placement, we can make it work positively for us. We cannot change our chart, we cannot bypass evolution, we cannot ultimately avoid the Truth, but we have the choice to make the best or the worst of it.

In this light, a Saturn-Moon square is not doomed to depression, the same way a Sun trine Moon does not guarantee ease and well-being. Essential Dignities are not a central consideration in this system, if at all.

I believe the most important aspect of reading a chart from this perspective is to provide spiritual clarity. This system provides a deep realization that what we are going through is not random — life is an intelligent design as there is a spiritual or an evolutionary reason for it to unfold a certain way or take unexpected twists. This system provides a deep insight into the “Why” of life, in a way that ultimately empowers the person and helps them lead a better life.

When a person asks, for example, about the prospect of a new relationship, my approach would first of all lead me to look at why relationships in the past have potentially led to crises, to discuss the “why”, and once we establish the lessons to learn, then apply prediction techniques to identify timing for new opportunities. What is the point in looking at the next Venus activation for a new relationship if at the core there are unresolved psychological and spiritual blockages?

Chart Delineation – Using Ursa Worlds as an example
Analyzing a chart, I will first of all look at the overall chart disposition, the big picture, and identify general themes. For example:

- Look at quadrant and element distribution.
  - In Ursa’s chart, we see a predominantly lower hemisphere emphasis which
describes an individual who is more in touch with their internal processes, personal needs, and someone who will tend not to compromise on her values and lifestyle choices.

- Her low Earth shows a tendency to take the scenic roads in life, make less practical but more meaningful choices. This can potentially lead to great adventures but also mismanagement of resources.

Look at planets on or square angles and the Nodal Axis to identify prominent influences.

- In Ursa’s chart, Mars in Gemini is angular, close to the Ascendant, reflecting a strong tendency to want to follow her own tune, not compromise her ideas, and to break away from any situation that becomes too confining. This can make her mentally defensive and potentially lead to periodic ruptures.
- The Moon in Scorpio in the 6th house is square the MC/IC axis. This angular Moon is highlighting her emotional intensity, potential insecurities about being valued and appreciated, and her strong caretaking and therapeutic capacities.
- The South Node in Aquarius in the 10th house conjunct Saturn describes where she is coming from. In this case, we see a forward thinking approach, sophistication, mental acuity, and pressure to meet high standards of intellectual performance, whether these high standards are imposed by scientific or spiritual references. Saturn on the Nodes can refer to diligence about ethical standards and the need to be masterful in her craft. Notwithstanding, it can point to a past life where she witnessed or was involved in situations where knowledge or science may have been misused and she felt a need to realign the purposes and uses of this knowledge.
- The ruler of the South Node, Uranus, is in the 4th house conjunct Venus in Leo, hinting at the fact that her family of origin was also pushing for high achievements and refinement. The fact that Venus/Uranus square the angular Mars may hint at a separation between her parents, where one parent felt that the other one was holding them back, and the possibility of mentality gaps between them.
- The North Node in Leo in the 4th house hints at a need to balance the intellectual or rigorous scientific approach with a more emotional and heart-centered approach to life, slowing down her pace, and embracing overall a more compassionate perspective. There is a need to better take care of herself even if this comes at the price of career opportunity. Emotional foundation and healing must be prioritized over intellectual achievements.
- The Moon and Neptune in Scorpio square the Nodes. This emphasizes a flip-flop between the South Node and North Node signatures, between the mind and the heart. Since the square is from the 6th house in Scorpio, we see that the balance between science (SN) and emotional well-being (NN) is immediately related to health management, therapeutic approaches, and the finding of jobs. In other words, she may have been a health practitioner, doctor, or researcher in health matters who initially used established scientific methods to cure ailments, but needs to now balance this with a more emotional and nurturing approach to healing—the type of doctor whose prescription we can actually read.

This brief analysis of Ursa’s chart demonstrates the general approach to Evolutionary Astrology where emphasis is put on a holistic perspective and spiritual purposes. Once established, we use that as a reference to understand the different areas of her life.
Identify important signatures and bring all the pieces of the chart to establish the evolutionary signatures.

- The general theme of the chart shows a strong dichotomy between mind and heart, and a need to better balance them. This applies to all areas of life, including professional and relational. Ursa is asking about whether she should choose relationships over career at this time, but in truth both are possible. What is important is that she does not compromise on finding a partner who will offer an emotional support system, and yet someone who can keep up with her mental gymnastics and not bore her.

This brief analysis of Ursa's chart demonstrates the general approach to Evolutionary Astrology where emphasis is put on a holistic perspective and spiritual purposes. Once established, we use that as a reference to understand the different areas of her life.

I silently share once my client and I have connected. The first is “heart before chart” and the second is “may the wisdom of this beautiful being speak through me,” which I whisper within as I invite my client to voice intentions. Ursa shares that she is about to graduate from a health and wellness study and would like to open her own spa or do some kind of work in the community. She also shares that she has been divorced for a long time and asks, “does the Universe see a relationship in my future, or should I stay focused on career?” The heart instantly responds, “Yes and yes. Why not have both?” Now, what say the Stars?

Preparation for the Session—Tuning Into the Celestial Song

Before a session starts, I tune into my client’s natal chart and tables that offer astronomical data such as Planetary declination, latitude, and altitude. I note significant fixed star alignments and often add asteroids that are associated with mythic themes I see within the nativity. I take a quick trip through current transits, secondary progressions, solar arc directions, and previous and forthcoming solar return charts to honor current timings. I prefer Porphyry houses because I can see them in the night sky with my naked eye, but I also use Whole Sign houses (mostly for Hellenistic techniques like annual profections) and Equal houses (mostly for astronomical considerations).

I spend just as much time with astronomy software because the feet-on-the-ground view offers a real life feel that astrology charts simply cannot. Among other astronomical considerations, I look for rising, culminating, setting, anti-culminating, zenith, and nadir stars and constellations. 19 minutes of research will fill me with way too much to share during an 111-minute consultation, especially because I strive to arrive without an astro agenda… heart before chart.

My Sacred Astronomy Approach to Chart Analysis

by Gemini Brett

My approach as a celestial navigator is to assist my client in consciously steering through life’s initiations and critical decisions in such a way that their current heading is in clear alignment with the arc of their soul. The stock of my starry stew is mostly consistent with the archetypal awareness and philosophy of the Shamanic Astrology Mystery School where I began my study, but the addition of Evolutionary, Hellenistic, Medieval, and many other astro-ingredients and the course of my own naked eye explorations of Sky and Earth have synthesized within me a unique approach, which I have come to call Sacred Astronomy.

My intent is to reconnect the two-dimensional chart with the infinite living sky by integrating and expanding upon the astronomical roots of the rules we use. Astrology is the poetic breath of Nature and the wisdom of old speaks directly to those who map the Heavens above with Earth below.

The Art of the Chart Starts with the Heart

Every Sacred Astro session is itself unique, a truth guaranteed by two prayers.

Maurice Fernandez, author of the books Neptune, the 12th House and Pisces (New Edition), and Astrology and the Evolution of Consciousness—Volume One, is a leading Evolutionary Astrology counselor and teacher, currently based in Arizona. Maurice currently serves as the president The Organization of Professional Astrology (OPA) offering pioneering programs for astrologers. He directs a professional diploma program with students from across the world. www.mauricefernandez.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mauricecastrology/

Circle, Crescent and Cross—The Philosophy of Sacred Astronomy

I approach a natal chart by tuning first to Sun, Moon, and Earth. The general philosophy of Sacred Astronomy is that we (self/microcosm) are each complete reflections of the One only thing (Spirit/macrocosm). The Circle of Spirit we call Sun is the local broadcasting source of the All and represents the key of our celestial song. However, we cannot hear our Spirit's highest essence directly just as we cannot stare at Sun without getting burned or going blind. This Great Mystery is more clearly seen in the mirror called Moon whose incarnational role as the Crescent of Soul is to reflect OneLight into an absolutely unique expression here on the Cross of Matter we call Earth. Diana midwifed Apollo's birth as Moon delivers Sun to Earth. Spirit needs Matter to grow so Moon puts the you in SOUL.

Spirit Reflected Into Matter—The Medicine We Bring

Moon's expression of Sun shows the unique medicine a native brings here to assist with the growth of the One.

I approach a natal chart by tuning first to Sun, Moon, and Earth. The general philosophy of Sacred Astronomy is that we (self/microcosm) are each complete reflections of the One only thing (Spirit/macrocosm).
Ursa came to Earth with 3rd House Cancer light reflected by a 6th House Scorpio Moon. Ursa's medicine is to express nurturing love (3rd house Cancer Sun) through the sacred work (6th) of magic, passion, and power (Scorpio). This is a forward-thinking and high-reaching medicine because Moon has maximum northern latitude. However, Moon was not visible where she was born (below the horizon) and Moon is applying to a square with Saturn so Ursa feels her medicine is restricted or against the rules. This Scorpio Moon square to Aquarius Saturn with the South Lunar Node in the 10th presents an archetypal image of one burned at the stake for expressing power and sexuality or for leading a revolution of passion. From a traditional view, her Moon is in Fall and disconnected (inconjunct) from its ruler, Mars. These are all constrictions that implore Ursa to suppress and forget her Scorpio reflections by pushing her to over-shine Cancerian light like it’s her job (10th house South Node). She likely was forced to play mother to siblings or even to her parents.

Re-Membering the Medicine—Soul Retrieval

These astrological aspects compound our current culture's contaminated conditioning that says feeling deeply is a sickness, sexuality is a sin, and a woman's only roles are to give birth, nurture, and serve. Fortunately, that June Cleaver program of 1962 is burning away thanks to powerful women like Ursa who choose to retrieve and express their medicine and magic. And the skilled sorceress knows that which was taken will return three-fold! Spirit arranged for a dimming of Ursa's Scorpio glow to powerfully expand the potential of her Soul growth IF she should chose to dance (free will) to the celestial song of her chart (fate). A subtle force that suggests she will is revealed by the potential energy of her Moon's parallel (same declination) with retrograde Jupiter in Pisces: true faith and abundance will be the rewards of her soul retrieval through Scorpionic initiations. Her Moon also shares celestial latitude with Pisces Chiron: past poison is transmitted into remedies of great wisdom and compassion when Ursa re-members the power of controlling the expressed to serve her (and all of us) rather than carrying out patriarchy's programs by serving the suppressed to control her.

The Cross of Matter—Our Earthly Purpose

Just as Soul descends into Matter for Spiritual growth, the Earth falls towards the east so the Heavens can rise. This is why our Cross of Matter's eastern angle, the Ascendant, expresses the purpose of our journey on Earth. I'm fond of saying, "that which was rising when you rose is rising within you" and also that, "you are here to raise your Rising Sign up." If Ursa answers the call to grow through the teachings of the Taurus mystery school, Taurus itself will expand through her experiences. What is the state of Taurus today and how can Ursa give Scorpio-reflecting-Cancer medicine to assist this archetype's evolution? I should say the Moon-to-Ascendant path is taught by the Shamanic Astrology Mystery School, but they do not work with Sun in this way. Nor do they play with planetary rulerships, but I integrate the ancient association between the rudder (“oiax” in Greek, which was used to describe the Ascendant) of the Soul boat and its steersman (Ascendant ruler). Ursa's path will become more and more clear as she allows herself to receive the Leo radiance teachings of Venus, the 'lady of her hour-marker.' We find agreement here with Evolutionary Astrology's focus on the Sign of her North Lunar Node (another approach of honoring Sun, Moon, and Earth because the Nodes are where the paths of the luminaries cross from Earth's point of view).

Aries Synodic Venus and the Royalty of Regulus

Before Ursa was conceived, her Venus overtone was established when retrograde Venus passed between Earth and Sun (April 10th, 1961) to begin a 19-month Aries synodic cycle and Ursa was born during the
cycle’s devotion to reclaiming the power of the heart chakra. The Guiddess calls Ursa forth as a pioneer (Aries) of radiant self-love (the Heart of Leo). The queenship of Ursa’s Leo Venus is strengthened through conjunction with Royal Star Regulus, but her highness is buried at the very bottom of Ursa’s chart (Equal Sign 4th house cusp is the closest zodiacal point to the nadir) and inconjunct Sun. Her natal Venus is also in strong and applying conjunction with Uranus, which calls Ursa to an honorable and admirable revolution of the heart, but the invitations might first be sent through traumatic events that shatter common ideas of love, family, and trust (4th house): the ‘Scorpion initiations’ I allude to above.

The Eye of Medusa—Demon, Daemon, or Diamond?

It is unwise to project and I will mind my speech, but my visions are consistent with the astrological associations of Medusa’s eye, the fixed star Algol whose zodiacal projection is within 17 arc minutes of Ursa’s Ascendant. Asteroid amplifications of the Medusa myth in Ursa’s song include Pallas Athena conjunct Mars, Poseidon conjunct Black Moon Lilith, and Medusa at the South Lunar Bending opposite Neptune (Chart, previous page). If I had more than 30 minutes with Ursa, I would share Medusa’s tale in full to help her know the gorgon was simply the cocoon state of transformation between an Earthly queen caterpillar and butterfly of a Heavenly horse.

Medusa’s blood birthed Pegasus whose great square of stars were high in the sky at the time of Ursa’s birth. Her Soul assignment to help Taurus rise is answered first by journeys to the underworld. Many call Algol the demon star, but they should say daemon or diamond, which is the associated gem of this Behenian star in magical practice. I see an image of a gold (Leo Venus) ring with a cluster of seven small diamonds because, while Algol might project to Ursa’s Ascendant degree, the star was actually 20 degrees above the horizon while the Pleiades had just risen and will serve as Ursa’s guiding stars (Figure 2, below left).

Ursa’s Health and Wellness Spa of the Seven Stars

I suggest Ursa finds that ring and that she integrates the Pleiades geometry into the design of her new spa too. Yes, I believe opening a health and wellness spa is exactly what Ursa should do. Can’t you feel the fiery love of Leo Venus warming a room from below with rose-scented steam?
BreTT

Won’t the nurturing waters of a Cancerian soak help you experience the depths of your Scorpionic reflections as you relax into the simple pleasures and beauty of a Taurusian tub? Of course, I’m suggesting the spa that I see speaks to Ursa’s soul journey so I hope she’ll be her own best customer, but does it also reflect the career signatures within her nativity? The spa should have at least one room for one-on-one counseling (Libra on the 6th) of nutritional wellness (Taurus) and of the transformational power of reclaiming feelings (Scorpio Moon in the 6th). I also suggest space for teaching and for astrological mastery, something she may have offered many times before (Aquarius Saturn conjunct South Lunar Node at the midheaven). Healing with water is a theme of Ursa’s nativity, not only seen in her grand water trine (with Pluto forming a kite), but also constellationally as Jupiter and Chiron (who was closest to the Zenith) are aligned to the water bearer’s stream (Figure 3, previous page).

Joy and Saros—The Sacred Syzygy of Nodal Returns

These confirmations of Ursa’s visions for service do not mean she should give up on her relationship dreams. I look forward to sharing why I see a lasting love sprouting from the soil of her new career and why predictive techniques suggest the time soon comes. They also show what soul work must be done. Our quick session might start with a starry-telling of Diana and Apollo’s birth, not only because the asteroid named for their mother Latona was conjunct the Dragon’s Head when Ursa arrived on Earth, but also because her soul has scheduled powerful transits to both Moon and Sun within her current return window of their Nodes! Most astrologers would suggest this period ended when the Lunar Nodes left Leo/Aquarius last November but I firmly believe the window remains open until July when Ursa will experience solar and lunar returns simultaneously. I suggest Nodal Returns close with these Metonic Moons and open with the preceding saros return of our prenatal solar eclipse (Figure 4, previous page). These Syzygy sequences are the most powerful times for reclaiming light from deep shadow so we may accelerate the manifestation of our magic. May it be so for Ursa and may our 30-minute dance to her celestial song confirm what she already knows: true rewards are delivered to those who choose to feel, heal, know, and grow for this is why Spirit reflects itself to Matter through Soul.

Love and Planets, Gemini Brett
MoreThanAstrology.com

Test your Astrology IQ

The first two people who answer these questions correctly will win an OPA Raffle ticket! See page 17

1. In which direction will an observer in Chicago, Illinois find the MidHeaven?
   a. East
   b. North
   c. South
   d. Straight Up at the Zenith

2. A northern hemisphere chart has 10 Gemini Ascendent and 14 Aquarius MidHeaven, which Zodiac Degree is closest to the Zenith (directly overhead at the top of the sky)?
   a. 14 Aquarius
   b. 10 Pisces
   c. 00 Capricorn
   d. 00 Cancer

3. Moon is furthest from Earth when it is...
   a. Conjunction True North Node
   b. Conjunction Mean North Node
   c. Conjunction the True Black Moon Lilith
   d. During a Full Moon

4. Which sign does Chiron go through the fastest?
   a. Cancer
   b. Virgo
   c. Libra
   d. Scorpio

5. Which Dwarf Planet discovery led to Pluto being demoted as a Dwarf Planet?
   a. Sedna
   b. Eris
   c. Ceres
   d. Makemake

6. On April 1st, 2019 in Paris France, at Sunrise exactly, what is the degree of the first house with Whole Sign house system?
   a. 11 Aries
   b. 0 Aries
   c. 11 Libra
   d. 29 Pisces

Send your replies to outreach@opaastrology.com
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An Introduction to Planetary Nodes

by Maurice Fernandez

Most of us are familiar with the Lunar Nodes in our chart and how important they are in reflecting personal and collective development. The Lunar Nodes represent the intersection point between the orbit of the Sun and the Moon as viewed from the earth, as these two orbits are about 5 degrees apart. When the Sun and the Moon align with these Nodes, we have solar (New Moon) or Lunar (Full Moon) eclipses.

What many astrologers fail to notice is that every planet has Nodes since every planet will have an orbit that will not completely overlap the ecliptic (Sun’s orbit) and therefore will intersect the ecliptic at some point.

ABOUT THE PLANETARY NODES

The South and North Nodes of planets are not necessarily opposing each other—nor may they be in opposite signs, but not opposite degrees.

The Planetary Nodes are immediately related to the Sun’s position through the sign, so they keep the same path every year, just like the Sun.

The yearly path of the Planetary Nodes will shift according to the precession of the Equinoxes, therefore their yearly cycle will move one degree every 72 years.

The position of the Planetary Nodes will describe a heightened influence of the Planet itself. For example, if the North Node of Neptune is at 12 Leo in your chart, that degree will have a very strong Neptune quality. This is of particular importance if you have another planet on that degree, or within a 2-3 degree orb.

Where to find the position of Planetary Nodes? Most professional astrology software provides Planetary Node positions.

The Planetary Nodes of Mercury and Venus will complete a full cycle through all the signs in the course of the year.

The Planetary Nodes of Mars will range from:
- North Node: 6 Aries to 3 Cancer
- South Node: 7 Libra to 29 Sagittarius

The planetary Nodes of slower moving planets have a more narrow yearly range as depicted in this list (at right).

Because the Planetary Nodes of slow moving planets (Jupiter to Pluto) have a relatively narrow range of movement—and that range only moves every 72 years—all people on the planet have very similar Nodal positions for these planets.

For example, everyone has their Pluto South Node between 19-22 Capricorn, and North Node between 19-22 Cancer. This means that these particular degrees carry a very strong Plutonian charge. As you may have noticed, the current PLUTO TRANSIT is travelling within that range of degrees during the course of 2019-2020. In other words Pluto is on its own South Node for two years! Wait, the Lunar Nodes will soon be on those degrees as well! And what about transiting Saturn? On Pluto Nodes too.

But isn’t Saturn’s South Node also in the last third of Capricorn? Indeed, Saturn will be transiting its own South Node for the next two years, overlapping Pluto’s South Node.

Because we all share the same degrees of slow moving planets’ Nodes, these degrees
When natal chart planets are conjunct a Planetary Node, they will be immediately influenced by the nature of the planet whose Node they touch.

can also affect collective dynamics. When a planet in our chart is on those Nodes, it can activate a collective response since everyone responds to those degrees.

When natal chart planets are conjunct a Planetary Node, they will be immediately influenced by the nature of the planet whose Node they touch.

Let us use some chart examples to illustrate these dynamics:

ALEXANDER BELL – Inventor or the telephone.

When you think telephone, you think Gemini. When you think invention, you think Uranus, or Uranus/Jupiter. Alexander Bell was born with natal Jupiter on his Uranus North Node at 8 Gemini.

NEIL ARMSTRONG

Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the Moon, and though he has a natal Sun trine Uranus in Aries to show his enthusiasm for space travel, be sure to notice that his Mars in Gemini is conjunct the North Node of Uranus (14 to 16 Gemini). That does capture walking (Mars in Gemini) on another planet/satellite (Uranus North Node).

Neil has his Sun in Leo, conjunct the North Node of Neptune (11 to 12 Leo), emphasizing how his personal feat (Sun in Leo) captured the imagination and universal vision (Neptune) of the collective.

Neil’s natal Pluto is exactly on Pluto’s own North Node (19 Cancer) – We can identify two expressions of this aspect. To begin with, through his heroic journey, Neil transformed (Pluto) the national identity (Cancer) of the American people, planting the flag on the Moon. But on a more personal note, Pluto relates to losses, and Armstrong suffered the tragic family (Cancer) loss (Pluto) of his own daughter to brain cancer.

CONCLUSION

Planetary Nodes are powerful, and we all need to further research them the same way the Moon’s Nodes have become unavoidable in chart analysis. This year is particularly interesting, since Pluto and Saturn will be transiting their overlapping South Node.
Saturn and Pluto meet up with their OWN PLANETARY NODES in Capricorn this year and next. Currently, Saturn’s descending Node is 27:36 Capricorn. Pluto’s descending Node is 21:47 Capricorn.

Currently, Pluto’s descending or South Node at 21:47 Capricorn is less than a degree from the 1776 Saturn Planetary Node at 22:38 Capricorn in the USA Sibley chart (July 4, 1776, 5:10 pm LMT, Philadelphia, PA). Back in 1776, the founding fathers declared their desire to restructure (Pluto) their relationship to the authority (Saturn), King George III as Pluto moved through Capricorn, squared Saturn in Libra and joined Saturn’s descending Node.

Currently, Saturn’s descending or South Node is at 27:36 Capricorn, the same degree as the USA natal Pluto 27:32 Capricorn in the Sibley chart. Back in 1776, Pluto hadn’t been discovered. The founding fathers who were Masons and astrologers didn’t know Pluto was in the second house of values, resources and money. Now, as Saturn descends into its own planetary South Node, the USA has Pluto approaching its own Pluto return - an event that happens every 248 years. We can expect profound restructuring and renovation around our second house talents, values, portable assets, financial institutions, and actual money.

Pluto dives into his descending or South Node on February 6, 2019, July 18, 2019 and December 13, 2019.

United States of America
Natal Chart
Jul 4 1776, Thu
5:10 pm LMT +5:0039
Philadelphia PA
26°N 75°W
Octave
Decan: Libra
House 8

This year, Pluto and Saturn descend into the Lunar South Node in Capricorn on April 4, 2019 and April 30, 2019 respectively. Saturn descends two more times into the South Node on July 4, 2019 and September 28, 2019.
and dance on their own Nodes of destiny with the Lunar Nodes these next two years. Saturn coordinates how we structure our consciousness. As he goes into the descending Node, Saturn combines our unique family upbringing with the structure of the society we were born and raised in to flesh out our potential for individuation and maturation (or not).

Pluto is often the focus of transformation especially as it relates to emotional or psychological security—the descending Node is what we will unconsciously go toward to grant us the security. It feels so familiar and cozy even if it is a difficult energy of what security feels like.

PREVIOUS CYCLES
We can look back at history at previous Saturn Pluto conjunctions and notice patterns:
Five hundred years ago, on October 31, 1517. Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, protesting the Catholic Church selling of indulgences to wealthy patrons to get out of their sins and sparking the Protestant (Protesting) Reformation.

Prior to that in 1284, the Pied Piper led 130 children out of Hamelin never to be seen again! He returned to enchant and capture the children after the town refused to pay him for ridding the town of a rat infestation. In 783, there were a number of prominent world leaders in France, Iran and Greece including Irene of Athens leading the Byzantine Empire, sparking new ideas and ultimately a revival of the Holy Roman Empire by Charlemagne 20 years later. Rome was sacked by the Ostrogoths and held its last chariot races in 549 during the prior Saturn Pluto conjunction.

IN OUR CHARTS
So what can we expect? First, remember these aspects are global, so the entire world will feel them.
Second, in the USA, we will be offered the opportunity to restructure the decisions and choices made back in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed.
Third, the aspects will play out or take place in your Capricorn house, but carry the lessons back to where your natal Saturn and Pluto live by sign and house. If your natal Saturn and Pluto have an aspect, it will be a very big lesson and process for you as defined by the signs and houses they live in. If you are merely a witness to the marriage of these two planets in Capricorn on the world axis and their descent into their descending Nodes, the resulting changes will impact and rock your world with lasting reformations.

Fourth, take into consideration your relationship to power (Pluto) and authority (Saturn). Being as conscious as possible about the energies as you watch them roll out across the world and appear in your life. Do your Saturn and Pluto! Take responsibility for the form and format of your relationships to the world, authority and power. Know your boundaries. Set your frames. Watch for power plays or manipulation or triangles and decide how you want or don’t want to participate. Pay attention where someone is the clear loser and what their response is—especially to your personal reaction to the matter.

For good or bad, descending or South Nodes are where places, people or things leave our lives for good and forever. In many cases, there is no redemption or forgiveness—at least in this lifetime—so proceed with caution, clarity and concise, precise steps.

When we look at any Saturn or Pluto aspects in a chart we find profound strength, limitation, transformation and creation. We see where our lives connect us to the bigger cycles of the world. We find ourselves and what we are here to accomplish as well as our lifetime’s work, combined with the larger evolutionary purpose for our existence. When transits in the sky reflect this much tumultuous change, we can expect our lives to mirror the energy of the heavens. As above, so below.

The world is about to go on a Saturn-Pluto rollercoaster. We each have a part to play in the upcoming energy and events. In fact, the reason you are here as a witness to the energy, incarnated at this time, is because you have a role to play. Make sure you are on the side of history you want to be remembered for.

Anne Ortelee is a full time professional astrologer practicing in New York City. Anne is certified as NCGR-PAA Level 3, PMAFA, OPA and ISAR CAP. She writes a newsletter, twitters the daily real time astrology aspects, offers webinars and hosts three weekly internet radio shows. Find it all at www.astroanne.com.
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**Book Review**
**Review by Arlan Wise**

**THE BOOK OF WORLD HOROSCOPES**
BY NICK CAMPION

This book is much more than a compilation of horoscopes. Nick Campion has given astrologers not only a great reference, but also a treatise on how and why he wrote the book. He describes the historical event for each chart and, in cases where there are different possible dates or times or events, he shows multiple charts for each country. He published it in 1988, revised and expanded it in 1995, and in 2004 did another revision.

Nick Campion is a scholar, a true teacher, and an open minded writer. He is not trying to prove a point; instead, he is open to looking at all possibilities for data for calculating the charts. There are 403 charts in the main section of the book. He has 12 appendices and a list of prominent degrees for each country. He has detailed sources and footnotes for all data.

There is so much more to this book than a listing of charts. He has a lengthy discourse on astrology that is a book in itself. He explains his thinking and his philosophy. This is a work written by a historian, which Campion is, and he makes his case for why the various charts work. He explains his thinking throughout in a clear, well written way, as when he makes the distinction between natural and judicial astrology.

...the astrologer who measures and observes is not involved in the same act as the astrologer who reads and interprets. Both processes overlap, but the astrologer must be conscious of the distinctions between natural and judicial astrology. Judicial astrology requires that the astrologer makes judgement...the act of astrological judgement has no existence separate to the consciousness of the astrologer.

Because of his understanding of the importance of well sourced data, Campion does not like rectified charts.

...Data handed down by tradition is, experience has shown, often wrong. And the times at which historical events are supposed to have taken place have often been rectified...one person's rectification may be another person's wrong chart.

He makes a case for the importance of significance of an event over a guess at the beginning. He believes that the reporting of an event will vary from the actual time of its occurrence. He speaks of the importance of continuity of experience versus choosing one birth moment.

Once he has established that it is right to have multiple charts for a country, he then lists the countries alphabetically and describes how and why each chart was constructed. He gives 20 charts for the United States, explaining his thoughts for including them in the book. Each chart is documented with historical sources, including the quote by John Adams stating that on July 2, 1776, the colonies voted to become free and independent states and that day will be celebrated by succeeding generations. The section concerning the many United States charts is a book in itself and will be useful for all American astrologers to read.

The appendices are fascinating and have collections of charts for inaugurations, founding of political parties, towns and cities, economics, conflicts, continental charts (Medieval Europe, the Cold War), the nuclear era, powered flight and space travel, earth zodiacs, world horoscopes, the outer planets, and then indices of planet and angle degrees for national charts. You can see where your planets coincide with the Suns and Midheavens of the countries you want to visit. He has fun stuff to read such as the 100 dates for the beginning of the Age of Aquarius, some of which are in the future. There are excellent comprehensive footnotes and a bibliography full of interesting reading if one wants to dive deeper into any of the charts or topics.

This is a book that needs to be on every serious astrologer's bookshelf. It contains two books, one philosophical and one factual. It is a good read and a good resource. Campion disseminates information written from a basis of pure research and thought, yet he recognizes and accepts the importance of the intuitive world. He has given astrologers a great gift by producing this book. Thank you, Nick, for your time and effort.

**It is a 5 ***** plus book.**

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Mainstream versus Alternative Sciences, which one explains astrology better?

by Nadia Smirnova-Mierau

Coming from a mainstream physics educational background, I find that my attempt to explain how astrology works is hindered by a lack of appropriate physical models and definitions that would both make sense to me and make it easier for my audience to understand what I’m trying to say.

Being a highly sensitive individual with extrasensory abilities, I can feel and visualize the mechanism of planetary effects on humans. In other words, believe it or not, I am feeling the planetary vibes on a physical level. Feeling is one thing, explaining what I’m feeling in scientific terms is another. Finding the right scientific terminology for my explanations is a bit challenging.

When I was thinking about the connection between the heavens and life on Earth, and searching for solutions for unsolved problems in astrology, I came to the realization that the mainstream version of reality I was taught in school was invalid. It was invalid because it did not explain reality in all of its expressions. It did not explain many of my experiences when I was young and studying astrology, such as observing an amazing correlation between astrological interpretations and real human behavior, having lucid dreams and psychic visions.

Today it still does not explain the experiences of many people, like me, with astrology, psychic moments and various unusual occurrences. If a scientific model does not explain phenomena observed by millions, this tells that the model is incomplete. This also means we need to search for a better model.

Instead of looking for explanations for such natural phenomena, mainstream science is typically denying their existence in quite a disrespectful way, calling astrology a ‘pseudoscience’ and extrasensory practitioners ‘con-artists’.

Why? Who gave these people the right to put labels on disciplines and practices they know nothing about? Why do they act as an authority on the topic of ‘what science is’ when they themselves do not have answers to many questions within their own models? For example, mainstream physicists cannot explain what gravity is, what electricity is, what magnetism is, etc. They have many assumptions, laws and postulates that we are required to believe in without questioning. Mainstream physics has many contradictions and paradoxes. For example, quantum physics, the physics of microworlds cannot reconcile with the Newtonian physics, the physics of macroworlds. Einstein’s theory of relativity contradicts a natural phenomenon of quantum entanglement. The general theory of relativity is not applicable to physics of spinning objects because relativity requires two objects where one is moving relative to another while the spinning motion of an object is absolute and does not require a second object to measure its speed relative to the second object. Since we find spinning objects everywhere in macro and micro worlds the general theory of relativity, as elegant and popular as it is, is not applicable to the real world. It’s ultimately a mathematical model that is based on an idealized abstract world rather than on reality.

There are so many discrepancies in the foundation of the mainstream physics mental construct. Some great thinkers feel that mainstream science is more of a belief system by definition than a real science.

My quest to explain astrology started a long time ago as a response to pressure from my friends and colleagues who, like me at the time, were involved in mainstream physics. I had to explain to them that astrology is not a pseudoscience.

The further I went into the development of my Physics of Astrology framework, the more I was finding mistakes in the mainstream physics.
After 100 years of attempts to explain the building blocks of the universe without aether, working with particles and waves floating in an empty vacuum, scientists finally came back to understanding that vacuum is not really empty.

There are, of course, exceptions. But they are rare.

I’m sure you agree with the notion that any new controversial knowledge that threatens the established structures of a system meets great resistance by the system. These days, moving forward to new discoveries frequently means challenging the status quo of mainstream science.

About 100 years ago, mainstream physics accepted and made popular several incorrect theories and assumptions and consequently went in the wrong direction. By now it has virtually reached a dead-end in that direction and is desperately looking for a breakthrough.

An example of such a dead-end direction is chasing after the smallest building blocks of the world, the elementary particles. To experimentally confirm the theoretically proposed smallest elementary particles, like bosons, leptons, muons, quarks, etc. scientists must assemble huge accelerators. The smaller the particle they are after the bigger the accelerator or collider they need. There has always been a challenge to build the next bigger particle accelerator to look deeper inside smaller particles. Today the biggest accelerator is the Large Hadron Collider built by the European Organization for Nuclear Research in collaboration with over 100 countries. Imagine the enormous amount of money spent! This super collider is 27 kilometers long. If scientists in the future want to study something even smaller they would need a collider bigger than the Earth itself. It is unlikely that there will be a collider built bigger than this one. Many understand that proceeding in this direction doesn’t make sense.

One of the mistakes that took our physicists into the wrong path, is the rejection of the concept of aether and replacing it with an empty vacuum and spacetime. Aether, a fluid medium filling all space, has been popular in academic circles since at least the 1600s. Based on research of Russian scientist Vladimir Atsukovsky, the idea of aether has been around since deep antiquity.

After 100 years of attempts to explain the building blocks of the universe without aether, working with particles and waves floating in an empty vacuum, scientists finally came back to understanding that vacuum is not really empty. They saw that particles were being born out of vacuum and disappeared back into the vacuum in their accelerators. They realized that there is more to vacuum than abstract emptiness. Now we have aether back in physics, except it is named differently. Sometimes you hear ‘quantum vacuum’, other times ‘bose-einstein condensate’. Einstein called it ‘space time’.

The reason Tesla was so productive, as I see it, is that he did not care for the limitations and guidelines of the mainstream scientific industry.
industry. He rejected Einstein’s theory of relativity. He believed in the existence of aether and never wanted to walk away from it. Based on an understanding of the dynamics of aether, he was able to keep on inventing until the day he died.

After Tesla, many alternative scientists and researchers continued working on explaining reality using the aether concept, despite growing popularity of Einstein’s theory of relativity and rapidly developing aetherless quantum physics.

Today aether dynamics is an alternative, true science in my opinion. It explains the macro and micro world better that mainstream science. It is somewhat underdeveloped because of a lack of financing. Nevertheless, it manages to build on contemporary mainstream discoveries providing a better explanation for such discoveries.

Can it explain astrology and extrasensory perception? Yes, it can.

However, some mainstream concepts can also explain astrology and gravity. Ultimately, mainstream and alternative sciences are like brothers. They have the same parents, but one is supported by the parents because he does what parents want and another is on his own because he wants to be free to decide how he explores the world. Both mainstream and alternative sciences share a lot of vocabulary. They base their interpretations on common observable phenomena. Mainstream science is financially supported by governments because it does what governments require, while alternative science is on its own, free to work on what they feel is right.

While building my framework, I have found that there are many general aspects of astrology I can explain using mainstream definitions and postulates. It makes it easy to use a common understanding of gravity, as a phenomenon, to explain how planets affect us. However, going deeper into the nuts and bolts of physics of planetary aspects, planetary nodes, house systems, zodiac, etc., I have to move outside mainstream science’s scope of models and definitions. The minute I start talking about gravity being responsible for the physical connection between celestial bodies and us, I get questions that take me away from the traditional understanding of gravity. I have to bring the aether concept and powerful alternative physics into the mix in order to explain what gravity is and what it is not.

In other words, there are a couple of different ways to explain to skeptics how astrology works in scientific terms. One way is to address the biggest doubt of skeptics about the existence of a physical connection between us and the planets. They do not see the connection and think that human behavior is not influenced by celestial bodies at all. In order to show them that the connection exists it is sufficient to use the traditional understanding of gravity and mention lunar tides and the fact that humans are largely made out of water.

If I want to explain how the Zodiac works, why Lunar and planetary nodes are effective for readings just like planets, and how aspects work as well as progressions and directions, then I need to describe the fluid dynamic of aether and gravity waves propagating through it. That’s when it becomes an alternative physics conversation, like the type of physics anti-gravity is based on.

If I need to explain how psychic ability works, I can use a known phenomenon in mainstream quantum physics called quantum entanglement, which contradicts the popular relativistic physics and the speed of light as the universal speed limit. I can also use the idea of aether, where we are connected to each other via this common medium, like all fish connected to one another by water.

In conclusion, I would like to say that mainstream and alternative sciences are sets of ideas and mental constructs that attempt to describe reality. These are languages I can use to deliver my analysis of reality.

I use both languages when I need to explain how things work in life and how planets affect us. I choose mainstream language first because it is familiar to most. I take it all the way until I reach the boundary. Then I go further and use the alternative science language because its reach is broader and allows me to explain things that are deemed ‘unexplainable’ within mainstream boundaries.

To me astrology is a powerful alternative science, similar to aether dynamics, mother of all sciences. It is based on a phenomenon of planetary effect on human behavior, mass events and other occurrences on Earth.

Just like professional scientists are now re-discovering and re-naming aether, I see a future possibility of them to one day discover planetary effect on the human brain and give it a new ‘scientific’ name, like ‘astro-homo coherence’ or ‘astro-neuro entanglement’. When that happens, we will smile.

My proposal to Wikipedia is to change the definition of astrology, set a new guideline of how to understand what astrology is. Here is what I would like to see it defined as: astrology is a science of conformity between movements of celestial bodies and human life on Earth and the physical effect of celestial bodies on our life.

Nadia Smirnova-Mierau is a counseling Western astrologer, writer, speaker, teacher and alternative scientist with a conventional degree in nuclear physics. Her astrological studies and counseling practice began over 30 years ago in Moscow, Russia (USSR), her birth country. She is the author of Physics of Astrology, an e-book series. An ardent astrology advocate, she currently practices and teaches astrology in New York. She has also been interviewed on various media channels including TV, radio and YouTube as well as turning the tables to interview numerous brilliant international astrologers while offering YouTube publicility to conferences. Nadia is additionally a member of The Organization for Professional Astrology (OPA) and an agent at Cosmic Intelligence Agency (C*I*A).

Website: physicsofastrology.com
Professional Significators in Traditional Astrology & Financial Significators in Traditional Astrology
BY ÖNER DÖSER

These two books are part of a series written by Öner Döşer to teach traditional astrology. The books support the courses of the AstroArt Astrology School in Istanbul, Turkey which is founded and run by Öner Döşer. They are short books and each one in the series is focused on a specific topic.

Öner Döşer is a master in traditional astrology and wants to share these techniques with contemporary astrologers. He says that the greatest difference between traditional and contemporary astrology is:

…the planets are not only attributed to the native, but also to other people signified through these planets. Traditional astrology is based on distinguishing and determining the planets which signify different issues.

He references his statements with quotes from many classical sources – Ptolemy, Bonati, Firmicus Maternus, Lilly, Morin, Al-Burona, Al-Quibasi, and Robert Zoller, who Öner reveres as his teacher. This gives the reader a full idea of the complexity of assigning planets as significators since not all of the sources agree with each other.

There is a pattern in these books of teaching what the ancients say about the topic and then teaching what he does when looking at a chart with a particular focus. He has many examples charts, some them are of well-known Turkish individuals, which is interesting and something new for western readers. Öner uses the outer planets in his example charts. Each book has the same appendixes: a Table of Dignities, How to calculate Victors, How to find the Victor, How to calculate Lots, and a comprehensive glossary of the terms he uses in the books.

The books in this series are edited very well by Benjamin Dykes.

Professional Significators

This book describes the methods to use when looking at a chart to decide which is the best profession for a client. It tells how to find the Lot of Profession, how to read a diurnal or nocturnal chart (if the person is born during the day or night), which professions are ruled by which planet, indicated by sign and element, and how to combine two professional significators. He shows how to find the answers to such questions as - will the client be successful in his profession, or when will the client be successful. There is a chapter on planets in the tenth house and a chapter on the meaning of the lord of the tenth house in different houses.

Financial Significators

The topic of this book is finances. Öner starts by teaching how to calculate the Lot of Fortune and then analyze the house it occupies and its sign and its connections to other planet. Then he goes on to show how to analyze the second house and how to look at its lord in terms of the house where it resides. He demonstrates how to see if riches will be attained legally or illegally, if the client is destined for great fortune and wealth, or, a life of poverty. There is a chapter describing how Öner looks at a chart and which of the ancient methods he uses.

Öner Döşer is a natural teacher. His Aquarian Sun and Mercury are in trine to a ninth house Jupiter in Gemini. This speaks to his large international group of students and readers. He has found a winning formula for writing this series of short books, which also includes a volume on marriage significators.

The books are so well written that it is easy to learn how to include these old techniques into your work. You will benefit from reading them.

Review by Arlan Wise
PART ONE: IN DIALOGUE WITH THE SKY

The first astrologer I ever met took one look at my chart and said, “You’re a communicator.” I was 27 years old at the time, miscast as a corporate executive secretary after my first career choice—professional musician—turned out to have prerequisites that I lacked (networking genius, a gorgeous appearance, lungs built for long nights in smoky bars). With rent to pay, I’d parlayed my high school secretarial classes into a well-paid job that I found awfully dull, Virgo Midheaven or no Virgo midheaven. As I filed papers and typed memos each day, I certainly wasn’t thinking of myself as a communicator.

But that astrologer’s observation helped me see myself in an entirely new light. I realized I’d never had a meaningful interest in my life that didn’t involve communication. In my years as a performer and later as a secretary, I’d learned a thing or two—often the hard way—about wooing audiences, winning over demanding bosses and club owners, developing good phone etiquette, and writing razor-sharp correspondence. But it would be several years before I left my job to pursue astrology professionally, ten years before I decided to return to college, and another couple of years before it occurred to me to major in Communication.

Studying the subject academically gave me more insight and a lot of public speaking experience, which was a cornerstone of every upper divisional class in my major. But it’s my twenty-nine years as a professional astrologer that have given me my real education in the subject. Because as an astrologer, I—we—are in the communication business.

Dialogue with the Sky

Astrology is based on the notion that we’re in dialogue with the sky. We let the sky speak to us, listen to what it has to say, and decode its messages. Then, we figure out what those messages might mean and attempt to translate them into plain English.

It’s tempting to think that it’s enough just to be good at the work of reading symbols. It isn’t, of course—at best, it’s half the job. And like many other professionals, astrologers can be very good at the technical side of our work without being particularly good at communicating what we know—and we don’t always realize it.

Communication is about sharing ideas and conveying an intentional impression. To do it well requires more than good ideas and raw charisma—it requires self-awareness, organization, and practice. The good news is that even someone who isn’t a natural communicator can learn to be a capable one. In this series, I’ll explore some ideas about how to do that.

In this series

For instance, when we work with clients, we should know our astrology so well that we can make it invisible. Sure, clients who are interested in learning astrology may want to peek under the hood at house systems, asteroids, and time lords; but everyone else pretty much just wants useful perspective and helpful solutions. As my favorite high school teacher was fond of saying, “People won’t care what you know until they know that you care.”

But handling the session itself with tact and sensitivity is only one part of making clients feel cared for. As we’ll explore in Part Two of this series, handling communication professionally before and after the session—communicating our approach, prices, policies, boundaries, and expectations—is just as important in making clients feel respected and appreciated.

Part Three in the series touches on a subject dear to my heart, which is how we communicate with audiences. The lecturing astrologer often knows a lot of technique but may not have taken so much as a basic public speaking course. I’ve spent years sitting in lectures where I couldn’t see the charts that were being referenced and couldn’t hear the lecturer because he or she was talking to a PowerPoint presentation instead of the audience. I’ve got opinions on this subject, folks, so brace yourselves!

Finally, Part Four addresses communicating with the world through social media, conventional media, and publication.

Now, many of you are far ahead of me in all these areas. Each one of us has strengths and struggles. But we can all be better at what we do, if we first have the courage and humility to realize the ways in which we’re failing to understand and to be understood. Most indecipherable websites, unfocused presentations, misspelled social media memes, and poorly produced
situations are tough going for me. I’ve always been happiest communicating with the world from my cozy little home office. Yet somehow, I ended up as the president of my local astrological society, on the AFAN steering committee, and lecturing at conferences.

Now that I’ve peeked outside my cave, I’ve had the chance to observe communication in astrology from a much broader perspective. Through my local astrology group, I’ve seen how guest lecturers approach the community, both as speakers and professionals. Through the boards I serve, I’ve had an up-close and personal look at group dynamics. And in the digital age, we all have constant exposure to the way astrologers communicate within our community.

To be honest, some of that communication is done rather badly, infused with vanity, arrogance, bitterness, or laziness. And some of it is done sublimely, by astrologers who make everyone they meet feel special, every group feel that it’s an honor to speak for them, every visitor to their website or social media platform feel heard and appreciated. And then there are the rest of us, just trying to figure it all out, get our voices heard, and share the work we love.

As professional astrologers, we’re all communicators. And I think we can be even better ones. How? That’s what we’ll explore in future installments of this series!

April Elliott Kent has practiced astrology professionally since 1990. She’s the author of three books, a popular lecturer, and a member of OPA, ISAR, NCGR, and AFAN. She serves on the AFAN Steering Committee and as president of the San Diego Astrological Society. April graduated from San Diego State University with honors in Communication. She lives in San Diego’s Normal Heights neighborhood with her long-suffering husband and demanding cats. Her website is www.bigskyastrology.com.

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OPA’s Certification process is becoming a leading reference to add credence that astrologers are competent and effectively provide quality service.

- The certification is open to any type of astrology orientation.
- Applying astrologer must have a professional practice for at least 6 mos.

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*Next opportunity for Programs: I-Astrologer 2018 (Tucson, Oct 4-10)*

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- Astrologer demonstrates **care, tolerance, compassion, ethical and responsible behavior** toward their client. They maintain healthy boundaries with their client and demonstrate healthy control of the session. They are able to discuss difficult challenges or issues, while making practical suggestions to manage those challenges and empower their client. They have adequately conveyed chart content without intimidation, cynicism, self-righteousness, or over-identification with the client’s situation.
- Management of practice – the astrologer can show **vulnerability, humility, and admit mistakes**.
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**OPA endorses and promotes certified astrologers**

*Clients can better trust OPA Certified Astrologers.*

**7-Year Valid Certification with option to extend**

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- Astrologer must renew their certification after 7 years by participating in a Peer Group within that time frame.
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August 27-30, OPA Peer Group | August 30 – Sept 2 – NCGR Astrology Conference

OPA Peer Group Process
Baltimore, August 28-30, 2019, ahead of NCGR

The Peer Group process is a workshop for practicing astrologers (at least 6 months of paid client practice) who meet for three days to discuss their practice:

**DAY 1** • DISCUSSING OUR CHALLENGES WITH CLIENTS
**DAY 2** • ANALYZING EACH OTHERS’ CHART AND SHARING TECHNIQUES
**DAY 3** • TAKING OUR PRACTICE TO THE NEXT LEVEL – BUSINESS PLAN

[Images of speakers]

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develop a plan that will draw out your innate gifts and desires oriented toward the whole you. Plug into your own power source moving into alignment with the bigger picture. Goals define what choices and paths you are willing to take in order to create a link to your values. Consider environment, education, age, the country you live in, and laws associated with your work. Goals are not static, they need to be adjusted on a regular basis, especially when they are combined with other life goals.

There are many key ingredients to consider, the following ideas will keep you on track.

Ask yourself, if I do this ___ will it align my life to____? Is this in alignment with the life I desire to be living?

Know yourself, your agenda and what you are working with right now. The deeper, more comprehensively you understand your needs and desires the better the chance you have of staying the course and successfully getting to the finish line.

Important question: Are your basic needs being met? If the answer is no, this is where you need to start, focus on your needs not your wants.

Have the foresight to see what you need to define, let-go of, create new patterns or re-program and organize in order to get to the finish line.

Tap into your strengths and weakness and create a skilled version of them in order to align with the goals of the future you.

You must be able to articulate your goals and develop a plan of action. You might use a spreadsheet, a vision board, a computer program or all these tools in order to build

Part I: What is goal setting?

Some people claim they can’t get through the day without some sort of focused itinerary based on goal setting, while others say they never goal set and do just fine going with the flow and getting through their day. On some level, whether formal or conceptual, goals are embedded into everyday behaviours. Sometimes we talk ourselves into believing that we aren’t capable of achieving goals because we’ve failed in the past or things have not quite gone as planned, leading to fear or anxiety around the process. Even the pressure to adopt a style of goal setting by motivational speakers or life coaches can be confusing. There are literally hundreds of books, articles, websites and speakers all pushing their style of goal setting. Is goal setting really one size fits all? When is the best time to set goals?

An example of a popular goal setting time period (and often failure to achieve) are New Year Goals. Many people feel defeated before they even start, yet each year come back...
your plan. What better way to approach goal setting then from your very own astrological chart! Dare to dream big and work with a plan that is built specifically for you.

Factors to consider in the astrological chart as you create your own set of goal setting rules:

- Look at the whole you not just one planet. Although there are key planets connected to goal setting, before you pick up the magnifying glass you need to see the bigger picture.
- Keep in mind there are always exceptions based on rulership, aspect patterns pulling in other planetary energies, and support systems innately built into the chart.
- Most of all remember that no matter what your chart looks like, skilled and unskilled behaviors are the most important part of the work. Any planetary energy can be utilized at its highest level if you are determined to succeed.

The planets you want to engage when setting and achieving your goals are:

- **Venus as the Attractor and Motivator:** Is she outsourcing her work through a dispositor or is she able to control the goals from her single point of view.
  - Venus will draw in what you value the most. Look to Venus for clues that will tell you what skills and support she has in order set goals that will harmonize your environment and draw toward you what you love. Engage her to see what style of motivation she might have when connecting with other planets that need to get on board.
  - Look to the sign for the script she is using (mode of operation, polarity, element, symbolism) to provide clues of innate behaviours connecting you to what you value, how you experience harmony, and to help you to recognize what you desire.
  - Where do you find the ruler of the sign Venus is located in? Is there an aspect relationship between Venus and her ruler? Does Venus or her ruler make a connection to Saturn, her Ruler, Mars, or Mercury?
  - What other connections is Venus making (dispositor patterns and aspects). For aspects is she the MAP (Most Aspected Planet) or LAP (Least Aspected Planet)? Are the majority of her aspects stressful or harmonious? This can give an indication of your general attitude about goal setting.

- **Saturn as the control and guide to organization and what your style of focus might look like.** Saturn will also give you a clue to where baggage may be hidden creating a fear of success.
  - Look to the sign (mode of operation, polarity, element, symbolism) and the house where he is residing.
  - Who rules the sign where Saturn is located, and what house and sign is the ruler in? Is there a connection between the two? Is Saturn making any other connections to its ruler, Venus, Mars or Mercury?

- **What is the planet and house that best describes your Astrological career goal:** 2nd & 8th money goals, 7th clients, 4th home-based business, 6th & 10th career/work, 9th if you plan on teaching or have foreign clients.
  - Where is the ruler and any planets within its borders, and what is their tie-in to the chart?

- **Sun and Moon:** Although we are not going to directly delineate the Sun and the Moon, it is important that your goals align with both. If you are struggling to accomplish your goals on a day to day basis, you may need to evaluate and pull in the Moon’s influences by setting or reprogramming new patterns and habits. Look to the Sun to see how you are projecting your light out into the world.

Although not directly involved in the process of goal setting, Mars and Mercury are involved in articulating and actioning the goals once you have a plan.

- **Mars factor** in your ability to action your plan.
  - Is Mars supportive of your plan? Or will you need to compensate for his lack of support?

- **Look to the ruler of Mars and its house placement for indications of support through action, or how he will project his energy externally.**
- **Mercury will show the mind’s ability to communicate, articulate and gather tools to support the goal.**
- **Look to the ruler of Mercury and the house placement for indications of communication style and ability to gather facts and data in order to accomplish the task at hand.**

Don’t forget to use other systems that may confirm or support your findings like:

- **Foundational Energy** (simple count of element, mode and polarity).

This will provide the key to understanding your motivational factors and your innate responses to troubleshooting if you are struggling to achieve your goals. This energy is a great representative of a subtle but powerful underlying energy that drives us forward and is often left untapped. Pay close attention when Saturn or Venus are directly involved in the Foundational Energy.

- **Dispositor Patterns**

This will be an added indicator of support systems imbedded in the chart. Pay close attention if Venus and/or Saturn are involved as a final dispositor or are in some sort of power position within a loop or mutual reception.

In Summary

Create a map of the patterns you discover, take each finding into creative contemplation as you begin play with how it might change your approach in the achievement and success of your goal setting. One size does not fit all.

Join me next time as we explore different ways to boost the power of your astrological patterns, as you build your Professional Astrology business.

**Tamira is a Professional Astrologer & Teacher**

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Astrology Antidotes
Opposite Sign Strengths

Every astrology sign has strengths and weaknesses. When a sign is heavily afflicted, the strengths of the opposite sign (polarity point) serve as an antidote or solution.

For example, the antidote for an afflicted Aries would be Libra gifts. The antidote for an afflicted Libra would be Aries gifts. The same concept applies to afflicted houses and planets. But, for the sake of simplicity, only signs will be discussed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polarity Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aries ↔ Libra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taurus ↔ Scorpio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemini ↔ Sagittarius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer ↔ Capricorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo ↔ Aquarius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgo ↔ Pisces</td>
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</tbody>
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All of us are all the signs, but the level of negative response is indicated by difficult aspects in our charts. Not everyone experiences such shadow expressions or hardships. For the sake of simplicity, every other sign is presented using masculine and feminine pronouns.

ARIES >>> LIBRA

Aries is the bold, action-oriented warrior. "Just Do It" as Nike would say. Taking initiative and moving forward and fighting the good fight are all wonderful qualities of Aries. But, when the negative traits are extreme, the hero gallantly forging into war does not always come back as a hero. Impulsiveness can lead to injuries and problems. Being brash and selfish can lead to enemies.

When out of balance, life forces the wounded warrior to move forward to the next sign of Taurus. He or she needs to find comfort and withdraw to heal his wounds, to develop values of when to fight or not, learn to become practical and establish security and temper impulsiveness. With values, he or she is opening to embrace a Libra belief.

The antidote for Aries is Libra. Instead of the me, there is the we. Rather than using relationships to discover self, the person discovers the other, and, in turn, gains a deeper understanding of self. Instead of deciding what is best for the partner, one realizes the partner’s needs and wants and learns to be receptive. The love and beauty of Libra and Venus softens the warrior.

A belief or mantra that can help Aries bring forth Libra gifts:

**I am you. You are me.**

Jacques Lacan’s Mirror Theory says that relationships reflect something within.2 The highest ideal of Libra is to transcend duality. If I am you and you are me is now within, killing another means that he is killing self. Hurting another is hurting self.

TAURUS >>> SCORPIO

Taurus possesses an intelligence of what is needed to survive. Decisions of what has importance for this purpose can be the difference between thriving and dying. Values are the basis for this survival. But, when the negative traits are extreme, the stubborn Bull can have a narrow, rigid value system. What he/she holds to be true is inflicted on others. A value is a value is a value. This is right. That is wrong.

An outdated and limited value system can threaten existence and material needs. She is confronted with an adjustment to black and white perspectives. In order to survive and thrive, she then begins to question her values.

When out of balance, life forces her to move forward to the next sign of Gemini. Learn and do a lot of things, live life, explore the ethics of others or whatever may grab her interest. With duality, she is opening to embrace a Scorpio belief.

The antidote for Taurus is Scorpio. Instead of the material, there is the soul. Rather than avoiding death, there is resurrection and transformation. Rather than a focus on the surface layer, there is shadow awareness. Instead of right or wrong, she learns there is gray.

A belief or mantra that can help Taurus bring forth Scorpio gifts:

**I am not the body. I am the soul.**

When the identification with the body falls away, there is a knowing that the soul lives on. The highest ideal of Scorpio is understanding that there is no such thing as death as the soul never dies. With this belief, there is power over the greatest fear in life. There are countless stories of near-death experiences where people are resurrected with transformed perspectives and values.

GEMINI >>> SAGITTARIUS

Gemini helps us get in touch with the childlike part of ourselves as he shares the excitement of discovering something new. It is like the fun of being with a toddler.
or puppy as he explores the world. Gemini can infect us with his enthusiasm. There is a presence, an openness, and a mindfulness in what he is experiencing.

The flip side is when Gemini loses presence and becomes scattered. When the negative traits are extreme, he has no control over his thoughts. The duality of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde goes here and there as the mind takes him.

When out of balance, life forces Gemini to move forward to the next sign of Cancer. He goes within to feel rather than think. With internal reflection, he is opening to embrace a Sagittarius belief.

The antidote for Gemini is Sagittarius strengths. Instead of mind, there is intuition. Instead of knowledge, there is wisdom. A belief or philosophy serves as the target for the archer. He learns direction and focus.

A belief or mantra that can help Gemini bring forth Sagittarius gifts:

I am not the mind. I am the watcher.

As Eckhart Tolle says, “Enlightenment is not only the end of suffering and of continuous conflict within and without, but also the end of the dreadful enslavement to incessant thinking... The moment you start watching the thinker, a higher level of consciousness becomes activated.” The highest ideal of Sagittarius is an ever-expanding consciousness.

CANCER >>> CAPRICORN

Cancer is the image of a baby lovingly held by her mother. The warmth and softness of the mother’s breasts enfold her. The milk comforts her. The rocking soothes her. When she cries or feels upset, her mother scoops her up and makes her feel safe. This bonding with the mother is the emotional conduit to connect with the world and within self. The ability to comfort self is absorbed from the mother’s grounding of the child.

But, when the negative traits are extreme, feelings are overwhelming and unbearable. There is an inability to comfort and soothe self. She withdraws from life as the Crab hides within her shell.

When out of balance, life forces Cancer to move forward to the next sign of Leo. Eventually she tip toes into the light of the Leo Lion, as the Crab begins to peek out of its shell. With the Lion’s courage, she is opening to embrace a Capricorn belief.

The antidote for Cancer is Capricorn strengths. Instead of dependency, there is responsibility. Rather than looking to others for comfort, she realizes that she is her own authority. She has the ability to hold, rock, and soothe the child within. She learns to ground herself with practical solutions. She eventually tells herself (as a Capricorn might say), “Just get over it.”

A belief or mantra that can help Cancer bring forth Capricorn gifts:

I am responsible for my choices and perceptions.

How one feels is a reflection of perceptions. The mistake is trying to control feelings. It never works. What a Cancer can control is how she thinks, which affects feelings. Viktor E. Frankl (survivor of World War II concentration camps) said, “The one thing you can’t take away from me is the way I choose to respond to what you do to me. The last of one’s freedoms is to choose one’s attitude in any given circumstance.” The highest ideal of Capricorn is to be the sure-footed mountain goat above it all.

LEO >>> AQUARIUS

Leo has a heart of gold and loves to lavish gifts and affection. The rays of his essence warm others. His light shines bright and can be a magnet to others. But, when the negative traits are extreme, Leo can be narcissistic. Behaviors and how he treats others are based on the belief that the world revolves around him. He is the sun. He is god. He is the king. Others are there to serve him.

Narcissism lives on a spectrum. Most of us at one time or another have the need to be better than others or the need for attention. But when taken to extreme, narcissism is one of the most difficult traits to heal. Something has gone wrong at every step in the development of self along the progression from Aries to Cancer. The shadow of all four signs culminates as narcissism. Aries is selfishness. Taurus is fear. Gemini is a lack of control over thoughts. And, Cancer is a fracture within the emotional self that results in an inability to love and comfort self. The narcissist is actually the opposite of who he appears to be. He is insecure, afraid, and hates his true self.

The higher the Leo goes in his narcissistic bubble, the further he has to fall. The lonely king has only one place to go when he confronts the false self. There is a fall from grace, and he is no longer the ruler, but the bottom of the bottom. The Leo king has lost his crown and is humbled. When out of balance, life forces Leo to move forward to the next sign of Virgo.

It is necessary to integrate Aries through Cancer before Leo can embrace Virgo energies. To heal an inflated ego or narcissism, it is necessary to work backwards from Cancer to Aries.

I am responsible for my choices and perceptions.

- Cancer to Capricorn
- The feeling self is the true self means that the narcissist needs to feel feelings to create an emotional bond with self.
- It is a critical step to be able to rock, love, and soothe the child within.
Astrology Antidotes

- The first step in a 12-step program is to take responsibility, and ego is an addiction.

**I am not the mind. I am the watcher.**
- Gemini to Sagittarius
- When watching thoughts, there is a higher level of consciousness. The mind or ego no longer has control.

**I am not the body. I am the soul.**
- Taurus to Scorpio
- There is no such thing as death as the soul lives on.
- There is the realization that the soul is the watcher.

**I am you, and you are me.**
- Aries to Libra
- With the assimilation of feelings (true self), mindfulness, and soul, Leo is ready to see the other.
- The achievements and successes of others are his achievements and successes.

With Virgo humility and service to others, Leo is opening to embrace an Aquarian belief. The antidote for Leo is Aquarius strengths. Instead of loneliness, there is belonging. Instead of a focus on being the center, there is a focus on group dynamics and an appreciation of each person’s contribution. Rather than an attachment to the inflated false self, there is detachment and acceptance of what is. He learns mindfulness.

A belief or mantra that can help Leo bring forth Aquarius gifts:

*It is what it is.*

Dr. Seltzer in a Psychology Today article says, “… their (narcissist) innermost desire—to believe that *they are* (with no embellishments) is okay, acceptable, and lovable.”

**LIBRA >> ARIES**
Libra is not the sign of balance. It is the sign of seeking balance. He seeks peace through compromise, beauty, gentleness, and nature. He looks for partners who compliment his strengths and weaknesses. As life is a never-ending flux of change, Libra needs to continually monitor the scales. He is on target when there is a feeling of inner peace.

But, when the negative traits are extreme, he loses self in the other. He sacrifices internal balance for external compromise. He wants to make everybody happy, but it is at his own expense.

When out of balance, life forces Libra to move forward to the next sign of Scorpio. He needs to know that the illusionary ideal is not real and accept the shadow within the world, partnerships, and self. He needs to get real. With Scorpio depth, he is opening to embrace an Aries belief.

**SCORPIO >> TAURUS**
Scorpio is the sign of death and rebirth. Scorpio has options when faced with the inevitability of death. As an example, let’s say Scorpio’s dearly loved father has a year to live. She can choose to avoid her father and the reality. The option of denial or ignorance keeps Scorpio in the underworld the longest.

If she stands by her father and helps him through the dying process, she can respond in two ways. She can go to the underworld of grief and sadness. Or, she can choose to celebrate awakening each morning as she still has her father. When facing death, she becomes more alive. She can help him die in peace as he knows that she is OK.

But, when the negative traits are extreme, Scorpio cannot let go. She sees only the darkness of the underworld and a focus on what has been lost.

When out of balance, life forces Scorpio to move forward to the next sign of Sagittarius. With Sagittarius inspiration and optimism, she is opening to embrace a Taurus belief.

The antidote for Scorpio is Taurus strengths. Instead of death, there is life. Instead of being blinded within the darkness, the eyes open to see all the beauty in the world. Rather than a focus on what is wrong, there is an enjoyment of exquisite food, sunshine, good sex, and all that the body and Mother Earth have to offer. She learns that she can choose where to direct her attention… heaven or hell.

A belief or mantra that can help Scorpio bring forth Taurus gifts:

*Life is short. Value the day. Value every breath. Value life and all that it has to offer.*

Each person will look back on her life on her dying day. Will there be regrets? The highest ideal of Taurus is to be true to what is valued. Live life.

**SAGITTARIUS >> GEMINI**
Sagittarius is the inspiring philosopher or teacher with a strong belief system. He professes his beliefs with passionate conviction.
and logical arguments whether it is related to vaccine use, astrology, politics, spirituality, how to raise children, or whatever his passion might be. A Sagittarius atheist is the most devout atheist of the zodiac. But, when the negative traits are extreme, he would rather burn at the stake than open to the possibilities of a different point of view.

When out of balance, life forces the philosopher to move forward to the next sign of Capricorn. He needs to honor obligations, pay bills, and accept the consequences of over-extension or being wrong. With reality and accountability, he is opening to embrace a Gemini belief.

The antidote for Sagittarius is Gemini. Instead of preaching, there is two-way communication. Instead of a fixed belief, there is an eagerness to learn. Instead of a misguided devotion, there is an openness to diverse perspectives. He learns there are many levels of truth.

A belief or mantra that can help Sagittarius bring forth Gemini gifts:

**Wisdom is when you know how little you know.**

Sagittarius rules Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system. Jupiter may be the largest in the Milky Way, but the planet is just a speck in the entire universe... so teeny tiny is one human being. How can anyone believe his beliefs are beyond reproach? There are dimensions and realities beyond the scope of human awareness. The highest ideal of Gemini is an openness to possibilities.

**CAPRICORN >>> CANCER**

Capricorn has a refined sense of responsibility, dependability, and work ethic. She is known to be cold and lacking emotions. It is because she cares so much that she needs to disconnect. For example, imagine a child who was raised on a farm. She had to distance herself emotionally from the animals as they might be dinner or sold for slaughter. From a young age she had chores and was held accountable. There was no time for the luxury of feelings when a job needed to be completed.

But, when the negative traits are extreme, Capricorn loses touch with how she feels. When a friend is crying, she is like a deer caught in the headlights of an oncoming car. She cares. She wants to help. Ask her to run caught in the headlights of an oncoming car.

When out of balance, life forces Capricorn to move forward to the next sign of Cancer. Instead of a focus on worldly expectations, she questions who she is as an individual. With individuation, she is opening to embrace a Cancer belief.

The antidote for Capricorn is Cancer. Instead of suppression, there is release. Instead of outward goals, there is inward exploration. Rather than controlling emotions, there is truth. She learns to relate on a deeper emotional level.

A belief or mantra that can help Capricorn bring forth Cancer gifts:

**I connect with my soul when I feel my feelings.**

Feel the feelings whether the good, the bad, or the ugly. When feeling the feelings, there is an emotional release and no longer anything to control. By going within and feeling the emotion, there is a connection with the truth of oneself. When connecting with the truth of oneself, it is then possible to have true intimacy with another.

**AQUARIUS >>> LEO**

Aquarius is like the awkward teenager striving to find his niche in the world. He does not seem to fit in with his parent’s lifestyle or the clicks at school. He rebels against authority and the status quo. He seeks to be himself against the pressures of conformity.

But, when the negative traits are extreme, Aquarius questions himself. “How can I be right if everybody else says that I am wrong? Why am I different?” Although he comes off with an aloof indifference, he seeks confirmation in his search for like-minded groups.

When out of balance, life forces Aquarius to move forward to the next sign of Pisces. Through spirituality and God’s unconditional love, he is opening to embrace a Leo belief.

The antidote for Aquarius is Leo strengths. Instead of insecurity, there is confidence. Instead of doubt, there is knowing. Rather than seeking confirmation outside of self, the light of his essence shines from within. He learns to trust himself.

A belief or mantra that can help Aquarius bring forth Leo gifts:

**I love me.**

Probably the greatest malady of today’s society is the lack of love for self. Somebody with healthy self-esteem shines as his own unique being. He can even look into the mirror and love the thinning hair and saggy belly or whatever else creates low self-esteem in most. True, sincere self-love heals the world.

**PISCES >>> VIRGO**

Pisces is the sign of the Christ. The Virgo Virgin is the sign of the Divine Mother that gives form to spirit. The Divine Mother grounds the soul into the physical world. Pisces has a strong connection to the spiritual world, which is a very nebulous energy. Boundaries dissipate. There is oneness.

But, when the negative traits are extreme, Pisces has a difficult time being in her body. Part of her drifts off to the spirit world. Most everybody has had the experience of waking up from a dream with answers to problems. Pisces goes off to this place while awakened even though she might not be aware that she is doing it. She has insights and answers to problems that have no logical basis.

She has a compassionate and caring nature as she feels what others feel. She feels the chaos and pain of the collective and is unable to turn it off. She gets lost in the sea of emotions and does not know what is hers or someone else’s. It is difficult for the sensitive Pisces to live in the harsh realities of the physical world. She might try to escape overamped emotions and numb the pain of the world via alcohol, drugs, or other addictions like work, computers, cell phones, TV, or martyrdom.

When out of balance, life forces the empath to move forward to the next sign of Aries. Instead of escaping, she steps full throttle into life. She no longer sits back passively. She gets pissed. She takes charge of her life. With the Aries energy of coming into the body, she is opening to embrace a Virgo belief.

The antidote for Pisces is Virgo strengths. Instead of chaos, there is order. Instead of confusion, there are practical solutions. Inspiration can be manifested strategically into physical form. She grounds herself. When overwhelmed with emotions, she asks, “Is it mine or somebody else’s?” She learns not to take on what is not hers.

A belief or mantra that can help Pisces bring forth Virgo gifts:

**As above, so below.**

The highest ideal of Virgo is to ground the soul as much as possible—to bring heaven to earth. As within, so without.

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Kathy Hunter is a Professor in Business and Computing Studies at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. She has been a practicing astrologer since 2010. She is an analytical empath that helps her clients with practical solutions to save time and money. Through an understanding of the soul’s challenges and purpose, Kathy guides clients to heal emotional blockages and create a joyful life. She teaches astrology classes at the Unity Church in Sedona, AZ. Primary areas of focus are evolutionary and spiritual astrology. Website: www.orionsjourney.com
THEME OF THE SEASON
Spring 2019

MARCH 2019

20 Vernal Equinox - 5:58 p.m. in Washington DC • Full Moon 00 Libra Sun 00 Aries 08 9:43 PM Washington DC
21 Venus square Mars • Sun conjunct Chiron • Mercury 18 Pisces retrograde is applying to a 13-day conjunction to Neptune (1° applying for 10 and 1/2 days and one degree separating for two and a half days).
26 Venus ingress into Pisces
27 Venus sextile Uranus • Mercury stations Direct at 16 Pisces
31 Mars ingress into Gemini

APRIL 2019

2 Mercury conjunct Neptune (final pass/resolution)
9 Jupiter station • Venus conjunct Neptune • Sun square Saturn.
11 Jupiter retrograde
14 Venus trine the North Node and sextile Pluto
15 Venus square Jupiter and the Sun trine Jupiter
17 Mercury ingress into Aries
19 Full Moon @ 29 degrees Libra,
20 Sun ingress into Taurus and Venus ingress into Aries

MAY 2019

4 New Moon @ 14 Taurus 6:45 p.m. Washington DC; Mars opposite Jupiter
6 Mercury ingress into Taurus; Venus square Saturn and the South node, Mercury conjunct Uranus
9 Venus trine Jupiter and square Pluto
15 Mars ingress into Cancer & Venus into Taurus, Neptune trines the North Node
17 Mercury trine Pluto, Venus conjunct Uranus
18 Full Moon 27 Scorpio
21 Sun ingress into Gemini • Mercury ingress right behind it at 6:52 a.m. Mercury is cazimi on May 21st from 4:08 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. EDT. • Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, and Mercury and Neptune all in rulership, while Mars is in fall (Cancer).
23 Mars square Chiron and sextile Uranus • Mercury sextile Chiron (all between 3-5°)
29/30 Venus sextile the North Node and Neptune, trine Saturn and quincunx Jupiter • Mercury squares Neptune, opposes Jupiter is quincunx Saturn • Pluto (Planets and Nodes between 18-20°).

JUNE 2019

3 New Moon @ 12 Gemini
4 Mercury ingress into Cancer
8 Sun opposes Jupiter and squares Neptune, forming a mutable square • Venus ingress into Gemini.
11 Mars conjunct the North Node, trine Neptune and quincunx Jupiter
15 Mercury conjunct Mars and the North Node opposite Saturn / Mercury and trine Neptune.
17 Full Moon at 25 Sagittarius 53 at 4:31 a.m. Washington (conjunct the Galactic center), Mercury conjunct Mars

Happy New Year!

The First Point of Aries is Upon Us

The vernal equinox, Aries ingress—the beginning of the astrological year—begins March 20th at 5:59 p.m. EDT (Washington DC) with the Sun applying to a conjunction with Chiron (See chart 1, Moon in First). The astrological year comes in with a bang just before a 0 degree Libra full Moon (see chart). This abrupt shift in planetary energy foretells swift change and action shortly after we transition into the season. The Full Moon in Libra encourages diplomacy and asks us to see both sides of any situation. With both luminaries making tight inconjunct aspects to Uranus, adjustments will need to be made around how we express our will and maintain autonomy while mediating emotions. Course corrections should also be seen in the areas of technology, science and our individual rights and freedoms. If this is not the case we will struggle to move gracefully into the future. Because the lights are at 0 degrees, it’s a message that it’s too early to tell what a change in behavior will bring, but change is necessary and coming whether we submit or not.

March 22nd Sun conjunct Chiron

The Full Moon comes on the heels of Mars trine Pluto—diplomacy is required. The opposition of a Full Moon illuminates imbalance. This is exaggerated here with the Sun exalted in Aries and the Moon in the sign that is perpetually in search of balance and justice. The challenge with this particular Full Moon is the pull to achieve peace at all costs, which makes frustrations more intense rather than diffusing them. The exalted Sun in Aries is on a high. It’s optimistic, self-confident and it looks forward not backwards. The Sun’s conjunction to Chiron could diminish the issues of Chiron, downplaying our past wounds. As the Sun passes the centaur, it may highlight our wounds related to self-expression, or conversely, to buck up and get over it. In the latter case, it may leave our personal and collective wounds open and raw — invalidated. This conjunction has the potential to rise up the disenfranchised while leaving others demoralized and weeping in a corner. In both instances the Sun passing Chiron may allow us to ignore our Chironic injuries in the short-term only to be surprised we’re not all healed when the Sun sets, leaving us to continue on our individual quest for understanding. In its most positive, this connection can lead some to draw strength from the warmth of the Sun’s connection, highlighting compas-
conjunct Neptune in Pisces—feelings may get in the way, and possibly lead to communications being misinterpreted or miscommunicated, and reality distorted. We can be prone to delusion, or even feel overwhelmed. People who are not comfortable with this very intense mutable water energy will be ill-at-ease and could feel quite unstable.

In a positive way, this planetary connection has the potential for us to marry logic to intuition. Yet, we have to be careful because whatever is ruled by Mercury in our own charts could just evaporate in a cloud of steam. This aspect is square Donald Trump's natal 10th house Uranus, North Node, Sun in Gemini and quincunx his natal 2nd house Jupiter. Mercury rules his 2nd and 11th houses, leaving me wonder if his finances or financial support will evaporate or just become murkier than it already is. However it affects D.T. and the rest of us, it is a very long time to weather a transitting Mercury/Neptune conjunction.

There's a strong element of sacrifice and martyrdom to this intense Pisces transit. We will have to work on not internalizing these feelings of needless martyring. Issues around drugs and alcohol, or just general escapism may manifest. A healthy way to escape would be to enjoy music, theater, cinema, expressive dance, or poetry. The potential for otherworldly awakenings is high, and with the aspects to Jupiter, the potential for overindulgence and deluding ourselves will be an easy trap to fall into. For those experiencing the positives of this planetary connection this will be a time of incredible inspiration. Creative projects can be elevated to a mystical level; even more so when Venus ingresses into her sign of exaltation and joins Mercury and Neptune in Pisces—this is when the true magic begins. We must try to remain realistic about our abilities in the areas Mercury and Neptune fall in or rule. The latter rules drug companies and illicit drugs so expect to see issues arising in these areas.

Mars Ingress into Gemini
Mars moves through Gemini from March 31st to May 15th. Shortly after this sign change, Mercury will make its final contact with Neptune allowing us to slowly move out of this dreamy escapist phase, gently urging us into action in the direction we feel needs to evolve creatively, psychologically and spiritually. With Mars in Gemini the challenge is always in making the right choice. With Mars's dispositor in its sign of fall at the onset of this ingress, the typical mental agility that comes with Mars in Mercury will be challenged. There can be a deceptive nature to Mercury here, especially when you add Neptune to the situation, and with Mars in Gemini being susceptible to gossip this seems like a perfect situation for false information to grow exponentially.

New Moon in Aries
A New Moon at 15 degrees Aries on April (see chart 2, New Moon on first) will feel like a call to action, but with the dispositor of the lunation in cerebral Gemini, we need to be aware for the potential of an all talk and no action type of situation. In the days that follow the New Moon both Mercury and the
Transits of the Season

Sun will aspect Saturn, Pluto, and the South Node (a trio that will linger together within 5 degrees for 20 weeks). This could trigger feelings of guilt, pessimism and insecurity, but also motivate us towards achieving goals and transforming our lives so that we can move away from undesirable past events. This trio is activated regularly throughout the spring and summer. With the Saturn, South Node, and Pluto combo we’re forced to face issues in a practical way. Although there is a potential to harden up when facing challenges from a Capricorn point of view, having Venus, Mercury and Neptune in Pisces, taking turns trining the North Node, the potential for healthy emotional and even karmic or spiritual healing is quite possible.

Jupiter starts its retrograde motion on April 11th while square to Mercury in Pisces. This Jupiter retrograde period will give us the opportunity to adjust our expectations of ourselves and others. We have been riding a Jupiter high since November, so many of us may re-examine our beliefs and realign ourselves. The trick is to approach the shift with realism rather than pessimism. Jupiter retrogrades every year for about four months, and by nature, it starts its retrograde motion with an opening trine to the Sun about four days into retrogradation, and moves direct shortly after the closing trine to the Sun. It’s only every 12 years that the retrogradation involves Jupiter in rulership in Sagittarius, with an opening trine to an exalted Sun in Aries, and a closing trine to the Sun in rulership in Leo. Jupiter retrograde can lead to a feeling of a loss of motivation and direction, and with this particular combination, having the powerful Sun trines encourages us to reflect on challenges around personal expression, ego attachment, and a longing for more spiritual meaning and fulfillment.

History Repeating

"April 19th we will experience some dramatic changes beginning with a Full Moon at 29 degrees of Libra. Shortly after this lunation the Sun will change signs moving into Taurus. In that time Venus will be lingering in the last degree of her exaltation. Having the Full Moon at 29 degrees will create a strong feeling of tension and dissatisfaction. Within a day of the lights’ transitions we find three intense planetary pairings. Saturn is perfecting its conjunction with the South Node. Saturn enforces rules and the South node is connected to Karma. The last time Saturn was conjunct the South node in Capricorn was in February 1871, and like today, Venus was also conjunct Chiron in Aries. The interesting bit of History I found was that not long after these conjunctions the Civil Rights Act of 1871 was signed. This was an act by the American Congress giving the president power to fight against white supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan. Apparently, the bill was proposed only a few months earlier. These conjunctions bring with them accountability in the realms of human rights and social morality (Saturn).

The other tense pairing is the Sun conjunct Uranus, carrying the theme of self and individuality. This aspect will have people breaking free from proverbial social shackles to be able to express their true selves. Mercury is separating from a conjunction to Chiron which could give old wounds a brave voice. There is a definite theme of standing up for oneself, but because none of these pairings form dynamic aspects to anything outside their conjunctions, there seems to be no release, except for how they interact with individual charts.

Saturn stations at the degree of the South Node.

April 28th Saturn stations within minutes of the conjunction to the South Node, making this pairing last 2 weeks. Saturn starts its retrograde motion on April 30th. Erin Sullivan says “Wherever Saturn is transiting our horoscope we are molding and shaping new boundaries and creating dimensions and form, but periodically this type of development internalizes and..."
incubates, resulting in a feeling of stickiness and immobility."

This can manifest as self-imposed restriction, a fasting of sorts, in the area of our charts that Saturn is blessing with its transit. With Saturn beginning this cycle by making hard aspects to Mercury and Mars, these two planets are sextile and in mutual reception. Therefore, they have an opportunity to set a productive tone to this particular time. Having Mercury square Saturn and Saturn quincunx Mars, we’re entering a phase of trial-and-error, frustration and maybe harsh words. Patience will be in short order, and conflict is probable. But what better way to set boundaries and better practices than by learning through conflict? This is definitely more difficult for some souls than others.

Slowing Down

The New Moon on May 4th is at 14 degrees Taurus, a very comfortable Moon. However, with Saturn and Jupiter retrograde, motivation may be low. This can be further intensified by Mars applying to an opposition to Jupiter, possibly instigating philosophical arguments. These planets are pulling us into seemingly undefined directions but without the get-up-and-go to do anything about it. Starting anything under this lunation may be more difficult for some souls than others.

Heightened Venustian Vibes

May 15th Mars will Ingress into Cancer while Venus comfortably slides into Taurus. This is a very Venusian feeling transi-

tion as Venus is in her domicile while the Sun, Mercury, and Uranus are also in Taurus. The Moon is in Libra at the time of Mars’ transition, so the Moon will also be disposed by Venus while dispositive Mars. There will definitely be a feeling of slowing down, relaxing and indulging. With five planets in Earth and one in water the aspects are generally gentle and not motivating, unless of course they’re making hard aspects to your chart.

The exception is Venus conjunct Uranus, which happens while Mercury is trine Pluto. This combination could hold surprises, change and inspiration. With the Uranus and Venus energy, the collective is shifting values in the areas labeled women’s issues. Venus in Taurus is very physical, so a shake-up in the area of women’s bodies in relation to their societal roles may be expected. With Mercury trine Pluto and Saturn, the need to go deep into the collective subconscious and come up with solutions to what is found there will be felt. As a prelude to the Scorpio full moon, this stellar combination has the potential to be quite cathartic, and having Neptune trine the North Node, a feeling of cosmic connectedness adds to the potential depths of these alignments.

In the Heart of the Sun

On May 21st the Sun will ingress into Gemini and what an ingress it is (chart 4). Just before the Sun goes into Mercury’s sign Gemini, Mercury is cazimi. Mercury will have been within a 17 minutes conjunction for over a half hour, and this relationship will continue for more than 11 ½ hours. A very auspicious time with the Sun entering Mercury’s sign and Mercury basking in the sunlight while entering its own domicile. A planet cazimi is said to be very fortunate, so make use of Mercury’s best traits—mark it on your calendars! This conjunction reaches exactitude at 9:24 a.m. EDT. On May 23rd, Chiron, Uranus, Mercury, and Mars are all between 4 to 5 degrees, activating our charts prominently if we have planets in those degrees. The U.S. chart has Venus at 3 and Jupiter at 5 degrees of cancer in the 7th house, putting transiting Mars near the midpoint of these two planets square Chiron. This leaves me anxious to see what the news feed for the weekend of May 24th will deliver.

Nodes and five Planets @ 18-20 degrees (see chart 3 – Jupiter on first)

May 29th to 30th is very active, with Mercury and Venus aspectsing and the Nodes Saturn (quincunx and trine respectively), as well as Neptune and Jupiter. May 29th to June 1st Venus and Mercury travel through 18 to 22 degrees of their rulership signs, making this a very active time for those with anything at those degrees in their charts. There is a planet or node in every element and mode of the zodiac, so it doesn’t matter what or where your personal placements are, there will be planetary stimulation.

Hello Handsome

On the June 3rd there’s a New Moon in Gemini, but on June 4th the Moon and Mercury both move from Gemini into Cancer which has the two in each other signs, dancing together for the entire business day. It’s like the Moon is greeted by Mercury at the end of his own sign, the Moon thanks Mercury for his service and then gently guides him into her domain.

On June 8th to 10th the Sun moves into a square with Neptune and an opposition to Jupiter forming a mutable T Square.
### Transits of the Season

With Jupiter still retrograde and the Sun’s dispositor in Cancer, this is bound to be an emotional few days, good for finding ways to creatively capture or express difficult emotions that have been bubbling up for some time now. Neptune may drag you into its escapist realms to cope—just make sure you come back to reality where Saturn is waiting and ready to reintroduce you to reality. If Saturn doesn’t motivate you, Mars conjunct the North Node, trining Neptune and quincunx Saturn will snap you back. We will have the necessary courage to creatively make adjustments on our paths as long as we can work through frustration, see the desired outcome, and work towards it. **Seeing the way forward now will prepare us for real action when Jupiter moves direct in August.**

### Creative Visioning

**June 14-15th** Mercury joins Mars and the North Node trine Neptune (and the Moon for few hours), while opposing Saturn and Pluto, forming a Kite configuration (see chart 4, Mars on 1st). On the one hand, this can lead to a clash with authority figures or political adversaries, Yet, if applied with more awareness, this configuration may facilitate creative problem-solving. In order to these energies positively into the future, write down or vision board your impressions and ideas. Even if they don’t make sense now, they will later.

June 17th ushers in the last Full Moon of this Equinox season. With the Moon @ 25 Sagittarius conjunct the Galactic Center, there’s a potential for us to understand the infinite possibilities and to dream bigger than we usually let ourselves. The sky’s the limit still isn’t dreaming big enough during this Full Moon. With Jupiter still retrograde, we may not fully realize the positive potential of this lunation, but it’s the perfect time to go within and re-evaluate our own personal potential and decide what we want to express and how we want to send it out to the cosmos.

**REFERENCES**


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**Tracy Quinlan** practices, in Edmonton, Canada. As a hobbyist, she gathered astrological information from her captive audience as a hairstylist. After finishing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Psychology, she began a focused study of Astrology. Tracy is the president of the Edmonton Astrological Society, writer for the Llewellyn Astrological Calendar and one of the Organizers of the Canadian Astrological Conference. “The joy of astrology is we can’t know it all, but the pursuit can enrich our lives and the lives of others.”

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**Clint Bolduc**

Central Pennsylvania based artist and cinematographer, Clint Bolduc, has been honing his skills in graphic arts, since 2007. Inspired by nature, color, geometry, and 60’s/70’s psychedelia; He provides services like illustration, branding, animation and graphic design to musicians, individuals, and other small businesses as “Glimpse Graphic Arts”.

In 2015, Clint began experimenting with cinematography. He blended his photography skills and knowledge of composition with his twelve years of design experience, opening new doors to his arts. In 2018, after proving to be the perfect marriage of two passions, Clint co-founded a business that focuses on creative photography and cinema, “White Deer Pictures”. Clint’s evolution into cinematography, such as short films, music videos, and advertising, has allowed him to introduce writing to his arts and extend the range of his talent even further. His use of graphic arts in a moving medium allows Clint to challenge the boundaries of his art, which explore the depths of movement, color, and composition.

Designer / Cinematographer
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**Cover Art**

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January 2019 in Sedona
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OPA Mexico & Turkey

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in Mexico City

OPA organized a special event in Mexico city, with Mexico satellite Ursula Stockder, Turkish Satellite Öner Döşer and Gemini Brett.

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3 Amigos
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Gemma Harewood
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I’ve been keenly interested in Astrology for around 23 years (as of 2019). I graduated from the Mayo school of Astrology in London in 2017 with a distinction in Mundane and Natal Astrology and have since been a consultant. OPA is doing brilliant work in supporting astrology as a subject and in creating a community to help astrologers progress in a fun, homely environment, I’m excited to serve as the UK Satellite, and help with providing UK members with such open opportunities to share articles, develop their skills, and join these pioneering programs. Being an Astrologer is my dream occupation and I’m excited to support the community and get my teeth into something I can be passionate about. I’ve also earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, so I’m naturally interested in Astrology science. My other interests include maths, psychology, music, nature, meditation and most things pertaining to the mystical or ethereal/spiritual realms.

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Theodore has a background as a petroleum engineer in the oil and gas industry and has been practicing astrology professionally since 2014. He began learning psychological astrology in 2010, then moved onto traditional western astrology with qualifications in natal, horary, mundane, locational, and medical branches. He has a Diploma in Medieval Astrology (Zoller, 2012) and a Diploma in Astrological Studies (Suskin, 2014). Born into a strong Indian cultural heritage, he naturally gravitated toward eastern forms of astrology. Since 2016, he began studying a holistic form of Vedic Astrology, which combines meaning and techniques from astrological, scriptural, tantric, yogic and omenology in the Indian tradition and visits India 2-3 months a year for that purpose. His specialized consultations take into account factors from both Western and Vedic astrological traditions. Theodore runs retreats in South Africa, and hosts webinars, workshops, and private courses in South Africa and online. He has also run workshops and talks in Poland (2014) and the UK (2015-2017). Given his perspective for different forms of Astrology as complementary, he performs Rectification for clients and other astrologers around the world.
OPA, The Organization for Professional Astrology, is dedicated to promoting Accessibility, Sustainability, and Credibility for astrologers. Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in Tallahassee, Florida, OPA provides members with opportunities and tools to study astrology and establish or improve their astrological practice. Membership is open to any level of expertise. Among the benefits: free presentations and panels by top notch astrologers, opportunities to be published in The Career Astrologer magazine, and being part of a global community of astrologers through conferences and online discussions. Annual dues are $60.00.

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6-8 – Hellenistic Astrology Symposium
Athens Greece, Contact Angela Tiki angelatiki.opa@gmail.com
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MJ PATTERSON (Canada-NS)
Kitchen Table Research

SUNDAY MAY 5
VICTORIA SMOOT (OH)
The Secret of Venus

SUNDAY MAY 19
KAY TAYLOR (CA)
The Astrology of Intuition

SUNDAY JUNE 2
KATHRYN ANDREN (NY)
Conscious Communication, Astrology Affirmations for Clients

SATURDAY JUNE 22
CHRIS MCRAE (Canada- AB)
The Amazing and Complex Jupiter/Saturn Cycle

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
ROSE MARCUS (Canada -BC)
Planetary Nodes

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
GENI PICAZO (Canada - ON)
TBD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
MICHAEL OFEK (Israel)
The Rulers of Life - Epikratetor, Oikodespotes and Kurios

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ROY GILLETT (UK)
Astrology Karma and Reincarnation - The Science of Personal and Social Responsibility

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10
PATRICIA WALSH (FL)
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
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